

## Comments from the Foundation

This being the first-ever newsletter to perpetuate the good works of **Frank B. Sullivan (Sully to many)**, it is hoped that you will enjoy reading this, and future issues. Plans are to send out at least two issues a year, in the spring and fall months.

We hope to hear from you.  
Send your comments to  
[Contact@FBSullivan.org](mailto:Contact@FBSullivan.org)

### The Sullivan Memorial Foundation Objectives

are to support continuing advanced education of qualified deaf and hard-of hearing recipients in the business, accounting and information technology fields.

\* An annual \$500 scholarship for Excellence in Business to a senior at Gallaudet University's Department of Business.

\* An Excellence in Business fellowship award for a doctoral student studying at an accredited university.

\* Business leadership seminars and training workshops to be taught by deaf entrepreneurs, professors, independent business owners, and/or well-known leaders.

\* Presentation of a first place senior Handicap Award to the winner at the annual MidWest Deaf Golfers Association tournament.

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Dr. Frank B. "Sully" Sullivan

## ~ Another Award Conferred! ~

On Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, Sully's daughter **Roberta (Bobbie) Quinn** presented the 2009 **Dr. Frank B. Sullivan Excellence in Business** award to Gallaudet University senior **Jonathan Chanin** of TN. This award was first started in 1999, and has continued since. Each recipient has his/her name engraved on a plaque which is hung in the foyer of the Department of Business.

"It was a pleasure presenting the 2009 **FBS Excellence in Business** award of \$500 to Jonathan, says Bobbie. After presenting the award, I was asked to help interpret the remainder of the ceremony, due to an interpreter becoming ill. At the conclusion I looked for Jonathan during the reception for a photo opportunity; however, it seemed he had needed to quickly depart. I was hoping to learn more about his future goals and himself as a person and to share information about my dad."

## Recipients of the Sullivan Memorial Foundation \$500 Excellence in Business Award

- 1999 - **Clarisse Plosk**, Israel
- 2000 - **Michael Boucher**, CA
- 2002 - **Alison Guerami-Diznab**, MD Business
- 2004 - **Edward Hoyt** - IL
- 2005 - **Stephanie Danner**, NY Business
- 2006 - **Jennifer Keener**, VA - Economics
- 2007 - **Stephen DaSilva**, MD/DC - Business
- 2008 - **Florinda Africa**, Philippines - Accounting and CIS
- 2009 - **Jonathan Chanin**, TN - CIS



## ~A Few Words from the 2009 Award Recipient ~ Jonathan Chanin

I graduated May 15th from Gallaudet with a B.S. in computer information systems. I am deaf and was born and raised in Gallatin, Tenn., near Nashville. All of my siblings are deaf as well; my sister will also be graduating in May, from Vanderbilt University with a degree in deaf education. I attended public schools growing up, where I was usually the only deaf person in the whole school -- with the exception of the three semesters in high school that I spent at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf.

In the future I would like to try different kinds of work -- teaching the deaf, working in a federal government position, and working in the private sector, all with emphasis on information technology and business.



Jonathan, all smiles!

## A Special Announcement

On December 6, 2008, the IRS granted the **Dr. Frank B Sullivan Memorial Foundation** 501C(3) tax exemption status, retroactive to June 14, 2007. The Foundation is incorporated in Maryland.

Check out the foundation website at  
[www.fbsullivan.org](http://www.fbsullivan.org)

*A Special Note:*

*Sully was a prolific writer and consummate typist. Many of his speeches and writings covering nearly 50 years have been preserved by the Family for future study by business scholars through the auspices of the Foundation. Below is a condensed version of a major speech Sully made in 1962. In the time since, so much has changed!*

~ *The Rock Is Crumbling....* ~

A speech by *F B Sullivan,*

*Grand President, National Fraternal Society of the Deaf,  
at the Michigan Association of the Deaf*

*Diamond Jubilee,*

*July 1962*

In choosing “*The Rock is Crumbling*” as the title of my talk tonight, I am referring to the old established order of things in regards to the deaf. Just as a huge rock is relentlessly attacked by the elements and eventually broken up and allowed to crumble, so are the old ideas about the deaf being slowly but surely shattered. Your celebration comes at an opportune time.

You really have something to celebrate. Never before in the history of the world has there been such an upsurge of interest in the deaf and their way of life. Never before, in such a short space of time have we had workshops, seminars, and symposiums in the interest of the deaf. And the deaf have been invited to participate in these meetings to express their views, their wants, and their needs. They are no longer persons to be just seen. They are being heard, loud and clear. A crack has been opened in the “rock” and it is now up to us to see what we can do to accelerate the process of further disintegrating the old ideas about the deaf. It requires thoughtful, dedicated analysis of our real needs and shortcomings. We are not perfect. Who is? And we will get ahead faster if we aim for goals which are realistic in the light of our own shortcomings as well as the weakness of the “established order.” We need to do a little soul-searching to see how we can improve ourselves.

I feel sure that the meetings where the deaf actively participated along with prominent regional and national officials did much toward creating a better public image of the deaf. For instance, I cite the recent meeting in Denver of the deaf automobile driver. Here we had traffic and safety officials from all over the country, one of them Mr. Platt, who is here with us tonight. I am confident that all of these people went home with a better understanding of the deaf driver. All of you are familiar with the persistent snipes at the deaf driver and the attempts being made to bar him from the road. We have fought many battles to prove that as a group our safety record is one that is seldom excelled. Naturally, we are not going to rest secure in the assumption that everything will be rosy from now on. Every year

there are more and more cars on the road. This calls for more alertness and greater emphasis on safe driving on the part of the deaf driver. More driver improvement classes are springing up all over the country, the latest in Chicago started only last week. Our deaf drivers are encouraged to attend classes. There is always room for improvement in any driver. Last month the NFSD distributed booklets on safe driving to deaf students in driver training classes all over the U.S. I have brought a number of them to distribute among you. Also, in the last issue of *The Frat*, we listed a number of rules that the safe deaf driver will follow in relation to emergency vehicles such as ambulances, fire trucks, and police cars. Such vehicles seem to be the chief concern of traffic officials when considering the deaf driver. I also note that your Association is doing a great deal to improve the lot of the deaf driver here in Michigan. But the real contribution to a better public image of the deaf driver can come only through your own conduct behind the wheel of a car. his is what counts.

We can't just sit back and expect so many blessings to shower down on us like “**manna from Heaven.**” We must do our part to help build up a better public image of the deaf person. In the NFSD we have been encouraging our Divisions to take a more active interest in the community around them instead of feeling they are the most unfortunate people on earth. Response has been very good and our Michigan Divisions are right up there with the rest of them. For example, one of our Divisions in the East has had a year long project of helping a Children's Home. How this came about is interesting. Previously, organizations of the deaf in that town would go around to merchants, asking for donations for a bowling tournament, or some general entertainment affair. Finally, one of the merchants got a little fed up and asked, “What has your organization ever done for this community?” That question hit home and so the Division got the idea of the Children's Home project. Later, when this same merchant was approached for a merchandise donation in connection with a fund-raising affair for the Home, he gave willingly, at the same time commending the Division for the worthy cause it was supporting. Any group can gain much respect from the public when it does things like this.

But again, I repeat, we cannot just sit back and wait for the manna to shower down. We have to ask ourselves what we can do to present the world with a more favorable image of the sign language. We must understand that it looks “funny” to hearing people who know nothing about it. It is not surprising that they view it with curiosity, suspicion, and dislike. They think it is not English but some strange, foreign tongue, and they have the natural feeling that good Americans use only the English language. Even one of the scientists who wrote a book, which was published last year, claimed that the sign language was “ideographic” and “non-verbal” – which means that it is not good English. It seems he has never heard of manual

English. It can be used to very good effect in the classroom if applied as to follow proper sentence structure.

I think that now is the time for someone to undertake a study of our sign language and show that it will, in combination with speech, lip-reading, and finger spelling prove an effective tool in educating the deaf in all schools. More than ever we need educated deaf people, not just some who can say a few words that only those closely associated with them can understand. The findings of researchers in connection with finger-spelling are another crack in the “rock” and it is now up to the deaf themselves to further exploit this crack.

And it is also very important that in every school for the deaf there should be a good proportion of deaf teachers. These teachers serve as role models and inspire the students to greater achievement. I went to a school for the deaf which had no deaf teachers until my last two years. Prior to this I had resigned myself to making the best of “any old job I could find,” but when a deaf teacher from Gallaudet was hired and I saw what college could do for a deaf person, it didn’t take me long to make up my mind to go after a higher education. The role model of this deaf teacher was very important to me personally and I’m sure that many of you can offer similar testimonies.

In the January issue of the *American Annals of the Deaf*, statistics of all kinds are shown regarding both residential and day schools for the deaf. The population of students in the residential schools was given as 16,122. Of the 2,603 teachers in these schools, 488 are deaf. This gives an average of 1 deaf teacher to every 33 students. I feel this is a good ratio, but there are many schools which, of course, do not come close to this desired proportion. The fault does not always lie with the administrative head. There are other factors, like the board of education and the parents who do not understand the proper role of the deaf teacher in the classroom. The alumni of any school for the deaf can perform a valuable service by emphasizing the need for a good balance on the teaching staff. There are close to 8,000 deaf students enrolled in day schools all over the U.S. None of these students have deaf teachers. I have heard many stories of the difficult times these children have in eventually finding a way to Gallaudet or to any esteemed position in life.

If we want to continue to build up the stature of the deaf, we must stand on our own feet and not be continually looking for “*manna from Heaven.*” Every deaf person should be made aware of his responsibility to all the deaf when he is driving; he should cooperate with the deaf organizations; and most of all, he should take a more active role in his community. In this way it would not take long for our “rock” to crumble.



### *When Irish Eyes are Smiling!*

When Irish eyes are smiling  
Sure it's like a morning spring.  
In the lilt of Irish laughter,  
You can hear the angels sing.  
When Irish hearts are happy,  
All the world seems bright and gay.  
And when Irish eyes are smiling,  
Sure, they steal your heart away.

There's a tear in your eye,  
and I'm wondering why,  
For it never should be there at all.  
With such power in your smile,  
sure a stone you'd beguile,  
So there's never a teardrop should fall.  
When your sweet lilting laughter's like some  
fairly song,  
And your eyes twinkle bright as can be,  
You should laugh all the while and all other  
times smile,  
And now smile a smile for me.



### *Past Winners of the Sullivan Memorial Foundation First Place Senior Handicap Champion Trophy at the Midwest Golfers Association tournaments*

- 2004 – Lincoln, NE – *Hubert Ruessman of Michigan*
- 2005 – Red Wing, MN – *Don Phelps, Maryland*
- 2006 – Gaylord, MI - *Carlos Martinez, Illinois*
- 2007 – Springfield, IL – *Carlos Martinez, Illinois*
- 2008 – Pleasant Hill, IA—*David McDavid, Missouri*
- 2009 – Fond du Lac, WI
- 2010 – South Bend, IN
- 2011 – Illinois



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