



Time Capsule

Ida Wynette Gray Hampton

by Shane Dundas

Editor's note: The *Time Capsule* is the newly created series of articles featuring the people and places of Gallaudet University's history.



Ida Gray Hampton
Class of 1957. Photo courtesy of
Gallaudet University Archives.

Welcome to the very first article in the *Time Capsule* series where we uncover and reveal the hidden stories and histories about people and places at Gallaudet University. The first spotlight goes to Ida Wynette Gray Hampton, class of 1957. It is fitting for this issue, as we went through

both Black History Month and Women's History Month, to recognize Hampton.

Hampton entered Gallaudet College during the historical moment when segregation in schools ended. First, the court case *Miller vs DC Board of Education* in 1952 challenged the 1905 relocation of Deaf students to Maryland instead of keeping them in DC (Kendall School). In 1954, *Brown vs Board of Education*, a Supreme Court case, ruled segregation should no longer exist.

Hampton then was able to participate fully academically. According to the 1953 yearbook, she took part in the rat funeral to sign off her first year at Gallaudet. In 1954, she became a member of Delta Epsilon, the first Black Deaf to join a sorority that was founded a year before. Although she was heavily involved with other organizations and extracurricular activities, according to the class of 1957 videos, she was not found among her class in activities on a public domain, which possibly hint a sign of public segregation that she couldn't be part of. The class of 1957 video can be seen [HERE](#).



Ida Gray Hampton at Junior Prom, 1952

Hampton dancing with Jeremiah Germany, presumably her date (far right). Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.



Ida Gray Hampton at Women's Governing Council

Hampton was involved with the organization as President. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.



As First Black Deaf Woman Graduate, 1957

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

Other organizations that she was involved with:

- Ballard Literary Society
- Tower Clock Yearbook
- Young Women's Christian Association

Be on the look out for more about Hampton on our website.