



President George Bush receives the first call through the new Federal Information Relay Service from a student at the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind. Pictured with Bush in the Oval Office are (from left) Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), Gallaudet President King Jordan, Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-Wisc.), Richard Austin of the General Services Administration, and interpreter Earl Elkins.

system that now can accommodate hearing impaired people.

Also present at the event were Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-Wisc.), Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), and Richard Austin of the General Services Administration (GSA). Gunderson and McCain introduced legislation for the Telecommunications Accessibility Enhancement Act, signed by President Reagan last fall, which directs the GSA to modify the federal telecommunications relay system for hearing and speech impaired people.

President Bush received a call from Suzanne Smith, a student from the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind, using the relay system in the Oval Office.

Following the call to the White House, Jordan, Gunderson, McCain, and Austin went to GSA headquarters to see the relay system and meet with the GSA Hearing Impaired Advisory Committee.

"This improved relay system is an important link between the 27 million deaf and hearing impaired and speech im-

paired people of this country to communicate with their elected officials in Washington and to contact federal agencies," said Gunderson.

Jordan testifies on ADA at Senate hearing

Gallaudet President King Jordan voiced his support on the proposed Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) last May before the Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped, Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

In his testimony, Dr. Jordan told the subcommittee that the legislation will tell America's 43 million disabled citizens that they "are indeed equal to other Americans and that discrimination toward disabled persons will no longer be tolerated in our country."

Also testifying before the subcommittee was Justin Dart, former commissioner of the Rehabilitative Services Administration, who is mobility impaired.

According to Sue Ellis, Gallaudet's director of congressional relations, Jordan was asked by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), who introduced the bill

in the Senate, to testify because Jordan represents "the heights that disabled people can achieve."

If it is passed, the ADA will be a milestone victory for disabled people in helping them to achieve civil rights, the bill's supporters say.

The ADA was developed by the Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped, with help from Sy DuBow, director of Gallaudet's National Center for Law and the Deaf, and Karen Strauss, an attorney with the law center.

Jordan told the subcommittee that an aspect of the bill of particular interest to deaf people is the requirement of a telephone relay system for calls made both within and between states. The relay system would enable deaf callers using TDDs to make calls to and receive calls from people using voice telephones.

Jordan called the enactment of the Telecommunications Accessibility Enhancement Act of 1988, calling for a relay system within the federal government, "a wonderful first step toward our goal of full telephone access." Jor-

dan said that a nationwide relay system "will help deaf people achieve the level of independence in employment and public accommodations sought by other parts of the ADA."

Davila fills Department of Education post

Dr. Robert Davila, former vice-president for Pre-College Programs at Gallaudet and long-time advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, has moved to Capitol Hill.

In his new position as assistant secretary in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) in the Department of Education, previously held by Madeleine Will, Davila is responsible for the Office of Special Education Programs, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, and the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research. One of the major functions of the position, said Davila, is monitoring federal regulations related to the education and rehabilitation of disabled people.

"OSERS is responsible for the disbursement of nearly four billion dollars, which represents the federal government's support to special



Dr. Robert Davila

education and rehabilitation," said Davila. "Gallaudet, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and the consortium of three other federally supported postsecondary programs for deaf students in Tennessee, California, and Minnesota are a line item in the OSERS budget."

Davila, who became deaf from spinal meningitis in early childhood, graduated from Gallaudet in 1953. He began his career in education that year as a teacher at the New York School for the Deaf in White Plains; later, he became supervisor of its Elementary Department.

In 1972, Davila became the first deaf person to earn a doctorate from Syracuse University. He returned to Gallaudet as a full-time University faculty member. Two years later, he was appointed to the position of director of the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School. He began serving as vice president for Pre-College Programs in 1978.

Davila has been a frequent presenter at national and international meetings related to deafness and has published extensively in professional journals. He is fluent in Spanish and maintains an avid interest and involvement in the education of disabled people who are also members of minority ethnic/racial communities.

He has served as president of the Council on Education of the Deaf, the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf, and the Conference of Educational Administrators Serving the Deaf.

University structure undergoes reorganization

A reorganization of the administrative structure of Gallaudet, which became effective in July, has reduced the number of the University's

vice presidents from five to three and moved a number of units to different areas.

The new organizational structure is, in part, aimed at decentralizing responsibility for decision making while also integrating all academic programs at the University and relocating units in line with their mission and functions.

The three vice presidential positions are the provost (still to be selected), Vice President for Administration and Business Paul Kelly, and new Vice President for Development Dr. Carol Parr, former director of the Development Office.

The provost will be the chief administrative officer, responsible for the University in the president's absence. The provost will manage all academic programs, including Pre-College Programs.

The vice president for Administration and Business has added responsibility for the Gallaudet University Press and Department of Publications and Production.

The vice president for Development is responsible for increasing non-federal funding. The Development Office and the Public Relations Office now report to this vice president.

In addition, the number of people reporting directly to the president has been reduced. Staff positions in the President's Office now include the Board of Trustees liaison, director of congressional relations, and three special assistants: Jack Gannon for advocacy, Dr. Bette Martin for institutional affairs, and Dr. Doin Hicks for planning. The President's Council, Dr. Jordan's chief advisory group, is composed of the three vice presidents and the three special assistants.

New Ph.D. program gets under way

Five applicants have been accepted this fall into Gallaudet's new Ph.D. program in education of the hearing impaired, offered through the Department of Education.

The program, the first new doctoral program at the University in 14 years, was approved by the Board of Trustees in March of 1988. Gallaudet's first Ph.D. program, in special education administration, was started in 1975. A third Ph.D. program in clinical psychology has been approved by the board and will begin in fall 1990.

Additional candidates will be allowed into the new program in the future, said Department of Education Chairman Robert Mobley, but the program will remain small.

Mobley said that Gallaudet's new Ph.D. program "opens up a broader range of opportunities. It will better allow us to prepare leaders in the fields [of deaf education]."

The Ph.D. program in education of the hearing impaired is designed to prepare direct service personnel, such as curriculum coordinators and program supervisors, for educational programs serving hearing impaired children, and leadership personnel for higher education.

Turk leaves Gallaudet for South Dakota position

After spending 42 of his 59 years at Gallaudet—five as a student and 37 as an employee—Dr. Frank Turk, former dean of Student Life for Pre-College Programs, has begun a new career as superintendent of the South Dakota School for the Deaf.

"Gallaudet has been wonderful to me," he said. "I could not have asked for anything better here, and no one



Dr. Frank Turk

could love Gallaudet more than I do. It is the backbone of all my success."

Turk said that among the factors that influenced his decision to accept the post as the first deaf superintendent in the school's 100-year history were the high quality of the teaching there, the positive attitudes of its Board of Regents, and their receptiveness to his challenge to make SDSD a model for similar residential schools.

During Turk's years at Gallaudet, the only place he has worked since his graduation in 1952, he served first as a teacher at Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, then as a physical education instructor at the University. He later became dean of men in the Preparatory Department and, from 1971 to 1980, he was director of Youth Relations in the Office of Alumni and Public Relations.

Between 1980 and 1982, Turk advanced at Gallaudet from assistant to the dean of Student Affairs to director of Student Life. He later moved through several appointments at Pre-College Programs to take his position as dean of Student Life in 1985.