Did you ever wonder about the history of people at DSDE – Lamar University?

You can find some of the history of the Deaf Studies and Deaf Education department at Lamar on the DSDE Lamar website (search for DSDE Lamar and go to the about us tab). However, some important people are missing from this history. This post focuses on the contributions of Dr. Gabriel (Tony) Martin, who was vital in creating many of the changes in the early 21st Century.

As a high school teacher of Deaf students, coach, and drivers' education teacher, Dr. Martin, or Tony as he was called, entered higher education as a faculty in teacher-training in deaf education. With a dual MS in Deaf Education and in Audiology, and an Ed.D. in Administration, Tony quickly rose up in the ranks from faculty to administrator due to his management skills and easy-going personality. Andrews, retired faculty, remembers that Tony always had time to listen to faculty and students enjoying his interacting with them. At the lunch hour, Tony was frequently found at the nearby Kampus Korner, Subway, or LU cafeteria chatting and sharing lunch with students and faculty. of Deaf individuals into positions of leadership. Moreover, together with their colleagues (Robert Moulton, Zanthia Smith, Mary Ann Gentry among others) they brought in over 11 million dollars in grant money from Federal, state, and private sources to support students with scholarships, travel money for conferences and to develop instructional multimedia technology. Tony and his department hosted a Deaf Artists exhibition in collaboration with the Art Department that brought in over 15 Deaf artists around the country to show their work. This attracted hundreds of Deaf community members from Beaumont, Houston, and surrounding counties.

In addition, Tony set up several scholarships to provide support for students. Several years ago, Dr. Tony Martin passed away – sadly much too early. His wife, Dr. Damara Paris as well as his family and friends have established a scholarship in his name as they knew these efforts were critically important for him. Three DSDE students have benefited from their generosity – please watch our website for their videos on the importance of this scholarship for their own educations.

Three DSDE students have benefited from their generosity – and here are some brief messages from our three scholars. Dr. Delgado was the first student to be given the award. She has completed her degree and her dissertation focused on Latinx parents of deaf children. Currently she is the Coordinator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Outreach for Early Intervention at the Louisiana School for the Deaf (LSD). The second student to be given the award is Misty Sides who is working on her dissertation on the impact of the Reggio Emilia approach to preschool and how it impacts Deaf preschooler's language acquisition who have limited to no language access in the home. She is a teacher in Utah. The current student to be given the award is Megan Wimberly, who teaches English at LSD and is in her first year in the doctoral program here at DSDE. Here are some brief messages of thanks from these DSDE alum and students. Now to their personal message:

Dr. Natalie Delgado

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