

# GAMG 2013

Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Newsletter

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## *President's Message*

**Catherine M. Lewis, Ph.D.**



Dear GAMG Members,

As summer winds down, know that we are busily planning the 2014 GAMG Annual Meeting in Dalton, Georgia, from January 22-24, 2013. The program committee and selected members are working hard to develop an exciting and engaging schedule of sessions and events.

Before we come together as a state, remember that the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) has their annual meeting, "Art and Commerce in the History City" in Savannah, Georgia, from October 7-9, 2013. Susan Perry, SEMC's Executive Director, has been burning the midnight oil to help coordinate what promises to be a wonderful gathering. Remember, that GAMG members receive a discount.

SEMC is planning more than 55 sessions and workshops "on learning in 21st-century museums, engaging audiences through theatre, making technology work, building board relationships, recruiting volunteers, developing exhibits, building museum partnerships, managing mayhem, reaching out to unique audiences, emerging museum professionals, and framing the future with capital campaigns." There will also be nearly 50 exhibitors in the Resource Expo.

Our museum community in Georgia continues to grow and thrive, but we can always reach out to more institutions. So as you meet with and talk with colleagues in the field, remind them to join or renew their GAMG membership. We are only as strong as our constituents.

Warm regards,

Catherine M. Lewis, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Museums, Archives & Rare Books

Director, Museum of History and Holocaust Education

Kennesaw State University

**For information about the SEMC program, visit:**

[http://www.oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=ft18700334&brand=oac4&doc.view=entire\\_text](http://www.oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=ft18700334&brand=oac4&doc.view=entire_text)



### Michele Rodgers

As we seek to attract new audiences to our museums and galleries, we need to take a look at the habits of millennials – people born between 1979 and 1994. A recent report by the Case Foundation and Achieve finds that this group of young people will passionately support causes they believe in, but not necessarily the institutions working to address these causes. Additionally, millennials are very selective about the organizations they follow on social media, typically only following five or less. Finally, they recognize the value of volunteering and use it to network and gain professional expertise.

The report on millennials goes on to show that a high majority of this age group prefers that nonprofits have mobile-friendly Web sites and they like to receive news with links to more information. This tech savvy group also prefers to make contributions online and when an organization can provide a specific example of the impact a donation will have on the non-profit. Although this age group may not have large amounts to donate to a cause, in 2012 more than 80 percent chose to support their favorite, and that is good news for us all.

## FLANNERY O'CONNOR-ANDALUSIA FOUNDATION RESTORATION



completely restored with a Save America's Treasures matching grant in the amount of \$120,000 and a \$20,000 Georgia Heritage Grant from the Georgia Historic Preservation Division. The building received an award for "Excellence in Restoration" from The Georgia Trust in 2013.

"The Georgia Trust is delighted to award this grant for the rehabilitation of the barn at Andalusia," said Mark C. McDonald, president and CEO of The Georgia Trust. "The work of Craig Amason and his board of directors has seen the transformation of this site from its 2006 listing on our *Places in*

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation gave a \$2,500 grant to the Flannery O'Connor-Andalusia Foundation to help restore the historic cow barn at Andalusia, home of fiction writer Flannery O'Connor. Last April the 544-acre farm in Milledgeville, Ga., hosted nearly 500 guests at a dinner venue for the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation's Spring Ramble and the Georgia Statewide Preservation Conference.

Since being placed on The Georgia Trust's *Places in Peril* list in 2006, Andalusia has completed several restoration projects and is pursuing others. In 2012 the Hill house, located on the Andalusia property, was

*Peril* list to one of the best presented literary historical sites in the country."

"The Flannery O'Connor-Andalusia Foundation is thrilled and honored to receive this generous grant from The Georgia Trust to assist with the efforts to rehabilitate the cow barn at Andalusia," remarked Craig Amason, executive director of Andalusia. "This structure was an essential part of the farm complex in the 1950s and still is today. Andalusia is not just the place where O'Connor wrote her fiction - it clearly inspired so many of her stories, and the cow barn was certainly a significant element of that landscape."

# NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A COLD AND DREARY JANUARY DAY

By: Caroline Alex

It was a cold and dreary January day when I returned back to Athens, GA from my Christmas break which was spent doing thesis research, job hunting, and filling out job applications. On that cold and dreary day, I anxiously started my last semester of my Master of Historic Preservation program at the University of Georgia with one goal in mind—to have a full-time job that I was passionate about in the museum/historic preservation field by the end of the semester. I was not exactly sure how I was going to accomplish this goal since the job market did not look promising and many organizations were practicing the “slim and trim” business model. As I began the pursuit I knew that my various museum internship experiences would aid in accomplishing my goal but that meeting other professionals and networking would be key to securing a full-time job in such a tight market.

While working on my graduate degree at the University of Georgia, I had been fortunate enough to hold a professional internship with the T.R.R. Cobb House, which is owned and operated by the Watson-Brown Foundation. Sam Thomas, the Curator at the T.R.R. Cobb House, generously sent me to the 2013 GAMG Conference, which was held in January at the University of Georgia. Mr. Thomas knew that this conference would be great professional development, but it was also a perfect opportunity to network and meet professionals around the state in the museum field. On that same cold and dreary January day that I began my last semester of graduate school, I attended the first day of the 2013 GAMG Conference. The 2013 GAMG Conference offered a great variety of sessions, events, and lectures to attend. It also offered ample opportunities to network, which I was determined to do. After reviewing the conference agenda, I selected a handful of sessions to attend. One of these sessions particularly stood out to me; it was a session for emerging museum young professionals. I knew the session would be helpful in my job hunt and networking efforts. Little did I know that attending this session would be the start of my journey to accomplishing my goal and accepting a full-time position.

In the Young Professionals session I sat next to Tommy Gregors, the Executive Director of Thronateeska Heritage Center, who shared that he had a full-time position open at Thronateeska. Naturally, I capitalized on this opportunity and introduced myself to Mr. Gregors and quickly informed him I was very interested in his open position and would like to discuss

it further. Throughout the rest of the conference, Mr. Gregors and I met multiple times to discuss Thronateeska's open full-time position, the Archivist/Collection Manager position. During our meetings Mr. Gregors discussed how Thronateeska Heritage Center had advanced itself to such a level that the organization was growing and expanding during times when many other similar organizations were cutting back and/or closing doors. Amongst the numerous topics we discussed, a strong similarity stood out to us both—we shared the same passion of locally preserving local tangible and intangible history instead of outsourcing. After the conference ended, I stayed in contact with Mr. Gregors and informed him I was seriously interested in his position and would continue to pursue it. After a few weeks of correspondence and a thorough interview, Mr. Gregors offered me the position in late March. I happily accepted the offer knowing that I not only accomplished my goal (early), but that I would be working in an environment that would allow for me to pursue my passion, learn new skills and information, fine-tune my existing skills, and grow as a professional.

In May 2013 I started as Thronateeska Heritage Center's Archivist/Collection Manager. I often reference the meticulous notes I furiously jotted down from the attended GAMG sessions when I am posed with a unique inquiry. Additionally, I apply the knowledge gained at the GAMG conference in various situations. The professional contacts that I made during the conference have been an asset to the start of my professional career. They have provided me support, inspiration, and assistance that every emerging young professional needs and deserves. The GAMG conference provided me with ample opportunity to expand my knowledge, skills, and network. My mother and father taught me when I was young to always capitalize on the opportunities I was given and to make the most of every situation, and that is exactly what I did. Some days I think back in amazement to that cold and dreary January day that started off as just another winter day and ended as the start to a new and exciting chapter in my life. Though it may be cliché to say, I would not be where I am today if it had not been for the rewarding opportunity to meet Mr. Gregors at the 2013 GAMG Conference. If I had one piece of advice to the next round of emerging young professionals: never underestimate the power of networking and attending professional conferences.

# GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES NEW CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HISTORY



Dr. Michael Van Wagenen and graduate students in the Public History Certificate program begin the academic year with a potluck dinner in the Georgia Southern University Museum.

The Department of History at Georgia Southern University is now offering a graduate certificate in public history. This certificate may be earned in conjunction with the department's MA program or awarded as a stand-alone credential. Dr. Michael Van Wagenen was hired in 2012 to create the program and has recruited the first cohort of eleven students. Seven of the students were undergraduates at Georgia Southern University while the remainder attended Kennesaw State University, Faulkner University, Shorter University, and California State University Northridge. Increased funding for

graduate students provided by the university and local foundations enhanced the department's recruiting efforts. Seven of the students are fully funded through graduate assistantships and are assigned duties at the Jack N. and Addie D. Averitt Woodlawn House, the Georgia Southern University Museum, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, and other sites in the region.

Key to the success of any public history program is a vibrant network of historical resources. Assisting on campus are the Georgia Southern University Museum and the Henderson Library, which are helping to train students in museology, archives, and new media. Further relationships have been created with a number of museums and historic sites in Statesboro, Savannah, and St. Simons Island allowing Georgia Southern students opportunities to develop internships and projects. In addition, the department is developing major oral history and new media initiatives with the Peace Officers Association of Georgia and the Willow Hill Heritage and Renaissance Center.

The department welcomes additional community involvement in this exciting new program.

For more information, contact  
Dr. Michael Van Wagenen at  
[mvanwagenen@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:mvanwagenen@georgiasouthern.edu)  
or call 912-478-5466.

## 2014 GAMG ANNUAL CONFERENCE - DALTON, GA

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge and called "The Enchanted Lands" by the Cherokee, Dalton, Georgia, will host the next Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Annual Conference, January 22–24, 2014. This area, once home to the Creek, then the Cherokee, offers a rich Native American history as well as important Civil War sites.

Now called the "Carpet Capital of the World," Dalton bustles with industry and supports a growing arts movement. Many of the town's cultural and historic organizations are gathering together to welcome GAMG to the community in January, so make sure to visit [www.gamg.org](http://www.gamg.org) after October 1 to register for the conference. Host committee partners for the conference include The Emery Center, Western & Atlantic Railroad Tunnel Heritage Center Museum, Dalton Area CVB, Whitfield-Murray Historical Society, and the Creative Arts Guild.

The Conference Hotel is Comfort Inn & Suites – Dalton, 905 West Bridge Road, Dalton, GA, 30720. Reservations can be made by calling 706-259-2583. The conference room rate is \$79 per night plus tax. You must mention GAMG to receive this rate and make reservations by January 1, 2014.



# STUDENT DOCENTS AND SERVICE LEARNING AT THE GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART

By: Carissa DiCindo

The student docent program at the Georgia Museum of Art is in its fourth year. Although it began as a volunteer organization, for the past two years I have taught it as an art education course at the University of Georgia (UGA) for undergraduate and graduate students, titled "Engaging Art Museum Audiences as Student Docents." The course is designed for students interested in facilitating dialogue in museums and helping audiences create connections between their own observations and experiences and the works of art on display. Students, most of whom are art majors, design and give tours as part of the course. Already, in the third week of classes, my seven students this semester have begun working with museum audiences; they designed activities for our monthly Gallery Games program and led the activities with children and their parents.

This year, I am a service-learning fellow at UGA and have added a service-learning component to the course. UGA defines service learning as "the application of academic skills and knowledge to address

a community need, issue, or problem and to enhance student learning." My students will be working with the Athens-Community Council on Aging's Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program. During a special event at the museum, students will implement an interactive tour, activities and a hands-on project that promote storytelling and dialogue about memories in conjunction with the exhibition "Crossroads of Memory: Carroll Cloar and the American South."

In preparation for this event, students will meet with the director of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, attend a gallery talk by Patty Bladon (a scholar on Cloar) and study the works in the exhibition and scholarship on the paintings. This service-learning project will give students the opportunity to work with mixed-age audiences and to design a tour and related programming from start to finish. We hope it will also bring new visitors to the museum through a program designed to foster the sharing of personal experiences and interactions between generations.

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EXHIBITS - MILLEDGEVILLE, GA

The Old Governor's Mansion, located on the campus of GCSU in Milledgeville, will be hosting the following exhibits:



**Special Exhibit: Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War: October 2-November 15, 2013.** Sponsored by the National Constitution Center, the American Library Association, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, this traveling exhibit focuses on Lincoln's actions during the Civil War and the constitutionality of his decisions.

For more information, please visit [www.ala.org/programming/lincoln](http://www.ala.org/programming/lincoln).

### "What We Wore on our Heads: An Exhibition of Civil War Era Headwear."

**October 1 - November 2, 2013**

From PNJW Collections, this special traveling exhibit will feature a wide variety of mid-19th century headwear as well as interpretative panels on the customs of dress during the period.



# GAMG



# 2013

Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries  
c/o Michele Rodgers, Administrative Director  
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Marietta, GA 30061

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## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS SINCE JUNE 2013

### Institutional

6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Museum  
American Museum of Papermaking  
ArtStation  
Butts County Historical Society  
Calhoun Gordon Arts Council  
Coastal Georgia Historical Society  
Collectible & Antique Chair Gallery  
Jimmy Carter Library  
Lucy Craft Laney House Museum  
Marietta Museum of History  
Museum of Arts & Sciences  
Museum of History & Holocaust  
Education/KSU  
Oglethorpe Museum of Art  
Okefenokee Chamber of Commerce  
The Bandy Heritage Center  
The Museum School of Avondale  
Estates  
The Sable Arm

### Individual/Student

Carissa DiCindio  
Fred Mobley  
Don Rooney

### Sponsor

Studio Displays

## **GAMG**

### **INFORMATION ON BECOMING A MEMBER**

Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries is comprised of more than 200 members including individuals, businesses and art, history, natural history, and science museums.

We are open to all non-profit museums, galleries, history centers, science museums and museum associations dedicated to the development and implementation of professional museum practices.

If you are interested in becoming a member or are interested in the exceptional benefits GAMG has to offer, please visit:  
[www.gamg.org](http://www.gamg.org) for more information.