



GAMG 2008

Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Newsletter

VOLUME 29 • ISSUE 3 • FALL 2008

2008 Board of Directors

President

Brent Tharp

Georgia Southern
University Museum

Vice President

Pat Morris

Coastal Georgia
Historical Society

Secretary

Gretchen Greminger
Jekyll Island Museum

Treasurer

Ann Harrison

Thomas County
Museum of History

Past President

David Dundee

Tellus: Northwest Georgia
Science Museum

Directors:

Pam Billingsley
Bulloch Hall

Jamie Credle

The Davenport House Museum

Kathy Dixson

Avient Museum Services

Jenny Goldmund

Museum Consultant

Kevin Grogan

Morris Museum of Art

Fran Powell Harold

Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace

Cecelia Hinton

Georgia Museum of Art

SEMC Representative

Bruce Smith

Port Columbus

Civil War Naval Center



President's Message

Brent Tharp

With students all across the state of Georgia returning to school, museums and galleries across the state are making the shift from summer visitors-

- families, campers-- to preparing for field trips. It is an exciting time of the year, and each of us can remember particular field trips we took as kids that made the school year especially interesting and fun. Class field trips have long been a staple of museum visitation, but their character has changed significantly since we were young, and it continues to change. Competition for scarce resources, including student time, money and transportation, has required museums to adapt their programs and offerings. The current economy and high fuel prices have accentuated this need.

An important influence in this trend over the last 20 years has, I think, been the introduction of state and national standards for education and an increase in standardized testing. No matter what the political climate is, or what form the testing mandates take, it is likely here to stay. Schools struggle to meet standards within the school day, and they value each minute of instructional time. Field trips are carefully screened for their alignment with educational goals and objectives.

As you know, all Georgia public school students take Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT's) on standards which relate to all of our missions. Most of our museums' educators are well versed in these standards, but new and smaller institutions may not be. It would benefit us all to review the new Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), and they are replacing the QCC (Quality Core Curriculum) standards. Fortunately, the state provides an accessible website to review the standards at [www.georgiastandards.org](http://georgiastandards.org). Additionally, savvy museums can attend regional meetings for educators, as well as meet with local educators, to see how their missions can align more closely with local and state goals. Museums and galleries have always complemented and supplemented the education of our young visitors. Now, more than ever, it is critical to our survival that we continue to be well-informed partners.



Administrative Director's Message

Michele Rodgers

With shipping costs on the rise, more and more institutions are looking for traveling exhibits that are available from fellow Georgia museums and galleries. As a result of this growing trend, I would like to add a listing on the GAMG website that provides information regarding traveling exhibits. In order to do this, I need to hear from any GAMG member that offers such exhibits, with specifics

about them included. You can email me at gamg@gamg.org, or call me at 770-853-7539.

Just to get the ball rolling, I'll let you know about one traveling exhibit I've learned about: "From Protest to Peace: Murals by the Bogside Artists of Northern Ireland," (www.ProtestToPeace.org) which is available from the Georgia Southern University Museum. For more information, email museumexhibits@georgiasouthern.edu.

GAMG EDUCATION REPORT

Cecelia Hinton Chair, Education Committee

Georgia Museum Educators met at Tellus: Northwest Georgia Science Museum for the summer roundtable discussion on July 18. Many thanks to Cantey Smith, director of education, and staff for hosting the meeting. Co-chairs Lisa Wheeler, director of education at the Booth

Western Art Museum and David Tucker, curator of education at the Morris Museum of Art, led a lively discussion on the topic of working with volunteers. After the meeting, members

were treated to a hard hat tour of Tellus. Special thanks goes to David Dundee for arranging an unexpected preview of the digital planetarium with its stunning visual effects. Everyone enjoyed previewing the building, galleries and educational spaces, and we look forward to returning to Tellus when it opens!

David Tucker will host the fall meeting on Friday, October 3, 2008, at the Morris Museum of Art in Augusta. The topic is education and museum security. Following the discussion, educators will tour the exhibition, "Landscape of Slavery: The Plantation in American Art."

The Georgia Museum Educators (GME) association meets quarterly at museums throughout the state, and its chief goals are to introduce members to the most recent trends and best practices in museum education. GME serves as a forum for discussion of recent museum and education policies and provides an environment for discussing professional standards and general job excellence.

On Friday, January 23, 2009, GME will meet during the annual conference of the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries, and the Museum Educator of the Year award will be presented at the awards luncheon.

www.gamg.org • Check It Out!

FUELING FOR SUCCESS IN HARD TIMES: RECESSION PROOF YOUR MUSEUM GAMG 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Are you as nervous as the folks on Wall Street? Wondering whether this year will be a bull or a bear for your Museum? Join us in Marietta/Kennesaw this year for the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Annual Conference, from Wednesday, January 21 through Friday, January 23, 2009, as we learn some tricks of the trade to Recession Proof Your Museum.

Preparations are underway for an outstanding meeting and the sessions will include a little something for everyone. From Fundraising to Educational Trunks, twenty-two planned sessions will include topics such as the following: Recesssion without Depression: Fundraising Optimism in an Uncertain Economy; Something between "Tut" and Nothing: Hosting and Creating Traveling Exhibits for the Small to Medium Museum; I Quit, but I Forgot to Tell You; How to Develop a Good Tourism Product; Disaster Preparedness; How to Grow your Retail Business; Greening Georgia's Museums; Reviving Museum Education Through Cooperative Learning Techniques; and Examples of

Management: Using Volunteers in a Tough Economy. (For a complete listing, visit the GAMG website www.gamg.org.) Also featured will be roundtable discussions for Directors, Curators, Educators and Historic House staff. Many of the sessions will be particularly helpful for museums, heritage and cultural centers and galleries that are an important part of our growing communities all across Georgia. This will definitely be a conference you won't want to miss!!

The keynote speaker for the conference will be Bruce Green, Director of Tourism Product Development Director, Georgia Department of Economic Development. Active in historic preservation and community development, he keeps abreast of trends in quality growth and environmentally sensitive development. He currently works with communities, private corporations and non-profits across Georgia while partnering with other agencies to increase investment and craft tourism product development strategies and policies.

BE SURE TO COME EARLY FOR A PRE-CONFERENCE TRIP/SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 9:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.!

Damage = Devaluation. Restoration = Recovery pre-conference trip to Avery Gallery in Marietta, GA

Ever wonder what happens when you send off that piece of artwork in your collection for restoration? Come and join us for a special pre-conference field trip to the Avery Gallery, which specializes in fine art, restoration and custom framing. Owner and conservator Shae Avery will open his workshop for this special morning tour. Mr. Avery's staff of conservators are knowledgeable and trained to restore works of art such as oil, acrylic, mixed-media, watercolor, gouache, pastel, etchings, engravings, lithographs, serigraphs, relief prints, mezzotints,

antique documents, photos, sculpture, glass, pottery and antique frames to museum standards, using the best materials and techniques. Participants will see a demonstration of cleaning and in-painting a damaged canvas as well as several other projects, all in different states of completion. Learn about when to work with a restoration firm; the "dos and don'ts" of restoration and much, much more. So join us for conservation, conversation, coffee, munchies and more. This is a special opportunity and a must see for any one in the museum field.

2009 CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE THIS FALL

The Heritage Health Index, a 2005 comprehensive study of the condition of U.S. collections, found that 64% of small historical societies and museums do not have a current, written, long range preservation plan. Museums in this situation will find that the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) can provide the framework for collections care. Visit www.heritagespreservation.org/CAP to view current CAP participants or to download an application. To be added to the CAP application mailing list, or for more information, please contact CAP staff at cap@heritagespreservation.org or 202-233-0800.

CAP is designed to help small to mid sized museums of all types, from art museums to zoos, obtain a general assessment of the condition of their collections, environment, and historic buildings. Following an on site assessment by a conservation professional, the museum receives a written report recommending priorities to improve collections care. This report assists museums in educating staff and board members on preservation practices, creating long range and emergency plans, and raising funds to improve the care of their collections.

The 2009 CAP applications will be mailed on Friday, October 10, 2008 and the postmark deadline for applications is December 1, 2008.

SEMC'S JEKYLL ISLAND MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE 2009 (JIMI '09)

The Southeastern Museums Conference proudly announces the 9th Annual Jekyll Island Management Institute. Scheduled for January 20 - 27, 2009, JIMI is specifically designed for administrators from new and emerging museums and for museum professionals with subject area expertise desiring knowledge of general museum administration and operations.

Located on historic Jekyll Island, GA, this highly successful training program provides an eight day immersion for museum professionals seeking the

opportunity to learn management, personnel and interpretive skills from leading experts. Sessions

include management styles, administration and trusteeship, fundraising and marketing, financial management, developing exhibits, public relations, collections management, disaster preparedness, education and interpretation, volunteer management, and museum ethics.

Applications are currently available, with a deadline for submitting applications October 10, 2008. JIMI is sponsored by SEMC, Jekyll Island Museum and Historic Preservation, North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites and Properties, and LaPaglia & Associates, Inc. For more information and application contact SEMC at 404-378-3153 or www.semcdirect.net or call Martha Battle Jackson, JIMI Administrator, 919-733-7862, ext. 236.



NOMINATE FOR THE GAMG BOARD!

To keep the Board balanced, GAMG should have different areas of the state and different museum disciplines represented. Please consider who you would like to represent your town or part of the state. The term of office is 2 years, with quarterly meetings in different locations around the state. Board members usually serve or have served on GAMG committees and participate in various functions of the organization.

Please make sure to include your name and contact information (as a nominator) along with the information about the person you are nominating. Send to GAMG Nominating Committee, c/o Gretchen Greminger, Jekyll Island Museum, 381 Riverview Dr., Jekyll Island, GA 31527; or call 912-635-4034, or email greminger@jekyllisland.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON GEORGIA MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Bellevue House Museum

The 1855 Bellevue was built in the Greek revival tradition by Benjamin Harvey Hill. Hill was a famous statesman and orator, serving in the Georgia Legislature and later becoming a member of the Confederate Provisional Congress. The house, which passed through several owners, settled into disrepair until its purchase in the late 1930s, by the Fuller E. Callaway Foundation. Bellevue was given to the LaGrange Woman's Club in 1942 to be used as a club house and with help from the Callaway



Foundation, went through two major renovations. The house has many carefully preserved original features. Furnishings of note include a beautiful rosewood piano that Judge McLendon presented to his wife, and many antiques purchased in Natchez and New Orleans.



Bellevue continues to be a well-preserved example of antebellum architecture and is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. Bellevue continues to provide a beautiful setting for many community events and celebrations. The house is open for guided tours Tuesday through Saturday. For more information see: bellevue.bellevuelagrange.com

MUSEUM INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

The Tourism Division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, GDEcD, is currently establishing a new pilot research project, seeking to explore and assess its heritage tourism attractions and products. The Tourism Division works to promote Georgia as a premier travel destination and we are specifically addressing museums as the cornerstone of this vital travel segment in Georgia.

The research project has two goals: The project seeks to identify the specific challenges faced by museums in Georgia, i.e. visitation, revenue, marketing, etc. Secondly, it seeks to provide museums with extensive visitor profiles. The first round of surveys was mailed out in July and this is our effort to conduct a follow-up round. If you did not receive one in the mail,

contact Carole Pickett at 404-962-4111 or cpickettt@georgia.org. Once this data is tabulated, we anticipate conducting several visitor surveys in museums throughout the fall of 2008 to produce completed museum visitor profiles. Please note that all information shared and collected in this project will remain confidential.

Thank you in advance for all of your assistance in this project. I am confident that our efforts will provide critical data to help in the success of Georgia's museums. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any additional questions.

Warm Regards, Carole Pickett
Tourism Division GDEcD



Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries
c/o Michele Rodgers, Administrative Director
P.O. Box 2133
Marietta, GA 30061

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARTERSVILLE, GA
PERMIT #168

MUSE NEWS

Shortly after the annual meeting held in Columbus, Jamie Credle, director of the Isaiah Davenport House, requested assistance from GAMG's MUSE (Museum Services Exchange) program. Her site was in need of a consultant for exhibit planning, education, program and facilities planning. This project was a joint venture between the Davenport House Museum and Historic Savannah Foundation. Because they are planning to restore a building for use in educating the community on the role of historic preservation, they needed a framework for operating the building as an educational facility, an exhibit space with audio and visual aids, and also for classes and rental space.

Don Rooney, from the Atlanta History Center, graciously accepted the proposal to consult with Jamie in Savannah on July 7 and 8th. He promptly turned in his report to Jamie and MUSE. In Jamie's words "It was the best thing that could have happened." Don was extremely helpful in their

planning for the building and its use. Jamie confirmed that having an outside professional provide input has encouraged them to uphold museum standards as they go forward with this project.

Recently, I spoke with the 6th Cavalry Museum director, Chris McKeever, concerning the museum's consultation on May 4, 2007 with Bruce Smith from the Port Columbus Naval Historical Center. Chris has been extremely pleased with the report and recommendations that Bruce made and continues to use those suggestions every day. Chris said that Bruce was such a great help that she looks forward to applying for MUSE assistance again in the near future.

Many, many thanks to Bruce Smith and Don Rooney for the great help you have provided!

Pam Billingsley
Chair, Professional Development Committee