

We Are Ready!

The *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond* exhibition is going exceptionally well. Take a look at our list to see how much we've done, and how close we are finishing right on time for the April 8, 2014 opening.

- Content Review
- Exhibition writing and research
- Photo research
- Content review
- Chapel Hall renovation
- Content script sent to Blair, Inc.
- Revolving panels
- Panel design
- Panel color scheme

All that remains:

- Manufacturing of the panels by Blair, Inc. (currently underway)
- Installation of the panels (post-manufacture)
- Ordering and set up of objects such as the benches, chairs, and banners (currently underway)

That's it! With the production and installation of the exhibition panels in the hands of Blair, Inc., the Museum staff is focused on the comfort factor of the exhibition. In other words, we are on track and will open **April 8th, 2014**. Click here to see that *WE ARE READY!*

Chapel Hall Renovation Nears Completion



The new look of Chapel Hall.
Photo courtesy of Todd Byrd.



Four months have gone by since Chapel Hall closed for renovations. During that time, a new electrical grid has been installed, allowing the room to support the many electrical needs of a museum exhibition, including lighting, television displays, and more. The floor has been replaced, becoming more level and safe, and removing the water-damaged rug, which suffered mold issues after the rains of Hurricane Sandy. Lastly, the walls have been repainted, with an off-white being the main color, framed by blue, and trimmed with buff.

Now the Gallaudet Museum, working with our consultants from QM² and the fabricators from Blair, Inc., is preparing for the next step in the process. On January 29th, representatives from Blair, Inc. came to measure the entrances to the exhibition room. They needed to ensure there would be a suitable way to bring the 8' tall, 10' long glass panels into Chapel Hall.

Before renovations began, the portraits and busts of persons of importance to deaf history were placed into storage for their protection (see article "And now the renovation begins...", Vol. 1, No. 4, pg. 5), with some also undergoing cleaning procedures. Now that renovations have neared completion, these paintings and busts will be returned to Chapel Hall, spread around the room, keeping watch over the new exhibit. They will be higher than their original display heights, looking down on the 8' exhibit panels.

The Museum staff looks forward to the return of these treasured works of art. Join us April 8th, 2014 as we unveil the busts and portraits, along with the exhibit, in their renovated setting.

Click here to see photos of the renovation and to keep abreast of the progress.

Happy Birthday to...



Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives

FEBRUARY
05
1837

Our university's founder and first president, Edward Miner Gallaudet, on his 177th birthday. Born on February 5, 1837 in Hartford, Connecticut, he became one of the greatest educators of the deaf in history, and strong advocate for a college for the deaf, which was later named for his father, Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. If you wish to learn more about his life in the president's house, our House One DVDs, featuring a tour of House One led by First Lady Vicki Hurwitz, are for sale at the Gallaudet Museum Store for \$25. If you wish to learn more about Edward Miner Gallaudet's life of service, come to the opening of the Gallaudet Museum on April 8th, 2014. We look forward to seeing you there!



Photo courtesy of Library of Congress

FEBRUARY
12
1809

President Abraham Lincoln, who would have been 204 on Wednesday, February 12. His signature of a bill turned The Columbia Institution of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind into the college known as The National College for the Deaf and Dumb, forerunner of Gallaudet University. In light of his actions towards furthering deaf education, his achievements across the board in terms of civil rights and freedom, his efforts towards the emancipation of slaves in the South, and his leadership during the trying times of the American Civil War, we hope you will join us in remembering him on this very special day.

Gallaudet Museum Enters into the New Generation



Dr. Jane Norman.
Photo courtesy of Justin Shaw and the Gallaudet University Museum.

Today the Gallaudet University Museum is experiencing changes. Recently, Museum Director Dr. Jane Norman retired from the University, allowing the next generation of Deaf museum professionals to take the lead. The natural choice to replace Dr. Norman was *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond* curator Meredith Peruzzi. Already experienced with the work of the Gallaudet University Museum, she is now serving as Interim Manager.

With Dr. Norman continuing on board as a consultant, Peruzzi at the helm, and the backing of the entire Museum staff, the exhibition is fast approaching completion and preparations are being made for the opening ceremony on April 8, 2014.



The Museum Operations Office at the Gate House during the beautiful snow weather. Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas

Your Gifts to the Museum



Edward Miner Gallaudet and family at House One, circa 1900. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

While donations are typically seen in the form of monetary support, this is not always the case; this issue focuses on donations of a different sort. Recently, the Museum received a photograph donation from Silvia Golocovsky, Coordinator of Multicultural Student Services in the Clerc Center. In this image, taken around 1900, House One is clearly visible. Except for the black and white aspect of the photo, it could have been taken yesterday. The Museum staff looked out the Gate House window at the President's House across the street, and it looks almost identical to the photo. What makes this image so exciting, though, are the people in front of the house.

Involved in a variety of activities in front of the President's House are Edward Miner Gallaudet and his family. Three boys hold onto their penny-farthings, or large wheeled bicycles, and a tricycle; another sits on a bench off to the side; three girls are on the steps to the balcony; and Gallaudet himself leans against the porch. It is a truly beautiful photograph, and all the more so for connecting us to our past in a fashion that gives us an exact spot to see history come alive.

If you find any items of importance to Gallaudet or deaf history (including photographs and objects) that you would like to donate to the Museum, please send them to the address below, or bring them to the Museum Office at the Gate House. Please include information about the object, such as where you found the object, what the significance of the object is, and your contact information, so we can keep a detailed archival record. Be on the lookout for a form that we will post online, making it easier for you to include all the information we need to ensure an accurate record.

Thank you for your support: in money, in items, in stories, and in spirit. Without you, we would not be where we are today. Thank you.

Please address items to:

Meredith Peruzzi, Interim Manager
Gallaudet University Museum
800 Florida Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002

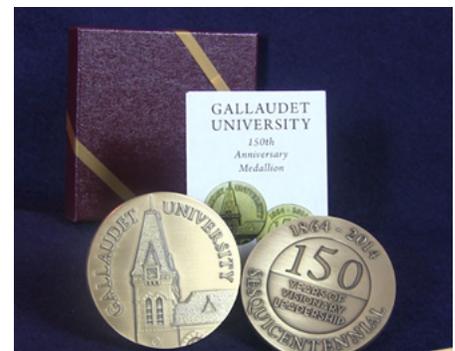
The Gallaudet
Museum Store
is now Open!

CLICK HERE
to shop online.

All proceeds from the Gallaudet Museum online store go to the *Gallaudet Museum Exhibitions Fund*. Questions? E-mail to museum@gallaudet.edu.



A Piece of Original Floor from Chapel Hall
\$25.00 + \$10.00 S/H



150th Anniversary Medallion
\$50.00 + \$6.00 S/H

New Sketches Take Aim at the Color Scheme

As renovations of Chapel Hall near completion, the Museum staff, led by Interim Manager and *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond* Curator Meredith Peruzzi, turns its attention from writing the exhibition to its color, design, and layout. While Blair, Inc. is in charge of the design and construction of the panels, the Museum is anxious to ensure that the coloration and layout are pleasing to the eye, but also practical. This has led to some back and forth discussion, as well as several iterations of the design. But why the big debate - shouldn't colors be easy to choose?

The first version of the panels had several design and coloration variations to help the Museum staff understand the options. These included a variety of photo presentation styles, mainly focusing on the color of the background to the photos. This gives the Museum options on which way would be better for reading, flow, and aesthetics – how the overall panel appears to the reader.

The next sample focused on caption color combinations - pairing of text and background colors. The sample offered grey on dark blue, sky blue on dark blue, yellow on green, and many others. Meredith Peruzzi, assisted by Director Emerita Jane Norman, had to make choices. They met with Robert Sirvage,

the DeafSpace Design Researcher for the LLRH6 dorm, to discuss the impact of the colors and design on the deaf-blind community on campus.

The Museum is committed to making sure the Exhibition is accessible for all members of the community. Thus, Sirvage's comments on coloration gave the Museum an idea of how to be visually accommodating, while still keeping the reader interested, not distracted. After receiving Sirvage's input on colors, Peruzzi and Norman sent comments to Blair.

These comments, though, apparently presented a unique challenge to Blair. Thus, the next design the Museum received stuck to the basics, losing the excitement inherent in color variety.

Luckily, Peruzzi was able to ensure them that our suggestions did not mean there was no room for coloration. The next draft from Blair, recently received, gave us a wider selection of colors, and we are pleased with the response. We wish to express our sincerest gratitude to Blair, Inc. in their assistance in this project, and we look forward to seeing the finished product installed and admired by the Gallaudet community, and the community at large.

Looking Back Through Time...



Female preparatory students, 1898. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.



Dr. Percival Hall, second president of Gallaudet University with male college students helping clear out snow., Circa 1920. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

A Twist: The Rotating Exhibit

The *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond* exhibition is nearly ready to go. While minor details are still under discussion, the content has been written and the photos have been chosen. Now the museum staff can turn their attention to an additional project: the rotating exhibits.

The term “rotating exhibit” refers to an exhibit in a museum that is not meant to be permanent. Rather, it is present for a temporary length of time, and then switched out with another temporary exhibit. A common practice at numerous museums including the Smithsonian Institution, this allows the museum to keep the main exhibit in place, while still providing fresh material for returning visitors to enjoy.

The first two rotating exhibits that will greet visitors focusing on *Andrew J. Foster: Missionary, Educator, and Advocate* and *Then and Now*.

Andrew J. Foster: Missionary, Educator, and Advocate



Andrew J. Foster with school children at Goma, Zaire in 1985. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

Andrew J. Foster was the first African-American student to graduate from Gallaudet, in 1954. After becoming an ordained minister, he went on to educate deaf children in Africa. In 30 years of work, he established 32 schools in several countries across central Africa. Driven by the desire to preach the gospel to the deaf in Africa, his work also encouraged the deaf in Africa to become leaders in deaf education in their countries. Dr. Isaac Igboola is the Curator of this rotating panel.

Then and Now

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives

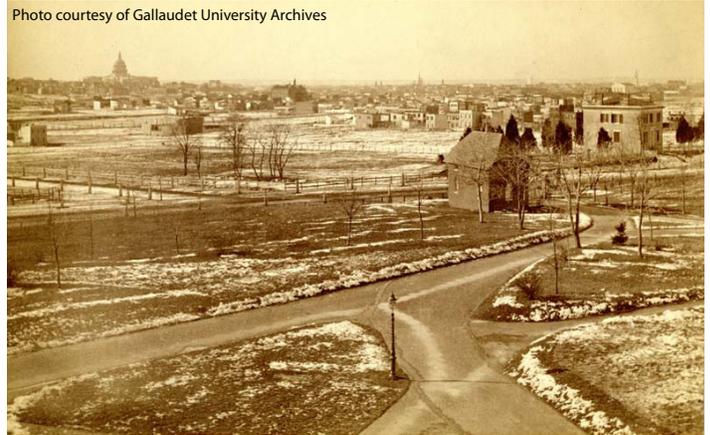


Photo courtesy of S. Dundas & Gallaudet Museum



Photo on the top looking southward to the Gate House, the Capitol and the unfinished Washington Monument in 1880. Photo on the bottom is today as of 2014. You see how much it has changed?

Then and Now will feature complementary pictures which show actions or settings of the past, which are matched with actions and settings of today. This includes popular hangouts, buildings, and people on campus and off.

Future Rotating Exhibition Plans:

There are more topics that have not yet been set in stone. Researcher and writer Ameer Powell, '11, is currently investigating Douglas Craig and diversity on campus. Brittany Turner, '13, another researcher and writer, is examining the manual vs. oral debate, deaf education, and Faculty Row and the faculty experience.

That Gallaudet Museum does not stop, it's an ongoing work to share stories, that means we still need ongoing donations and support to make it happen.

The Buff and Blue

Everyone on campus knows the Gallaudet school colors (which also happen to be the colors of George Washington University colors). Campus legend holds that these colors are based on the uniform of George Washington and the Continental Army during the American Revolution, and were later used by the Union soldiers during the Civil War. The Library confirmed this, but stated that the colors of the soldiers of the Revolution influenced the tiles in College Hall, which later influenced the school to claim the Buff and Blue as our school colors. The Communications and Public Relations office further lends credence to this, as seen in their Visual Identity Guide, page 8, stating:

“These colors honor the service of our country’s founding father, George Washington and are the colors of his Continental army uniform.”

However, while “blue” seems self-explanatory, what in the world is “buff”?

According to dictionary.com, buff is “a brownish-yellow color; tan”. In essence, the color of not-yet tanned hide, such as one would have after skinning a deer. Leather was a common material used for clothing by those who lived on the frontier, and who offered their services in the Revolution. As a result, leather became

a part of the colors of the Continental Army, who got their blue from French-supplied uniforms. While blue is a common color, buff is more exclusive. Thus, until recently, Gallaudet University has saved money by ordering items in yellow or gold and blue. Luckily, buff is a more common color today, driving down the cost, and allowing the Bison to show their true colors.

However, while buff and blue are easy to bring up in our imaginations, it is harder to convey that color to companies off-campus, such as Blair, Inc., the production company in charge of manufacturing the Museum’s new exhibition panels.

Luckily, the Communications and Public Relations Office has adopted a method for conveying the official color palette for the campus offices to outside companies, using the PMS (Pantone Matching System) or RGB (Red-Green-Blue) color systems. Use of either system allows people to communicate to the production companies exactly which color they desire. Thus Blair was able to understand exactly which colors they could use.

Today, we are poring over the models provided to us by Blair, using the colors and feedback we have given them, to decide which combination will best meet our needs, and honor our soldiers in the Revolutionary War and Civil War that happened so close to this campus.



Photo crop of the painting "Surrender of Lord Cornwallis" (in 1781) by John Trumbull, circa 1820. The painting is located in U.S. Capitol Rotunda. The uniforms are in buff and blue. Photo courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

BUFF

BLUE

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The Gallaudet University Museum publishes the Our Story newsletter bi-monthly. We welcome photographs and stories of historical significance relating to Gallaudet University and Deaf History.

In between newsletter issues, please visit our website for more information: www.gallaudet.edu/museum.html. We update the website frequently.

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Click here to see the Gallaudet Museum Mission & Vision, or visit the above mentioned website.