

A MAP to Accreditation

by Trevor De Rosch

Over the years, the Gallaudet Museum staff have focused on a variety of projects, including exhibits, events, videos, social media, and others. This year the Gallaudet Museum staff will be focusing on a different project, the American Alliance of Museums' Museum Assessment Program (MAP).

MAP is designed to help museums examine their strengths and weaknesses, plan for the future, strive for sustainability, evaluate ethical considerations, and consider other important topics related to the museum field. The end goal is to improve the museum's operations, aligning them with the 21st century museum best practices.

The whole process takes about a year, with four steps involved:

1. The first is to submit an application, which the Museum did back in February.
2. We just completed the second step, a self-study workbook designed to help us figure out our place in the neighborhood, current practices, target audience, and other aspects.
3. The third step involves a site visit, which for our staff is the second week of June, during which a peer reviewer selected by the American Alliance

of Museums (AAM) will observe and inspect our work, and offer suggestions for improvements.

4. The last step will involve the museum's staff reviewing a final report from AAM, including comments on our self-study workbook answers, information from the site visit, and suggestions for the future, which we will take and incorporate into our actions to improve in order to become a nationally accredited museum.

The Gallaudet University Museum has been a member of AAM since the fall of 2008, 10 years ago, so it is fitting to see steps toward the goal of national accreditation being taken.



MAP Site Visit - June 12, 2018. Our site reviewer, Amy Davis, along with Museum Staff and the Schuchman Center attentively listen to Jean Bergey describing *History Through Deaf Eyes* exhibit. Photo by Shane Dundas.

Short Blurbs . . .

by Shane Dundas



The Language, Culture, Communities: 200 Years of Impact by the American School for the Deaf exhibit hosted by Gallaudet Museum was a huge success! It was on loan from the Connecticut Historical Society and the American School for the Deaf. [Visit our website for photos and videos.](#) Photo by Shane Dundas.



Our Story: Supplemental is our virtual publication via Facebook. Since *Our Story* now comes out twice a year, there are many stories that are happening in between issues. The *Supplement* is another way of reaching out to you with fresh stories more quickly. You don't need to join Facebook for access - it's **open for everyone.**

Time Capsule

If Walls Could Talk: Chapel Hall Part 2

by Trevor De Rosch

Editor's note: The *Time Capsule* is a series of articles featuring the people and places of Gallaudet University's history.

In our recent edition of the *Our Story* newsletter we explored the history of the chapel in Chapel Hall through the 1870s. This is part two in that series, looking at the use of Chapel Hall through the 1880s.

The most common event to take place at Chapel Hall in the 1880s was Presentation Day, when soon-to-be graduates of the college would present their theses, be recognized for their accomplishments, and receive their degrees. Many people of note, including government officials and prominent members of society, attended these ceremonies. President Rutherford B. Hayes attended the 1880 Presentation Day, held on May 5th, in his role as patron of the institution. Also in attendance that day was Alexander Graham Bell, who gave a speech on the progress of visible speech, and received an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree from the National Deaf-Mute College.

President James A. Garfield, though arriving thirty minutes late, attended the May 4th, 1881 Presentation Day. This was a huge deal for the community, as President Garfield had supported the institution since its founding, and during his years as a representative of Ohio in Congress became a dear friend of the campus.

Garfield, in a speech at the event, praised the institution as being “neutral ground, where, from all our political bickerings and differences, we come under the white flag of truce that should be raised over differences of party opinion, we have worked together in trying to make this institution worthy of our capital and our people.” It is commonly held in belief that this was Garfield's last public address, as he was shot on July 2nd, and died in September (see our article in the January-June 2017 edition of *Our Story*). Our staff is

investigating this claim; we hope to verify it.

Another interesting event to occur in Chapel Hall was an exhibition of attainments made by the pupils of the primary departments and the students of the college. This exhibition was given to invited guests, who were attending in honor of the 25th anniversary of the incorporation of the institution (con't page 3)



Interior of Chapel Hall, ca. 1880s.

Imagine President Garfield standing in this room during his visit. Image courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.



Exterior of Chapel Hall, ca. 1889.

It looks very different from today - come to Gallaudet and compare this photo from where you can stand today! Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

Where should you donate your Deaf History Artifacts?

by Trevor De Rosch



Deaf related correspondences located at the Gallaudet University Archives are considered artifacts.

Photos courtesy of Shane Dundas.

The Gallaudet University Museum treasures and appreciates all the support provided by our visitors and the alumni of the University. However, one form of support has been in the form of donations of artifacts to the Gallaudet University Museum. We enjoy taking time to look at artifacts, particularly donated photo collections, as they provide a fascinating insight into the past here at Gallaudet. These artifacts have been

wonderful to view, but the Gallaudet University Museum is not a collecting institution. What does this mean?

Many museums have an archive to collect, store, and catalog artifacts, and actively welcome donations from the community in the form of photographs, items, and other artifacts. This makes them collecting institutions, able to preserve and display artifacts within the museum itself. The Gallaudet Museum functions differently. We are a non-collecting institution. Why don't we collect artifacts? We don't have the means to care for these artifacts, especially in a location such as DC, where humidity and heat are a constant threat to preservation. Instead, this is the role and responsibility of Mike Olson and his staff in the Gallaudet University Archives. There they collect, catalog, and care for artifacts in an environmentally controlled storage space, both on and off campus.

This space allows artifacts to be preserved, provided the artifacts fit the specific collections policy of the Archives (namely, they must relate to the history and culture of Deaf people, both here at Gallaudet

(con't page 4)

If Walls Could Talk, Part 2 (con't from page two)

by Congress, celebrated on 2/23/1882. Among those invited were President Chester A. Arthur, U.S. Senator David Davis, Speaker of the House J. Warren Keifer, Chief Justice Morrison R. Waite, Secretary of War Robert Todd Lincoln, Secretary of State Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, Chairman Frank Hiscock of the Committee on Appropriations, Comptroller William Lawrence and First Auditor Robert M. Reynolds of the Treasury Department, and several others, along with their spouses.

Other events of note in the 1880s:

- Presentation Day, 5/16/1883 – Garfield bust is unveiled in Chapel Hall.
- Presentation Day, 5/7/1884 – numerous government officials and university presidents attended.
- Presentation Day, 5/5/1886 – Olof Hanson graduated
- Unveiling of Gallaudet statue, 6/26/1889 – initial

speeches held in Chapel Hall before moving outside for the unveiling.



Gallaudet Statue, shortly after its unveiling ceremony in Chapel Hall.

Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

Deaf History Artifacts (con't from page 3)

and around the world). When the Museum plans an exhibit, we collaborate with the Archives to access artifacts, papers, photographs, and other items to research, plan, design, and present an exhibit. The “We Are Equal: The National Fraternal Society for the Deaf” exhibit currently on display in Chapel Hall is a great example of this. Upon determining the topic for the exhibit, Museum staff visited the Archives and accessed the NFSD contents, donated after the Home Office closed around 2010. From our research in Archives we borrowed artifacts for display, and when the exhibit closes, we will return those artifacts to the Archives, so they can continue to be preserved for generations to come.

This divide heralds from a fundamental difference in the goals of a museum and an archive. The museum exists to provide public access to a shared history. This is great for the public to see, but terrible

for the artifacts, as this exposes them to humidity, light, temperature, and other threats to preservation. The archive exists to protect and preserve artifacts, which delays the damage caused by environmental factors, but limits public access. This is why you will often see these roles side-by-side, working in collaboration with one another to provide a balance between preservation of the artifact and the reason for preserving it in the first place.

If you would like to donate artifacts for the Museum to use in exhibits in the future, please consider donating them to the Gallaudet University Archives, and feel free to let us know you have done so. [The Archives have more information and guidelines on artifacts donations.](#) Let’s work together to make sure artifacts are preserved for future generations to treasure and access for centuries to come!



Photographs, old books, ribbons, or any items related to Gallaudet or Deaf people can be donated and stored at the Archives. Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas and the Gallaudet Museum.

We are open on Saturdays in June!

Gallaudet University Museum will open on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm during the month of June (June 1-30). That is in addition to our regular [summer hours](#) for visitors: Monday and Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and from Tuesday to Thursday by appointment.

This is a trial that explore options of expanding our hours that allow visitors to come on a weekend. Every year during the Summer, D.C. receives influx of visitors from all over. We hope this is the first step in expanding our hours long term.

| June 2018 | | | | | | |
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