

The Day of the Grand Opening



At the Chapel Hall front steps before the Grand Opening ceremony began.
Photo by Office of Communications and Public Relations, Gallaudet University.

April 8th, 2014, also known as Charter Day, was a very important day for Gallaudet University. Alumni, faculty, staff and students gathered from across the country to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the world's first university for Deaf students. The community gathered for group photos, lectures, laying of wreaths, and a tree planting. While all these different activities were occurring, the Museum staff prepared for the Grand Opening of the Gallaudet

as well as many people who were instrumental to the success of the museum, such as donors who have been generous in their contributions and Museum Consultants Mary Case and Dean Krimmel.



Dr. Ford W. Bell gave a speech during the Charter Day Breakfast at Chapel Hall.
Photo by Office of Communications and Public Relations, Gallaudet University.

Our primary guest speaker, Dr. Ford W. Bell, President of the American Alliance of Museums (see Vol. 2, No. 2 of *Our Story*), emphasized the importance of museums to modern education, and referenced the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, which, after nearly closing, was reopened thanks to the strong support of its students, faculty, and alumni.

After the speeches were finished, breakfast commenced. By 9:00am, most of the attendees had finished eating and left. At that time the museum staff helped to clean up the room (thanks also to family and friends of museum staff for their assistance!), and prepare it for visitors. At 11:00am students from KDES and MSSD came to visit the museum for a sneak peek before the Grand Opening.

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Inside Chapel Hall during the Charter Day Breakfast and Museum presentation.
Photo by Office of Communications and Public Relations, Gallaudet University.

Museum.

Members of the Museum staff arrived at Chapel Hall before 6:30am to set up for the breakfast, generously sponsored by Clark Construction. At 7:30am, our attendees arrived, including President T. Alan Hurwitz, First Lady Vicki Hurwitz, Provost Stephen Weiner and numerous department heads,



Students from KDES and MSSD came for a special preview of the Museum before the Grand Opening. Photo by Shane Dundas and Gallaudet Museum.

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The Alpha Sigma Pi Fraternity helped the Gallaudet Museum prepare for the Grand Opening Ceremony. Photo by Shane Dundas and Gallaudet Museum.

During lunch the Alpha Sigma Pi Fraternity gave a much-needed assistance to start setting up chairs and banners for the grand opening. The Gallaudet Museum expresses appreciation for their help.

At 1:30 the seats were full, and many people were standing, ready when Dr. Stephen Weiner gave opening remarks, followed by Dr. Jane Norman, Dr. Alan Hurwitz, Robin-Eve Jasper, Zhencheng Chen, and Meredith Peruzzi.

Around 2:15pm the doors were swung wide open to the campus community, and hundreds of people poured in. It was an amazing experience,

seeing all those people observing our months of hard work. It was also overwhelming, as just eleven museum staff members handled a total of over 1,000 visitors on our first day, with most of them visiting until 5:00pm. At that time, Alpha Sigma Pi members returned and, with the assistance of the museum staff's family members, took down all the chairs in



The Gallaudet Museum staff discusses and reflects on what had transpired on this historic day. Photo by Dr. Jane Norman and Gallaudet Museum.

the road.

Eventually, however, the museum had to close its doors at 5:00pm, as the set up crew for the "Light Up Chapel Hall" event needed access to the interior. The staff cleaned up the museum, then took a breath as we gathered, had our pictures taken, and briefly discussed the opening day, after which some of the staff stayed to watch the light show at 8:30pm.

The Words of President Ford W. Bell

Dr. Ford W. Bell, President of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), was the Keynote Speaker during the Charter Day breakfast held inside the Gallaudet Museum at Chapel Hall. He gave a very inspiring and powerful presentation on the importance of museums. Bell remarked that in the midst of many universities in Washington, D.C., Gallaudet University stood out, all because of the humble beginning of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and his interaction with Alice Cogswell, which was part of the beginning of Deaf education. This led to this university being named in his honor. Bell remarked that the Gallaudet Museum demonstrates the importance of its role to reflect and emphasize the mission and stories of Gallaudet University.

Bell mentioned the popularity of museums, which outshine other American pastimes, stating: "Museums remain popular, very popular. Recent studies



AAM President, Dr. Ford W. Bell, gave a motivational speech about museums at the breakfast. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Public Relations.

by AAM and the Institute of Museum and Library Services estimate the number of annual visits to museums in this country at 850 million. That's more than the attendance at all major league sporting events and theme parks combined. And, I hasten to point out, it is 6.5 times the attendance at major league sporting events – baseball, basketball, football and hockey."

Museums also play a key role in reinforcing the ongoing educational process for (continue on page 5)

The Future of the Gallaudet University Museum

After months of hard work, the *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond* Exhibition opened. Our panels are on display, our upcoming schedules are being ironed out, and our experience in managing the museum is growing. However, we are a long way from finished.

Phase One, the opening of the exhibition, is almost complete. Now the Gallaudet University Museum prepares to begin Phase Two. This will involve the establishment of public programs, such as ASL classes, which we plan to participate in alongside the Community Outreach Office. Phase Two will also cover the displaying of artifacts; however, to do so, it is essential to ensure the protection of artifacts from the damage of humidity, sunlight, human interaction, and accidents. This means a great deal of security and

money, which we are conducting research on now.

Future phases for the museum will include partnerships with various departments on campus, as well as public programs. We hope to offer a Deaf museum symposium sometime in the future, and we will develop a new exhibit for the Market place, to replace the existing “Deaf Peace Corps” exhibit which has resided there since 2011. In addition, we are working on possible topics to replace the current rotating exhibits on Andrew Foster and Then & Now sometime after January 2015. In order to ensure these goals, we ask that you continue to lend us your support, and donate to the museum today! You can also purchase items from the Gallaudet Museum Store with or in addition to your donations.



A little over 1,000 visitors came into a brand new museum shortly after the Grand Opening on Charter Day, April 8, 2014. There have been overwhelming numbers of positive comments about Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond exhibition and looking forward to more new rotating exhibitions in the future. Photo by Shane Dundas and Gallaudet Museum.

DONATE TODAY!

YOUR SUPPORT ENSURES THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY MUSEUM.

PAY BY CHECK OR SECURED ONLINE CONTRIBUTION.

OR SHOP AT THE MUSEUM STORE.

www.gallaudet.edu/museum.html



Photo by Shane Dundas and Gallaudet Museum

Gallaudet Museum in the News!

The Museum staff was delighted by the amount of media coverage the Gallaudet Museum received during its Grand Opening. We were featured in newspapers, such as *The Washington Post* and *The Washington Post Express*. We received coverage on WJLA-TV and WAMU's *The Kojo Nnamdi Show*, and were featured in iDeaf News and Deaf Nation. The coverage we received on social media was impressive. We will be featured in the May edition of the *Gallaudet Today*. Not bad for a small museum of our size! **Click here** to see all the press the Gallaudet Museum has received.



During the Kojo Nnamdi Show, Dr. Jane Norman spoke about the Gallaudet Museum while Gallaudet University President, Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz and Assistant Vice-President for the Administration, Fred Weiner, looked on. Photo courtesy of The Kojo Nnamdi Show.



The Gallaudet Museum Hours

The most common question we get asked, at the museum, in email, and called in through the Help Desk is "When are you open?" We have since adjusted our website to answer this question and others, but we will answer it here as well. During the summer, Gallaudet Museum in Chapel Hall is open Mondays and Fridays, from 10am to 4pm; Tuesdays to Thursdays by appointment. During the academic year, the Museum will be open Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 4pm. There will be a staff member at the desk to answer any questions you may have.

If you wish to have a memento of your time with us, we currently have several items for sale at the Museum Store. These items can be found by clicking the blue box below to shop online; shipping and handling fees apply. You can also stop by at the Museum in Chapel Hall at Gallaudet University.

Purchasing these items is a good way to support the Museum and take a nice memento of your visit home. We hope to bring more items to the museum. Be sure to keep an eye open for updates on prices, new items, and discontinued items.

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 Donations 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

(~ continued from page 2: *The Words of President Ford W. Bell*)

students at all levels. Bell reiterated museums as part of the education platform, "Today's school children go to museums to participate in creative, unique educational programs designed to meet specific state educational standards, so that what was once a "field trip" has now become "the extended classroom," as museums bring learning alive for many students – in science, in history, in natural history, in math, and other disciplines."

Naturally, in order for the Gallaudet Museum to move forward and expand beyond one's imagination, much financial and communal support is greatly needed. Bell remarked that the "...museums are dedicated to preserving the magic held by objects and specimens, and by artworks and stories. It is not easy. But

with the support you provide to your museum and other museums you visit, we will continue in this important work, and achieve a great goal – to preserve the magic for generations to come, to preserve the stories and the memories that help inform the present, to conserve the unique power of our heritages, including the heritage of this University, to pass that on, that power, to those who will follow."

The Gallaudet Museum looks forward to your support, and through your contributions, so that many stories will be illuminated and preserved. The Gallaudet Museum, one day, hopes to be one of the strongest economy generators within the community adjacent to Gallaudet University. Make a donation today.

Don't Worry If You Missed It...

IF YOU MISSED THE GRAND OPENING, YOU CAN STILL
WATCH THE RE-BROADCAST
 CLICK HERE TO WATCH.



Watch Gallaudet University Museum's appearance on the radio.

Originally Aired on
April 7, 2014
Click to Watch

Speakers are:
 Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz, President, Gallaudet University
 Fred Weiner, Assistant Vice-President for Administration
 Dr. Jane Norman, Museum Director and Curator Emerita

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Grand Opening Day

Looking back on Charter Day, April 8, 2014 was a beautiful day when the *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond* exhibition was officially opened during the Grand Opening Ceremony at the front steps of Chapel Hall.



Grand Opening Ribbon. Photo by Shane Dundas and GU Museum.



Zhencheng Chen, student from Clerc Center, gives a powerful and inspiring speech. Photo by Office of Communications and Public Relations, Gallaudet University.



Dr. Stephen Weiner and Meredith Peruzzi honor Dr. Jane Norman with a plaque for her contribution in establishing the Gallaudet Museum. Photo by Dick Moore and the Gallaudet Museum.



Dr. Stephen Weiner, Provost, begins the Grand Opening Ceremony. Photo by Office of Communications and Public Relations, Gallaudet University.



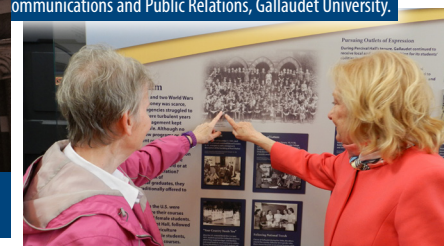
Trevor De Rosch, Museum Staff, guiding visitors. Photo by Dick Moore and Gallaudet Museum.



The Gallaudet Museum is now open! Photo by Shane Dundas and Gallaudet Museum.



"Bummy" Burstein being interviewed by WJLA-TV (ABC 7 News). Photo by Office of Communications and Public Relations, Gallaudet University.



Dr. Barbara Kannapell sharing stories about her father to Dr. Jane Norman, pointing to her father in the photograph. Photo by Shane Dundas and Gallaudet Museum.



Dr. Jane Norman with John Bunting & Doug Barker of the Facilities Dept., inspecting the exhibition display panels during installation by Blair, Inc. Photo by Shane Dundas & Gallaudet Museum.



Gallaudet President Hurwitz stating that Gallaudet Museum's vision becomes a reality. Photo by Office of Communications and Public Relations, Gallaudet University.



Over 1,000 visitors came to the Grand Opening of the Gallaudet Museum. Photo by Office of Communications and Public Relations, Gallaudet University.



"Bummy" gave "thumbs-up" approval on the new Museum. Photo by Dick Moore and Gallaudet Museum.



Many thanks to all who came to the Grand Opening on a beautiful Charter Day. Photo by Shane Dundas and Gallaudet Museum.

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.