

Museum Conference and Expo

by Meredith Peruzzi, Trevor De Rosch, and Shane Dundas

Editor's note: Members of the Gallaudet Museum team: Meredith Peruzzi, Trevor De Rosch, and Shane Dundas participated in a 4-day annual American Alliance of Museums convention and expo right here in D.C. This is what they have to share.



By Meredith Peruzzi

Although I have attended the AAM conference in the past, this year's conference was particularly special for me because I was able to attend with Gallaudet Museum staff, in our hometown. I was on the event planning subcommittee for AAM, and it was a delight to see so many events take place and have so many out of town visitors enjoying our nation's capital, which has a rich museum culture - and so many of them are free!

More important, though, was getting to collaborate with staff on the conference experience. Normally, when I attend the AAM conference, I try to attend as many sessions as possible on as many different

topics as I can, so I can bring back helpful information to our team. This year, I was delighted that our staff could choose the sessions that would most benefit them, and I was able to attend as many museum leadership sessions as I could. We had an excellent wrap-up meeting after the conference, where everyone was able to share what they learned, and I'm thrilled to have been able to share this with the team.



By Trevor De Rosch

The AAM Annual Meeting and Museum Expo was an amazing event to be a part of. It was almost overwhelming with the plethora of topics being presented throughout the five-day event.

After attending multiple introductory sessions on Wednesday with Shane, I spent the next several days attending sessions on resume writing, how to collect and manage data on our visitors, gathering information about the AAM accreditation process, the benefits and pitfalls of volunteer services, retailing, virtual reality

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Gallaudet Museum at the Smithsonian Institute

by Shane Dundas



Meredith Peruzzi giving a lecture at Smithsonian.

Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas and Gallaudet Museum.

On April 13, 2016 - Meredith Peruzzi, manager of Gallaudet Museum, was invited to speak at the Smithsonian Institution lecture series, "DC Historic Sites." The lecture series focused on historic sections of DC; naturally it was important to talk about Gallaudet University, since it contributed significantly to the development of the North-East section of DC.

Peruzzi remarked that DC has grown and changed, spreading to encompass Gallaudet University as it remained on the same location since 1857. The intrigued audience consisted of members and donors of the Smithsonian Institute.

It was a huge honor for Peruzzi to give a lecture at the highly esteemed Smithsonian Institution.



Time Capsule

College Hall

by Shane Dundas

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



Newly completed Primary Dept. Bldg., ca. 1866
Looking westward. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

For this issue including this month of June 2016, the *Time Capsule* series looks back 150 years ago in time to when the Primary Department Building was completed by June of 1866. It is known today as the east wing of College Hall. It contained classrooms, a chapel, dormitory rooms, bathrooms, a lab room (next to the furnace room!), and Edward Miner Gallaudet's office.

The very first commencement of the first graduate, Melville Ballard, took place in the chapel in the same month (June of 1866). It was also during this time that President Gallaudet called for a landscaping architect, which eventually led to Frederick Law Olmsted designing the campus landscape.

Although this building isn't the first to be built on Kendall Green, it is the oldest remaining building on campus. Today it is used for the administrative aspect of Gallaudet University, including portions of the President's Office.



Unfinished College Building, ca. 1865.
Looking towards the north-east, the Rose Cottage is seen in the foreground. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.



New College Hall being built, ca. 1874-75.
College Hall under construction connecting to the East Wing. Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.



East Wing of College Hall today, 2016
Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas and Gallaudet Museum.

Other interesting tidbits of College Building:

- [Click HERE](#) to see the **floor plans** in 1866
- President Gallaudet's office in College Bldg. is at the same level as President Cordano in College Hall today. EMG's office is now part of hallway.

Museum Photo Policies Vary Tremendously

by Trevor De Rosch



After a visitor to our *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond* exhibit in Chapel Hall asked me why we had a ban on photography in the museum, I was inspired to look into photo policies for the various museums of the Washington, DC area. Starting with a list of 79 museums, I visited each museum's website to find their stance on photography in their exhibits.

The results of this survey surprised me. Half of the museum websites failed to state a policy towards photos. Given the assumption I had that most museums had strict "no photo" policies, I was shocked that so many museums didn't list any policy at all. In addition, the complicated combinations that arose among the remaining museums and their policies had me searching for how I could present such variety in a nice, short article.

There were references to selfie sticks, flash photography, commercial versus private, tripods and monopods, lighting equipment, and numerous other concerns regarding photography in museum settings. One thing was clear; there is no overarching general rule one can follow when it comes to taking photos in museums.

To read the full article reflecting my findings and an examination of our policy, please click on the link here: [Museum Photo Policies in the District of Columbia Region.](#)

Gallaudet Museum Launches an Instagram Account

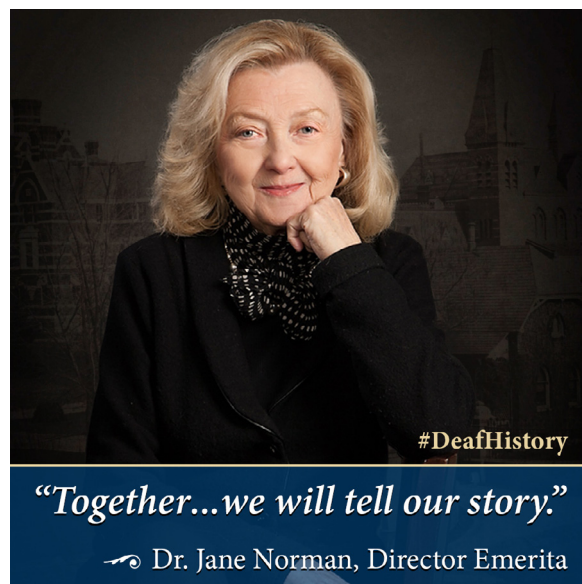
by Shane Dundas

On June 23, 2016, the Gallaudet University Museum launched an Instagram account, adding to a list of two other social media accounts: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Our social media network is an attempt to reach out to you and connect with you with more frequent news and updates. Our Instagram name is **GallaudetMuseum** just the same as our other two social media accounts.

[Click HERE](#) to follow us on Instagram.

On Instagram, we mostly post photos relating to Deaf History and Gallaudet University. We hope it will help you learn and explore more about Deaf History. It is fitting that our first photo honors Dr. Jane Norman, Director and Curator Emerita of Gallaudet Museum.

Connect with us today! Together we will tell our story.



"Together...we will tell our story."

— Dr. Jane Norman, Director Emerita

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technology, exhibition writing and design, inspirational experiences of other museums, inclusiveness and communicating experiences, mistakes, marketing, and weaving public narratives.

The sheer volume of information being presented was somewhat intimidating. However, I came out of it with a profound respect of the shared experiences of museums, and numerous ideas to apply to the Gallaudet University Museum.

The most useful aspects included the accreditation session, which covered how the accreditation process would increase the Gallaudet Museum's credibility in the museum field; the museum store session, which provided numerous pieces of advice for the operation and management of museum stores; and the Power of Words session, which discussed ways to write and design exhibits. I look forward to applying my newfound knowledge to the Gallaudet University Museum.



By Shane Dundas

Although this was my second visit to the AAM Conference, this is the first time I fully participated in it by attending many workshops that benefit my role as a marketing and outreach coordinator for the Gallaudet Museum.

Most of the workshops I went to related to

community awareness and engagement with museums, including how to develop apps, enhance museum visitor engagement, develop community-wide networking/connections with the museum, and understand the effects of social media outlets. Cost savings and efficiency in maximizing our museum community outreach/engagement has caught my full attention.

Another important aspect I learned was how to maximize the museum's financial potential by learning how to write grants and increase community awareness about how our museum benefits from them. I learned that there is grant money that can help with our multi-media and outreach efforts; I intend to make the best out of not only writing grants but also doubling my efforts to maximize our potential through cost-saving technologies.

Networking with other museum professionals that share the same areas of focus as myself has been very rewarding; because of that I am able to help the Gallaudet Museum take bigger steps towards connecting with the community and people.



Museum Staff at the AAM Conference.

[Click HERE](#) to see more photos. Photos courtesy of Shane Dundas.

Do you have any stories or memories to share?

You can share your stories and memories with us via social media. "Like" our page if you are using Facebook, or click "follow" if you are using Twitter.

[Click the icons on the right to connect with us.]

For your stories or memories relating to Gallaudet in general, use the hashtag #150Beyond. If it's relating to *Deaf HERstory*, use the hashtag: #DeafHERstory.

We look forward to staying connected with you and learning about your stories or memories!

Click here to subscribe to *Our Story* newsletter and other announcements.

Stay connected with us by clicking to the icons below.



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.