

Editor's Note

by Shane Dundas

Hello readers, as we enter the fifth year of *Our Story* that debuted in August of 2013, the museum staff have been increasingly busy with many projects and research for newer exhibits. We enjoy bringing you good articles and stories that relate to the Gallaudet University Museum and Deaf history, but it takes time to research and write articles.

Because of our commitment to you and the community in producing exhibits, we are placing a higher priority on them, so you can come back and revisit the Museum to deeply appreciate the diversity of untold stories. Therefore, we are now offering *Our Story* two times a year: January to June and July to

December. Naturally, incorporating outdated news in the newsletter would not benefit all of us; instead, we will use stories that are timeless and of importance. For the latest stories and announcements, we encourage you to utilize our social media: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). You do not have to sign up to social media to access it.

We still welcome your stories that you want to share with the community and would appreciate any story ideas you may have to offer. We will be happy to look into it. We thank you for your e-mails of feedback and support. Furthermore, we are very grateful for your loyalty in subscribing to *Our Story*.

Dr. Isaac O. Agboola and the Andrew J. Foster Exhibit

by Shane Dundas



Earlier this year, Gallaudet University experienced a huge loss, the passing of Dr. Isaac O. Agboola, '81 & G-'83, the Dean of the School of Education, Business, and Human Services (SEBHS). Many stories and memories of Dr. Agboola circulated around Kendall Green from many people who loved and respected him, and the Gallaudet University Museum is no exception.

In 2013, the Museum was working on a large scale project: to open a permanent museum in Chapel Hall as part of the commemoration of Gallaudet University's sesquicentennial celebration on April 8, 2014. Dr. Agboola was asked by the Museum to curate an exhibit titled *Andrew J. Foster: Missionary, Educator, and Advocate*. There was no one else better than Dr. Agboola to undertake this project since he knew Dr. Foster from the days of his youth. As Museum manager Meredith Peruzzi stated, "Dr. Agboola's fondness for Andrew Foster could be easily felt any time we discussed the exhibit. He lit up when he shared photos and stories from his time working in Dr. Foster's office, and it was a joy to work with him on this project. I can think of no one else with more passion for the subject, and I was honored to work with him."

There have been students from various countries in Africa bringing their friends to see the exhibit, which demonstrates Foster's long lasting legacy.



Time Capsule

Garfield: Getting the Timeline Right 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.

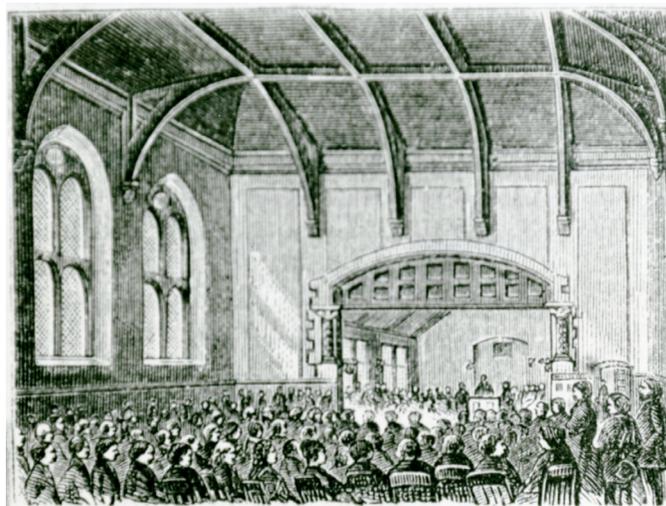
Recently I have discussed with several visitors the reason for having a bust of President Garfield (by Daniel Chester French) in the Chapel Hall museum. Along with the reasons for including his bust, we discussed the timeline of his assassination in 1881. There were plenty of questions and misconceptions about him.

At the start of the Civil War, in 1861, James A. Garfield joined the Union Army as a major general. Two years later, he became the Representative to Congress for Ohio. While it is unclear how his path crossed with Gallaudet College, by 1870 he had become a strong advocate for continued monetary support for the institution. On June 21, 1870, Garfield spoke in the House in support of a bill to provide \$70,000 towards the construction of the Main Central Building (now known as Chapel Hall). In January 29, 1871, he was invited to speak at the dedication of the building, in recognition of his assistance. His continued support for the institution saw him return to speak at the graduation of the class of 1878, the ceremonies of which took place in Chapel Hall.

Three years later, Garfield was nominated by the Republican party to be their presidential nominee, and he narrowly beat out Winfield Hancock for the presidency. He was sworn in on March 4, 1881. Two months later, May 4, 1881, he spoke at the graduation ceremonies at the College, congratulating the new graduates. Nearly two months after graduation, July 2nd, while waiting for a train at the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Station (located where the West Building of the National Gallery of Art is today), Garfield was shot by a disgruntled job applicant, Charles Guiteau. While the wound itself was not fatal, the probing conducted by his doctors to find the bullet led to infection. On September 19, 1881,

Garfield succumbed to his wounds.

Edward Miner Gallaudet, who had also recently lost a board member, wrote: "The deaths of Mr. Stickney and President Garfield were personal griefs to me, for strong ties of friendship had grown up which made me feel I could lean on and trust them."



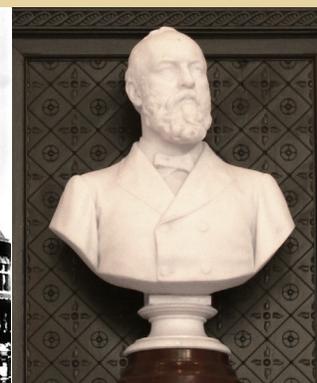
Dedication of Chapel Hall, January 29, 1871.

Garfield was present at the dedication, as was President Ulysses S. Grant. Image courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.



The Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Station, 1881.

Location where President Garfield was shot. Photo courtesy of National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.



Bust of President James Abram Garfield

It was sculpted by Daniel Chester French and unveiled in 1883. It currently resides in Chapel Hall.

Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas.

Museum Staff Reflections

by Museum Staff

Deaf Difference + Space Survival

As many of you have heard, the Gallaudet University Museum, in partnership with the Drs. John S. and Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center (Schuchman Center), launched the latest exhibition, *Deaf Difference + Space Survival*, featuring the "Gallaudet Eleven" - a group of men who participated in the NASA space program. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about the event, and see our [Facebook](#) page filled with photos of the event.

Without repeating here the grandeur and success of the exhibition that went across the news nationally and internationally, we want to reflect on our staff members' journey in this exhibit because this is the first time we have produced an entire exhibit in house with the exception of exhibit printing.

Our designer, Rani Alameh, practically worked around the clock creating this beautiful exhibit. Trevor De Rosch and Shane Dundas, with no prior experience, successfully installed the panels.

It was the student intern of the Schuchman Center, Maggie Kopp, who conducted research along with the Center's Associate Director, Jean Bergey. They brought the content and script to the Museum and we designed and installed it. Museum staff member Shane Dundas said it was an incredible experience to do the

"dirty work" up close and now appreciates the efforts of our past exhibit designers and installers. The grand opening was an incredible event with smooth logistics done by Dundas.

The exhibit content was impressive, Trevor De Rosch, stated, "It was cool to see how Deaf men were part of the advent of the space program." Meredith Peruzzi, Museum manager said, "The most thrilling aspect of DD+SS for me has been the comparison to the recent movie *Hidden Figures*. This is inspiring in terms of what stories we can tell, how we can tell them, and how far our reach can go. Who knows, maybe it will become another major motion picture!" The Museum thanks everyone involved!



Trevor De Rosch and Shane Dundas laid out the panels.

Photos courtesy of Jean Lindquist Bergey.

NFSD + Deaf Entrepreneurship

Our newest rotating exhibit in Chapel Hall is heading our way this fall, replacing two panels: *Andrew J. Foster: Missionary, Educator, and Advocate* and *Then and Now* to become *We Are Equal*, focused on the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf (NFSD). Our Museum staff have been working tirelessly since December 2016 researching and collecting data about NFSD that was established to offer insurance for Deaf people, and Deaf Entrepreneurship which will focus on Deaf owned and operated businesses.

For a two-sided panel, it was indeed challenging to fit the plethora of data and information about NFSD; nevertheless the draft of the script has been completed and is currently under review. The other two-sided

panel, on Deaf Entrepreneurship, will reflect a diversity of Deaf business owners and their journeys toward their financial and leadership autonomy.

Among many documents and artifacts being researched, the most entertaining part has been looking through *The Frat* (NFSD's newspaper); it was as if we traveled through a time machine. Shane Dundas, museum staff, said, "The more I read into *The Frat*, the more I realize how much the same we are today as people more than 100 years ago. I especially enjoyed reading comics that encouraged people to join NFSD."

The newest rotating exhibits will come later this fall. Be on the look out in our social media for more information.

Chipstone Foundation

by Shane Dundas

On April 26, 2017, the Museum staff coordinated a day long retreat with the Chipstone Foundation and invited interested stakeholders of the Academic Affairs department to further explore the Gallaudet University Museum's contributions to student learning outcomes at Gallaudet University. The Chipstone Foundation, headquartered in Milwaukee, came to Gallaudet University as part of an introductory tour to get to know the campus and the Museum for their consultation assessment process.

They will return with ideas on how Gallaudet University and the Museum can enhance and improve academic partnerships that will lead to higher scholarship and research in multiple disciplinary approach. The Gallaudet University Museum is committed to offering opportunities of student academic growth that help cultivate their skills in their areas of discipline.

The Museum staff thank all those who were involved with the retreat, and the Chipstone Foundation for their interest in us.



Presentation to Academic Affairs stakeholders.

Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas and the Gallaudet Museum.



Chipstone discusses the day with Gallaudet Museum staff.

Photo courtesy of Shane Dundas and the Gallaudet Museum.

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 to the icons on the right to connect with us.

For your stories or memories relating to Gallaudet in general, use the hashtag **#150Beyond**. You can also e-mail us your stories at museum@gallaudet.edu. We look forward to staying connected with you and learning about your stories or memories!

Click 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-annually. 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. We update the website frequently.

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