

Museum: Gallaudet Reunion Week

What a crazy week it was! Between Wednesday, July 9th, and Saturday, July 12th, over 1,200 friends visited us in Chapel Hall. This is more than we experienced on our opening day, when we had eleven staff to assist the over 1,000 visitors eager to see the new museum. This time, we juggled the crowds with only three staff members and two additional volunteers. While visitors were spread out over several days, making it easier to manage, it was a hectic time.

Nevertheless, we thoroughly enjoyed watching so many people experiencing the history and stories presented in the *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond* exhibit. A few people even found themselves pictured in the museum, such as Jacqueline Kilpatrick, a former member of the Gallaudet Dance Company.



Jacqueline Kilpatrick, '74, points to her younger self at the Gallaudet Dance Company in 1970.
Photo by Meredith Peruzzi and the Gallaudet Museum.

Our staff efforts were split between taking photos in the Tower Clock, conducted by our Interim Manager Meredith Peruzzi; manning the Museum store, managed by Curatorial Assistant Trevor De Rosch and Graphic Designer Rani Alemeh; hosting the silent auction; and answering the many questions presented to us. Most of the time the museum was extremely busy, keeping us on our toes.

The Museum would like to thank Dr. Jane Norman, Director Emerita, and former staff member Brian Suchite for volunteering their time to assist us. We hope everyone enjoyed the exhibit and their time on campus. If you missed your opportunity to have a picture of yourself taken in the Tower Clock, we expect to host this opportunity again at Homecoming,

the weekend of October 25th. In the meantime, as the Museum is steadily growing, we would appreciate any volunteers to assist with us especially during bigger events like Homecoming. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Meredith Peruzzi at museum@gallaudet.edu.



A rare glimpse of a quieter time during the Gallaudet Reunion week. Photo courtesy of Meredith Peruzzi and the Gallaudet Museum.

Silent Auction

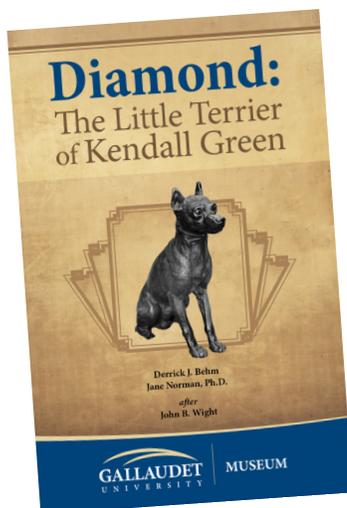


During the 150th Anniversary Reunion here at Gallaudet University, the Gallaudet Museum held a silent auction, displaying five pieces of art created by Scott Bush and André Pellerin. Scott Bush provided two artist proofs and a full sized painting of Chapel Hall. This artwork was created to show the importance of Chapel Hall. In the words of Scott Bush, “Chapel Hall, in my view as an artist, is an icon where we can always commit to memory, our true identity as a Deaf person.” His paintings truly reflected the strategic importance of Chapel Hall to the Gallaudet community, and Deaf culture at large.

André Pellerin, upon discovering that the Museum was hosting an auction during the reunion, expressed his interest in contributing. He kindly donated two beautiful vases to our auction. The simple lines carefully engraved into the exterior created a great contrast to the unglazed clay underneath the colorful exterior, making these two vases true works of art.

We appreciate everyone’s interest in the silent auction, especially that of the artists themselves. We hope to host another one in the future.

A Renewed Diamond Book



In addition to creating publications such as *The Guardians of Chapel Hall* (available in the Museum Store), the Gallaudet University Museum also seeks to breathe life into previous historical works that have long been out of print. One such piece is *A Tribute of Affection and Esteem to Diamond*, an 1888 pamphlet written by John B. Wight. From 1877 to 1890, Wight was the Family Supervisor of the Columbia Institution, and lived on campus as part of his role managing the students and families who also lived there. In 1878, Wight and his wife acquired a small terrier, whom they named Diamond; he was loved by everyone on campus. When Diamond passed away in 1888, Wight wrote the pamphlet to honor his memory among those who had loved him. Only a few copies were ever printed, but the Gallaudet University Archives holds original copies of this work. As it is out of copyright, the Museum decided to reprint it as a historical publication, and received permission from the Archives to make copies of the original text.

But the story of Diamond did not end in 1888. Although Wight only stayed on Kendall Green for two more years, his pet had a much longer legacy. According to campus lore, either Wight or Edward Miner Gallaudet found an iron statue that resembled Diamond, and purchased it for the campus. And so for over 125 years, the Little Iron Dog has been part of campus history, long after everyone who knew Diamond has been gone from campus.

The Museum’s republishing of *A Tribute of Affection and Esteem to Diamond* has thus been expanded with information about the Little Iron Dog, from its days in front of Old Fowler Hall to its present home in the President’s Office in College Hall. Along with the additional text, written by Derrick Behm and Dr. Jane Norman, there are a number of photographs featuring both Diamond himself, when he was alive, and the Little Iron Dog around campus. This new publication will be featured in the Museum Store when it is released, and will be available for purchase through the Museum website.

Interim Manager Goes to Museum Conferences



Interim Manager, Meredith Peruzzi at the AAM Conference in Seattle. Photo by Meredith Peruzzi and the Gallaudet Museum.

The Gallaudet Museum is a member of two national Museum organizations: Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG) and American Alliance of Museums (AAM). Every year the Gallaudet Museum sends a representative to the conferences and the associated MuseumExpo.

This year, Interim Manager Meredith Peruzzi attended both the AAMG and AAM conferences in Seattle, Washington, from May 16-18 and May 18-21, respectively. During these two events, Meredith was able to learn from sessions that discussed how a museum functions, how to provide certain services, new ideas for interaction with our visitors, and other concepts. She

also met many other museum personnel while attending the conferences, leading to networking and discussions about subjects in which she was newly introduced to, while also allowing her to provide a unique perspective on museum services to the deaf and hard of hearing.

Plans are underway for Peruzzi to attend to next year's AAMG and AAM conferences in Atlanta, GA on April 24-26 and April 26-29, respectively.



New Plans for Weyerhaeuser Exhibition Hall

As part of our goal of keeping visitors coming back to the Museum, we are making plans for a new exhibit in the Weyerhaeuser Exhibition Hall, located opposite the Marketplace.

The first exhibit in this space was *Olof Hanson: Conspicuous Leader, 1862 - 1933*, which is now located on the ground floor of Chapel Hall, outside the Financial Aid office. The current exhibit, *Making a Difference: Deaf Peace Corps Volunteers*, will remain up until the next exhibit opens in the spring of 2015.

Stay tuned to future issues of *Our Story*, along with the Museum social media outlets, to learn more about our upcoming exhibits. The Museum's work is always ongoing. As always, we appreciate the generous support we have received over the years, and we look forward to your continue support of our new exhibits.

[Click here to make an online donation.](#)

Product Changes in the Museum Store

Due to popular demand during the reunion, we have sold out of two Anniversary items. We no longer carry the 150th Medallion and the Sorenson 2014 Calendar. However, in the near future we will be introducing two new items to the Museum store.

The first of these items will be a booklet about the little dog many of you have seen in photos in the museum, and asked questions about. Called Diamond, the dog spent most of his life on campus, and became a recognizable part of campus for the time he spent here. To learn more about Diamond, see the article on page two.

The second item will be a set of greeting cards with various images on the front, with information pertaining to each image on the back of the cards. Rani Alameh, as our graphic designer, is responsible for this project, and is currently working on these cards.

Keep an eye on our newsletters and the Museum website for when these items will become available.



Photo courtesy of Gallaudet University Archives.

The dog named "Diamond" as seen behind Douglas Craig. You can see the Gate House behind the fence - which is now the current Gallaudet Museum Operations Office. Circa 1890s.

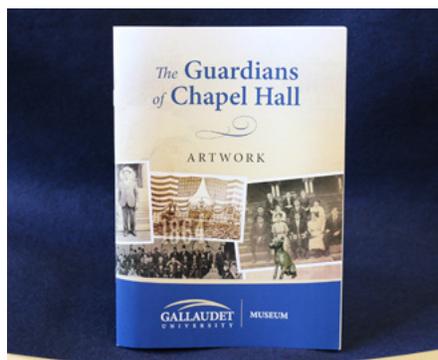
The Gallaudet Museum Store is now Open!

CLICK HERE
to shop online.

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



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



The Guardians of Chapel Hall Book
\$8.00 + \$3.00 S/H

Gallaudet Museum Hours
during the Academic semester:

Monday to Friday
10:00am to 4:00pm

The Museum closes when the University is closed.

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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.