Greetings from President Matt Davis

As winter turns into spring, museums across the state are busy with visitors, school groups, and programming. Spring is a time of renewal and possibility, and this season brings many exciting changes and possibilities for our state’s museum community. For those of you who attended, I hope you enjoyed GAMG 2019 in Atlanta. From outstanding sessions, programs, tours, and evening events, it was an amazing week. I want to thank Mary Wilson Joseph, Ephraim Rotter, the Atlanta host committee, our presenters, and all vendors for their hard work and participation.

Your GAMG board has also been hard at work preparing for next year’s joint conference with the Alabama Museums Association in Columbus, Georgia, and implementing the results of the branding survey. As a result of your feedback as members, I am pleased to announce our new organizational name: the Georgia Association of Museums. This new branding honors our past and provides our stakeholders with a modern name that better reflects our organization’s mission and principles. Survey results have also inspired us to go green with an all-digital newsletter! This initiative will enable us to communicate more quickly with our members, provide more content, and add color throughout the publication.

As always, the board welcomes your input and appreciates your support of GAM. Stay tuned for more exciting updates, including a refreshed logo!
GAMG 2019 was a huge success with 165 attendees from five states gathering in Atlanta to network and learn from each other. Behind-the-scenes tours at facilities such as the Coca Cola Company Archives and The Fox Theatre and evening events at the Center for Puppetry Arts, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, The Breman Museum, and the Atlanta History Center were highlights. Hands-on workshops and educational sessions provided useful information on best practices in the museum field, and keynote speaker Doug Shipman, CEO of The Woodruff Arts Center was inspiring. As one attendee remarked, 'This conference was stellar!'
During the 2019 GAMG Conference in Atlanta, we enjoyed a fun and engaging awards luncheon that provided some interesting insights into the great work done by our colleagues throughout the state. Whether it is through the development of thought-provoking exhibitions, engaging educational programs, or the support (financial, mental, and physical) that our volunteers and sponsors provide, this year's award winners continue to demonstrate the dedication to professionalism and learning that moves us forward as an organization and as a field. The award winners listed below represent some of the best work in our field across the state of Georgia.

PATRON
Larry and Brenda Thompson, Georgia Museum of Art

INSTITUTION
Thomasville History Center

EDUCATION
Unlock History, Museum of History and Holocaust Education, Kennesaw State University

EDUCATION (Honorable Mention)
Spring Break Science Escape, Tellus Science Museum

MUSEUM EXHIBITION (Category #2)
Jim Henson's The Dark Crystal: World of Myth and Magic, Center for Puppetry Arts, Inc.

MUSEUM EXHIBITION (Category #3)

MULTIMEDIA
"Fridays with the Curator", Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village at ABAC

SPECIAL PROJECT (Category #2)
The Complete Overhaul of 110 Years of College Archives in 600 Boxes and 44 Days, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

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The Awards Committee looks forward to seeing what this year will bring! Remember that the deadline for nominations is October 1, 2019. The awards program is a great way to recognize those within your organization and community that go above and beyond in support of your mission, and a great way to acknowledge the vital role that donors and sponsors play in making that work possible. Please visit the website for more information on the awards process.

New and Renewing Members

INSTITUTIONAL
Augusta National Golf Club  Funk Heritage Center
Georgia Historic Preservation Division  Georgia Humanities Council
Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village at ABAC
Georgia Southern University Museum  Hickory Hill
Lowndes County Historical Society  Lyndon House Arts Center
National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus
Polk County Historical Society  St. Mary’s Submarine Museum
Steffen Thomas Museum of Art  Thomas County Historical Society
Troup County Historical Society & Archives  TRR Cobb House
Woodruff Library at Emory University

SPONSOR
DLR Group  dmdg2  Georgia Public Library Service  HW Exhibits
MBA Design & Display  Supreme Design Publishing  Quatrefoil Associates

INDIVIDUAL/STUDENT
Erica Bettross  Daniel Chamberlin  Christy Crisp  Donald O. Davis
Matt Davis  Jeffrey Donaldson  Virginia Howell  Polly Huff  Jennifer Kirker
Emily Knight  Lydia Lombard  Christa McCay  Chelsea Neese
Ashley Quinn  Rachel Smirnov  Holly Wait  Leslie Yarborough
The Monroe Museum is located in the Walton County seat of Monroe, Georgia, the official “Antiques Capital of Georgia.” Once home to seven Georgia governors and one governor of Texas, Walton County also claims as a native Moina Michael, the Poppy Lady, who created a fundraising campaign that changed the lives of countless veterans, as well as the way the world commemorates World War I to this day. Mary Creswell, the first woman to earn a bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia, also grew up and received her public education in Monroe.

The Monroe Museum’s grand opening in November 2016 was the culmination of several years’ work by dozens of dedicated people, including Kim Mulkey-Smith, the GAMG Museum Volunteer of the Year for 2016. The museum is dedicated to collecting, archiving, and exhibiting the wonderful stories that comprise Monroe, Georgia. Additionally, the goal is to become a research museum with historical and genealogical archives available to the public. The local community and city government have provided outstanding support of the museum’s mission.

Housed in Monroe’s former city hall, a WPA building dating from 1939, the Monroe Museum has three galleries open to visitors, with three more scheduled to open in 2019 and 2020. The main gallery houses exhibitions on Walton County’s eight governors, the famed Monroe Girls Drum & Bugle Corps, Adjutant General George Hearn, local history, and the role cotton has played in Walton County.

The Monroe Museum is located at 227 S. Broad Street and open to visitors Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Visit the museum’s Facebook page to learn more.
We hope everyone will join us on the riverfront in Columbus, Georgia, Sunday, January 26 through Wednesday, January 29, 2020 for next year’s special joint conference of the Georgia Association of Museums and the Alabama Museums Association! Building on the momentum of this year’s amazing conference in Atlanta, where we had a record 165 attendees, our respective boards and combined conference planning committee are excited and ambitious to organize a conference for our members that will offer more than we ever have before.

By combining our resources and membership, the “GAMAMA” 2020 Conference will include:

- Sessions, workshops, and roundtables, with four concurrent options in most session time slots
- More workshops and roundtables than ever before
- AMA’s traditional meet-and-greet cocktail party to kick off the conference Sunday night
- Special tours in both Georgia and Alabama
- GAM’s traditional progressive dinner Monday night
- A combined silent and live auction event Tuesday night
- Limited-edition conference merchandise
- Plus more surprises to come!

You might also have noticed a change in days! Both of our organizations agreed to be flexible in timing; so this year, the conference will run Sunday-Wednesday instead of GAM’s usual Tuesday-Friday. For AMA, this conference will take place four-six weeks earlier than normal.

The seed for #GAMAMA2020 was planted at the 2017 SEMC Conference in New Orleans. GAM board members Rachel Bragg and Ephraim Rotter met then-AMA President Ryan Blocker at a meeting of state museum association members that allowed for great discussions and brainstorming. It did not take long until we were dreaming of a future conference in Columbus, which is perfectly situated on the Georgia-Alabama border, and the rest is history.

Our conference venue will be the Columbus Convention and Trade Center, a beautifully restored 19th-century iron works with spacious meeting rooms directly across the street from the Columbus Marriott, our host hotel. Attendees will also find plenty of opportunities for recreation, cuisine, and after-hours libations in Columbus’ revitalized and energetic downtown (aka Uptown...it’s complicated) after evening events that will explore museums throughout the city.

The Call for Proposals will be going out soon, and in keeping with the 2020 conference theme of “New Voices,” we would love to see session and workshop proposals from members we have never heard from before. Meanwhile, the boards of GAM, AMA, the Columbus Host Committee, and the Joint Conference Planning Committee will continue adding special features to make this the best conference yet. We can’t wait to see you on the banks of the Chattahoochee River!
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