Greetings from President Matt Davis

It is hard to believe that the summer is upon us! For many of us, it has been a busy spring of events and exhibitions, plus gearing up for summer programming. Your GAM board has also been hard at work and has made positive strides to benefit the association and our members. From a new organizational name and revamped newsletter, to increasing opportunities for member engagement and this year’s joint conference with the Alabama Museums Association, the organization is moving forward in an exciting new direction. We hope that you will share news of the association with your local colleagues and encourage them to join. Our membership process is very easy and information is available on the GAM website.

Also, please be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming conference in Columbus. The GAM/AMA joint conference is scheduled for January 26-29, 2020 and we look forward to you joining us. If you are interested in attending or learning about how to get involved, please visit http://www.gamg.org/conference.html for more information.

Finally, the MUSE program is an excellent resource to gather experts to assist you with any issues in your museum. If you have not applied for MUSE, please visit http://www.gamg.org/newsandevents.html for more information. Please let me or any member of the board know if we can be of any assistance to you.
Upcoming Grant Opportunities (Or, Show You the Money!)

Georgia Council for the Arts: Vibrant Communities Grants for counties in which no organization received another GCA grant for FY20 are available for single projects such as an exhibit, artist residency, or workshop series to take place between October 2019 and June 2020. Applications are due August 31. Full guidelines, including a list of eligible counties, are available online: http://gaarts.org/grant-funding/apply-for-a-grant/available-funding.

Georgia Humanities: Twice a year GH awards grants for a range of cultural programs, including exhibits, walking tours, and lectures, that bring the public together and strengthen communities through dialogue around humanities topics. Applications for the fall grant cycle are due September 30 for projects beginning on or after January 30, 2020. For full guidelines: https://www.georgiahumanities.org/grants/.

Museums for All Informational Webinar

Are you interested in learning more about Museums for All, an initiative dedicated to expanding community access? Join staff from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Association of Children’s Museums on July 25 at 1 p.m. Eastern to learn more about how and why 400 museums participate in the program.

Find more information on how to attend the informational webinar on the IMLS website: https://www.imls.gov/webinars/museums-all-informational-webinar
By Christy Crisp, GAM Awards Chair

As we begin thinking about a new season of programs, projects, and exhibitions, don’t forget to take a little time to reflect on all of the great work your organization and the people who support you have done over the past year! The deadline for submitting nominations for this year’s GAM awards program is October 1. Nominations can include exhibitions and special projects in several budget categories, as well as multi-media, education, and student projects. And don’t forget about those exceptional volunteers, museum professionals, patrons, or corporate sponsors!

Serving our audiences and our missions takes the dedication and creativity of a wide variety of individuals and groups. Take a few minutes this summer to think about some of the people and projects that have helped make the year successful for your institution, and then visit the Annual Conference page at www.gamg.org to learn more and download guidelines. We look forward to seeing you in Columbus at the annual Awards Luncheon!

Do you have institutional news or notes on happenings in the museum field you’d like to share with fellow GAM members? Submit your items of 100-500 words to Rebecca Bush, GAM Newsletter Chair, at rbush@columbusmuseum.com
Miss Georgia
75 Years in Columbus

June 8 - September 8, 2019

The Columbus Museum

Full-color ad space now available! Contact Administrative Director Michele Rodgers at gamg@gamg.org for pricing.
The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village (GMA), part of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in Tifton, is fortunate to have received an extremely rare and intact 1800s spongeware and splatterware pottery collection. According to Museum Curator Polly Huff, the unique collection consists of 153 pieces, varying in style, size, and function. The collection came to the GMA in 2010 from Susan Burnett of Macon, who donated the pottery and three handmade antique display cabinets in memory of her friend, Karen Lee De Vance. Part of the collection immediately went on display, while the rest went to storage to await further research.

In January of this year, Huff began inventorying the collection and redesigning the original exhibition, assisted by Noelle Konich, an ABAC student and curatorial intern from Tifton. Konich worked on all steps of the refurbishment including inventory, conservation and stabilization, research, redesign, and installation. During the research phase of the project, she discovered connections to two historical figures, Josiah Wedgwood and Emma Bridgewater, who were responsible for beginning and later reviving the spongeware tradition. As part of her internship, Konich also got to assist in piecing together a broken gold-gilded vase, a rare piece in the spongeware collection.

The redesigned spongeware exhibit is now open at the GMA. The exhibition includes all the pieces that GMA guests have come to know and love, as well as several dozen never-before-seen pieces that were in storage for the last nine years. The large collection includes a wide range of functional and decorative wares, with many rare and one-of-a-kind pieces. Admission to this exhibit is included in general GMA admission and free with a valid GMA Season Pass. To learn more, visit https://gma.abac.edu/ or contact Huff at phuff@abac.edu.
Cumberland Island ★ A Fragile Beauty

A photographic exhibit now showing throughout Summer 2019 at Fernbank Science Center

fsc.fernbank.edu

Full-color ad space now available! Contact Administrative Director Michele Rodgers at gamg@gamg.org for pricing.

Cut & Paste: Works of Paper
August 19 – November 14, 2019
Curator’s Talk and Reception
Friday, September 6, 6-8pm

500 10th St NW
Atlanta, GA 30302
www.paper.gatacin.edu
Open M-F, 9am-5pm
Admission is free

Highlighting Contemporary Art in Georgia

New and Renewing Members

Institutional
Atlanta Police Foundation
Bartow History Museum
Cobb Landmarks
Crawford Long Museum
Griffin Spalding Archives
Heritage Sandy Springs
Historic Augusta
Historic Columbus
Historic Macon
Jekyll Island Museum
Monroe Art Guild

Individual
Marshall Freeman
Harry Smith
Bradley Wiederholt
On June 29, President Matt Davis and board member Rebecca Bush represented GAM at an Arts Advocacy Roundtable in Atlanta hosted by ArtsGeorgia, Arts & Culture Alliance of Chatham County, C4 Atlanta, and United Arts Fund. Two dozen arts advocates from across the state discussed federal and state funding, policy, and legislative priorities, as well as strategies to better advocate and network at the local level. The relatively robust state of STEM/STEAM education in Georgia was also highlighted. Stay tuned for updates from this nonpartisan working group, and check out ArtsGeorgia’s website for advocacy information and ways to get involved: www.artsgeorgia.net.

Looking for more facts and figures to make your case or advice on how to get started? The American Alliance of Museums offers a robust variety of economic data and advocacy strategies on its website: https://www.aam-us.org/programs/advocacy/. In addition to ArtsGeorgia, Georgia Humanities provides advocacy resources, including a breakdown of the impact of humanities support by Congressional district: https://www.georgiahumanities.org/about/advocacy/.

Would you like to learn more about advocating for museums? How can GAM help? Let us know what type of nonpartisan advocacy education, programs, or updates you’d like to see by emailing gamg@gamg.org or reaching out to any GAM board member.
Full-color ad space now available! Contact Administrative Director Michele Rodgers at gamg@gamg.org for pricing.
By Katie Ericson, with Kate Daly

When museum folks describe an Emerging Museum Professional (EMP), you might often hear these words: young, eager, tech savvy, and idealistic. EMPs are also passionate, driven, and increasingly diverse. Yet, there is one important trait that isn’t often mentioned — we are great at utilizing our passion, idealism, and comfort with technology to find and build community. These communities promote an empathetic space to share common experiences that can make us feel alone in this niche field. They understand, empathize, and offer support.

A learning curve exists for anyone with a new job, and the first few years in the museum field can feel overwhelming regardless of internships or degrees. If you’re lucky, you’ll have fantastic colleagues who get as weirdly excited as you do about a new font for labels and can also provide much needed emotional support on the hard days. But some EMPs have no colleagues and exist as a staff of one, while others may feel as though they can’t voice their frustrations with supervisors or colleagues.

In recent years EMP groups and meet-ups have grown in popularity at museum conferences as a place to network and discuss issues in the field. Many local chapters like the Atlanta EMP Network now hold meetings year-round. Meetings can range from behind-the-scenes tours and networking with mid-career and senior museum professionals, to informal happy hours at a local watering hole.

continued next page
These groups use social media and in-person gatherings to share resources, ideas, articles, and jobs. More importantly, they encourage conversations that openly and earnestly advocate for equity and equality, salary transparency, institutional transparency, and representation in museums. Thousands of museum professionals contributed to the “Art/Museum Salary Transparency 2019” document (linked here) within mere weeks of its creation, many of whom are EMPs. Shortly after the spreadsheet received media attention, highlighting pay disparity in museums, the Association of Art Museum Directors released a statement calling for an end to unpaid internships. In the past year, the National Emerging Museum Professionals Network (NEMPN) launched a letter-writing campaign and petition to museum associations who host job boards, asking for salary transparency by requiring salary ranges for all posted jobs.

Are EMPs overly idealistic? Perhaps – but they can also harness their idealism for the greater good. As museum professionals, we are our own best resource.

**EMP Resources in Georgia**

**Atlanta Emerging Museum Professional Network**
Kate Daly, Museums, Archives, and Rare Books Department, Kennesaw State University
Emily Knight, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia
Michelle Lopez, Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw State University
facebook.com/groups/ATLEMP
atlanta.emp@gmail.com

**Southeastern Museums Conference, EMP Affinity Group**
Katie Ericson, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, kericso@emory.edu
Kali Mason, Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery, Vanderbilt University, kali.g.mason@vanderbilt.edu
facebook.com/groups/SEMCEMP
semcdirect.net

**National Emerging Museum Professionals Network**
facebook.com/groups/nempn
nationalempnetwork.org
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