The Davenport House’s Cycle of Life: Spring is Here!

Every year in the early spring we pause to let you know what is going on at the Davenport House—to thank you for being a Friend of the DH and to show you how the Museum uses your kind contributions. We inform you of programming, welcome new Friends and say farewell to others. We do this before we get too deep into the busy season when all thoughts turn to hospitality, daily maintenance and program execution.

Thankfully the Davenport House is in a good state of preservation. Later in the year, carpentry will be completed on the wood elements—four sash windows and the back porch railing in particular—and then painting. Masonry work will be done on the garden wall as well. These sorts of repairs are constant and if addressed in a timely manner the extent of the damage will be relatively minimal. It’s delayed maintenance or holding off on repairs often due to lack of funds, lack of expertise or lack of priority—that can be extremely costly and damaging to historic buildings and landscapes.

This spring is going to be like no other for the DH as we welcome new partnerships with tour companies to experience the Museum both night and day. Audiences are looking for authentic, affordable experiences in Savannah, and it is our charge to provide them with something memorable and true. As staff and volunteers craft the logistics for these memorable visits, they are mindful the tool constant use has on the fabric of the building and exhibits. While the Museum is lucky to be in demand, it would be unwise to believe that there will not be consequences. Just as Historic Savannah Foundation believes that tourism planning is the key to quality of life in Savannah, the DH believes being prepared and mindful of what constant use can do to its historic buildings is the key to the longevity of the property.

In addition to daily tours, the Museum offers specialty tours, such as the urban slavery experience presented to Road Scholar patrons and its signature spring programs Tea with Mrs. Davenport in March, Tea in the Garden in May and Saturday Walking Tours in April and May. Thankfully there are volunteers who share the workload. The DH’s programs are constantly infused with new energy and talent. This year six new performers have come onboard to help with programs and seven new docents have stepped up to do whatever comes their way.

Before the pandemonium of spring takes over, please take a few moments to review this newsletter and remember that your contributions insure that maintenance can take place in a timely manner, that programs can be stocked with materials and performers and that all can be kept in order at Savannah's beacon of historic preservation. If you have not made your donation to the FRIENDS OF THE DAVENPORT HOUSE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN (see the list within), let this be a reminder that the DH needs your support!

And, know that as spring turns to summer, and we wipe our brows from the busy time, we will gather together once again and celebrate with our Spring Garden Party. We will give thanks for those who have helped, out especially the young people, who have made working at the DH part of their lives. Such is the cycle of the DH!
By lucky happenstance at the 2015 Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries meeting in Statesboro, the DH found Doug Mund of dmdg2, who is facilitating the Museum’s Campus Master Planning sessions in anticipation of transforming the site as part of Historic Savannah Foundation’s vision for the future. We would like for you to know Doug and his associates, because they are making a great impact on our Museum and its future. While we cannot “spill the beans” on the master planning and Mund’s ultimate proposal, please know that the future looks bright “with a little help from our friends” or should I say “Friends.”

**MEET DOUG MUND!**

**What do you do for a living?**
I am an architect, exhibit planner, museum designer. I am a leader of creative talent gained from SCAD. It puts out great talent and we have been able to utilize third and fourth year undergrads in industrial design, interior design and architecture as paid interns. They are up on all the latest systems. They are eager and talented. And while we hope that many of them come full time we always want to have students. They bring a certain energy level. Everything is new and changing. It’s beautiful when we are all sitting around the conference table together.

**How did you get your start?**
After I finished architecture school I started with Verner Johnson & Associates in Boston. They just design museums. I started as a designer, moved to project manager and after sixteen years became a partner. After two years as a partner, I started DMG2, my own business. I kept planning buildings and added exhibit design. One thing that sets us - dmdg2 - apart is we believe that the exhibits inform the architecture. Our philosophy is that the exhibits and the message are what we are building the building around and that the buildings should express the exhibits inside.

**What do you foresee for the future of your business?**
Pretty darn good. We came out of the recession. During the recession, they were not building so we did a lot of planning. Now the planning option is being implemented.

**Do you have a business philosophy?**
We are about understanding each client’s message and being able to bring that message to the visitor experience. We don’t tell clients what they want to hear.

**Give some specific examples of work in which you are particularly proud.**
DH Master Plan! Working with small institutions is our passion. Large firms are always chasing overhead with big projects. Small museums never get the service they deserve. We help them develop beyond what they see day to day. We help them see what they can be.

We have worked on lots of projects but several that come to mind off hand and in no order: **Boston Museum of Fine Arts** - Master Plan (Norman Foster, Architect) – on-going five phase plan which will be implemented over the next fifteen years.  **Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, NJ** – Master Plan **Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center** – 1st phase in 1986. It was a huge success. With the Master Plan came adding three new build-
ings including the first 3D IMAX in US and a 275,000 gallon salt water tank. We used cutting edge brackish creek technology - using creek water filtration system

**Smithsonian** – 3 Master Plans (Portrait Gallery, Castle, Sackler)

**What are you working on now?**
Among others, the South Florida Museum.

**Why did you move to Savannah?**
We were going to open a second office in the South – some place. The South is growing 8 to 10% faster than the rest of the US. Their museums are growing too.

We could have moved any place. We love Savannah. Our daughter went to SCAD. We started coming here eight years ago. We love the art, culture, history vibe. In Boston we have a 1790 house- so history is in my blood. Savannah is a perfect fit with SCAD as a resource.

**How has it been so far?**
It’s been fantastic so far.

**As a small business owner, what forms your decisions for doing a project?**
Before we take on a project we do a week of research. Trying to figure out who these people are and if it is a good fit. It comes down to if we think we can make a difference. As for the DH we can make a difference and can help you achieve your goals. We are here to stay. If the stories are right, we have to do it.

**How did you get involved with the DH?**
We had a booth at the Georgia Museums and Galleries annual meeting in Statesboro in January 2015 when we met Jamie.

**Why did you get involved?**
The Davenport House is a premiere place here. It has a huge story to tell. Small museums can coast along and get by. We are interested in doing more than that. When we come in and help, we make the plans bigger.

**What can you say about the DH project (without spilling the beans)?**
There are exciting exhibit possibilities that will bring about facility changes which will strengthen the visit experience.

**What makes the DH project unusual for you?**
Every project is different. You never have the same experience twice.

**SPRING PROGRAMS AT THE DH**

**Early Bird’s Preservation Walking Tour of the Landmark Historic District’s East Side**
Saturdays in April 2016
**Program Date:** April 2, 9, 16 & 30;
**Time:** 8am
**Admission:** $21 plus tax
**Distance of Walk:** 2.5 miles

Take an early morning walk through one of the oldest and most varied neighborhoods to learn how historic preservation has revitalized downtown Savannah. Coffee and treats in the Davenport House garden to follow.

**Tea in the Garden at the Davenport House**
Thursdays and Fridays in May 2016
**Program Dates and Times:** May 5, 6, 12, 13 at 4:15pm, May 19, 20, 26, 27 at 5pm
**Admission:** $18 plus tax

Learn about tea traditions and experience an early 19th century tea in the Davenport House’s beautiful courtyard garden. Patrons will visit areas of the home where tea service took place and will participate in an afternoon tea given with costumed interpreters in the garden. On inclement weather dates, tea will be taken inside the house museum. The performance requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs.

**Early Bird’s Walking Tour: Discovering 1820s Savannah**
Saturdays in May 2016
**Program Dates:** May 7, 14, 21 & 28;
**Time:** 8am
**Distance of Walk:** 2.5 miles
**Admission:** $21 plus tax

See what survives of the 1820s Savannah that master builder Isaiah Davenport knew. Beginning at the Davenport House Museum (1820), participants will walk by some of the finest examples of preservation in the city and learn about what no longer remains. Coffee and treats in the Davenport House garden will follow.
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Names are listed as they appear on their
Annual Giving Response Card.

IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT IN YOUR
FRIENDS CONTRIBUTION, PLEASE COM-
plete the form on the back of
this newsletter and send it back
TO US!
2016 Event to Benefit the Davenport House Museum at Delta Plantation

A well-planned and executed event on March 5th brought forth celebrants, patrons and sponsors for the DH’s cause at the stunning Delta Plantation in rural Jasper County, South Carolina. It did not hurt that the weather was perfect!

We are grateful to many people for making this event a success. Thank you to all!

EVENT CO-CHAIRMEN:
Linda Meyer and Jan Vach

PROPERTY HOSTS:
The Cay Family

PEOPLE WHO MADE IT WORK:
Blake Crosby
Stanley Mitchell
The Johnny Octane Band

FLOWER HELPERS
Karen Halloran
Diane Ingram
Diane Willis Lee
Claudia Mills
Bonnie Powers
Tricia Rossig

SITE PREP AND TAKE DOWN:
Jeff Freeman
Linda Garner
Tayloe Highsmith
Raegan Highsmith
Clyde Lee
Diane Willis Lee
John Leonti
Raleigh Marcell
Chic Meyer
John Sorel
Mitzi Toth
Greg Vach

PARKING LOTS
Sarah Brich
Adam Caracci
Sherene LaMarche
Hugh Osborne

TROLLEY ATTENDANTS:
Linda Garner
Caroline Holder
Gaye Kurmas

JUNIOR INTERPRETER WORKERS:
Chelsea Dyers
Mary Allison McCarthy
Jarrod Smith
Anthony Stovall

HOUSE WORKERS:
Suzy Hokenson
Tricia Rossig
Liz Schreiber

BARTENDERS:
Adam Caracci
Jeff Freeman
Matt Krueger
Deb Walsh

TABLE WAIT STAFF:
Donna Roy
Wilma Wheten

DESSERT COORDINATOR:
Mary Ann Scott

SITE TRAFFIC OFFICER:
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Latitude 30 & Rah Bar
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Love’s Seafood
Linda Meyer
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and Bar
Bonnie Powers
River Street Inn
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Sterling Links Golf Club
Jan Vach

**HSF Tent:**
Chassidy Malloy
Kim Newbold

**Desserts Makers:**
Sue Bordenkircher
Mary Chandor
Jamie Credle
Pat Fraker
Karen Halloran
Sherene Lamarche
Claudia Mills
Fran Mollettere
Gayle Mongrandi
Katherine Owens
Patsy Robinson
Tricia Rossig
Cynthia Sorel
Mitzi Toth
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**Invitation Prep:**
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Ann Koontz

Diane Willis Lee
John Leonti
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Claudia Mills
Gayle Mongrandi
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Kathy Sommers
Jan Vach
Brooke Wilford

**Police Officers/Security:**
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James R. Abraham
Audrey Ashby
Tom Hariston and Marie Simmons in honor of Ann Koontz
Alice and Bob Jepson
Ron Melander and Jim Cox
Ellen Spitz in honor of Ann Koontz
Mr. and Mrs. Don L. Waters

**Hurray to the OR Committee:**
Brooke Wilford, Katherine Albert,
Diane Kaufman, Ann Koontz, John Leonti,
Linda Meyer, co-chairman, Tricia Rossig, and
Jan Vach, co-chairman.
Three Cheers for Our 2016 Event
Sponsors and Patrons!

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Savannah—A College Town and the DH Staying Ahead of the Curve

Do you ever feel like Savannah is really a “college town” in the way Chapel Hill, NC, Oxford, MS or Athens, OH are? It is becoming to the creative world what the Research Triangle is for science and technology. It is a place where people move (or stay) to be absorbed into and utilize the creative “vibe.” In this light, the DH is incredibly lucky as its recent exposure indicates.

This past winter was a revelation in college and university contacts and interaction beginning and ending with SCAD Museum Education class. For several years Professor Jim Janson’s students have utilized the DH for class projects. What was different this year was instead of asking students to envision themselves as museum staff/museum educator, he had them act as consultants and independent contractors who have been “employed” to help the museum evolve. They were asked to read Frank Vagnone and Deborah Ryan’s new book Anarchist’s Guide to Historic House Museums and apply its principles to the Davenport House. A core tenet of the book is that the reason house museums are declining in attendance (in many cases) is because their stories are not relevant to today and they are boring. Let’s stop there for a moment.

One group who does not think the DH is boring is the Southeastern American Society of Eighteenth Century Studies (SEASECS), which had its annual meeting in Savannah in February. SEASECS is comprised of academics in history, art and literature of the 18th century. Local arrangement chairman and our friend Professor Christopher Hendricks of Armstrong State University worked for a year to ensure a lively program for his colleagues. He planned the conference’s first evening event and introduction to Savannah to be at the Davenport House! Nice. Following the keynote lecture by SCAD’s Professor of Art History Dr. Keehong Kim, who spoke on 18th Century Korean Genre Painting in the Kennedy Pharmacy, the standing room only crowd headed across the lane for refreshments. DH staff planned for a garden reception, a walk-through of the house and then a demonstration of early 19th century dancing in the Kennedy Pharmacy. And though it was 50 degrees in the garden, the attendees snacked and drank and visited with each other. Once refreshed, they set out to see the site. The shop was open, and there were docents throughout the house from the Office to the Attic. As the 7 o’clock hour rang, which was the assigned time for a dancing demonstration to begin, only two eighteenth century-ists took their seat. On seeing the lack of support for the program, one historian was heard to say, “Shame on them” for her colleagues seeming to be forgoing our attempts at period entertainment. However, this was not to be the disappointment as we feared. The call was made, “The dancing is about to start” and the entire crowd finished their musing meanderings through the house and once again assembled in the Kennedy Pharmacy to see four DH Dancers perform the quadrille and waltz. Performers Jamie Credle, Stacy Hess, Jeff Freeman and Raleigh Marcell agreed that it was the largest and most appreciative crowd they had danced before. In a thank you letter Chris Hendricks says he is still receiving compliments on the conference and the inaugural event at the DH. So the audience the Anarchist’s Guide addresses is certainly not eighteenth century historians visiting the DH as part of a conference in Savannah.

Back to the SCAD students: Over the winter quarter, students reviewed the DH’s website and marketing budget, visited the Museum on several occasions both with their classmates and independently, visited other Savannah museums including the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, examined models from other museums and came up with a series of ideas and practices which could strengthen what the DH does in attracting millennial (20 and 30-something) audiences. Two teams presented their final class projects on March 15. One team wrote, “Through collaborating with the SCAD Community, revising educational resources, and integrating new technology into its practice, we believe the Davenport House Museum will continue to present Savannah with new, unique, and meaningful moments for a broad audience.” The big “take away” from the presentations was that the Museum can and should reach out more to the talent which is right here in Savannah through its universities. One student listed no fewer than eight majors which could be utilized for projects including furniture design, graphic design, interior design, industrial design, painting, service design and advertising. Another wrote a jingle and created a sing-along using the tune to “Heart and Soul” which goes “Da-ven-port, a house that con-tains long his-tory. It was built in eight-teen twen-ty. That’s why we go to . . . Da-ven-port . . . .” And while this may sound silly, you should see the animation that goes with it. The same student created a 3D animated virtual tour of the Museum’s exterior which is stunning! To view these see YouTube—Sing along: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQCq3e0VqC4 and Virtual Tour: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8C3nW22q0k

And while we write this, yet another student, this one from Savannah State University, is continuing the transcription of runaway slaves ads from 1820s newspapers. There is much talent, energy and interest to tap into in our college town as the DH stays ahead of the curve.
DH Seniors: Exceptional!

The Davenport House mentors young people through its Junior Interpreter Program. All of its seniors this year are from Savannah Arts Academy. Get to know them before they fly the coop.

Name: Kenlaysia Brown
Parents: Patrina Brown and Randy Knox
What things have you been involved in here? Holiday Tours x2, Yellow Fever x3, Super Museum Sunday x3, Tour of Home x2, and Lafayette x2.
How long have you been at the DH? I have been at the Davenport House since 2013.
What do you think will be a fond memory of your time here? My very first time being a performer for the Lafayette program, because I got to help take the audience on a journey to the past.
Future Plans: Although I’m not sure where I’ll be going yet, I will definitely major in Biology. I will most likely study history as well. Eventually, I hope to get into veterinary science and become a zoo vet.

Name: Chelsea Dyers
Parents: Lynn & Andre Dyers
What things have you been involved in here? I have been involved with three Oyster Roasts.
How long have you been at the DH? Three years.
What can you say about your time at the DH and how it prepared you (for anything)? I really enjoyed my time at the Davenport House because it gave me a different view of Savannah, that because I live here, I always took for granted. I intend on majoring in Historic Preservation in college, so volunteering here has definitely prepared me for the future.
What do you think will be a fond memory of your time here? My best memories will probably be those with the friends and coworkers that I have gotten to meet during my time at the House.
Future Plans: Going to college somewhere. I don’t know until April. College for sure. Grad school? Peace Corps? Who knows?

Name: Sage Hooten
Parents: Erica Scales and Stephen Hooten
What things have you been involved in here? Giving tours, living history performances, Oyster Roast volunteer
How long have you been at the DH? Three years.
What do you think will be a fond memory of your time here? Everything has a rosy glow around it - no one moment stands out more than others.
Future Plans: Going to college somewhere. I don’t know until April. College for sure. Grad school? Peace Corps? Who knows?

Name: Ariannah Kubli
Your parents: Susan and Ed Allen
What things have you been involved in here? I’ve been involved in the tea program, the oyster roast, and photographing promotional images for the museum.
How long have you been at the DH? Since my sophomore year, so about three years now.
What do you think will be a fond memory of your time here? A fond memory of my time here will be the people DH Seniors: Exceptional!
I've met. Everyone at the Davenport House feels like a family member.

**College Plans? Future Plans?:** I've been accepted to SCAD and Bard College, and I'll hear back from NYU and Parsons on April 1st, at which time I'll be able to make my decision! I plan to study photography and English literature. I'd like to go on to earn my Masters Degree and work as a photographer in NYC.

**Name:** Mary Allison McCarthy  
**Parents:** Michael and Lisa McCarthy

**What things have you been involved in here?** Giving tours of the museum to the public. I participated as an interpreter during the October and December living history programs. I volunteered at the Davenport Oyster Roast each year that I have volunteered with the Museum.

**How long have you been at the DH?** 3 years.

**What can you say about your time at the DH and how it prepared you (for anything)?** I have met individuals from all over the world and shared a love of history. The staff and volunteers have become my second family, whom I will miss very much at college. It has prepared me for interacting with others in the workforce, and how to manage a bank account. (That was much needed.) I have learned how to communicate with all walks of people, and gained a better appreciation of the architecture and beauty of historic Savannah.

**What do you think will be a fond memory of your time here?** My fondest memory is during the last night of the Yellow Fever program, Raleigh (Dr. Dan-Yellow Fever), was supposed to come up and check on me after I "fainted" but was a little late due to knocking down the divider. Not the brightest shining moment, but very funny!

**Future Plans:** I will be attending Augusta University starting in the fall of 2016. I will hopefully graduate college with my doctorate in Occupational Therapy. With that degree I hope to travel to impoverished countries and help individuals who do not have access to health care as we do in the States.

**Name:** Jarrod Smith  
**Parents:** Ryan and Amy Smith

**What things have you been involved in here?** I started with giving tours but later focused on other events, like the annual Oyster Roasts, Tour of Homes, the October shows, the New Year's shows, the Lafayette event, and various Davenport House parties.

**How long have you been involved with the DH?** I've volunteered for 3 years now.

**What can you say about your time at the DH and how it prepared you (for anything)?** I'd say I'm very glad I got the opportunity to work and interact with such a wonderful group of people these past few years. I could go on about the last shows were just as entertaining and insightful. They provided a chance to see the staff outside of the work environment and on a more personal level, whether it was listening to Raleigh and Jeff discuss football or admiring John's art collection. In short, the shows were experiences to remember for years to come.

**Future Plans:** I'm most likely going to attend UGA, but I've also been accepted to Berry College and Georgia Southern, so I've got some deciding to do. As of right now, I don't have a career path set in stone or a college that I want to go to. I'm not sure what my major will be or really what I want to do with myself. I've been tossing around the idea of being a musical therapist or pursuing something in the science or medical field, but that's still in the air at this point. My plan right now is to get a career in mind that I want to work toward, and work from there.
A Vibrant Flash of Red: **Pat Kelly**

On March 12 the Savannah Museum community lost one of its stalwarts, Pat Kelly. She was a docent for many years at the Davenport House, as well as the Telfair and its Owens Thomas House. Though still relatively young, she succumbed after a long period of failing health. At her wake her brother leaned in to a DH staff member and said, “Being a docent was the highlight of her life.” After a misty moment, the staff member felt an even more profound sense of collegiality and loss.

Pat provided a personal connection, a shared affinity and enthusiasm for and with our visitors. She made people feel like they were in on a good thing. Always impeccably dressed and cheerful, she epitomized old school fun. You wanted her to be your travel partner. She rarely missed a docent trip when she could get off work. Always happy to go to dinner with you or stop for an ice cream at Leopold’s, she would tell you about the books she was reading and movies she hoped to see. She loved art and beauty -- traveling to New York to see shows and museums.

Our field is all about **This Place Matters** but in Pat’s case and in really most cases **This Position Matters**. For we all know a docent can make or break an experience. She was a good docent, and in a world full of **Facebook** friends, she was the real deal. A live person to interpret the past, connect visitors to the important things and make them feel good they came. What a wonderful thing to be involved with - to be the highlight of someone’s life. That’s what being a docent can be.

Farewell sweet friend.

---

**Davenport House People**

Above: DH staff at Ben Head’s retirement party.

Long time shop manager Ben Head retired at the end of the year though he continues to assist when called upon. Heather Munn (left) came as shop manager in mid January and came on full time at the end of March to manage the shop and facilitate groups tours.

Winter 2016: Davenport House Docent Training Class

Left: The first of twelve couples married on Valentine’s Day

Judge Harris Lewis married all couples coming forth in the DH Garden on February 14.
To:

Friends of the Davenport House: Annual Giving Response Info

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☐ $250—599 – Alderman  ☐ $600—999 – Fire Warden  ☐ $1000 – McKinnon Circle

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