



KENTUCKY MUSEUM

History • Arts • American Excellence • Culture

A Word from the Museum Board Chairman



Congratulations all around for an excellent first year as an independent organization!! It was July 1, 2012 that the Kentucky Museum was separated from WKU Libraries to function independently under the Provost and Academic Affairs. There were those who imagined the sky would fall, but the sky only got brighter and the sun shone warmer. It's been a good year!

The museum grew with the addition of a business manager, Fran Matheis, a new exhibition, *Instruments of American Excellence*, which received national attention, and a membership that is exclusive to the museum. We also took the very important step of creating a Board of Directors. This group of twenty-one people consists of both WKU faculty and community members who help guide the museum, and manage the private funds they raise through membership and events.

As we look forward to achieving accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, and then apply for Associate status with the Smithsonian, we can all be proud as we help the Kentucky Museum reach these goals. And best wishes for the year to come, new exhibits, old favorites, exciting programs, growth and development! Cheers!

Phillip W. Bale, M.D.

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Chairman of Kentucky Museum Board

IAE CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

One year ago this September, the Kentucky Museum opened *Instruments of American Excellence* to the public. This unique collection showcases the ordinary means by which Americans from many fields of study have achieved extraordinary things—the actual “tools” that have shaped the course of this nation’s history. Visitors can see one of the microphones Jay Leno used on the Tonight Show or a hammer Jimmy Carter used to build a house for Habitat for Humanity or a soccer cleat used by U.S. National Women’s Soccer leader and Olympian Mia Hamm.

“We have been very pleased with the success of this particular exhibition,” said Timothy Mullin, Director of the



Kentucky Museum. “These commonplace items that have been a part of something significant in our history serve not only an educational purpose but as an inspiration to those witnessing it.”

According to Mullin, new items come in frequently that are added to the exhibition.

For horse racing fans, there are Man O’War items that were recently added to the collection, including the saddle used by Jockey Clarence Kummer in 1920 on the iconic horse. For Civil War era enthusiasts or historians, a discharge note signed by Abraham Lincoln is now a part of the permanent collection.

For more information, go to wku.edu/kentuckymuseum and click on “Exhibits.”

Remembering JFK 50 years later

Fan Fair to celebrate JFK

As we approach the 50-year mark of John Fitzgerald Kennedy's assassination, the Kentucky Museum is holding an evening to celebrate the life and times of this American icon on Tuesday, November 5 from 6:30pm - 8pm.

According to Christy Spurlock, Education Curator for the Kentucky Museum, there will be lots of fun activities, including JFK Trivia, Boston Accent Contest, 60s-inspired refreshments, and Memorabilia Show and Tell. Participants are even encouraged to don their favorite 60s attire!

"The event is free and should appeal to anyone who considers themselves a 'Kennedy Fan,'" said Spurlock. "It's really an evening to reflect, explore, and celebrate the legacy of President Kennedy."

JFK Memory Project records community members' memories

To commemorate the life of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Professor Jonathan Jeffrey, Manuscript/Folklife Archives Coordinator, has developed the JFK Memory Project at WKU. The project will gather remembrances of Kennedy's visit to Bowling Green on October 8, 1960 as a presidential candidate and memories of the day of his assassination on November 22, 1963.

"We welcome all descriptive accounts of your memories," said Jeffrey. "Both these dates were extremely significant to the Warren County area as well as the nation. We would like to collect the stories to house in our archives."

Faces & Places exhibit opens in November

Founder's Day on November 16 will kick off with the opening of "Faces & Places" in the Richardson Quilt Gallery. This exhibit will feature 25-plus quilts and other textiles that include representations of people or reflect a sense of place. These effects are achieved through traditional quilting techniques, embroidery work, and the creative use of printed textiles. According to Museum Curator Sandy Staebell, the biggest challenge was narrowing down the choices from the more than 200 quilts in the collection.



For more information about the project, contact Jonathan Jeffrey at jonathan.jeffrey@wku.edu or 270-745-5265. To submit your memories, email your name, city, and remembrances to mssfa@wku.edu.

Celebrating 90 years at the Kentucky Museum

This year marks the ninetieth anniversary of the first published record of the first donation to the university. Thus, the Founder's Day is celebrated on November 16, the birthday of WKU's founder Henry Hardin Cherry.

Some of the university's early donations were signs of the times:

- A cannonball, donated in 1925 by J.B. Sumter of Bowling Green, KY
- A bullet mold, donated in 1927 by L.T. Blair of Mammoth Cave
- A two gallon cedar bucket and brown crockery jug, donated in 1929 by Mrs. Joe Wallace of Auburn
- A powder horn and sack, donated in 1929 by Mr. J.E. Bryant

More materials can be found on KenCat, the online catalog for Special Collections, on the Museum website at wku.edu/kentuckymuseum.

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What's Happening at the Kentucky Museum



September

**Come visit the
Kentucky Museum!**

Global Pecha Kucha Night #3
Sept. 20 • 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Glass Fusing Workshop
Sept. 21 • 9am - 11am

Fall Break Camp
Oct. 7-11 • 8am-12pm

**Preserving Historic Photographs
with Gary Albright**
Oct. 18 • 9am - 3pm

**Caring for Historic Scrapbooks
with Jennifer Hain Teper**
Oct. 19 • 9am - 12pm

Gallery Hop
Oct. 25 • 5pm-8pm



October

Art by Lynne Ferguson
Ongoing exhibit through December

Greatest Studio Tour
Nov. 2 & 3 • 10am - 5pm

JFK Fan Fair
Nov. 5 • 6:30pm - 8pm

Faces & Places on Founder's Day
Quilt exhibition opens
Nov. 16 • 9am



November

Christmas in Kentucky
Dec. 7 • 11am - 2pm

Holiday Ornament Trees
View the students' displays
throughout December

Museum Store
Mon. - Sat. 9am - 4pm
Sun. 1pm - 4pm

wku.edu/kentuckymuseum
(270)745-2592



December

GIVING THAT LASTS: C. PERRY SNELL AND HIS LEGACY

Over the years, the Kentucky Museum has had many generous donations that have created and enhanced its existing collection. One of the pioneers responsible for several of the Museum's significant art pieces was Bowling Green native C. Perry Snell (1869-1949). A successful real estate developer living in Florida, Snell and his wife Lillian traveled the world extensively, gathering art and antiques to decorate their beautiful Mediterranean-style villa.

As an alumnus, Snell was a generous supporter of Ogden College and wanted it to prosper. He offered to pay half the cost of a new building if the trustees raised the other half. The challenge was met and in 1924, the building was dedicated and named after Snell. Shortly after in 1927, Ogden College merged with Western State Normal School and Perry Snell extended his generosity to Western, offering the outstanding 'four seasons' statues, which today grace Van Meter Hall, along with his collection of over 300 miniatures and more than forty canvases of Renaissance, Rococo, and Romantic period.

Among the pieces Snell donated is a copy of the *Mona Lisa* ca. 1510, by a student of Da Vinci's; a Madonna and child by Peter van Aelst, a famous sixteenth-century Flemish artist; a huge marble font from Venice, ca. 1500; a Madonna and child by Italian artist Giuseppe Crespi, ca. 1700; and carved and painted statuettes of Joseph and Mary from a sixteenth-century crèche; as well as pieces of majolica, Spanish chests, and marble statues.

