



THE DISPATCH

Newsletter of the Matheson History Museum

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Welcome Our New Executive Director - Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney!

The Board of Directors of the Matheson History Museum is pleased to announce the hiring of Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney as the museum's new executive director.

Hof-Mahoney takes over the 27-year-old institution after serving as the acting administrator for seven months. A graduate of Auburn University and the University of Florida, Hof-Mahoney began volunteering at the Matheson in the fall of 2015 and was hired as the full-time curator of collections in January 2018.

Board of Directors President Greg Young says, "As Executive Director, Kaitlyn will strive to enhance our financial sustainability, build strong community partnerships, and provide the quality programming that is essential to better understanding our world, past and present."

Hof-Mahoney's vision for the Matheson is a three-part approach that focuses on Friends, Funds, and Facilities. She states that, "these three pillars will create a solid and sustainable foundation for the Matheson to carry out our mission and continue to serve Gainesville and Alachua County."

(continued on page 2)



What are you most looking forward to this year?

We have so many wonderful things coming in 2022 that it is hard to choose what I am most excited about. I am going to choose the earliest thing on the agenda and reserve my right to pick the next thing on the calendar as it approaches! Right now, I am most excited for the opening of our new exhibition, "We're Tired of Asking: Black Thursday and Civil Rights at the University of Florida" on January 19. Alana Gomez has done a fantastic job with the curation of this exhibit and I cannot wait for you all to see it.

Do you have a favorite object in our collections?

My favorite part of our collection is the Alachua County yearbooks. They are very useful for exhibition research and are a fascinating slice of student life that dates back to the early 1900's. I also have a personal connection to the collection as my grandfather is pictured in several of our University of Florida yearbooks.

What are some of the new community partnerships you hope to cultivate?

One of my favorite things about the Matheson is all of our community partnerships. One area of particular interest are organizations that serve young people. We regularly have tour groups from Interface Youth Shelter, homeschool groups, and a variety of summer camp programs. My goal is to expand the avenues in which we are able to serve children and families.

Collections Spotlight

Victorian Half-Tester Bed

This mid-19th century Gothic revival Victorian half-tester mahogany bedframe with a tufted half canopy is located in one of the two Matheson House bedrooms. It has a carved wooden headboard, and half height carved wooden footboard. The underside of the canopy is tufted in a cream silk material.

Donated by Bernie and Mary Webb



Current Exhibitions

We're Tired of Asking: Black Thursday and Civil Rights at the University of Florida

Our newest exhibition opens Wednesday, January 19th. It was researched and curated by intern Alana Gomez, a recent University of Florida graduate with a BA in History and English.

“Name and identification.”

These words confronted Black people at the intersection of W. University and 13th Street in Gainesville, Florida. Only Black university students could travel west of 13th after dark. Black community members were restricted from traveling west of the major road.

Many nights, Black people were stopped by an officer at the corner of the intersection. He would pull out a large booklet and flashlight and search various Black faces and names to make sure you were enrolled at the University of Florida. Those whose description matched that of a student were allowed to pass. Those who did not were sent away. This was the Gainesville many Black residents knew; it was a Gainesville still entrenched in its Southern past and racist way of life.

It wasn't until the desegregation of the University of Florida in 1957 that Black people began gaining access to public spaces with White people. The issue of civil rights was pushed even further with the partial integration of Alachua County's public schools in 1964. Even with these seemingly large strides toward equality, however, social status and lifestyle remained largely unchanged for Black people in Gainesville.

In a great show of strength on April 15, 1971, Black students decided to take a stand in a protest at Tigert Hall on the UF campus, pictured at right. Their interaction with President Stephen O'Connell would change the course of the University of Florida forever.



Trailblazers: 150 Years of Alachua County Women

This exhibition highlights the lives and accomplishments of eleven women from cities throughout Alachua County. We will tell their stories, some for the first time, to call attention to the oft forgotten contributions of women in our history and in the history of Alachua County. While we are unable to call attention to every woman who has made an impact on the county, these eleven women represent various backgrounds, experiences, and fields of work, all of which are significant to the past and present success of Alachua County.

The eleven women featured in the exhibition are:

- Sarah Hamilton Matheson (1901-1996)
- Dr. Sarah Lucretia Robb (1852-1937)
- Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (1896-1953)
- Marjorie Harris Carr (1951-1997)
- Vivian Washington Filer (1938-present)
- Daphne Duval Williams (1906-2010)
- Judith Brown (1941-1991)
- Margaret Tebeau (1839-1924)
- Clara Floyd Gehan (1901-1992)
- Mary Etta Cubberly (1870-1950)
- Emmaline Buchholz (1887-1973)

**Judith Brown
(third from left)
and fellow CORE
workers in 1964**
*Courtesy of National
Women's Liberation*



**Mackenzie Pizzio curated the
"Trailblazers" exhibit as a student
intern from UF.**



Mary Etta Cubberly - 1887
Courtesy of the Matheson History Museum

Upcoming Programs

**"Evoking the Complexity of Black Experience: Broadcasting Hope"
Episode 1 Community Listening Event**

with Florida Humanities, the University of Florida, and WUFT

January 22

Annual Meeting (in person and virtual) - All members are invited!

January 25, 7pm

**Florida's Negro Wars: Black Seminoles and the Second Seminole War
(virtual only) with Dr. Anthony Dixon**

February 5, 4pm

"The State You're In" (in person and virtual) with Craig Pittman

February 19, 4pm

**Book Launch for "The Bald Eagle: The Improbable Journey of America's
Bird" (in person and virtual) with Jack E. Davis**

March, 5, 4pm

**Florida Fashion History: Newspaper Fashion Editors and the Rise of the
Fashion Industry in the 1950s and '60s (in person and virtual)**

with Dr. Kimberly Voss

March 19, 4pm

**"Trailblazers: 150 Years of Alachua County Women" Curator Talk (in
person and virtual) with Mackenzie Pizzio**

April 2, 4pm

Florizines: DIY Media Workshop with the Civic Media Center

May 14, 4pm

*All programs are free but require pre-registration. Please visit our website at www.mathesonmuseum.org/events to register.

Be sure to join our email list or follow us on social media to stay up to date with our programs and exhibitions. If you aren't subscribed to our e-newsletter please email Joanna at info@mathesonmuseum.org to do so.

Renew Today!

All annual memberships are due as of January 1st, unless you joined/renewed since October 1, 2021. You can easily renew online via our website: mathesonmuseum.org/membership.

Now is also a great time to switch to a sustainer membership. Instead of an annual payment you can divide your membership dues up into monthly automatic payments (\$5 minimum). Instructions on how to become a sustainer member are in the blue box to the right.

What does your membership support?

- Continued care of our four historic buildings
- Permanent and temporary exhibits
- Collections care
- Expanded programs

All members enjoy:

- Members-only events
- 20% discount in the museum gift shop
- "The Telegram" e-newsletter
- Newsletter twice a year

2022 Membership Gift

All members will receive a beautiful 3"x5" Matheson History Museum magnet, pictured at right, that features a historic postcard of Newnans Lake from the Matheson collection.

SUSTAINER PAYMENT PLAN

- Give monthly at any amount (\$5 minimum)
- You can register for an automatic monthly donation through PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account in order to participate.
- Go to www.mathesonmuseum.org/membership. Click either the blue or yellow button at the bottom.
- When you reach the PayPal donation page enter the amount you would like to donate monthly and click the button next to "Make this a monthly donation."

ANNUAL PAYMENT PLAN

- Student - \$20
- Senior Individual - \$25
- Individual - \$35
- Family - \$40
- Historian - \$100
- Heritage Circle - \$250
- 1867 Society - \$500
- Lifetime - \$1,000



Repairs Completed to the 1867 Matheson House

Over the past 6 months the 1867 Matheson House has been undergoing some much-needed repairs. Thanks to a grant from the AEC Trust we were able to repair a column on the front porch, repaint the front porch, make upgrades to the HVAC system, and more. Thank you to Ryland Wagner of Joyner Construction Partners, Josh Ridgell of Ridgell Handyman Services, Max Orahoad of Altimate Painting, Crystal Air & Water, and Mac Johnson Roofing for their assistance with these important projects. Executive Director Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney and her sister, Kassidy, spent two days cleaning, prepping, and painting the front porch.



Schedule your tour today to see this beautiful home looking its best. Members always receive free tours of the 1867 Matheson House. Call today!



Follow us on social media!



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Matheson History Museum

Website: www.mathesonmuseum.org

Our exhibitions and programs are sponsored in part by: Visit Gainesville - Alachua County, FL; The City of Gainesville; and the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of the Arts and Culture, and the State of Florida.



Gainesville.
Citizen centered
People empowered



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