

>> FLANNERY O'CONNOR 100 CELEBRATION



Colin Cutler and Hot Pepper Jam, of GCSU's Music Department, Sally Jaye, and special guest Rob Sumowski played throughout the day on the stage set up in front of Andalusia Farm's Interpretive Center. Attendees brought tents, blankets, and chairs to enjoy the day's festivities.

GCSU hosts celebration of O'Connor's 100th birthday

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Georgia College & State University (GCSU) celebrated Flannery O'Connor's 100th birthday March 26-29 with various events.

Flannery O'Connor was an American novelist, born on March 25, 1925, most famous for her work in short stories. Andalusia Farm in Milledgeville, GA served as her home from 1951-1964. During the 13 years she lived in Andalusia, she completed the bulk of her literary work.

The week of celebrations began with a display of newly discovered Flannery artwork from throughout the different stages of her life displayed in GCSU's Magnolia Ballroom. The exhibit hosted more than 50 pieces from oil paintings and a self-portrait to wood-burned illustrations and linoleum-block prints.

From March 24-26, GCSU hosted a singer-songwriter workshop with American folk musician Sally Jaye, along with various other book readings and lectures. Nine participants attended the workshop.

On March 27, GCSU hosted a concert on the grounds



Beyond the music and food trucks, Andalusia offered free tours throughout the day of the home. Attendees could also take the self-guided augmented reality tour around the property, where many of the old barns and houses are open for viewing.

of Andalusia Farm with an opening act from Jaye followed by Grammy-nominated artist Shawn Mullins. Mullins brought a blend of folk-rock and storytelling to the stage while Jaye offered an "authentic Americana style," according to the event biography.

On March 28, the college screened Ethan Hawke's Flannery O'Connor biopic *Wildcat* in Russell Auditorium and offered an open discussion with film producers prior to the movie.

Completing the week, a music festival was held at Andalusia Farm with food trucks and free tours. Attendees were served cake while being able to listen to tunes by Colin Cutler and Hot Pepper Jam, of GCSU's Music

Department, Sally Jaye, and special guest Rob Sumowski.

Flannery O'Connor is one of Georgia College & State University's (Georgia State College for Women) most famed alumni. Alongside the museum, GCSU has more of O'Connor's history in the university's Special Collections. GCSU also hosts the Flannery O'Connor Institute for Humanities, which founded to engage with scholars, writers, and readers inspired by Flannery O'Connor's works and fosters a deeper understanding of her life and work. As such, celebrating her centennial year was a monumental honor for the both the university and the many historians, locals, and tourists who traveled to participate in the celebrations.



A picture of Flannery O'Connor displayed in Andalusia's Interpretive Center.



O'Connor is often associated with pea fowl due to how many she raised on the lands of Andalusia. In memory of her love for these birds, Aster and his mate (not pictured) live on the property.

O'Connor's unseen visual art revealed on her 100th birthday



CONTRIBUTED

An oil painting by Flannery O'Connor of an unidentified woman featured in Andalusia's gallery.

Jackson Gallagher
The Baldwin Bulletin

100 years after her birth, over 60 largely unknown pieces of art by Flannery O'Connor were revealed at the opening reception of a new art gallery exhibit, "Flannery at 100: Hidden Treasures."

Scholars and fans alike, as well as Georgia College & State University President Cathy Cox, convened at Georgia College's Magnolia Ballroom for the event. The exhibit uncovered the work and the stories of O'Connor's life. From oil paintings to woodwork, the new art gave insight to the people and places that shaped O'Connor's life.

The highlight of the exhibit, a self-portrait under a strict no-photography policy, may be the only piece of its kind. The portrait contained O'Connor and a pheasant

cock, a constant theme in her work and life.

Other works include paintings of her home, her animals, flowers, churches, and several people who were important to her. The woodworks include several different moonlight landscapes. The exhibit is tied together with stories and quotes from O'Connor, explaining her work and her life.

This new gallery will be housed at Andalusia Farm until Dec. 22. Andalusia was the home of O'Connor and is depicted in several works. Cassie Munnell, the curator at Andalusia, spoke on how these new pieces of art came to be found. "We received the donations of the work from the family and a family friend from the O'Connor's home on Greene Street," Munnell said. "It is an interesting new facet of Flannery's work. It gives [GCSU] and

Milledgeville something new to talk about regarding Flannery. We have had publications from around the country come in to see the pieces."

Dr. Robert Donahoo, a professor of English at Sam Houston State University, delivered a closing speech for the new gallery. Donahoo discussed the background of O'Connor, her life, and her art. Regarding the art, he believes the new work will change how people view her.

"I think it will bring people in. For scholars, it gives us another piece of evidence and it will help us understand Flannery more," Donahoo said. "You know, Flannery was wiser than we give her credit for. I am convinced there is more art out there that we don't know about yet. As we see more, it will ultimately change the way we see and understand her legacy."



JACKSON GALLAGHER/Staff

The introduction piece to the gallery featured beside the short biography on O'Connor, Georgia College's most famous alum.



JACKSON GALLAGHER/Staff

Various churches painted by O'Connor over the years. O'Connor was known for painting imagery inspired by her daily life. Raised catholic and in the south, church was likely a staple in her life.