

>> GEORGIA COLLEGE

Laidlaw Fellowship Scholar to study O'Connor's agricultural writing

Bailey Ballard
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The Flannery O'Connor Institute for the Humanities awarded the 2025 Laidlaw Fellowship to Jack Love of Texas A&M University.

The Jean M. and William C. Laidlaw Junior Scholar Fellowship is founded by Mike

and Wendy Laidlaw to support emerging scholars dedicated to advancing the study of Flannery O'Connor. The program funds research for "junior scholars" to visit Georgia College Archives and Special Collections at the Ina Dillard Russell Library and Andalusia Farm. Special Collections has manuscripts, papers,

and books, and at Andalusia there is a display of artifacts and historical buildings for researchers to interact with and study. "A junior scholar is someone in graduate school or in their first three years of their career as a professor. In the case of Jack, he is a graduate student working on his dissertation," said Katie

Simon, interim executive director of the Flannery O'Connor Institute for the Humanities. "This gift allows them to take their work to another level. They stay here for a week and work every day in the archives to incorporate that into their dissertation or first publications to help them do well in their career."

Love is a PhD student in the Department of English at Texas A&M University and the second scholar to be selected. He will be coming to Milledgeville in May. He previously visited Milledgeville in June 2023 for a month during the NEH Summer



Jack Love

MORE LOVE >> A7

>> OLD CAPITAL HERITAGE CENTER

GOCHC debuts Native American, Frontier Georgia exhibits

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Georgia's Old Capital Heritage Center at the Depot Inc. (GOCHC) will host the grand opening from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 17 to its Native American and Frontier Georgia Cottage

Exhibits. From 2001-17, Georgia's Old Capital Museum served over 90,000 visitors with exhibits and tours recounting regional history from 10,000 BC to the early 20th century. In 2017, the museum moved its offices to the "Just Imagine Cottage" at 95 Depot Circle

Drive on the campus of the Central State Hospital. A restoration project began to turn the Central State Hospital Supply Depot into the new museum.

"As part of the development to reopen the museum, we will open the Native American and Frontier Georgia exhibits to the public again. These were two large exhibits in Georgia's Old Capital Museum," said GOCHC Board of Trustees member Karen McGinnis, who is also a member of the Program and Fundraising Committee. "We are referring to these exhibits as cottage exhibits because they will be smaller and featured in the Just Imagine Cottage."

The Native American exhibit will focus on the history of Native

Americans in this area. It will be in the first room to the left as a visitor walks into the cottage. It starts with an introduction with artifacts that will lead attendees from the Ice Age to European Exploration period. The exhibit is divided into numerous sections for a self-guided tour that teaches about the Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian time periods and cultures, leading to New World exploration.

"Artifacts are on display that show the tools for hunting, gathering, jewelry making, and games. In the New World section, it explores the impact that exploration had on Native Americans in our area," said McGinnis. "A former Georgia State University student intern in the spring of 2024, Haley Kassum, helped Executive Director Dr. Amy Wright design the layout of the exhibit, select artifacts, and set-up the displays. Haley will be there on the opening day to welcome attendees."

The second exhibit moves from the Native American cultures to the expansion of the Georgia settlements. It begins with the founding of Georgia in Savannah and follows the Georgians who moved west

along the Oconee River Basin in the late 1700s after the Revolutionary War. In the fall of 2024, Georgia College & State University intern Chloe Melton assisted with the creation of the exhibit and will also be at the exhibit's debut.

"This expansion encompassed Baldwin County and Milledgeville," said McGinnis. "So, the exhibit includes history of the settlement of the Oconee River Basin, some replicas and original land grants, a Fort Wilkinson trading post facade replica and artifact displays. It also features a typical Front Georgia Hearth display before moving into the early 1800s, where Milledgeville was named the Georgia State Capital and our local city began to boom."

The exhibits coordinate with the Georgia Standards of Excellence for multiple grade levels in both elementary and middle school. It also parallels some high school history objectives, making the exhibits a beneficial resource to local schools in the area.

"Students, or anyone, can get a guided tour by appointment or come for

a self-guided tour during normal operating hours," said McGinnis.

Normal operating hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, but GOCHC requests that attendees call 478-453-1803 before visiting to ensure someone is on site. As the center has other educational sites they also offer tours there, she explained.

"These exhibits will remain open until the Depot renovation is complete and then they will move to the Depot and be expanded," said McGinnis.

On May 17, a fundraiser event supporting the center and the depot renovation will be hosted as well. It will feature a Heritage Hustle 5K/1K Fun Run, which anyone may register online at HeritageHustle5K.com, or walk-up registrations are accepted by 8 a.m. In addition, May 16 and 17, there will be an indoor sale with over 6,000 square feet of gently used, recently stocked furniture, home decor, kitchenware, and more. Please refer to *The Baldwin Bulletin's* community calendar for further details on each event.

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March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 May 4, 18 Adults \$18.00
Children (Ages 3-12) \$9.00

BEACONS

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Military College will be purchasing the lights and installing them. The college also has an interest in installing lights on Greene Street in front of its leadership center. Griffeth will bring this for discussion during the May 13 meeting.

The council heard

the first reading of an ordinance amending the Land Development Code to allow for special use located at 206 Roberson Mill Rd. to add four diesel fueling bays with canopy and parking, which will include 24 semi-truck parking spaces. It was referred to the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Moving into the budget, Sandra Witherspoon, the city's human resource director, gave a presentation on her budget request. In 2023-24, HR had a total of 192 employees and that has increased to 197 employees, with 32 vacancies city-wide. The turnover rate for the department has decreased from 14 percent to 11.7 percent. According to Witherspoon, the department has been continuing or completing objectives presented last year.

"As far as our budget requests, at this time, the HR department does not request any increase in its budget. We will keep it rolling as is," said Witherspoon.

Ed Barnwell, Milledgeville's planning and zoning director, stated that the division has mostly remained standard with a few increases due to inflation. The main areas of increase were training for himself and the building inspector.

"The only major expansion I'm asking for is a vehicle to drive in because I am currently using my personal vehicle to go to multiple job sites. Everything else is pretty much standard."

Code Enforcement



Rapid Flashing Beacons

Director Fred Morgan requested two code enforcement officers, one full-time staff member, for part-time code enforcement staff to go full-time, and a new vehicle.

"One person cannot govern with how the city is growing and monitor each district as we go along. As for my budget, the only thing increasing is the salary and training."

As the presentations concluded, Griffeth noted the budget will be adopted during the first council meeting in June.

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