Message from the Chairman

Summer slowdown? Not at Historic Savannah Foundation. Staff seems to be busier than ever. Preservation Festival was a tremendous success. All the events were well done. The Awards Luncheon was the best yet. Honoring Paula Wallace and SCAD for contributions to the preservation of Savannah was long in the making. Staff is already working on Pres Fest for 2013 to see how it can be even better.

HSF’s Hands on History Camp wrapped up last week after campers experienced five days of history and architecture. With sponsorship from Rives E. Worrell Construction and an orientation by Amy and Christian Sottille, participants (ages 9-15) gave thumbs up to the rigorous program. HoH Camp is an important and worthwhile educational program so look for it each June.

Also, it seems that we’ve got more than ever going on politically. Cruise ships are on everyone’s radar... as they should be. Studies and analysis are underway to sort out fact from fiction. I’m sure HSF will have a
front row seat at that table. Also, we certainly want to be in the forefront of discussions about a potential new arena and multi-use baseball stadium.

Finally, on June 28th, Savannah City Council will determine whether or not to amend the Height Map that dictates how tall buildings can be in the Landmark Historic District. The proposed hotel development on the east end of River Street (Georgia Power property) seeks to allow taller buildings on the waterfront north of River Street. HSF is not in favor of changing the Height Map, but we appreciate the potential boost to the City’s tax revenues from such a proposed development. If the change is granted, it should be everyone’s expectation that the finished product will be worthy of the latitude given the developer and his architect.

As City Council considers this question, my concern is that such departures from the norm do not set a precedent and become common place. Changing the Height Map is not a variance; it’s an amendment to the ordinance...and that should not be considered lightly. A lot of good people spent a lot of time and put in a lot of effort to put fair and reasonable guidelines in place in this Historic District. Fair and reasonable for all concerned. HSF supports growth—properly controlled growth that maintains the quality and charm of where we live. That should never be subject to compromise. I encourage you to join HSF as it voices its opinion at the City Council meeting on Thursday, June 28 at 2:00pm.

As I said in the beginning, there’s no summer slowdown at HSF. Hope everyone has a fun, safe summer.

Bill Lovett,
Chairman, Board of Trustees
2012 Savannah Preservation Festival
Reviewing our Celebration of National Preservation Month

We did it! Our successful completion of Preservation Festival means it’s now officially Savannah’s newest annual festival! And, of course, ‘we’ includes you—to whom we owe a tremendous thank you for supporting this event. With support from our members and the entire Savannah community, we surpassed all expectations and are already gearing up for 2013.

During April, May and our Pres Fest wrap-up in June, we have touched literally thousands through television, e-marketing, print and of course at each of our 7 events. Telling the HSF preservation story and sharing our mission to a broader audience is essential. Our bottom line is this: a successful Pres Fest enables HSF to continue our efforts to protect and preserve Savannah’s heritage.

Please visit our website for our photo gallery and details of each event. Or click here to view a slideshow of the Pres Fest pictures on Flickr.

We would like to expressly thank our Sponsors, Patrons, Donors, Advertisers, and Volunteers for their commitment and loyal support of HSF. And, finally, a very special thanks to the Event Chair, Katherine Albert!

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The Garden Party- Tidewater Preservation, Inc.

**Special Thanks**
Colonial Oil
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Savannah Magazine
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Easements: Give ‘Em While They’re Hot!

If you are thinking about placing a preservation easement on your historic property and donating it to Historic Savannah Foundation, you should proceed with great vigor. Because, if you want to take advantage of the state tax credit associated with making such a donation, that will need to occur before the end of 2012. Effective January 1, 2013, the State of Georgia will no longer allow a tax credit to be taken upon the donation of such “façade easements.”

HB36—the tax reform bill that sailed through the Legislature and was signed into law this past spring—drastically changed the landscape for donating easements. The minimum requirements to earn the tax credit effectively eliminated historic resources from the list. You can still add protection to your historic building with an easement, but in 2013 there will be no financial incentive for you to do so.

You should want to—irrespective of any incentive—protect your historic building in perpetuity, but the state tax credit was a nice reward for doing a good deed. Come January, that reward is gone. So if you’re considering donating an easement to HSF, do it now!

Annual Easement Inspections

And speaking of easements...you may be aware that HSF holds about 200 preservation easements throughout Savannah and Chatham County. As a qualified easement holding organization (certified annually by the GA Department of Natural Resources), HSF is responsible for monitoring and enforcing those easements. That means we are required to make regular inspections of the subject properties to make sure they are being properly maintained.

Over the next several weeks, staff and interns from HSF will be getting in touch with property owners to notify them of our inspection schedule and what to expect. Property owners will receive an advance letter from HSF, we notify them during the exterior inspection site-visit, and we will follow-up with them upon completion. This is an important program at HSF, and we take it seriously. We appreciate your support and cooperation as we endeavor to monitor hundreds of historic properties throughout Savannah’s historic districts.

If you have any questions, please contact HSF at 912-233-7787.

Hands on History Camp 2012

If you managed to miss the constant updates and frenzy our Hands on History campers created on Facebook, read on for a recap of our exciting adventures!

HSF hosted a week full of field trips and hands-on activities for a group of students, ages 9 to 15, interested in learning more about the impact of history and preservation in their city, during our Hands on History Camp on June 11th-15th. Camp orientation kicked-off in the Kennedy Pharmacy with...
opening remarks by Tracy Tollison of Rives E. Worrell Construction followed by Amy and Christian Sottile who presented an impressive overview of understanding the basic effects of preservation and good city planning.

Campers were able to visit historic sites ranging from the Georgia State Railroad Museum in downtown Savannah to the Tybee Light Station out on Tybee Island. Activities included scavenger hunts, brick re-pointing, window glazing and paint analysis, among others. The students even got to see how historic lime mortar is made from oyster shells at Fort Pulaski.

This year we were also fortunate to take a trip to City Hall and the Cluskey Embankment stores on Factor’s Walk. The campers were able to explore the open stores, which are rumored to have been used as a holding place for slaves, and learn how students from the Earl T. Shinhoster Leadership Institute are using different clues to conduct their research on what the true purpose of the stores may have been.

Campers also had the chance to take advantage of the new and interactive exhibits at the Massie Heritage Center, after which many were excited to end up on the evening news!

All in all, it was a good week and we are thankful to all of our partners, participants, volunteers and of course our sponsor for making it possible:

Rives E. Worrell Company

Mr. Brent Armstrong of Savannah Early College
City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives
Coastal Heritage Society’s Georgia State Railroad Museum
Earl T. Shinhoster Leadership Institute & Ms. Vaughnette Goode-Walker
Fort Pulaski National Monument
Isaiah Davenport House Museum
Jepson Center for the Arts
Massie Heritage Center
Mr. Bernie Polite
Savannah-Chatham County Public School System
Sottile & Sottile
Tybee Light Station

For more information on this program visit the Hands on History Camp page of our website.
Staff Development
Preservation Leadership Training

At the beginning of June, Danielle Meunier, HSP’s Preservation & Education Coordinator, took part in the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Preservation Leadership Training (PLT) in nearby Beaufort, SC. Just over twenty participants were accepted, ranging from Washington D.C. and along the east coast to California and even Alaska.

The week-long training was comprised of intensive study guided by experienced trainers as well as group work focused on the revitalization of three key sites in Beaufort’s Historic District and Historic Northwest Quadrant. Participants learned about real estate development, market research, and neighborhood analysis and planning, and at the end of the week presented proposals to the public.

Danielle brings back new tools, enhanced knowledge, valuable connections and fond memories from her trip, and is excited to implement what she learned here in Savannah.

To read more about the results of this year’s Preservation Leadership Training click here.

Davenport House Museum
Teaching Savannah history and the value of its preservation everyday!

Davenport House Museum Service Scholarship Recipient: Carlie Ayn Williams

Over the past years the Davenport House Museum has produced a notable number of Junior Interpreters (JIs) who have gone on to become stand-out students in high school and later in college. To acknowledge this record, the Davenport House presents a scholarship annually to an outstanding high school student who demonstrates qualities which put the museum and its community in the best light. This year’s award was presented to Savannah Christian Preparatory School senior Carlie Ayn Williams at the Davenport House’s Annual Garden Party on Thursday, June 7th. The Davenport House Endowment Director’s initiated the scholarship program in 2011. The Critz Family is the sponsor of the 2012 Davenport House Service Scholarship.

Carlie Ayn Williams, the only child of Mr. Charles and Dr. Deborah Williams of Guyton, GA, came to the Davenport House during the summer of 2010 for Junior Interperter training. From the beginning, her mastery of the history discipline was clear. She was the summer’s DH Jeopardy champion. She enjoyed giving tours and was good at it. In October 2010 she was hired as a staff docent and has given tours at the museum on Sundays ever since. She is reliable, thoughtful and committed. Possessing a maturity beyond her years, visitors remark on her tour guiding skills and often ask her if she is a
college student.

In addition to her work as a staff docent, she continues to volunteer at the Davenport House. She is also a gifted photographer. For the past two years she has been the museum’s photographer for Valentine’s Day Weddings. She was also a volunteer photographer at the 2011 Savannah Garden Expo. She takes hundreds of photos for each event, selects the best and edits them as necessary before donating them to the museum.

She has been accepted to Georgia Southern University’s Honors Program which she will begin in the fall. At Savannah Christian her grade point average is 3.7 and she is ranked fifth out of a class of one hundred and one. She is senior class secretary, National Honor Society secretary, National Beta Club secretary as well as a member of the French Honor Society. At the school’s awards program held on May 1, she received the Advanced Placement European History Award, the Advance Placement Environmental Science Award and the Presidential Award of Academic Excellence.

**You Oughta Know!: About Isaiah Davenport: Portrait of a Master Builder**

Continuing its initiative begun with the DVD *The Historic Savannah Foundation Story*, the Davenport House has produced a DVD worthy of viewing by all entitled *Isaiah Davenport: Portrait of a Master Builder*. The team of Michael Jordan and Nate Nauert with **CosmosMariner Productions** created the 30-minute film which premiered at the May 19th Preservation Festival event at the Davenport House.

“One of the most asked questions by visitors at the Davenport House is, `Who was Isaiah Davenport?` The new DVD answers many of the questions about Davenport’s significance as a builder and his place in the building of Savannah,” says Jamie Crede, director, Davenport House Museum. Along with viewing the remaining buildings attributed to Davenport, noted authorities AASU historian, **Christopher Hendricks**, SCAD architectural historian **E. G. Daves Rossell**, and engineer **Tom Hoffman** place Davenport in Savannah’s building tradition.

The DVD, which also includes *The Historic Savannah Foundation Story*, may be purchased at the Davenport House Museum Shop for $12. Crede continues, “Viewing this production is now a must see for docents and anyone wishing to be informed about the DH. There are abbreviated versions of these DVD on YouTube for preview.”

**New Exhibits Enliven**

See two new panel exhibits created by designer Mick McCay in the Davenport House orientation area – one explains that it takes many people for the museum to function and the other continues the explanation of the historic house’s interpretation for visitors wanting to know more.
From the President & CEO

The Politics of “No”

Recently, I’ve heard HSF referred to as a “no organization.” That HSF has become, as Spiro Agnew once whined in reference to investigative journalists, “nattering nabobs of negativism.” Aside from the chuckle I enjoyed when reminded of Spiro Agnew (who resigned the Vice Presidency in disgrace and was later disbarred from practicing law) I have a couple of takes on what it means to be called a “no organization.” I am both dismayed and flattered. Dismayed that anyone would automatically default to a view that constructive criticism is negative. And flattered to think that HSF is so well known for 57 years of advocating for the protection and preservation of Savannah’s heritage which has meant, on occasion, saying “no.”

I wonder if the same people who label us as a “no organization” are aware of what HSF has stood for. Where we’ve said “yes” to things and actively supported them? Projects like the new SCAD Art Museum, the revitalization of Broughton Street, improved lighting in the squares, landscaping along the Bull Street Corridor, etc. Yes, sometimes HSF says “no.”

And what’s so wrong with saying “no” anyway? Imagine what Savannah would look like had HSF acted like blind sheep and followed the crowd. Amphibious duck boats, paved squares, a Truman Parkway on the doorstep of the Landmark District...? I’m pretty sure everyone with the luxury of 20-20 hindsight is now grateful we had the courage to say no to destroying the last vestiges of Elbert Ward (at the corner of MLK and Oglethorpe) for the CAT Transfer Center...which is now, thankfully and appropriately, under construction at the Greyhound Bus Terminal on West Oglethorpe. I think people are equally glad that HSF said “no” to the demolition of five historic buildings at Trustees Garden when Atlanta Gas & Light wanted to remove them to clean up site contamination. HSF sued and the clean up was accomplished without the loss of historic buildings.

HSF stands in opposition to amending the Height Map to allow 7-story buildings along the riverfront. And HSF is profoundly skeptical at the pursuit of constructing a cruise ship terminal without engaging the public in the decision.

The Height Map was created in response to complaints from developers who wanted predictability with respect to building in the Landmark District. The map was first adopted by City Council in 1997 and it has served this City well for two decades. It fosters growth and predictability. By changing it, are we really making a correction or simply accommodating one developer? Where will those exceptions end?

And what about cruise ships? As yet, HSF has not taken a formal position on the issue. That’s due, in large part, to the lack of readily available information and virtually no open dialogue about the subject. At this point, I don’t know whether to be more concerned about cruise ships or the fact that things appear to be moving forward without a public debate.

The point is this: “no” is not a bad word and it does not make us a bad organization. Quite the opposite. When we say “no” it is after careful deliberation and with the best long-term interests of Savannah in mind. As a friend and advisor once told me, “Every no is really a yes to the alternative vision.”
E-Newsletter Feedback
What do you think?

How can we improve HSF’s E-Newsletter? Please send us your feedback by replying to this email or by contacting Danielle Meunier, Preservation & Education Coordinator, at dmeunier@myHSF.org.

For more information visit www.myHSF.org
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(April 1, 2012 - May 31, 2012)

We would like to thank all of our new and renewing members!

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Please visit our website at www.myHSF.org.

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**Did You Know?**
The HSF “Did You Know” is an editorial opportunity for our members and supporters to be featured in our e-Newsletter as well as our website. Our newsletter and website are utilized daily by not only our members but folks interested in preservation and Savannah. You, the contributor can chose the topic, spotlighting products and services that preservation minded readers would benefit from. If you are interested in sharing your story, products or services to our readers please contact Terri O’Neil at 912-233-7787 or terri@myHSF.org.

**Share your HSF Story**
We continue to spotlight participating HSF members in the “What is Your HSF Story?” banner on our website’s homepage. Most of us have an HSF story, whether it’s membership involvement, Revolving Fund acquisitions, education and consulting or involvement with the Isaiah Davenport House. We want to spotlight your story! Go to www.myHSF.org to view the Wade Family’s story or click here to share your own. Share a photo! Be sure to visit our website for all of our exciting new enhancements!

**The HSF Wish List**
We have added a very important tool to our website titled “HSF Wish List.” The HSF Wish List enables our supporters to contribute to HSF in ways other than monetarily. All donations are tax deductible and all “items in need” will be greatly appreciated. To view HSF’s Wish List click here.

**The HSF Events Calendar**
Stay informed of all HSF events by viewing our annual calendar under our Special Events tab.