

For Immediate Release
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Talladega College museum fundraiser in Washington DC on December 20, 2018



(Talladega, AL) Mr. Frank Jannuzi, president of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation and grandson of former Talladega College President Dr. Buell Gallagher, will host a fundraiser for the Dr. William R. Harvey Museum of Art on Thursday, December 20, 2018, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The new museum will house Talladega College's critically-acclaimed Amistad Murals and other great works of art.

The event will be held at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, 1156 15th St. NW, Suite 1105, Washington, DC 20005. Special guests include Ms. Barbara Gallagher, the daughter of Dr. Buell Gallagher, and Talladega College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins. Cocktails and lite fare will be served and jazz keyboardist Eric Allen will perform from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Remarks will be made by special guests at 6 p.m.

In 1938, Dr. Gallagher commissioned Hale Woodruff to paint six murals. Woodruff's first three panels, the Amistad Murals, commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1839 slave uprising on the Amistad ship. The remaining panels illustrate the founding of the College, the building of its library and the Underground Railroad. The murals were widely applauded from the moment they were unveiled. Woodruff was featured in *Time* magazine and his work was highlighted in Alain Locke's 1940 book *The Negro in Art* as well as W. E. B. Du Bois's journal *Phylon*. The Steven Spielberg film *Amistad* includes footage of the murals.

In 2008, Talladega College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins had the murals taken down from the walls of the College's Savery Library, where they had hung for over 70 years, and had them appraised. They were valued at \$40 million, but in danger of disintegrating. With the assistance of the High Museum of Art, the murals were restored and sent on a three-year, eight-city tour. They received rave reviews from the *New York Times* and others.

The historic pieces, now valued at \$50 million, need a permanent home. Talladega alumnus and Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey contributed over one million dollars toward an art museum to house the murals, and Alabama Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama State Legislature have contributed \$1.5 million.

Individuals, businesses and organizations interested in attaching their name to a world-class museum while helping preserve the works of a renowned artist may contact Talladega College's Vice President of Institutional Advancement Mr. Seddrick T. Hill at shill@talladega.edu or at (256) 761-8832.



About Talladega College

The oldest private Historically Black College in Alabama, Talladega College was founded in 1867 by two former slaves, William Savery and Thomas Tarrant. Talladega College is listed among the Princeton Review's best colleges in the Southeast and U.S. News and World Report's best regional colleges and best HBCUs.

Hale Woodruff mural depicting the building of Savery Library at Talladega College.