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Georgia Humanities President Announces His Retirement

ATLANTA—Georgia Humanities president Jamil Zainaldin has announced he will retire after 20 years of leading the organization. During his tenure Dr. Zainaldin has guided Georgia Humanities (GH) to productive collaboration and partnerships with colleges and universities, schools and libraries, historical societies, and numerous arts and cultural groups throughout the state. He has set his official retirement for early 2018.

“Georgia is one of the loves of my life,” Zainaldin said.

“Since 1997 I have had the honor to be president of GH, and in the New Year I will step down from that position to enter the next phase in my life’s work. For me, that includes the joy (and gratification) of learning, listening, and giving back in the best ways I know how to a state and its people who have given so much to me, my family, and the organization I love: Georgia Humanities.

“I have worked over the years with GH Board chairs and members who themselves are models of all that I seek in my personal and professional life. They do their work – and live their lives – with a total dedication to the public good. They are my models.”



Through the generous support of individuals and organizations and with Congressional funding through the National Endowment for the Humanities, GH generates or partners to create opportunities and platforms for Georgians to examine the rich history and culture of the state.

“As a private nonprofit organization, GH relies on the financial support of many. I cannot express strongly enough my appreciation to our private donors, to philanthropic foundations in Georgia whose support helps make our work possible, and to the Georgia General Assembly and our Congressional delegation who have been unfailing supporters of GH, through thick and thin,” he said.

Board Chair James E. Toney said that through Jamil’s leadership, GH is making more of an impact statewide, especially as seen in such projects as the internationally-acclaimed digital New Georgia Encyclopedia, grants to promote local tourism opportunities, and National History Day in Georgia.

“Jamil’s influence around the state is enormous, and his passion for uncovering the stories of all Georgia’s people is profound,” Toney said. “Humanities leaders throughout the nation have and will continue to utilize Jamil as a resource to deliver quality humanities programming.”

The Board of Directors has appointed Laura McCarty, current executive vice president, as the next president.

“The Board recognizes Laura’s 24 years of remarkable service and leadership. Her determination and spirit of collaboration equips her to build on Jamil’s success. The present and future members of the Board are fortunate to work in partnership with Laura and the other professionals on the GH staff,” Toney said.

About Georgia Humanities

Georgia Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that gathers, preserves, and shares our state’s distinctive stories through a range of cultural and educational programs and resources. Georgia Humanities partners with scholars and educators across the state to bring people together in learning and conversation. Founded in 1971, Georgia Humanities is the statewide affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. To learn more, please visit GeorgiaHumanities.org.

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