

## The Soboroff Typewriter Exhibit at Andalusia

By Catherine Dean

An exhibit of typewriters, previously owned by famed writers, actors, journalists, and activists, is currently being hosted at Andalusia: The Home of Flannery O'Connor. The farm was recently acquired by Georgia College and is managed by university staff.

The display includes machines once belonging to Ernest Hemingway, John Lennon, Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote, Maya Angelou, Georgia Bernard Shaw, Gore Vidal, Ray Bradbury, and Tom Hanks.

"The traveling exhibition is part of the Southern Literary Trail," said Georgia College's Director of Historic Museums Mathew S. Davis. "We are very honored to host the typewriters that were owned and used by some of the most notable writers and artists in history."

The Southern Literary Trail (SLT) connects places in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi that inspired great American writers to create classic fiction and plays. Just a few of the stops along the Trail include the homes and haunts of William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Zella and Scott Fitzgerald, Harper Lee and Truman Capote, Alice Walker, Margaret Mitchell, and of course Milledgeville's Flannery O'Connor.

O'Connor is a celebrated American author who lived and died in Milledgeville and is buried at Memory Hill Cemetery located at 300 West Franklin Street. She is well-known throughout the world of literature for her southern gothic tales that include 'Wise Blood,' 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find,' and 'Everything That Rises Must Converge.'

O'Connor's actual typewriter is not displayed at Andalusia as it currently belongs to a private collector but a similar model to what she used is permanently stationed in the bedroom occupied by the author when she was alive.

Steve Soboroff, a civic leader from Los Angeles, California, owns the collection that includes more than those on exhibit at Andalusia. His obsession began at a Sotheby's auction in 2005, with the purchase of the typewriter belonging to Pulitzer Prize-Winning sports writer Jim Murray. His collection has now grown to include over 30 machines he purchased at estate sales, auctions, and private sales.

"The idea that geniuses sat there and accomplished what they accomplished on these typewriters gives me chills," said Soboroff.

As a Beatles fan, Davis was thrilled to see John Lennon's typewriter arrive at Andalusia. He said, "For someone like me, a huge fan of Lennon and the Beatles, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get so close to something he has actually touched and used."

The collection will be at Andalusia through October 31 and is included with the price of admission to the museum and includes a guided tour- \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and kids under six are free. Georgia College students, staff and faculty get in free with the Bobcat card.

Hours of operation for Andalusia are: Tuesday-10am-4pm and Sundays 2-4pm. For more information on Andalusia, visit their website at [www.gcsu.edu/andalusia](http://www.gcsu.edu/andalusia) or call 478-445-8722.