

# SERA News

## The Newsletter of the Southeastern Registrars Association

Volume 30, Issue 1

[www.seregistrars.org](http://www.seregistrars.org)

Winter 2008

### **State Coordinator**

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### **Newsletter Deadlines**

Spring 2008 - May 31  
Summer 2008 - August 31  
Fall 2008 - November 31  
Winter 2009 - February 31

**Contact your SERA State  
Representative with your  
latest news!**

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### **NOTES FROM THE CHAIR Warren J. Woods**

Spring is around the corner and I can't wait. This time of year is always busy at my museum as it probably is at yours as well: changing exhibitions, budgets, etc. Warmer weather always seems to help. With some sadness, I have to report that Kristen Watts has stepped down as the State Representative Coordinator; she has taken on a Director position at the Mint Museum of Craft + Design. The SERA Board would like to thank Kristen for her years of service and dedication and wish her great success in her new role. We are hoping that she keeps her membership! Congratulations to Development Chair Annelies Mondt for securing a grant from the fine arts insurance company, Huntington T. Block, to help re-print 100 copies of SERA's publication, *Steal This Handbook!* Way to go, Annelies! I would also like to acknowledge the great job Vice Chair Chris Goodlett has done in submitting program ideas for the SEMC annual conference to be held in Birmingham this October. Thanks and a tip of my hat goes out to Treasurer Goldie Lanaux for doing an outstanding job of "keeping the books". I encourage all of you to please make her job easier by sending in your membership dues now and not wait for friendly reminders. It is the best museum-related membership deal in all of the country! Let's get a moving people; those dues are an important part of our scholarship program and operating budget. Besides, only up-to-date active members will have the opportunity to cast a vote for or against any motions to alter the By-Laws and to cast a vote in upcoming SERA elections. As mentioned in the last newsletter, over the course of the next few months, additional information regarding the proposed changes will be sent to active SERA members along with a ballot to be completed and returned. If you are unsure of your status, please contact Treasurer Goldie Lanaux at [goldiel@hnoc.org](mailto:goldiel@hnoc.org) or 504-598-7159. Speaking of the SERA election, please put on your thinking cap to see what future role you could play in the Southeastern Registrars Association.

*Ask not what your SERA can do for you - ask what you can do for your SERA!*

Please feel free to contact me at [warrenw@hnoc.org](mailto:warrenw@hnoc.org) anytime.  
Enjoy the spring!

Warren

## LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

### Goldie Lanaux, Treasurer

It's that time again - 2008 dues are payable in the first quarter of 2008. I have attached a handy dandy membership renewal form for your convenience on page 19 in sending your current information and check for \$10 payable to SERA.

SERA dues and book sales help underwrite SEMC and AAM annual conferences travel scholarships and awards for museum professionals in the field of registration, collections management, and preparation, for both the seasoned professional and the entry-level professional.

SERA membership benefits also include:

- ◆ SERA News, the Associations newsletter, which contains topical articles, meeting and workshop previews, regional updates, and SERA's business notes;
- ◆ Participation and voting privileges at SERA's annual business meeting (held each October in conjunction with the Southeastern Museums Conference);
- ◆ Discounts on publications produced by SERA;
- ◆ Advance notification of SERA-sponsored workshops; and
- ◆ The opportunity to network with other registrars and museum professionals in the region.

As Warren noted in the last newsletter, members will be voting on some upcoming SERA potential By-Law changes, and only up-to-date active members will have the opportunity to cast a vote.

#### SERA Officers 2006-2008

##### *Chair:*

Warren J. Woods  
The Historic New Orleans Collection  
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##### *Vice-Chair:*

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Thank you for your support of SERA - I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Cordially,

Goldie Lanaux  
*Treasurer/Membership Chair*  
*Registrar*  
*The Historic New Orleans Collection*  
*533 Royal St.*  
*New Orleans, LA 70130*  
*504-598-7159*  
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### AAM TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

The SERA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the 2008 winner of the AAM Travel Award is Melissa McCarriagher, at The Center for Puppetry Arts, in Atlanta, GA. This will be Melissa's first time at AAM, and she will be attending sessions that will assist her museum as they prepare for a large new acquisition, and make plans to move their collections to new exhibit and storage areas. Congratulations Melissa!

Unlike the travel awards for SEMC, we have only one award for AAM so it is especially difficult for the committee to choose among all the deserving applicants. We thank those who applied and encourage everyone to submit proposals for next year. If you or your organization wish to sponsor a new travel award for either AAM or SEMC trips, please contact our Treasurer Goldie Lanaux or SERA president, Warren Woods.

Sincerely,

SERA Scholarship Committee  
 Dixie Neilson, Chair  
 Barbara Chamberlain  
 Martha Mayberry

### SYMPOSIUM

**Fairfax County Park Authority** announces *All Manner of Useful Goods: Household Necessities and Craftsmanship in Early America, A Symposium on American Social History and Material Culture* will take place on **March 28, 2008, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m** at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

*All Manner of Useful Goods* explores a host of hand-crafted materials and objects necessary to the daily running of households in early America from 1750-1850, and the craftsmanship involved in producing and marketing these wares. Presentations, a costumed interpretation, tabletop exhibits and demonstrations examine various trades, how they operated, economic factors impacting American craft, and how utilitarian goods made of redware and stoneware, base metals, cooperage, basketry and woodenware were produced and marketed.

#### **Presenters & Exhibitors include:**

Katie Boardman, The Cherry Valley Group; Donald Fennimore; Winterthur Museum; Jay Gaynor; Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Carson Hudson; Historical Diversions; James Koterski; Independ-

ent Historian; Michele Burton; The Swift Shuttles & Pat Lasus; Rabbit Ridge Spinning; Kevin P. & Kathleen Clancy; Blacksmithing; Walt & Mary Henderson; Henderson & Vinci Cabinetmaking; Kathryn Polletto; High Country Basketry Guild; Marshall Scheetz; and Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Cooperage.

Advance Registration Required by March 21st, 2008. Cost is \$65.00. Email [susan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:susan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call Museum Collections at (703) 631-1429 for more information. FAX (703) 631-8319.

**Sponsored by:**

Fairfax County Park Authority & George Mason University- Department of History.

**2007 DAN SILOSKY AWARD**

The Southeastern Registrars Association is proud to announce that the 2007 recipient of the Dan Silosky Award is Carrie Taylor, Collections Manager at Monticello. The \$250 award will help fund *Impression Management: How to Make a Positive First and Lasting Impression when Representing your Museum*, a workshop that will be presented in conjunction with the Virginia Association of Museums on March 18, 2008. This half-day workshop will be led by Sandy Dumont, Executive Director for the Impressions Strategies Institute in Norfolk, Virginia, and will provide an opportunity for registrars to learn to better represent their institutions in a variety of situations.

The Silosky Award, a memorial to long-time SERA member Dan Silosky, is offered annually and can be used to fund any type of collections management based project that will benefit SERA members. You might use it to fund a workshop speaker, as Carrie is doing, or you could also use the funds to support an SEMC program, a state association program, or any other project that benefits our members. Be creative! The application is short and we often have few applicants, so a small investment in time can easily pay off.

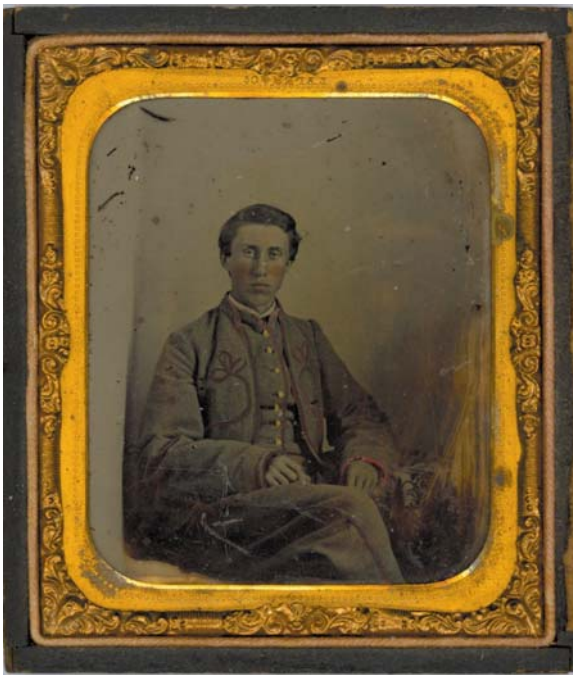
The application deadline for this year is **September 5, 2008**.

For additional information, contact Katherine Steiner, Associate Registrar, The Mint Museum  
Phone: 704-337-2020  
[katherine.steiner@mintmuseum.org](mailto:katherine.steiner@mintmuseum.org).

**ARTIFACT REQUEST**

The **SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum** has recently accessioned a collection of objects and documents associated with a family from the Upstate of South Carolina. Thomas W. Wingo served in the Civil War, and his wife Cornelia saved many of his letters to home. The museum is happy to have forty-six of these letters, as well as T.W. Wingo's sword, a Jenny Lind trunk he possibly used during the War, wallets with Confederate money still in them, and the family Bible. Several ambrotypes of family members are included in the collection, and a photograph album with post-war tinctypes of Wingo's oldest daughter and her family shows T.W. and his wife in later

years. One of the ambrotypes shows what appears to be Wingo's son-in-law Laurence H. Peebles in a uniform with red-tinted braid adorning it.



Readers who may have some insight to the uniform's identity and when the photograph may have been taken are welcome to contact **Rachel H. Cockrell** and other staff members and share their ideas.

## STATE NEWS

### State Coordinator

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### Alabama

#### **State Representative**

Pamela Bransford, Registrar  
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**Tim Moon**, Registrar at the **Anniston Museum of Natural History**, spent January putting the Museum back together after the deinstallation of *A T. Rex Named SUE*. The exhibition was a blockbuster which attracted 64,000 in three and a half months - almost the total annual attendance. Tim enjoyed giving tours of the show and watching the children's faces light up when they saw the full-scale model of the dinosaur. The dinosaur which measured 42 feet long and 14 feet high was disassembled in two days and packed in crates for shipment in three 18 wheelers. With 600 visitors a day, the exhibition has been a real adventure for the small staff of 20.

**Eric McNeal** is the new Assistant Registrar for exhibitions at the **Birmingham Museum of Art**. He has been at the Birmingham Museum since 1996 as a curatorial intern and then Assistant Preparator. Eric was able to jump right into his new role for the deinstallation of *Pompeii: Tales from an Eruption*. He has been host to three couriers from Italy, who were on site for two weeks to pack the show. The

**REPRINTING OF “STEAL THIS HANDBOOK! A TEMPLATE  
FOR CREATING A MUSEUM’S EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS PLAN.” APPROVED**

SERA is pleased to announce that Huntington T. Block Insurance Agency Inc. has graciously agreed to underwrite the reprinting of “Steal This Handbook! A Template for Creating a Museum’s Emergency Preparedness Plan.” As many of you know, “Steal This Handbook” describes what to do during different types of disasters and outlines methods of recovery for collections and facilities after the disaster.

First printed by SERA in 1994, this 250-page publication is extremely popular and a useful tool for any institution creating an emergency response plan. The handbook was written by the Ozarks Group for Emergency Resources with small- to mid- sized museums in mind and was reviewed by a diverse group of conservators, risk managers and museum professionals, as well as emergency and disaster specialists.



In 1962, Mr. Huntington T. Block created the original all risk “wall to wall” fine art insurance policy. Today, Huntington T. Block Insurance Agency Inc. is the oldest and largest fine art insurance brokerage facility in the United States, a division of Aon (since 1991), and is well known and respected by the art community worldwide.

exhibition was a blockbuster for the Birmingham Museum attracting over 95,000 visitors. In addition, Eric’s wife Tracy has just started work as a Curatorial Assistant at the Museum.

**Shelly Berger**, Registrar at the **Museum of Mobile**, is pleased to announce that the Museum has a new Curator of Collections, **Shea McLean**. He is a native Mobilian returning home after working in Charleston and Key West. His background is in underwater archaeology with a specialty in conservation. They are especially lucky to have him as he has worked on both the *HL Hunley* submarine and *CSS Alabama*. Recent projects include retrofitting one of the

thematic galleries to tell the story of Mardi Gras. The exhibit covers the history of Mardi Gras and how it is celebrated in Mobile, the Mother of Mystics; complete with historic and recent costumes and ‘throws’. Shelly is also the State Representative for SMAC (Small Museum Administrators Committee) for AAM. So if there is some information you need or have questions, please feel free to contact her. SMAC is sponsoring a number of sessions and roundtables at AAM-Denver this year so please take advantage of them.

**Pamela Bransford**, Registrar at the **Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts**, is preparing for the Museum’s biennial fund-

raiser, Art Auction 2008, March 13-15. Pam has been organizing the shipment of almost 500 works of art which are installed in three days in the temporary exhibition galleries and sold over three days in a silent and live auction. Works are chosen by an art auction selection committee according to destination: beach house, mountain house, den, kitchen, breakfast room, sunroom, etc.

### Arkansas

#### **State Representative**

Carolyn Reno, Collections Manager  
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**Michelle Simpson, Historic Arkansas Museum** says they are continuing to collect Native American objects for their new gallery space, set to open in the fall of 2008. The most recent of these acquisitions was a collection of letters relating to Anna Burnham, missionary to the Choctaw Nation and teacher at the Wheelock Academy for Choctaw children in Oklahoma in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They are also getting some much-needed help this spring from a new volunteer, **Brittney Kugler**. Brittney has been working on a Caddo pottery re-boxing and photography project with Assistant Registrar, **Lindsey Clark**. Once they have completed this project, the boxes will be transported to their off-site collections storage facility, and some pieces will potentially be used in the new exhibit.

**Sarah Price, Rogers Historical Museum** says that they have mostly been catching up on last year's large projects, deaccessioning, and working on exhibits.

**Sue Trulock, Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Museum** says they cataloged all 191 gifts from 2007, sent gift certificates to the donors, and marked each item for storage. She says they have plenty to do for '08 even though the year is only 2 months old.

**Marie Demeroukas, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History** says that the museum is in the final phase of a major conversion project, transferring info from 20,000+ catalog cards to the photo collection database. The project should be completed later this year. New shelving has been installed and will be used for re-housing oversized photos and other historic prints.

**Carolyn Reno, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History** says the museum collections staff and volunteers have been reorganizing storage since they acquired new shelving. Current work involves updating new locations on the data base as things get moved around. Staff has also been weeding out old general storage items like holiday decorations and exhibit props thereby freeing up more space. New volunteers have helped these projects move along.

### Florida

#### **State Representative**

Barbara Chamberlain, Registrar  
Appleton Museum of Art  
4333 NE Silver Springs Blvd.

## SHELVING AVAILABLE

**Shelving Available!** Ordered from University Products in 2006: "Workroom Shelving, Medium Grey 36 x 15 x 1." These shelves did NOT fit our systems! Contact **Mary Ames Booker Sheret**, Curator of Collections for **Battleship NORTH CAROLINA**, directly for details: [curator@battleshipnc.com](mailto:curator@battleshipnc.com)

Ocala, FL 34470-5000  
Phone: 352.291.4455 x1605  
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Florida Members, please send news and announcements to your state rep!

### Georgia

#### State Representative

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At the **Columbus Museum**, **Aimee Brooks** and her assistant, **Mellda Alexander**, continue to work hard on accessioning, inventorying, photographing the collection and exhibits going in and out. The collections department is working on reviewing and revising policies, including the collections policy and the disaster preparedness plan, as the reaccreditation self-study year continues.

**Morris Museum of Art (Augusta)** Curatorial Assistant **Heather Williams** has finally completed an inventory of the museum's "Norrell collection", a group of approximately 1000 objects to be added annually to the permanent collection. Heather is now beginning to catalog the collection and assisting **Kelly Woolbright**, Registrar, with a backlog of other items to be cataloged. Kelly and Heather recently helped with installing *Pleasant Journeys and Good Eats Along the Way: A Retrospective of Paintings by John Baeder*. Organized by the museum, this show is getting ready to travel to 3 more venues through 2009. This show will be the featured exhibition for the museum's upcoming Gala.

**Christa McCay** at the **Marietta Museum of History** has been working hard at getting two of their four gallery spaces completely redesigned. The new Military Gallery will be completed by the end of March and much of the unseen military artifacts will be out for viewing after many long years of waiting. Also, much is going on in the way of cataloging. By the end of spring the museum will have reached over 10,000 artifacts cataloged in PastPerfect, a large feat for such a small museum! But, many more items still need to be cataloged.

**Susan Fishman-Armstrong** announces that the **Antonio J. Waring, Jr. Archaeological Laboratory**, University of West Georgia, will have an Open House to celebrate Georgia's Archaeology Month on April 26 from 11-2pm. The open house is free to the public. Events include a flint-

knapping demonstration by James Spake, artifact identification by **Dr. Ray Crook** (Laboratory Director), an on-site mock excavation dig, games, and a guided-tour of the facility. Call 678-839-6303 for more information.

### **Kentucky**

#### **State Representative**

Barbara Lovejoy, Registrar  
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**Sandy Staebell, Kentucky Library & Museum**, Western Kentucky University, is preparing for the 2008 U.S. Bank "Celebration of the Arts" open art exhibition, a juried show that attracts upwards of 400 entries from Kentucky residents 18 years old or older who live within a 65 mile radius of Bowling Green, Kentucky. The renovation of an off-site storage space for museum collections is underway, and she is working on an exhibit that will examine the role Kentucky played in the Civil War.

### **Louisiana**

#### **State Representative**

Kathryn A. Lang, Curator  
Jean Lafitte National Historical  
Park and Preserve  
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Construction has finally started at the

**Biedenharn Museum and Gardens** after 3 ½ years of waiting. **Justin French**, Curator of Collections, reports that they are in the process of renovating two buildings. One will house collections and exhibits, the other will consist of gift shop, exhibits, and staff offices. The buildings are scheduled to open January 2009. The collections department has almost finished a year-long project of archivaly storing 20,000 books, letters, and photographs. In the coming months the curator will begin installing exhibits in the new building that will feature a reproduction 1900's soda fountain and a Coca-Cola Model T as well as preparing the collections to be moved to the new storage area.

**Kathy Lang**, Curator at the **Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve**, is working on finding aids for the park's archival collection. The NPS cataloging software contains a template that automatically inserts data into specific fields to create a finding aid with collection, file unit, and item levels. Accuracy and consistency of data entry is required to make the finding aid usable. An entry cheat sheet was created to standardize the data.

**Maclyn Hickey**, Assistant Registrar, reports that **The Historic New Orleans Collection** has recently acquired some extraordinary pieces - a group of ceramic shards and small figures found on the beach in St. Domingue, possibly Tahino or another early aboriginal culture, and a rare late 18th, early 19th century mahogany armoire, attributed to Celestin Glapion, père, a free man of color who worked as cabinetmaker in New Orleans. The Collec-

tion's holdings of early 20th century art related to the Newcomb School continues to grow, and to augment that The Collection has been offered an early painting by Rolland Golden that is very reminiscent of John McCrady's work.

Assistant Registrar for Library materials, **Viola Berman**, writes that The Collection recently acquired a piece of sheet music, "The Mysterious Axman's Jazz (Don't Scare Me Papa)" which has a very interesting story about its inception. From May 1918 through October 1919, New Orleans was gripped by a grisly series of murders which were never solved. The victims, mostly Italian grocers, were attacked at night by a mysterious ax-wielding intruder who escaped, leaving almost no clues. At least six people were killed, and those who were wounded but recovered could only describe a heavy-set dark man. The Axeman, or Axman usually used a chisel to get through the doors of his victims, and often used the victims' own ax which he'd pick up on the premises. A letter from a person declaring himself as the Axman addressed to the editor of the local newspaper, the "Times-Picayune," was published in the March 14, 1919 edition. In it he stated, "They have never caught me and they never will." He went on to say that he planned another attack at 12:15 the following Tuesday night - St. Joseph's night - and that as he was very fond of jazz music, he promised that every person who had a jazz band going or was playing jazz music that night would be spared. Parties were quickly organized and cafés and bars all over town were crowded that evening. Joseph John Davilla, a local composer of

popular music, issued a song entitled, "The Mysterious Axman's Jazz, or Don't Scare Me Papa."

Registration Assistants **Anna Hilderbrandt** and **Doug Stallmer** continue to work with Collections Manager, **Warren J. Woods**, in installing and dismantling exhibitions, working with lenders and preparing loan documents, updating item locations in data records, and processing material to be transferred out of Registration.

Registrar **Goldie Lanaux** reports that with the Sugar Bowl (Hawaii Warriors vs Georgia Bulldogs) and the BCS (Ohio State vs Louisiana State University) games having been played in the New Orleans Superdome, the recent exhibition of material from the *Sugar Bowl Archives* was a huge success with record crowds visiting the exhibition, and huge crowds of tourists returning to New Orleans and the French Quarter.

The past several months have been very busy at the **Lafayette Natural History Museum and Planetarium**. In September, their 6,000 square foot exhibit, Lafayette: Legacy of a Hero opened. Many people and institutions contributed to realizing this exhibit, most notably their lenders: the **Service Historique de la Défense** (Vincennes, France), the **Musée de l'Armée** (Hôtel national des Invalides, Paris, France), the **Musée Franco-Américain du Château de Blérancourt** (Blérancourt, France), the **Cordérie Royale** (Rochefort, France), and **Comte Gilbert de Pusy La Fayette** of Paris, France, a direct descendant of the Marquis de Lafayette. Museum

staff worked very hard preparing loans and condition reports, and all members of the LNHMP team participated in the installation of the exhibit. The museum was honored to work with the internationally-known art handlers, André Chenue, S.A. and with professional preparators, curators, archivists, and librarians from several French and Louisiana institutions. The cultural and professional exchange with colleagues in France was extremely enriching and rewarding. *Lafayette: Legacy of a Hero* will be on display at the museum through August 31, 2008.

Another major initiative at LNHMP is the installation of the astronomical observatory. Physical Sciences and Planetarium Curator, **Dave Hostetter**; Assistant Planetarium Curator, **Charlotte Guillot**; and Museum and Planetarium Technician, **Dexter LeDoux** are very enthusiastic about the possibilities the observatory will open up for LNHMP. When the installation is finished, they will have a full-fledged solar observatory here in Lafayette. Many thanks to Dexter LeDoux for his hard work and dedication in installing the telescopes and infrastructure to make this project a dream come true.

LNHMP would also like to take this opportunity to welcome new Exhibits and Graphic Design Curator, **Kevin Krantz**, new Assistant Registrar, **Jessica Hornbuckle**, and our new Curatorial Intern, **Jaleh Kazemi**.

Mississippi  
**State Representative**

Marilynn Jones, Branch Director  
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**Tommie Rodgers, Lauren Rogers Museum of Art**, has spent the last few months creating a new disaster plan with the online database called dPlan. She and Curator **Jill Chancey** are framing and preparing the Japanese print collection for an upcoming exhibition and catalogue.

**Elizabeth Joyner, Museum Curator** at the **Vicksburg National Military Park**, reports that on February 27, they will have an exhibit crew on-site to install a fiber optic map and exhibit panels in the exhibit area of the park's main Visitor Center. The fiber optic map covers the 98 day long campaign from the time Grant departed Milliken's Bend through the Siege of Jackson. This is the completion of the final phase of a Visitor Center Exhibit Rehab project that has been in the works since 2005.

**Shelley Ritter**, Executive Director of the **Delta Blues Museum**, reports that she has been busy working with consultants for the planning of the museum expansion. The expansion will contain the *Muddy Waters Cabin* and new exhibits.

**Robin Person**, Executive Director of **Cottonlandia Museum**, and Secretary / Treasurer for the **Mississippi Museums Association**, announced that the recent MMA annual meeting was successful.

The pre-meeting workshop focused on collections care: *How to Take Care of the Art in Your Care*. The lecture and slide presentation contained an overview of collections care. It also covered the differences between restoration and conservation, what a professional conservator does, what to look for in caring for and maintaining collections, what you can do yourself and when to seek professional help. The workshop presenter was **Blake Vonder Haar**, President, Director and Conservator-In-Charge at the **New Orleans Conservation Guild, Inc.**, now the largest private conservation lab in the U.S. For eleven years, she has overseen 10 conservation departments and the intern and apprenticeship training program. She is an accomplished painting, object, and frame conservator who specializes in varnishes and the retouching of paintings, as well as their scientific analysis and diagnosis.

**Marilynn Jones**, Branch Director of the **Manship House Museum**, reports that the Manship House is preparing for subsequent accreditation. The Manship House Museum, currently the only accredited historic house in the state, will begin the self-study review in December. Collections Manager **Liz Payne** has been busy working in collections storage, conducting an inventory, and re-housing objects.

### North Carolina

#### **State Representative**

Susan Webster, Registrar/Textiles Curator  
Greensboro Historical Museum  
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[susan.webster@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:susan.webster@greensboro-nc.gov)

This winter **Cape Fear Museum of History and Science's** collections unit has put to work two undergraduate student interns from the University of North Carolina Wilmington's (UNCW) Anthropology Department. One student is interested in pursuing a career in either archaeology or museums and is helping out with object cataloging. The other student is slogging away at digital imaging. *Ocean: explore. discover.* opened to the public on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The exhibit runs until January 2009 and showcases the oceanographic research being conducted at UNCW's Center for Marine Science. "The exhibit also examines the ocean's impact on our region as well as our impact on the ocean."



*Christening Ceremony of the USS North Carolina SSN-777*

**Mary Ames Booker Sheret**, Curator of Collections for **Battleship NORTH CAROLINA**, reports that the Museum Department is developing a new exhibit on the new nuclear submarine, USS North Carolina SSN-777, which will be commissioned in Wilmington, NC, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This submarine is going into active US

Navy service. They have the submarine's bow flag from the christening ceremony and are creating a new exhibit around this flag. (The attached photo gives you an idea of size.) They are displaying only the painted canvas portion on a mount fabricated by Truelove Fabrications in Wilmington, NC. Controlling the natural sunlight from adjoining windows in the visitor's center is one of the issues they are tackling and are working with Visual Impressions located in Charlotte, NC, on solutions.

After over 15 years and two children later, **Lori Garst**, has taken on a new job at **Biltmore** as Curatorial Assistant. This position is part-time and will allow her to be at home for her children when they finish school! She is very excited about the change but will miss the camaraderie of the SERA group! **Laura Overbey** has been promoted to Collections Manager. Finally, please welcome to SERA **Lenore Hardin**. Lenore previously worked at Biltmore as the Collections Assistant/Conservation Technician and has been promoted to Associate Collections Manager. Lenore is originally from New York State and worked at the Adirondack Museum with Tracy Meehan.

The **Museum of Anthropology at Wake Forest University's** Registrar and Collections Manager **Kyle Elizabeth Bryner** reports that student workers started to organize and rehouse the museum's extensive archival collection. The museum hopes to receive a grant for an online database to expose its archival collections to a larger audience. Also the museum recently

opened a student curated exhibit entitled "Ties that Bind: Wedding Customs from Around the World" and it will be on display through May 9, 2008.

**The Mint Museum** Registration Department is thrilled to announce the completion of reconciliation of the first-ever comprehensive physical inventory. The project began July 2006, during which the Registration Department concentrated exclusively on the physical inventory of the permanent collection. **Martha Mayberry, Katherine Stocker, Eric Speer, Andrea Collins**, and **Kristen Watts** handled over 25,000 of the 32,599 items in the collection during July 2006 and have now reconciled each of those items individually. They will now conduct focused "spot" inventories monthly and conduct a comprehensive inventory every 10 years.



*The Mint Museum's Andrea Collins at the Super Bowl*

The Mint is also very excited that **Andrea Collins** is now working full-time as Registration / Photographic Services Assistant.

Andrea, a native of Wisconsin, attended the Super Bowl to support the Green Bay Packers—we love her in spite of the cheese hat!

## South Carolina

**NEW!!!**

### **State Representative**

Rachel H. Cockrell

Registrar

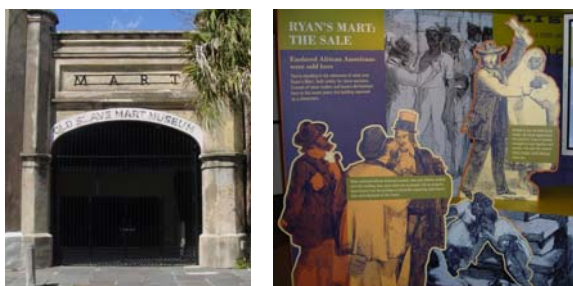
SC Confederate Relic Room &  
Military Museum

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Columbia, SC 29291

Phone: 803-737-8020

Email: [rcockre@crr.sc.gov](mailto:rcockre@crr.sc.gov)



*Images from the Old Slave Mart Museum in Charleston, SC*

Drawing upon the most contemporary scholarship, exemplary historical interpretation and rich collections which have been inaccessible for some time, Charleston's **Old Slave Mart Museum**, located at 6 Chalmers Street, reopened this past fall with permanent exhibits recounting the story of Charleston's role as an urban slave-trading center during the domestic slave trade. **Nichole Green**, Curator, **Old Slave Mart Museum** says the exhibits examine the daily processes of slave sales at

the former Ryan's Mart complex from the perspectives of a number of its historically documented buyers, traders, and enslaved African Americans as well as highlight the stories, contributions, and legacies of those whose agency shaped the outcome of this trade. Open Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm. 843.958.6467.

**Eleanor Wimett, Patriots Point Museum**, reports that the search for a new Executive Director for the museum continues. The initial search phase ended with application closure only on 8 February so it is likely to be some time before a result is announced. **Angela Kleinschmidt** has left the Collections Department to take up a position in Special Collections at the College of Charleston Library. Melissa has spent a majority of her time over the past couple of months accessing and creating finding aids for a large collection of archival material on Admiral James H. Flatley, Jr. and is now focusing on several hundred antique phonograph albums received from a South Carolina public radio station for use aboard the four historic ships at Patriots Point. Meanwhile Eleanor has been accessing and digitizing several large donations of World War II photographs and newsclippings as well as completing the transfer of the severely damaged components of a historic Air Force HOS3-1 helicopter to the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The **Sumter County Museum** is pleased to announce the donation of Governor John L. Manning's 1861 lithographic copy of the Ordinance of Succession. The do-

nor's family discovered the Manning lithograph during a 1962 renovation of the mansion at Milford Plantation. The lithograph is currently on display in the dining room of the Williams-Brice House. Another significant donation to the museum is the Esther Marion china, c1815. The china was owned by members of the Marion, DeVeaux, Singleton, and Barnwell families of Berkeley and Sumter Counties. **Rickie Good**, Curator of Collections, states that both donations greatly enhance the museum's collection and their ability to interpret the history of 19<sup>th</sup> century Sumter County.



*New Oversized Storage at the SC State Museum*

**Michelle Baker** at the **South Carolina State Museum** just added about 300 square feet of secured storage space by closing in an area using chain link fence. The new storage space will be home to large items such as a boat, a loom and a large piece of furniture. All items are on some sort of rolling device which

makes it easy to move them as needed. While this type of semi-open storage does not work for everything, it is an inexpensive way to store large, non-fragile items.

### Tennessee

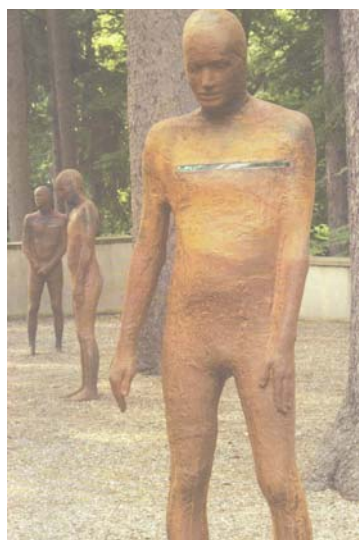
#### **State Representative**

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**Kip Peterson**, Collections Manager for the **Memphis Brooks Museum of Art**, writes that the museum has begun the search for a new Director. After nine years at the helm, former Director, **Kaywin Feldman**, became Director and President of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, minus her appendix! Ms. Feldman's last day at The Brooks was spent having an emergency appendectomy. She was out of the hospital the next day and on her way to snow country. The Brooks exhibitions staff is currently installing *Snap Judgments: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography*. Additionally, crates are being loaded for transportation to The Powerhouse in Sydney, Australia, which is the last venue for *Beyond the Maker's Mark: Paul de Lamerie Silver*, an exhibition organized by The Brooks. Meanwhile, the Registrars continue to accession the numerous artworks accepted into the collection during 2007.

The **Hunter Museum of American Art** in Chattanooga has recently been awarded

subsequent accreditation by AAM. Normally January and February are slow months at the museum but Registrars **Elizabeth Le** and **Theresa Slowikowski** have been especially busy during this time with the installation of four exhibits while trying to perform the annual permanent collection inventory. Theresa has become the rights and permission queen which is appropriate since she had to track down 65 images in one month! Also on the agenda, (1) the accessioning of approximately 300 works that the Hunter received from the estate of a regional artist and (2) the installation of *Charles Burchfield: The Seasons*, an exhibit organized by the Hunter of 31 watercolors and drawings which opens March 2.



*Sculptures by Steinunn Thorarinsdottir at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens*

The **Dixon Gallery and Gardens** in Memphis is beginning the reaccreditation process under the direction of its new director **Kevin Sharp**. Preparator **James Starks** has been feverishly working in

storage clearing out debris, unused items, old shelving and reorganizing casework storage. In addition, Registrar **Neil O'Brien** and James Starks are in the process of clearing out and reorganizing art storage. A recent addition to the exhibition schedule is an outdoor sculpture exhibit consisting of 12 450-lb. cast-iron and glass sculptures by Steinunn Thorarinsdottir that Neil O'Brien is making shipping and installation plans for a May 31<sup>st</sup> opening while also working on the annual inventory.

### Virginia State Representative

Andrea Hagy, Assistant Registrar  
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The **Muscarella Museum of Art, College of William and Mary** lost a beloved colleague and dear friend last summer. **John H. McIntyre**, head of exhibitions and operations, died suddenly and unexpectedly. Many members, College colleagues, board, faculty, staff, students and volunteers knew John as the go-to-guy who helped everyone with a smile. He loved the Museum, the College, and his many friends on campus. John was very dedicated and the museum owes him many thanks. He particularly liked the students who flocked to him to volunteer in the galleries or on exhibition projects. The museum is setting up a permanent memorial for John to benefit the many decades of

student interns and volunteers to come. For information on contributions, please contact the MMA at (757) 221-2710.

**Melissa Parris, Muscarelle Museum of Art, College of William and Mary,** reports the *PAINTING THE ITALIAN LANDSCAPE: Views from the Uffizi* is on view through March 23, 2008. This exhibition is of 44 paintings from the Uffizi Gallery of Florence, Italy. It illustrates the evolution of landscape painting in Italy from its early roots as background settings in paintings of the 1500s to its role as protagonist in paintings of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries; and from the early detailed pictorial representation of place to the illusion of landscape found in paintings of the early 1900s and onwards. The exhibition was curated by **Antonio Natali**, Director of the **Uffizi Gallery** and organized by the **Contemporanea Progetti**, of Florence, Italy, in association with the **Friends of the Uffizi** and the **Trust for Museum Exhibitions** of Washington, D.C.

**Andrea Hagy** reports that there are some very exciting things going on at the **Art Museum of Western Virginia**. Currently the museum is showing *Nashville Portraits: Photographs by Jim McGuire*, through March 23, 2008. This exhibition pays homage to Nashville's country music heritage through 60 black and white photographs of beloved artists such as Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, Waylon Jennings, and Bill Monroe.

The museum also recently announced that it will change its name to the **Taubman Museum of Art** when its new building

opens to the public in November of this year. The name change honors U.S. Ambassador to Romania Nicholas F. Taubman and Mrs. Eugenia L. Taubman and is in recognition of their lead gift of \$15.25 million to support the new Art Museum. The institution will adopt a new logo and graphic identity as well, which will be unveiled at a later date.

As of January, the new facility is ninety-five percent enclosed. Installation of the exterior zinc cladding on the north elevation is fifty percent complete and installation continues to move in a clockwise direction around the building. 'Hokie Stone' has been delivered to the site and its application will begin soon.

## HUNTINGTON T. BLOCK ...IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Huntington T. Block passed away peacefully on February 25, 2008. A native of Washington, D.C. he was a graduate of Princeton University. An insurance visionary, he founded his agency in 1962 and is accredited with crafting the first all risk fine art insurance policy shortly thereafter. Committed to the greater museum community he was a personal friend and mentor to an entire generation of registrars. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church.

He will be greatly missed throughout the museum community.

Recently, the new Art Museum received one of the prestigious *2007 American Architecture Awards* awarded by **The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design and Metropolitan Arts Press Ltd.** The American Architecture Awards honor and celebrate the most outstanding new accomplishments for architecture designed and built in the United States by leading American firms and international architecture firms practicing in the USA. The awards identify the new cutting-edge design direction, urban philosophy, design approach, style, and intellectual substance in American architecture today.

The next exhibition at **AMWV** will be called *Past, Present, Future*, and will examine the local public's response to the new facility.

**Rebecca Rose** reports that on February 2, 2008, the **Virginia Historical Society** opened *Sites and Stories: African American History in Virginia*. Another exhibition, *Moonshining in the Blue Ridge*, opens May 10, 2008. "Lee and Grant" is open at the VHS through March 31, 2008 and then will travel to the Missouri History Museum, opening there May 17, 2008. Go to [www.vahistorical.org/exhibits/main.htm](http://www.vahistorical.org/exhibits/main.htm) for more information.

### **West Virginia**

#### **State Representative**

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**Charles W. Morris III** at the **West Virginia State Museum** in Charleston has received an extensive gift of Kelly Axe Company artifacts from the 1950s. They were donated by Richard Marks on behalf of his father Berea Marks

of Charleston, who worked at the plant from 1952 to 1978. In the mid 1900s, Kelly Axe Company located on Patrick Street in Charleston, West Virginia was the largest manufacturer of edged tools in the world. The West Virginia State Museum is currently exhibiting *The Homer Laughlin China Company: West Virginia's Gift to the World*. The exhibit showcases some of the original Fiesta ware as well as new production lines. The exhibit also features "The Great Wall of China" which displays two hundred and twenty eight plates. The company located in Newell, West Virginia was once the largest producer of china in the world.

On view during the winter months at the **Huntington Museum of Art** is a grouping of American Impressionist paintings from the James A. Michener Art Museum Collection. The artists represented became known as the Pennsylvania Impressionists. The group worked as a colony beginning about 1898 along the banks of the Delaware River north of Philadelphia, centered in the picturesque village of New Hope, Pennsylvania, in Bucks County. Edward Redfield, Daniel Garber, Fern Coppedge, Robert Spencer, and John Folsbee are among the twelve artists in the exhibition.

**Linda Sanns** notes that warming the museum during these cold months are the vibrant colors of over 100 pieces of Blenko glass. *Blenko Glass: West Virginia's Gift to the World* was organized by Charles Morris of the West Virginia State Museum, along with Richard Blenko, fourth generation owner of Blenko Glass Company. The works range from the 1930s to the current day and include works by designer Winslow Anderson, who worked at Blenko from 1947 to 1953. Anderson passed away on December 10, 2007 and this exhibition is presented in his memory.

# SERA

## Southeastern Registrars Association

It's time to renew your membership for 2008. If you are interested in being more involved, let us know. Dues must be received before March 31, 2008 to assure listing in SERA's 2007/2008 Membership Directory

Visit the SERA website at [www.seregistrars.org](http://www.seregistrars.org)

### SERA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_ Yes, please add my e-mail to the RC-AAM listserve)

New member       Renewal

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO ALERT YOUR ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT THAT  
SERA'S BILLING ADDRESS HAS CHANGED!**

Please make your check for \$10.00 payable to SERA in care of:

Goldie T. Lanoux  
SERA Treasurer/Membership Officer  
The Historic New Orleans Collection  
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SERA Federal EIN#57-1102433



**SERA NEWS** is published quarterly by the Southeastern Registrars Association. The Southeastern Registrars Association (SERA) recognizes high standards of museum practice and fosters professional growth among museum registrars in the southeastern region of the United States. We promote the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas through education seminars, publications and other means. SERA initiates and supports activities and projects which help create an atmosphere of cooperation and communication among, and between, registrars, other museum professionals, and those in related fields, and pursues further development of professional practices in the field.

**Membership:** Individual membership (\$10.00) is open to museum professionals who perform registrarial functions for institutions in the twelve states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Associate membership is also available to those outside the region or those employed by for-profit businesses or organizations who express interest in the objectives of SERA.

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**SERA NEWS**

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