



Volume 49, Issue 3

Summer 2026

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SERA OFFICERS	
Chair: Tricia Miller	
Vice-Chair: Tre'Anna Stewart	
Secretary: Alyssa Mangnone	
Treasurer & Membership Chair: Miranda Helton	
Development Chair: Ainsley Powell	
Communications Chair: Sabra Gossett	
State Coordinator: Alex Alexander	
Scholarship Chair: Elizabeth Le	
Nominations Chair: Kimberly Terbush	

Notes from the Chair

Tricia Miller

Dear SERA Members,

On the UGA campus summer is known as road construction season. As the summer season winds down, we all watch the drama of road crews hustling to finish the work before 40,000 students descend onto campus. New roads and new students mark the coming of the Fall semester.

As we start the Fall season, just a quick reminder to renew your membership. SERA memberships expire on December 31, 2026, so please be thinking about your 2027 membership. We appreciate your support so much. Membership gives you access to a fabulous network of colleagues, the SERA newsletter, and eligibility for SERA scholarships. And not least of all, we want you to be eligible to attend the Registrar's Respite during SEMC. It will be a fun time!

Thank you to all members who voted in the latest election for SERA board members. I am happy to welcome the following new officers:

Secretary: Marianna Luquette
Communications Chair: Ella Sykes
Development Chair: Sabra Gossett

Thank you to Kim Terbush, SERA Nominations Chair, for her work putting together a fabulous slate of candidates and to all who threw their hat in the ring. I am excited to work with Marianna, Ella, and Sabra over the coming year.

SEMC is just around the corner and we have a great luncheon and business meeting, Respite, and Behind-the-Scenes tour planned. As a reminder, the **SERA Annual Meeting Luncheon** will be on **Monday, September 28** and the **SERA Respite** will take place at Butcher & Bull Steakhouse at the Marriott conference hotel at 425 N. Cherry Street on **Tuesday, September 29, from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM**. You will be able to RSVP and receive a wrist-band or lanyard for your drinks. Be on the lookout for the invitation to RSVP. The **SERA Behind-the-Scenes Tour** will be held at the Lam Museum of Anthropology at Wake Forest University on **Wednesday, September 30, from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM**. Bus transportation to and from the venue will be provided.

I look forward to seeing SERA members there!

All my best,
Tricia Miller

Greetings SERA Members,

I hope you all are having a wonderful summer and are getting excited for SEMC!

This year's conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is sure to be fantastic, and I can't wait to see you all there!

We still have 31 2025 members who have not yet renewed for 2026. If you would like to be eligible for participation in SERA activities at SEMC in September (including the Respite!), you must be a current member for this year, so please don't forget to renew.

As of August 12, 2026, SERA has 122 active members, down from 131 (-6.87%) this time last year.

As of August 12, 2026, the current balance in the Chase checking account is \$6,760.77.

The current balance in the PayPal account is \$6,098.36.

The combined total on-hand is \$12,859.13, up \$355.63 (+2.84%) from the \$12,503.50 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA's fiscal activity for January 1 – August 12, 2026 is outlined below.

Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Miranda Helton, Treasurer/Membership Chair

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Statement of Activity
January 1-August 12, 2026

	☺ Total
▼ Revenue	
▼ Donations	
Sponsorship	💎 3,000.00
Total for Donations	\$3,000.00
▼ Membership	
Associate	75.00
Individual	1,425.00
Institutional	525.00
Total for Membership	\$2,025.00
PayPal Sales	25.00
Total for Revenue	\$5,050.00
Gross Profit	\$5,050.00
▼ Expenditures	
Business Registration Fees	15.00
Dues, Fees, & Subscriptions	427.31
Other Business Expenses	600.00
PayPal Fees	149.99
Reimbursable Expenses	45.00
Respite	200.00
▼ Scholarships	
SEMC	1,800.00
Total for Scholarships	\$1,800.00
Total for Expenditures	\$3,237.30
Net Operating Revenue	\$1,812.70
Net Revenue	\$1,812.70

 Add note

Accrual basis | Wednesday, August 12, 2026 06:08 PM GMT-05:00

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Statement of Financial Position

As of August 12, 2026

	☺ Total
▼ Assets	
▼ Current Assets	
▼ Bank Accounts	
BUSINESS CLASSIC (3379) - 1	6,760.77
PayPal Bank	6,098.36
Total for Bank Accounts	\$12,859.13
▼ Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	75.00
Total for Accounts Receivable	\$75.00
▼ Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total for Current Assets	\$12,934.13
Total for Assets	\$12,934.13
▼ Liabilities and Equity	
▼ Liabilities	
Total for Liabilities	
▼ Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	11,150.36
Retained Earnings	-28.93
Net Revenue	1,812.70
Total for Equity	\$12,934.13
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$12,934.13

 Add note

Accrual basis | Wednesday, August 12, 2026 06:10 PM GMT-05:00

Membership

New* / Renewing Members

AL

*Melissa Sims, Curator**

Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute and Heritage Hall

FL

*Madeline Calise, Registrar and Collections Specialist**

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

*Ivy Johnson, Museum Specialist**

Marco Island Historical Society

Elise LeCompte, Retired

LA

Marianna Luquette, Registrar

LSU Museum of Art

NC

Ainsley Powell, Curator of Collections

City of Raleigh - Historic Resources and Museums Program

SC

*Kylie Barkley, Collections Manager**

Coastal Discovery Museum

TN

Elizabeth Le, Collections Manager and Registrar

Hunter Museum of American Art

New* / Renewing Associate Members

New* / Renewing Institutional Members

Member News

ALABAMA

Haley Aaron

Registrar

Alabama Department of Archives and History

The Alabama Department of Archives and History opened a new temporary exhibit in August. *Alabamians: Portraits of Our State* features examples of traditional portraiture, as well as advertisements, political ephemera, and informal photographs from the Archives' collections. The display includes Governor Kay Ivey's high school graduation portrait, on loan for the duration of the exhibit. The exhibit will remain on view until September 2027.

Alex Alexander

Collections Manager

Berman Museum - Anniston Museums and Gardens

We have officially (finally) moved into our new shelving system! This new system has allowed us to lay hands and eyes on every piece in the collection - a unique and fun opportunity! On top of this, having this system will help as we go up for our first attempt at AAM Accreditation next spring, so on to the next adventure!



Pamela Bransford

Registrar

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts hosted six interns this summer, two each in curatorial, operations, and learning and programs. In curatorial, Hannah Childers, a student at the University of Iowa and Alverine Merrill, a student at the University of Alabama, participated in the six-week paid internship program. Although Hannah and Alverine worked with the curators on content and label writing for an upcoming exhibition, they enjoyed iPad condition reporting and working with the preparator most of all and chose those two tasks for their final presentations. A highlight of their internship was getting to meet the interns at the Alabama Department of Archives and History and touring collections storage at both institutions. They saw the wide range of objects in each collection, from a Rembrandt etching, a Bill Traylor drawing, and a quilt made of men's ties by Alabama artist, Nora Ezell at the MMFA to the historic flag collection, Hank William's hats, and the portrait room at the Archives.



FLORIDA

Heather Culligan

Curator of Collections

The AGB Museum of Art at Florida Southern College

Over the summer, the AGB Museum of Art at Florida Southern College had five students participate in the museum's fellowship program. Three of those students worked in the Curatorial department with Curator of Collections Heather Culligan and Curator of Exhibitions Laura Putnam. The fellows worked on the annual collections inventory, upcoming exhibition design, and exhibition research. In addition, each fellow led a gallery talk for the public that focused on key exhibitions or key pieces from the museum's permanent collection. The museum is proud to offer the fellowship program as a paid summer job and learning experience for Florida Southern College students from all majors.

Heather Culligan, Curator of Collections, attended a provenance training certificate program over the summer held at the University of Denver. The program trained participants in provenance research, specifically focusing on Nazi-looted art, antiquities, archaeological objects, and Native American and Indigenous collections. With this training, Heather hopes to implement a provenance research program at the museum, focusing research efforts on 17th century European paintings and the Global Art collection. Provenance research will also become part of the exhibition planning

process when considering future loans and traveling exhibitions.

Finally, the AGB's Collections Committee approved several new acquisitions over the summer, including several photographs by Clarence John Laughlin, works by James Rosenquist, Elizabeth Murray, and Jennifer Bartlett, a porcelain vase by Chinese artist Li Hongwei, and the Notes on Sound twelve-print series by Romas Viesulas, to name a few.

GEORGIA

Erica Hague

Director of Archival & Museum Collections

Atlanta History Center

Atlanta History Center collections and exhibition staff are excited to share the opening of More Perfect Union which replaced our long-standing civil war and reconstruction exhibit, Turning Point. This new exhibit highlights a wide variety of archival and museum items, including several pieces that were conserved for this exhibit, like the Craney Island 'Contraband' camp flag, which took two years to complete. Associate Registrar, Jen Glaze, has been working alongside Erica Hague, Director of Archival & Museum Collections, to finalize the inventory of this new exhibit.



We have also been working on our IMLS grant, to digitize 1,000 museum items, with Inventory Assistant Olivia Davis working to inventory materials that then Project Registrar, Gabe Taylor completes contextual research around. One of the recent items that Gabe has completed is a matchbook for the Heart of Atlanta Motel, which was a pivotal part of the 1964 Supreme Court Case that ruled that hotels could not discriminate against guests based on race. This project will continue through the end of the year, items are all searchable online, and will be used in a variety of lesson plans for K-12 students.



We're all looking forward to a busy Fall, as we ramp up for four additional exhibit installations before the end of January 2027.

Christa McCay

Collections Manager

Marietta History Center/City of Marietta

The Marietta History Center has been moving through the summer with new donations to the collection. The Center also launched a new website that has been a long time coming. Collections Manager, Christa McCay, built and designed the site, since small museums means many hats!

Along with the website, Christa has been adding more artifacts to the online collection. The collection also went through its yearly deaccession process with over 400 items being removed from the collection. The majority of the items were sold at a public auction with the proceeds going back to the collections.

Tricia Miller

Interim Director/Deputy Director of Collections and Exhibitions and Head Registrar

Georgia Museum of Art

On August 8th, the Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia opened the exhibition Edmonia Lewis: Said in Stone. This exhibition highlights the work of a Black and Indigenous sculptor of the 19th century and her extraordinary works of art in marble. (image attached) Also, after the recent departure of the museum's director of three years, GMOA is launching a search for a new director. In the meantime, Tricia Miller, Deputy Director of Collections and Exhibitions, has been tapped to be the interim director.



KENTUCKY

Jennifer Spence

Parks Museum Curator

Kentucky Department of Parks

Jennifer Spence, Parks Museum Curator with the Kentucky Department of Parks, reports that it has been a busy season of inventory and collections work across several Kentucky State Parks.

One highlight this season has been working at the Kentucky River Museum at Fort Boonesborough State Park. The museum tells the story of life along the Kentucky River through the history of the Walters family, who lived in the former lockmaster's house for approximately 70 years. More than 200 objects in the museum's collection are associated with the Walters family and provide a glimpse into their everyday lives, including household furnishings, personal belongings, and photographs. Open seasonally, the Kentucky River Museum is a lesser-known gem within the Kentucky State Parks system.

Jennifer also spent time at the Pioneer Museum at Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park, where she worked on rehousing the museum's collection in storage. New shelving and archival supplies, generously provided through an America250KY grant administered by the Kentucky Historical Society, have made it possible to improve the organization and storage of the collection while providing better protection for the artifacts.

Kentucky State Parks is also celebrating the 100th anniversaries of three parks this year: Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Old Fort Harrod State Park, and Pine Mountain State Resort Park. On July 31, Old Fort Harrod State Park celebrated its centennial with a full day of presentations and activities. The park commemorates the 1774 settlement of Harrodsburg, one of the earliest Anglo-American settlements in Kentucky, and the anniversary provided an opportunity to celebrate the site's history and its continued role in interpreting Kentucky's past.

NORTH CAROLINA

Ainsley Powell

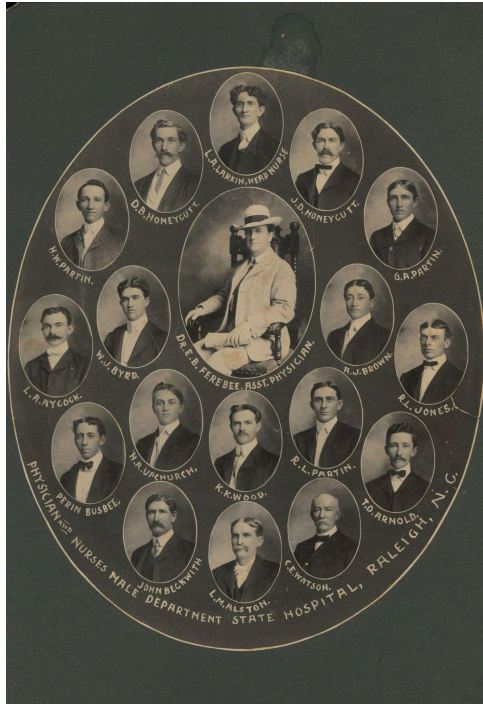
Curator of Collections

City of Raleigh Historic Resources and Museums (HRM) Program

Transitioned a former loan of more than 2,000 artifacts from South Park – East Raleigh Neighborhood Association to a gift which was also accepted into the HRM Program Collection. This greatly increases the items in the City's holdings which tell Raleigh's African American history. Cataloging this collection will continue at the John P. "Top" Greene African American Cultural Center later in the Fall 2026 for two years of renovations.

Additionally, there was an exciting addition to the HRM Program Collection which features Physician and Nurses Male Department for the State Hospital, now known as Dorothea Dix Park. This item is a rarity as there was very little saved over the years connected to staff or patients and the inclusion of images

with their names will greatly benefit future projects at the park.



Lastly, as of July 2026, there are more than 33,000 items published and searchable via the HRM Program's artifact online database.

VIRGINIA

Cathy DeSilvey

Registrar/Curator

Virginia Military Institute Museum System

The Hall of Valor at the Virginia Military Institute features over 1100 shadowboxes of medals, on display in our George C. Marshall Center for Leadership & Ethics. We would like to know the stories of each of these soldiers and are working on research/content for a "virtual" Hall of Valor on our webpage. I will be working with cadets to continue archival research on each of these alumni. It is a mammoth task, and something I am happy to be a part of as

the "other duties as assigned" part of my job.



Jill K. Harris

Museum Registrar

Virginia Museum of Natural History

Welcome to the newest member of the museum's Research & Collections team, Dr. Jackson Roberts! As the museum's new Assistant Curator of Herpetology, Jackson is set to play a leading role in researching reptiles and amphibians residing in the Commonwealth. With a particular interest in snakes and reptile parasites, Jackson completed his dissertation on the snakes of New Guinea at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, and he comes to VMNH by way of the Sternberg Museum of Natural History in Hays, Kansas, where he served as Zoology Collections Manager. We're excited to have Jackson as part of the Virginia Museum of Natural History team!





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 (\$25.00) 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, West Virginia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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.

Membership Contact:
SERA Treasurer/Membership Chair
Miranda Helton