Greetings! I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and looking forward to cooler fall days.

The Southeastern Museums Council conference in Northwest Arkansas is right around the corner. There’s a great slate of collections-related sessions and all of our SERA-sponsored events are back this year! The Registrars’ Respite will be Sunday evening after the welcome events. The SERA Business Luncheon will be on Tuesday and the Behind-the-Scenes Tour will be on Wednesday afternoon. I hope to see you there!

As you’re planning for SEMC, remember that SERA offers two SEMC travel scholarships of $750. Applications have been simplified to only require one letter of recommendation and the deadline to apply is August 17.

Each year at SEMC, SERA gives the Dan Silosky Award, which recognizes excellence in collections management and registration. Please consider nominating a colleague – this is a wonderful way to recognize a fellow collections professional and to share their accomplishments with the museum community. We’ll accept nominations until October 5.

We’ve created a short survey to gauge interest in some potential new member benefits. I hope you’ll take a few minutes to fill it out, whether or not you’re a member. The survey offers the opportunity to anonymously share comments and feedback with the SERA board.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who voted in our Bylaws changes. It may not be a very exciting project, but I wanted to make sure that SERA was operating according to our Bylaws. The updated Bylaws are now available on our website.

See you soon!

Corinne
Greetings SERA Members,
I hope you all are having a wonderful summer and staying as cool as you can (finally our frigid storage spaces pay off!). We have had a positive cash flow over the past several months and have also removed a monthly expense that was no longer needed.

A huge thank you to Jennifer Spence for using her ky.gov email address to help us reclaim our SurveyMonkey account! Once we were able to log in again, we cancelled the $99 monthly subscription that we had been paying for quite a while. We had used the service for elections, but there are free options available that we can utilize moving forward.

I would also like to extend our gratitude to Willis Towers Watson and Transport Consultants International for their ongoing support of SERA! Both companies provided a $1000 sponsorship this year that will be used to offset costs from the Registrar’s Respite in October as well as our other expenditures throughout the year. Thank you to Kali Mason for coordinating these sponsorships on SERA’s behalf.

As of July 31, 2022, SERA has 111 active members, down from 124 (-10.4%) this time last year. As of July 31, 2022, the current balance in the Chase checking account is $11,279.24. The current balance in the PayPal account is $2,850.79. The combined total on-hand is $14,130.03, up $28.88 (+0.2%) from the $14,101.15 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA’s fiscal activity for April 25, 2022 to July 31, 2022 is outlined below. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney, Treasurer/Membership Chair

**SERA Income/Expenses: April 25, 2022 - July 31, 2022**

**Opening Balance $12,436.33**

**Income**
- Membership renew/sales $250
- Sponsorships $2,000
- Amazon Smile $5

**Income total $2,255**

**Expenses**
- PayPal fees ($39.30)
- SurveyMonkey ($198)
- Wix (Website hosting) ($324)

**Expense total ($561.30)**

**Ending Balance $14,130.03**
Fellow basement dwellers,
It’s been a weird season, I hope that you’re doing well.

After five years I’ll be transferring the communications chair to another SERA member in October, and I wanted to thank you all for taking the time to send in a little news about what you’ve been up to in your corner of the world. It’s always wonderful to see what people are up to and what’s next across the Southeast. I’ve never met several of you but I feel like I’ve gotten to know a lot of you through the stories you’ve submitted.

After much tinkering and list making, I put together and launched the Career Resource page on our website. I hope that this mix of SERA job board, other places to search, and salary comparison tools is helpful in your career development goals. You might not see many jobs added to the board over the next few weeks as I’ll be out on vacation! I hope this won’t stop you from looking for and applying for those dream jobs when you see them though. Please don’t forget to fill out the survey for SERA as this helps us plan for future expansion and growth!

Speaking of growth… from May–July we saw 376 jobs and 13 paid fellowships/internships posted. This is similar numbers to what we saw last quarter with 361 jobs, although internships were a whopping 53 last quarter due to summer internships.

Stay well,
Erica
Alabama
Sarah Elizabeth Kelly
Associate Registrar
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

The MMFA has a new sculpture in its John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden! Got the Power: Montgomery by New York-based interdisciplinary artist Bayeté Ross Smith was constructed over the course of a week in May by the Museum’s preparation team with the help of the artist. Standing 14-feet tall and 8-feet wide, this monumental u-shaped tower is composed of around 300 vintage and new boomboxes. Imbedded in the sculpture are speakers which play a mix tape created by the artist of songs and stories collected from the citizens of Montgomery. The artist and the MMFA originally hoped to receive most of the boomboxes necessary for the project as donations from the public; however, when it became clear that relying solely on donations would leave the project short, Sarah Elizabeth Kelly quickly pivoted and sourced most of the used boomboxes on eBay. In one photo, Sarah Elizabeth stands next to a wall of boomboxes on the grass in the arrangement chosen by the artist; in the background MMFA preparators Brad Echols and Christen Napp, on the scaffolding, consult with Bayeté. The other two photos show Bayeté in front of the completed sculpture and a back view showing the steel grid built by Christen and Brad. Each of the boomboxes had to be screwed into the grid.

Pamela Bransford
Registrar
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Pam Bransford became a docent for one night only but she still got to wear her white gloves. The MMFA hosted a fundraiser called Art and
the Automobile in the museum’s sculpture garden. Local collectors were given the opportunity to display cars from their collection in exchange for a donation to the museum. These donations in addition to tickets sold raised $65,000 for the museum. Car docents were assigned one of 13 cars on display. As a member of the British Motoring Club of Montgomery and owner of a 1969 MGB, Pam chose the 1957 Jaguar XK140 fixed head coupe. The docents told fun facts about the cars and kept fingers and drinks off of expensive paint jobs.

SERA Alabama welcomes Paula Haymon who recently joined the Wiregrass Museum of Art as the new Collections Manager and Registrar. Paula spent 17 years at the High Museum of Art where she held multiple roles most recently as Associate Collections Manager. Her husband’s family lives in Dothan, so the move is a homecoming of sorts. Paula looks forward to overseeing the care, management, and use of the Wiregrass Museum of Art’s permanent collection, including works by modern masters such as Frank Stella, Josef Albers, and Alexander Calder as well as extraordinary examples of works by Alabama and regional contemporary artists, including Dale Kennington, Charlie Lucas, and Mose Tolliver. She will work closely with the Wiregrass Museum’s leadership on identifying and executing essential collection-based initiatives to ensure the highest level of stewardship of its permanent collection. Paula is excited to get to know the collections at the WMA as well as its staff and visitors.

Rose Wood
Registrar
Birmingham Museum of Art
Assistant Registrar Shelby Merritt has left her position at the Birmingham Museum of Art to become the associate registrar at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Haley Rutledge, who has held various roles at the BMA as a contract worker including research fellow, curatorial assistant, and registrar assistant, has been hired as the new assistant registrar. A paper conservator recently completed work on 16 works by Robert Motherwell in the permanent collection.

Haley Aaron
Registrar
Alabama Department of Archives and History
In June, the Alabama Department of Archives and History closed the temporary exhibition “Justice Not Favor: Alabama Women and the Vote,” the centerpiece in the department’s multi-year commemoration of the centennial of women’s suffrage. Developed and designed entirely by ADAH staff, Justice Not Favor explored the compelling story of the long fight to secure voting rights for women in the state. From the debate over the 19th Amendment through the modern Civil Rights era, the exhibition illuminated the lives and voices of Alabama suffragists across four generations, spanning nearly all of the twentieth century. The exhibition received the 2022 Award of Excellence presented by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

Paula Haymon
Collections Manager and Registrar
Wiregrass Museum of Art
Paula Haymon just completed the installation of the juried exhibition B22: Wiregrass Biennial which runs through September 24. Thirty-seven works from 38 artists were chosen out of a record number of applications. WMA’s call for artists began in December 2021 for submissions of original work completed within the last three years. The exhibition is a survey of works created by artists from across the Southeast region, and the group show strengthens the arts community in the Southeast by bringing regional emerging and established contemporary artists to a local Wiregrass audience.

Arkansas
Jennifer Kick
Collections Manager
Rogers Historical Museum

Arkansas

Jennifer Kick has been busy organizing storage and prepping for the last Rogers Explorers program of the summer, which invited kids to a behind the scenes tour of the museum. Kick taught the kids about the kind of work that happens in a museum that they don’t see, explained how some of our more unique items required special mounting techniques in order to display them, and gave them a tour of the collections storage. Looking to the future Kick is prepping for another behind the scenes tour: the SERA tour this October happening for the SEMC conference. She has also been focusing on regular cataloging of accessions.

Rachel Smith
Assistant Director/Curator of Collections
Rogers Historical Museum

The newest exhibit at the Rogers Historical Museum is “A Dash of Apple Vinegar”, which will run through the end of the year. It takes a closer look at the history of the apple and apple cider vinegar industry in Rogers and Northwest Arkansas, by showcasing a variety of items recently donated from the former vinegar factory. The major exhibit for the year, “Civil War in Benton County: Untold Stories”, opened in May and has been popular for its focus on the personal stories of the civilian experience during the war. The exhibit features the stories of specific Benton County residents, enslaved and free, men, women, and children who survived the Civil War in Benton County. The stories are interspersed with Civil War era documents, quilts, personal items, and a wall of

Witnesses to War

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Registrars Association
portraits. A new themed tour for the historic Hawkins house, "Back to School", will open in August and explores education and the varying opportunities available to students in the early 20th century. The constant changing of exhibits is providing an opportunity to update or add new photography to catalog records in the database, and will benefit the museum’s online collections website as staff work to make improvements over the coming months.

Amanda Cheatham
Registrar
Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College

Christian H. Cutler is the new Director of the Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College following the retirement of former Director Mary Kennedy. Cutler brings more than 23 years of combined private art gallery, museum, and university gallery experience from behind-the-scenes preparations for show openings, juried exhibitions, visiting artists, and fundraising, to managing overall operations of gallery exhibition programming, education, and design. He holds an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art. His experience includes gallery director for the University of Central Missouri, Stephen F. Austin State University, assistant to the director of the Sir Elton John Collection, and registrar’s assistant at the Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

The WMA next exhibit will be: Standing: Social Commentary in Contemporary Native American Art from the J.W. Wiggins Native American Art Collection, September 2 through December 2, 2022. Curated by Mary Kennedy and three students, it features 118 paintings, prints, drawings, collages, and sculptures created by 65 Native American artists.

Carolyn Reno
Collections manager/assistant director
Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

Carolyn Reno reports that collections staff and volunteers continue to process the Springdale Odd Fellow and Rebekah papers that were found in their old lodge building, now the Shiloh Meeting Hall on the campus of Shiloh Museum. Reno has also been taking in more donations this summer as activity begins to pick up after Covid lockdowns. The museum is preparing for the SEMC conference in Northwest Arkansas, October 22-26, 2022. Reno will prepare a project for the HHMAG Hands-On Help Off-site workshop session, October 24, 7:30-11 related to collections in the museum’s 1871 Searcy House.
**FLORIDA**
Heather Culligan  
*Curator of Collections*  
*Tampa Bay History Center*

The collections and curatorial staff at the Tampa Bay History Center have been busy in the exhibits world for several months. Cuban Pathways, a temporary exhibition exploring 500 years of Cuban history, opened in February. The exhibit includes over 100 artifacts, including a chug used by twelve people to travel from Cuba to Key West in September 2021. The exhibition highlights three Cuban individuals - Paulina Pedroso, an Afro-Cuban revolutionary, Rogelio Azorín, who arrived from Spain after the Spanish-Cuban-American War in 1898 and whose family established a manufacturing company, and Francisco Changsut, who emigrated from Canton, China to Cuba around 1900. Visitors can follow their pathways and experience their personal stories throughout the exhibit. Cuban Pathways runs until February 2023 and is available as a traveling exhibit.

Collections and curatorial staff are also in the process of planning exhibition renovations for the third floor permanent galleries. Working with Riggs Ward Design, the new third floor will include the addition of Travails and Triumphs, a permanent exhibition highlighting Tampa Bay’s black community. With over 100 objects, and counting, the new exhibit offers visitors a new experience and highlights untold stories from Tampa Bay’s history. Behind the scenes, Heather Culligan, Curator of Collections, continues to process new donations. Between regular donations and acquisitions for the third floor renovation, there is a steady stream of objects, photographs, and documents coming through the doors. The Touchton Map Library, which includes thousands of Florida maps and is the only cartographic center in the Southeast, recently acquired the first map showing St. Augustine, and specifically depicts Drake’s Raid. While a small map, its historical significance to Florida and cartography is great.

**KENTUCKY**
Chris Goodlett  
*Senior Director of Curatorial & Educational Affairs*  
*Kentucky Derby Museum*

This spring, the Kentucky Derby Museum unveiled artwork submitted to its first-ever Black Heritage in Racing Community Art Contest. Derby City Gaming, a subsidiary of Churchill Downs, Inc., awarded cash prizes to
the top four selections of this juried art contest. With the support of several community partners, contest entries were displayed throughout the city during the spring and summer of 2022. The Museum also unveiled its enhanced winner’s circle exhibit to the winning connections of Rich Strike, 2022 Kentucky Derby champion this summer. The winning team had a great time taking pictures of KDM’s own “Rich Strike” and celebrating their win once again by viewing the Museum’s feature exhibit, The Greatest Race.

Sandy Staebell
Registrar/Collections Curator
Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University
Conservator Dr. Margaret Ordonez evaluated 20 quilts for conservation needs as part of planning for an exhibit of the best of the best quilts scheduled to open in late summer 2023. The Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society, local arrangements coordinator for the 2023 American Quilt Study Group Seminar, has requested the use of The Kentucky Sun Quilt as a signature image in its marketing for the conference which will be held in Louisville, KY., in late September 2023.

LOUISIANA
Deborah Clifton
Former Collections Curator
Hilliard University Art Museum at UL Lafayette
The Hilliard University Art Museum at UL Lafayette has several upcoming and current exhibitions featured on their website. These exhibitions include:

Little Things: Drawings and Photographs by Fred Packard is a survey of works on paper by the beloved artist who founded the photography concentration in the Department of Visual Arts on the Campus of the University of Lafayette at Louisiana. The variety of media and subject matter on display parallels Packard’s varied life experiences and his appreciation of the entirety of his many intellectual pursuits being greater than the parts.

Twenty Years of Marais Press is a retrospective of the creative output of visiting artists’s printmaking collaborations within the Marais Press. Located in the Department of the Visual
Arts here on the Campus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the press has been led by Professor, Brian Kelly since 1999. During that time, Kelly and visiting artists have mentored students as they created hand pulled print editions. The Hilliard is honoring the amazing work of the Marais Press and the creative community it represents by providing scholarship about the artists who worked with the press, as well as crucial moments in the Marais Press’s history. We are able to do that because the Hilliard has acquired one print from nearly each edition produced over the years. Additionally, Twenty Years of Marais Press is honoring the Press’s apprentice-based learning mode by working with students and alumni on the exhibition to provide a rich learning environment similar to that of the Marais Press.

Deep Look is an intimate look at some of the finest works of art in the Hilliard Art Museum’s collection. This exhibition is also an important reflection of the Hilliard’s recent efforts to showcase new educational and interpretative strategies. Our new approach with additional labels, prompts, and language that is more accessible is meant to provide deeper insights into what visitors are seeing in our exhibitions.

Picture a Portrait features students’ explorations of what a portrait can look like and mean. The depictions will vary in style and media, but the uniting factor is the excellence reflected by the faculty and students working within LPSS Talented Visual Arts.

Shawne Major: Schema explores the artist’s use of everyday materials like lace, jewelry, plastic toys, and other baubles to create profoundly meaningful works of art. Her layered abstract compositions are metaphors for how culture and belief systems are constructed by individuals. Major believes each tiny moment during a lifetime accumulates to establish one’s sense of self, but there is also a communal element to what she is doing. This interplay between the self and society operates on compositional and material levels. Her compositions, like culture, are built from a rational, rule-based approach from which improvisation, growth, and even contradictions can emerge. Major’s work feels so evocative because this is how we all live our lives, and her use of repurposed objects speaks directly to this. Think about how the detritus that coalesced to form these works of art had a prior life. They have a story, symbolic value,
and fit together to create a sense of complexity on par with trying to quantify abstract concepts like the self or society. These concepts are very familiar but ultimately elusive. With this in mind, it is fitting that the exhibition title Schema refers to a plan or theory with an internal logic. This implies that the accumulation of the experiences Major obliquely refers to have an internal logic that is not random and raises philosophical questions about spirituality, institutions, the self, and the agency of people. The Hilliard’s atrium is the perfect location to explore these ideas because Major’s interests are broadly thematic and composed of tiny inter-related pieces. Specifically, the huge volume of space the atrium offers adds another layer to the metaphors at play, by elevating the work above visitors’ heads and revealing how interrelations between individual works can expand on the narratives at play within those that are grouped together.

Dr. Jennifer Hargraves  
Director  
Lafayette Science Museum - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette will now operate the Lafayette Science Museum in partnership with Lafayette Consolidated Government. Under terms of the agreement announced in July, the educational facility will be renamed the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Science Museum. UL Lafayette’s plans for the downtown museum include expanded, cross-disciplinary exhibitions, enhanced programs and resources to engage learners of all ages, a café, and a gift shop. The museum plans to develop new exhibits from the College of Sciences’ other disciplines, such as Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics. In addition to providing the dynamic exhibits our visitors are accustomed to seeing in the museum, we plan to offer programs and resources to deliver science for everyone. The partnership between the University and LCG is an opportunity to promote scientific learning and foster curiosity in our community and beyond.

The Museum, operating under the University, reopened its doors in mid-July and is offering numerous exhibits, as well as daily planetarium shows. Some exhibits include Louisiana Weather, Crawl Space: World of Entomology, The Digital Divide: The Evolution of Fingers and Toes, and the Natural Born Killers dinosaur exhibit.
North Carolina
Corinne Midgett
Registrar
High Point Museum
In May, the High Point Museum welcomed its first summer intern since 2019! Erica Ragan is a graduate student in public history at UNC-Greensboro. She spent several weeks in May and June working with registrar Corinne Midgett on a collection of materials from Highland Mill Village Neighborhood History Room. Highland was a small mill village for employees of Highland Cotton Mill in southwest High Point. The neighborhood continues to have a strong identity, although few mill employees remain. For over a decade, a small group of residents organized village reunions and collected stories, photographs, and other items from mill employees and village residents. The museum acquired the collection in 2020. Erica organized and processed the collection, which included tricky items like posterboard collages and many photocopies and duplicates. With Corinne and curator Marian Inabinett, Erica planned and hosted an identification day with several village residents, which resulted in almost complete identification of all the images in the collection. You can read more about Erica’s internship on the museum’s blog.

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
Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney