

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Registrars Association

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SERA OFFICERS

Chair:

Corinne Midgett

Vice-Chair:

Jennifer Spence

Secretary:

Alyssa Magnone

Treasurer/ Membership Chair:

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney

Development Chair:

Ainsley Powell

Communications Chair:

Sabra Gossett

State Coordinator:

Deanna Taylor

Scholarship Chair:

Elizabeth Le

Nominations Chair:

Christy Sinksen

Notes from the Chair

Corinne Midgett

Greetings! I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and finding ways to stay cool.

The Southeastern Museums Council conference in Louisville, KY, is a little later than usual (November 13-15), but it's still coming up quickly. There's a great slate of collections-related sessions and the Respite is going to be amazing this year! The SERA Business Luncheon will be on Tuesday and the Behind-the-Scenes Tour will be on Wednesday afternoon at the Filson Historical Society. I hope to see lots of you there!

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 2.

As most of you probably know, the Collections Stewardship professional network of AAM was dissolved, along with all the other professional networks, in May. The regional collections organizations, like SERA, were loosely affiliated with CS-AAM and participated in board meetings a few times a year. Recently, the regional chairs have reconnected to discuss mutual concerns and the importance of continuing to work together. I'm excited to see where that leads.

If you're looking for a way to become involved with SERA and the wider museum community, serving on the SERA board is a great way to give back, meet colleagues, and advance your career. This year, we're electing a chair, vice chair, and treasurer/membership chair. You can nominate yourself or a colleague by emailing Christy Sinksen by September 25. If you have any questions about serving on the board, please reach out to me or Christy and we can give you more information.

See you in November!

Corinne

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Would you like to...

BUILD YOUR RESUME?

STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP SKILLS?

ACTIVELY DEVELOP YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER?

EXPAND YOUR NETWORK?

MAKE NEW CONNECTIONS?

Dear SERA Members,

In preparation for the upcoming election on October 2, the SERA Nominations Committee is now accepting your nominations for three SERA offices that will be coming open this fall. As the heading above promises, this is a unique opportunity to actively participate in the SERA organization, network with fellow registrars, and gain valuable professional experience. You are invited to take a minute or two to consider the offices below. Would you like to join our leadership team?

This year, SERA will hold elections for the following three offices:

Chair

Vice Chair

Treasurer/Membership Chair

Joining SERA's board in any officer position is an effective means of becoming known in our field and can serve as a building block for leadership positions in professional organizations at the regional and national level. Service as a SERA officer also provides opportunities to develop new skills that complement and expand upon those used in one's day-to-day work. Fellow SERA board members provide a network of supportive colleagues with a valuable knowledge bank.

No previous experience as a SERA officer is required to be a nominee; one must only be a current (dues-paid) member of SERA. Former and current SERA officers are also invited to offer their nominations. However, officers may not run for more than two consecutive elected terms for currently-held offices.

The above offices are for a two-year term that begins immediately following the SERA business meeting at which the new officers will be announced. This year's business meeting will be held during the SEMC Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, November 13-15.

We look forward to hearing from you! Please email your nominations to Christy Sinksen at csinksen@uga.edu, Kim Terbush at kimmegt@gmail.com, or Cheryl Waldrep at Cheryl_Munyer@nps.gov.

If you wish to nominate yourself, you need only submit your name, a brief bio, and the SERA office in which you are interested. We also welcome any questions you might have.

The deadline for nomination submissions is MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023.

Thank you, and best wishes,
SERA Nominations Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT

KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

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 are in a strong financial position for this year as we move into conference season.

We still have 37 2022 members who have not yet renewed for 2023. If you would like to be eligible for participation in SERA activities at SEMC in November, you must be a current member for this year, so please don't forget to renew.

As discussed in the Winter Newsletter, Amazon Smile is no more. We received a final lump sum payment of \$10.62, bringing our total payout this year to \$15.62. Thank you to everyone who used this method to support SERA over the years!

We have also awarded both of our SEMC Travel Scholarships. Congratulations to Marianna Luquette – our Emerging Professional recipient! I am honored to have been selected as the recipient for the Seasoned Professional scholarship. Please keep an eye on our social media and website throughout the year; we also offer scholarships for the AAM and ARCS conferences and I love to write checks to our members.

As of July 27, 2023, SERA has 117 active members, up from 111 (+5.4%) this time last year.

As of July 27, 2023, the current balance in the Chase checking account is \$12,436.03. The current balance in the PayPal account is \$1,047.28. The combined total on-hand is \$13,483.31, down \$646.72 (-4.58%) from the \$14,130.03 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA's fiscal activity for January 1 – July 27, 2023 is outlined below. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney, Treasurer/Membership Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Statement of Activity
January 1 - July 27, 2023

	TOTAL
▼ Revenue	
▼ Donations	
Amazon Smile	15.62
Total Donations	15.62
▼ Membership	
Associate	50.00
Individual	1,175.00
Institutional	375.00
Student	15.00
Total Membership	1,615.00
Total Revenue	\$1,630.62
▼ Expenditures	
Business Registration Fees	15.00
Dues, Fees, & Subscriptions	43.99
PayPal Fees	81.27
Respite	530.00
▼ Scholarships	
SEMC	1,500.00
Total Scholarships	1,500.00
Total Expenditures	\$2,170.26
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -539.64
NET REVENUE	\$ -539.64

TREASURER'S REPORT

KAITLYN HOF-MAHONEY

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Statement of Financial Position

As of July 27, 2023

	TOTAL		
	AS OF JUL 27, 2023	AS OF JUL 27, 2022 (PY)	% CHANGE
▼ ASSETS			
▼ Current Assets			
▼ Bank Accounts			
BUSINESS CLASSIC (3379) - 1	12,436.03	11,279.24	10.26 %
PayPal Bank	1,047.28	2,850.79	-63.26 %
Total Bank Accounts	\$13,483.31	\$14,130.03	-4.58 %
▼ Accounts Receivable			
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00		
Total Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Current Assets	\$13,483.31	\$14,130.03	-4.58 %
TOTAL ASSETS	\$13,483.31	\$14,130.03	-4.58 %
▼ LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Total Liabilities			0.00%
▼ Equity			
Opening Balance Equity	11,150.36	11,150.36	0.00 %
Retained Earnings	2,872.59	1,276.58	125.02 %
Net Revenue	-539.64	1,703.09	-131.69 %
Total Equity	\$13,483.31	\$14,130.03	-4.58 %
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$13,483.31	\$14,130.03	-4.58 %

Accrual basis Thursday, July 27, 2023 01:11 PM GMT-04:00

MEMBERSHIP

NEW* / RENEWING MEMBERS

Florida

Austin Bell
Curator of Collections, Marco Island
Historical Society

Bridget Bryson*
Director of Curatorial Affairs, Museum
of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg

Laura Dello Russo
Registrar, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Heather Otis
Collections Manager, Marco Island
Historical Society

Rachel Rydquist*
Associate Registrar, Museum of Fine
Arts, St. Petersburg

Courtney Toelle*
Curatorial and Registration Assistant,
Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg

Kentucky

Leah Craig
Manager of Collections, National
Corvette Museum

Jennifer Spence
Parks Museum Curator, Kentucky
Department of Parks

Mississippi

Cheryl Munyer Waldrep*
Museum Curator, Natchez National
Historical Park

North Carolina

Saskia Lascarez Casanova*
Museum Administrator, NC Museum
of Dolls, Toys & Miniatures

**New* / Renewing Institutional
Members**

LSU Museum of Art
Clarke Brown, Curatorial Fellow*
Marianna Luquette, Museum
Registrar*
Travis Pickett, Preparator and Exhibit
Designer*
Michelle Schulte, Chief Curator and
Director of Programs

Tennessee State Museum
Ed Dismukes, Executive Assistant,
DHSMC Liaison
Brad Kaven, Registrar
Nicole Nomany, Assistant Registrar
TréAnna Stewart, Curatorial
Assistant
Caleb Williams, Curatorial Assistant

SERA NEWS

ALABAMA

Haley Aaron*Registrar***Alabama Department of Archives and History**

In June, Haley Aaron attended the History Leadership Institute, a four-week intensive training program sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History.

Haley and Assistant Registrar Mary Taylor Peake spent the summer returning loans from the temporary exhibit Alabama Radio Moments, which closed in May 2023, and receiving loans for an upcoming exhibit on Rosenwald schools opening in September 2023.

Pamela Bransford*Registrar***Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts**

SERA Alabama's loss is SERA Virginia's gain. Sarah Elizabeth Kelly, former associate registrar has a new job. She is the director of collections management at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News. She has gone from working with a collection of 4500 objects to over 30,000. She will soon have two collection technicians in her department. Everyone has been very welcoming and Sarah Elizabeth has especially enjoyed being able to seek the advice of a full staff of conservators on site. They even have a cold storage room. One of her tasks will be to research a new database for the collection. Sarah Elizabeth spent nine years in the registration department at the MMFA and will be greatly missed. As a parting gift she received the registrar's best friend, a flashlight!

Rose Wood*Registrar***Birmingham Museum of Art**

The Birmingham Museum of Art is traveling their recent exhibition, "Expanding Darshan: Manjari Sharma, To See and Be Seen," which consists of thirty-one Asian sculptures from the museum's collection and photographs by contemporary artist Manjari Sharma concerning nine Hindu deities to the Phoenix

Museum of Art from December 16, 2023, to April 14, 2024. Rose is currently working on crating needs. Additionally, the BMA hosted Julia Burtenshaw, associate curator, Art of the Ancient Americas department at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for a curatorial consultation on the reinstallation of the BMA's Pre-Columbian material.

ARKANSAS

Rachel Smith*Assistant Director/Curator of Collections***Rogers Historical Museum**

The Rogers Historical Museum is beginning the reaccreditation process which will span the next year. Days will be filled with reviewing policies, completing projects in collections storage, and assessing the state of collections. In the meantime, a new Toys exhibit has been hugely popular, thanks to its opening the same weekend as the Barbie movie. In November, we look forward to showing a traveling exhibit from ExhibitsUSA, Working America, a photography exhibit highlighting the immigrant experience. The museum is partnering with the Ozark Literacy Council to add local context through stories and objects provided by their English language students. We are hopeful about this partnership and look forward to better integrating the immigrant story of NWA into our permanent exhibits in the near future. While preparing for a glassware exhibit next year, the museum also made the fun discovery of a variety of uranium glass in our collections. They were excited to make this discovery and will have fun planning how to best display our glass collections in the gallery.



FLORIDA**Heather Culligan***Curator of Collections***Tampa Bay History Center**

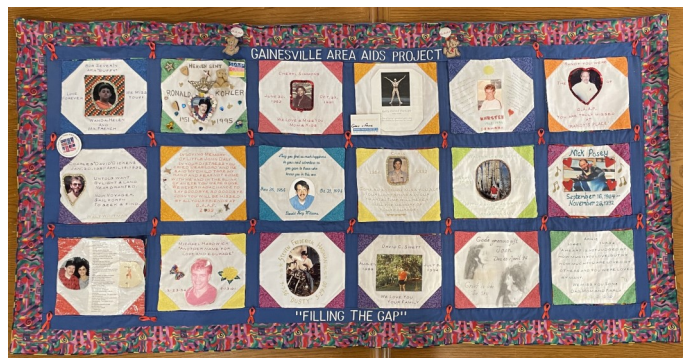
After opening the third floor gallery renovations in June, Heather Culligan, Curator of Collections at the Tampa Bay History Center, has happily returned to doing the day-to-day of collections work! The first task, and continues to be ongoing, is to find homes in collections storage for the 300 items removed from the third floor. Most of the items have catalog records, but not surprisingly, several of the objects were never cataloged and now need brand new records. Finding space in collections for these items has been an interesting and challenging exercise in creativity, but a good one, as it has made Heather realize that many boxes and drawers can be reconfigured to store more objects.

Heather has also been working on cataloging the backlog of new donations, several of which have come in the last year, but were on hold due to the third floor renovations. She recently cataloged military documents from John Stanton Jackson who served in the Seminole Indian Wars and the Civil War, and cataloged ceramic pieces recovered from Fort Dade on Egmont Key from the late-19th century. Heather also rehoused previously cataloged objects, and designated a special storage area for rolled photographs and documents needing flattening. The Tampa Bay History Center also finalized the acquisition of over 5,000 historic postcards depicting scenes from the Tampa Bay area. The Reddick Collection, as it will be known, was the work of Richard D. Reddick, Jr. over a 30 year period. Attending postcard shows and perusing the internet, he created an extensive collection of rare and historic postcards that show incredible early scenes of Tampa and Florida history. Processing over 5,000 postcards will take time, but it will be the next big collection Heather will catalog over the next several months.

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney & Chloe Richardson
Matheson History Museum

The Matheson History Museum in Gainesville, Florida is pleased to announce the acquisition of a large archive of materials from the Pride Community Center

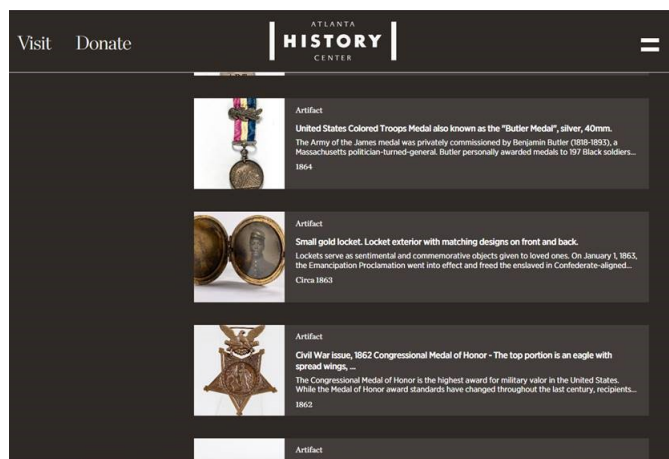
of North Central Florida. This archive documents LGBTQ+ history in our area and is a huge step forward in documenting the histories of underrepresented people in our community. The PCCNCF archive includes papers relating to historical local LGBTQ+ groups, including the papers of the Gainesville Area Aids Project and the AIDS memorial quilts created by their members in the 1990's. We look forward to researchers using this archive and hope to share these collections in our exhibits in the future.

**GEORGIA****Erica Hague***Collections Manager***Atlanta History Center**

Our ongoing digitization project of museum materials has picked up steam. Our Project GRAs, Deb Wold and Jess Landers, have continued to make headway in the inventory portion, and have completed updating nearly 2,000 records. Jen Glaze, Project Registrar, has cleared 350 items updated with context added to the records. The inventory will be complete in December 2023, and the Registration portion will be completed in Spring, 2024. Our goal is 1,000 records made web ready. We are completing the photography portion on a rolling basis and released our first 50 or so records in conjunction with the federated search launch. A screenshot of some of our newest records, focused on the USCT are below, as accessible through our new federated search found here (<https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/learning-research/search-the-collections>)

This new search tool, made possible by a grant via the Bloomberg Foundation, allows us to keep our various backend databases and have the public have one access point for them all. Of course, this means

that the 350+ records that were made web ready in the past now also need to be brought in line with our new standards, which I am working on slowly. We hope to reapply in the fall for an IMLS grant to continue this work in conjunction with topics covered in our traveling trunks.



We have also been busy with exhibits this summer. We opened "The Road to Good Taste" in June and at the beginning of August will open "Emmett Till & Mamie Till-Mobley: Let the World See," a travelling exhibition that will be with us through September 16th. Work is also underway to install our new exhibit at our Midtown Campus on Margaret Mitchell, which should open this winter. We are also preparing to deinstall one of our longtime exhibits, "Shaping Traditions," early next year—after a 20+ year run! Hope to see you all in Louisville for SEMC! A group of us Georgians have a great roundtable prepared on preserving institutional knowledge.

Christa McCay

Collections Manager

Marietta History Center, City of Marietta

The Marietta History Center has had a quiet summer, which for collections is always nice. We have had the quiet ended with the renovation of our first-floor bathrooms. These bathrooms, which haven't seen a major renovation since 1979, will finally become fully ADA compliant! Luckily, this renovation work does not affect the gallery spaces or collections storage. Work has begun with National Pan-Hellenic Council of Cobb County, to curate an exhibit on the Divine 9 within Cobb County. This exhibit will showcase arti-

facts and will reflect the history of each organization. Along with work on this exhibit, the MHC is working on an in-house exhibit exploring our large fashion collection.

KENTUCKY

Hannah Mahnken

Registrar

Kentucky Historical Society

The Kentucky Historical Society opened a new exhibit spotlighting Kentucky's Women Veterans, Our Stories, Our Service, on June 10th. The display highlights women's stories through their belongings, oral histories, and experiences. Included is a timeline, recruiting office, statistic wall, and a video on the first all-female Honor Flight from Kentucky.



We recorded reflections of women veterans who could attend the opening: "To finally be honored... because most of us women that have gone, we really don't think anything of it. We just do what we did and go on about our lives. Then to have this happen and the Honor Flight happen it just took us aback. Like oh, wow, we really did that."

Jennifer Spence

Curator

Kentucky Department of Parks

Jennifer Spence, Curator, reports that Kentucky State Parks finished several collections projects in the past few months. The Pioneer Museum in Carlisle, KY, received its final report from assessors hired through the Collections Assessment for Preservation Program. The museum's assessors were Mary Jablonski of Jablonski Building Conservation, Inc. (New York, NY) and Heather White, Owner and Principal Conservator of LYLC Studio (St. Louis, MO). Jennifer and the staff at the Pioneer Museum are collaborating to carry out the conservators' recommendation. She and museum staff will check-in with their assessors in June 2024 to update the assessors on their progress. Jennifer recommends the CAP Program to any small or mid-size museum seeking a general conservation assessment or a re-CAP for those museums, which may have had an assessment in the past, but would like another evaluation years after their initial assessment.

Another significant program completed this season was building and artifact cleaning at Lincoln Homestead State Park in Springfield, KY. On park property are replicas cabins of Thomas' boyhood cabin and carpenter/blacksmith shop and the 18th century cabin where Nancy Hanks, Abraham's mother, lived as a young woman. That cabin, known as the Berry House, was moved to Lincoln Homestead State Park in the early 1940s. Jennifer worked with SERVPRO as they cleaned the ceilings, walls, and floors of the buildings. SERVPRO did not use chemicals to clean the cabins. After SERVPRO completed their work, Jennifer cleaned artifacts by HEPA vacuuming and dusting only. The park is developing and implementing a housekeeping plan, schedule, and checklists to maintain a clean environment in the cabins.

Kentucky State Parks are working on several collections projects, such as exhibit lighting at John James Audubon State Park, inventory at Waveland State Historic Site, and digitizing records at the central office in Frankfort.

Sandy Staebell

Registrar/Collections Curator

The Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University

IMLS has awarded it a grant for \$37,000 to help it rehouse its 330+ quilt collection. The funding will underwrite the purchase acid-free boxes, tissue, and shelving as well as relocate and merge storage of all large flat textiles into a single location at the Kentucky Museum. This project is part of a larger study that is evaluating the use of spaces vacated by Library Special Collections after its move this summer to the main library building on the campus of Western Kentucky University.

MISSISSIPPI

Cheryl Waldrep

Museum Curator

Natchez National Historical Park

Museum Curator Cheryl Waldrep reports that Natchez National Historical Park hosted two curatorial interns this summer who have participated in a variety of helpful projects including inventory, rehousing boxed objects, environmental monitoring such as light readings, data logger collection, and integrated pest management. Francis Harte came to the park from New York and Kristyn Merritt is local to Natchez, Mississippi. Both are part of the American Conservation Experience Cultural Resources



Diversity Internship Program and have been an awesome addition to curatorial staff this summer. The park will be announcing permanent curatorial positions in the coming months.

NORTH CAROLINA

Corinne Midgett

Registrar

High Point Museum

The High Point Museum's Summer Collections Management Intern, Bonnie Showfety, is wrapping up her project in early August. Bonnie has spent the summer conducting oral history interviews with residents of Highland Mill Village, a National Register district and former cotton mill village. Bonnie has used the interviews and other items from the museum's collection to create a walking tour of the neighborhood for the museum's STQRY app. A highlight of the summer was taking a tour of the former mill complex, now used by Cisco Home to manufacture and distribute furniture. Bonnie is a graduate of High Point University and works at the North Carolina Transportation Museum. Registrar Corinne Midgett has really enjoyed working with Bonnie and wishes her well as she starts graduate school this fall!



VIRGINIA

Cathy DeSilvey

Registrar/Curator

VMI Museum System at Virginia Military Institute

This summer, the Virginia Military Institute Museum welcomed intern Sophie Levengood, a rising Clark University sophomore double-majoring in Art History and History. Sophie conducted archival research this summer on the 117 plaques in VMI's Memorial Garden. Sophie's research will allow us to generate a searchable database on the VMI Museum webpage, where people can read biographies of each of the fallen. Sophie also began the process of accessioning and numbering artifacts as part of the internship. We are inspired by her enthusiasm for museums and look forward to seeing where it takes her!



Like us on
Facebook and LinkedIn!

Check out our Job Board, updated weekly,
at
seregistrars.org/career



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