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GHRAC AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED

Christopher Davidson, State Archivist/Assistant Vice Chancellor; Dr. Ashwani Monga, Executive Vice Chancellor, University System of Georgia; Julie Walker, Vice Chancellor Libraries and State Archives, University System of Georgia; in addition to Dr. Toby Graham, Chair, Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC); and the entire GHRAC board, with the support of the National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC), recognized the GHRAC Award winners during the twenty-first annual awards ceremony, held at the Georgia Archives on Tuesday, October 24, 2023. The GHRAC Awards recognizes outstanding efforts in archives and records work in Georgia.

2023 GHRAC Award Winners

Award for Local History Advocacy



Dr. Alvin Jackson, Willow Hill Heritage Community Center, for “If These Cemeteries Could Talk” project

Willow Hill Heritage Community Center, under the leadership of Dr. Alvin Jackson, is making great strides in developing a legacy of excellence and pride. The center has digitized over 1800 obituaries, obtained over 1600 bulletins, and has a wide variety of exhibits including a 44th Presidential collection.

Dr. Jackson attends funerals regularly to share an overview of community members' lives and the contributions they have made. With over 500 personal recordings of elderly community members, the story of Willow Hill will live on. The Center is open for community use and is a Beacon of Light for the community.

Earlier this year, the center started hosting 5th Sunday Old Time Gospel open mic to give the community an opportunity to come together in a wholesome and clean environment and showcase the vast talents that are within the area.



Tina Harris, Laurie Anderson, and Melissa Mitchell for “Jackson County’s Hidden History Project”

The University of Georgia’s Hargrett Library holds thousands of records from the Jackson County Courthouse dating from 1787 to 1924. Historically, these documents were described only briefly at the collection level and arranged simply by date range.

In late 2021, Tina Harris approached the library with a project idea to create an item level inventory and to begin a digitization project for inclusion in the Digital Library of Georgia.

The project began with ten volunteers, and while some have left the project and others have joined, the core group of Harris, Laurie Anderson, and Melissa Mitchell have made significant headway.

Over the past year and half, these volunteers have developed description standards and guidelines in partnership with library staff, completed case level description for 3,376 court cases and secondary quality control checks of the descriptions, trained on digitization procedures, and scanned 6,231 pages.

Currently, the project is a third complete with a goal of wrapping up in late 2024. The first round of digitized items will be added to the Digital Library of Georgia in late 2023.

Award for Archival Program Development by or in a Historical Repository or Local Government



Athens-Clarke County Library for the Athens Community Web Archive

Since October 2017 the Athens-Clarke County Library Heritage Room has developed and maintained a local web archive. Over 480 websites have been selected, described, and made available in archival form via Archive-IT. Among the institutions represented by these websites are churches, museums, music venues, restaurants, citizen advocacy groups, festivals and similar events, elected officials, non-profits, and authors. Through the process of collecting online

content, the Heritage Room has embarked on a new way of documenting the contemporary Athens community.

The Heritage Room team solicit suggestions from the community to incorporate community-driven material into the archive. The team was able to capture online sources reflecting real-time, local responses to the uncertain situation created by the Covid-19 health crisis.

With teamwork, dynamic partnerships, and community participation they have successfully built a sustainable web archive collection, the first of its kind in the state of Georgia.



Augusta Genealogical Society for the book *Slave Index of Richmond County, Georgia, Superior Court Records, Slave Importation Affidavit registers, 1818-1854*

To highlight unique and sometimes overlooked records pertaining to African American research, the Augusta Genealogical Society embarked on a five-year project to digitize and transcribe extant Richmond County, Georgia Slave Importation Affidavits.

In 1818, the Georgia Legislature passed a law which mandated slaves that were brought into the state had to be registered with the local authorities, in this case the Richmond County Superior Court. Owners or their representatives were required to swear in front of the court clerk, at a minimum, the number of individuals that were being transported into Georgia. Very few of the ledgers remain. Only 10 Georgia counties have partial records – nine of the counties have been

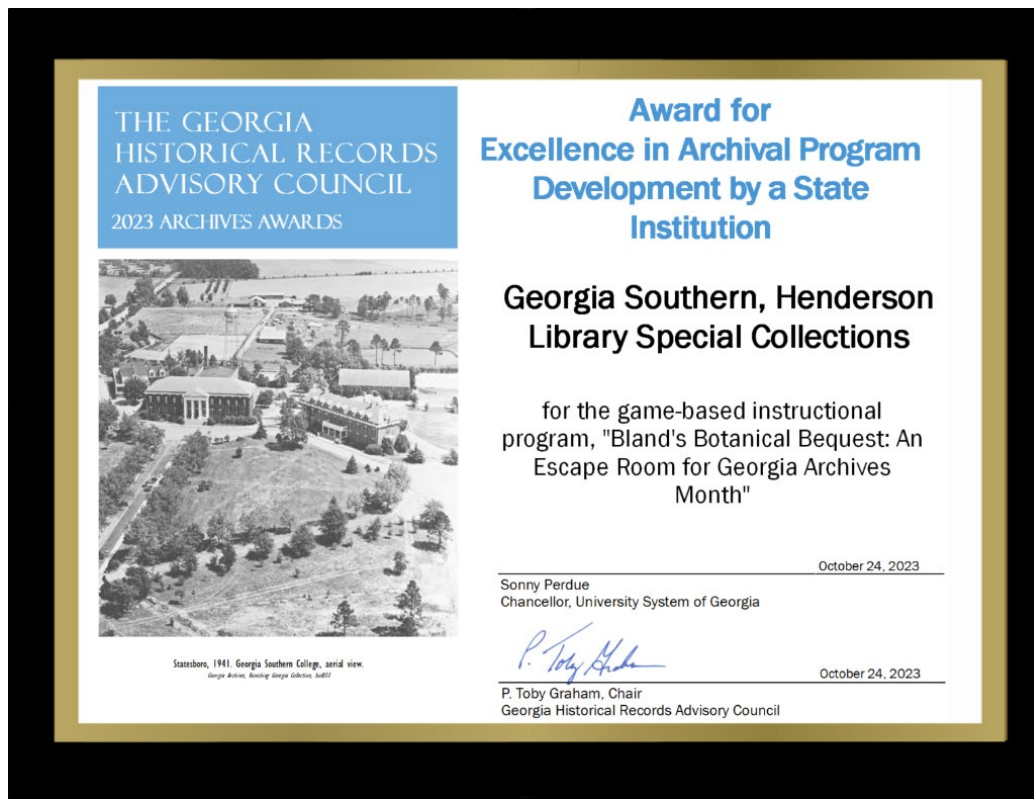
published in the 114-page book *Slave Importation Affidavit Registers for Nine Georgia Counties, 1818-1847* by Dawn Watson. The remaining county, Richmond, was a major waypoint into the State and indeed to the southeast and other points west.

Seven of the Richmond ledgers, partially covering the period 1818-1854, survive; four at the Richmond County Courthouse in Augusta and three at the Georgia Archives in Morrow. Working with both entities, AGS was able to digitize the records, protecting these very fragile documents and preserving them for future generations.

Over 21,000 enslaved persons were transcribed and indexed, along with their owners or transporters. In January 2023, the Augusta Genealogical Society (AGS) published the result of their efforts in an 822-page book *Slave Index of Richmond County, Georgia Superior Court Records: Slave Importation Affidavit Registers 1818 to 1854*. The index reflects information on the over 21,000 enslaved, including (when available): the slave's name, age, occupation, owner or transporter's name, date, and the ledger/page number where the information appears.

The records are arranged alphabetically first by the owner/transporter's surname. The enslaved persons listed on each affidavit are grouped together and presented alphabetically by name of the enslaved person. In the back of the book, there is a cross-index alphabetical listing of agents, guardians, executors, and trustees mentioned in the book. This extensive cross-indexing effort makes it easier for a researcher to identify a person of interest. Every available effort was made to glean as much identifying information as possible.

Award for Archival Program Development by State Agency or Institution



Henderson Library Special Collections, Georgia Southern University, for “Bland’s Botanical Bequest: An Escape Room for Georgia Archives Month”

For three years, Henderson Library Special Collections at Georgia Southern University has successfully developed game-based instructional programs that have come to be a highlight of Georgia Archives Month on the Georgia Southern campus.

Special Collections most recently partnered with Georgia Southern’s Botanic Gardens to offer an experience that explored the rich natural and cultural history of the community. “Bland’s Botanical Bequest: An Escape Game for Georgia Archives Month,” was launched in October 2022. Situated onsite in the early 20th-century farmstead of Daniel and Catharine Bland, the game experience was thematically centered around the Bland’s benefaction of the land to the University. The game incorporated high-quality surrogates of archival collections including photographs, maps, letters, oral history recordings, and other materials housed in Henderson Library Special Collections that documented the lives of the Bland family in Bulloch County.

The result was an instructional game experience that appealed to a wide and diverse group of patrons. During the two-week program, there were 240 registered players from both the campus and community at large. The project demonstrated the importance of innovative archival outreach.

Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History



Stacy Ashmore Cole for the project and website “They Had Names: African Americans in Early Records of Liberty County, Georgia”

Cole’s digital project, “They Had Names: African Americans in Early Records of Liberty County, Georgia,” documents references to African Americans in probate, court, church, and other records. The fully searchable website currently has references to more than 37,000 named African Americans, enslaved and free. It contains abstracts, transcripts, and spreadsheets created from primary sources in categories such as wills, estate inventories, deed records, court cases, church registers, free persons of color registry, postbellum orphan and apprentice bonds, divorces, and Freedmen’s Bureau labor contracts.

After meeting a descendant of Toby Ashmore, who was held in slavery by her Ashmore family, Cole came to understand how much harder it was for Ashmore to research his ancestor than it was for her to research her family, both because his ancestors were mentioned in antebellum records by first name only and because many previously published abstracts of older records omitted the names of African Americans. Cole set out to fill this gap, and the current website is the result.

Using the site data, Ms. Cole has also published biographies of more than 50 individual formerly enslaved people of Liberty County. The results of Cole’s work have led to articles in The Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly and The Journal of Slavery and Data Preservation.



Matthew Hild and Michael Gagnon for the book *Gwinnett County, Georgia, and the Transformation of the American South, 1818-2018*

Michael Gagnon and Matthew Hild's book, *Gwinnett County, Georgia, and the Transformation of the American South, 1818–2018*, is a compilation of essays written by professional historians with expertise in a diverse array of eras and fields that finally tells the stories of Gwinnett County's two-hundred-year history in a systematic way that does not ignore issues of race, class, or gender. This book provides general readers and scholars alike with a glimpse at Gwinnett through the ages.

Gwinnett County's stories include the displacement of Native peoples, white settlement, slavery, the Civil War, the Lost Cause, New South, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, business development, Populist uprising, Black migration, the entrance of women into the political arena, the evolution of cotton culture, the development of modern infrastructure, and the transformation from rural to suburban to a multicultural urbanizing place.



Clay Ouzts, Ph.D., University of North Georgia, for the book *Samuel Elbert and the Age of Revolution in Georgia, 1740-1788*

Ouzts' book, *Samuel Elbert and the Age of Revolution in Georgia, 1740-1788*, portrays not only the military leader, but also the multi-faceted man.

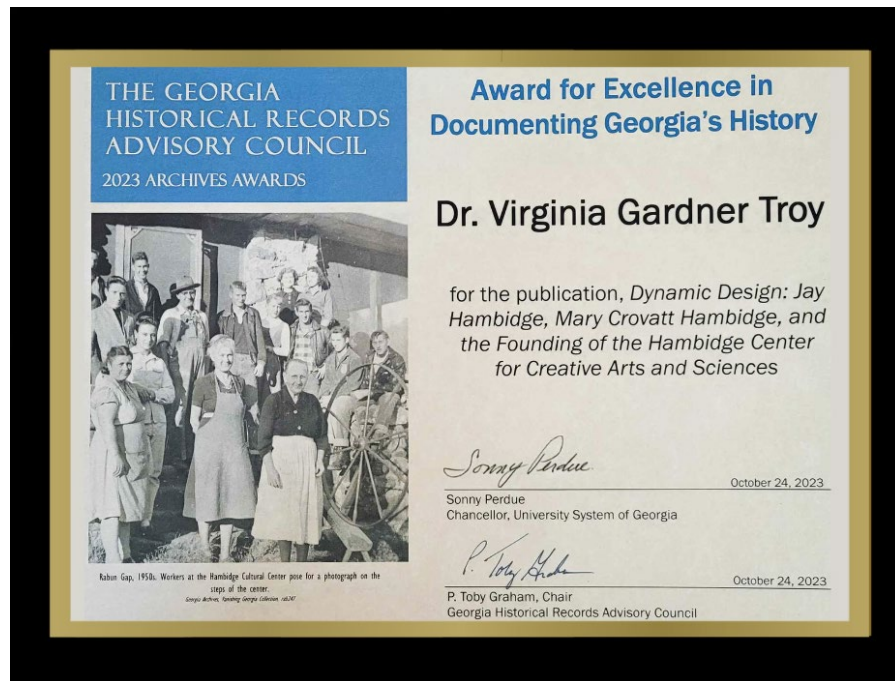
Chapter by chapter, we come to know a man of strong conviction and character who was a fur trader and merchant; a landowner of extensive acreage; a justice of the peace, Grand Juryman, General Assembly member, Chatham County surveyor, Chatham County Sheriff, and Georgia Governor; a vestryman at Christ Episcopal Church and member of the Chatham Academy Board of Trustees; a Masonic lodge Founder; a Founder of the Society of the Cincinnati in Georgia; a husband who had an enduring marriage, and a father of three daughters and three sons.

The most notable and lasting achievement of Elbert's 1785-86 term as Georgia Governor was the chartering of Franklin College, which became the University of Georgia.

"From the moment [Elbert] embraced the patriot cause, he was present in almost every organization and body that guided and defined the Revolution. He participated in almost every military engagement in Georgia prior to 1780 as a commander, and after each, his rank seemed to increase accordingly, even though his side almost always lost. He became a brigadier general in the Continental Army and a major general over Georgia's militias.

He "participated in the epic siege of Yorktown in fall 1781, when General Lord Charles Cornwallis finally surrendered his British army."

With this book, Dr. Clay Ouzts has given Georgia a long overdue worthy tribute to one of our nation's most excellent native sons.



Dr. Virginia Gardner Troy, Berry College, for the book *Dynamic Design: Jay Hambidge, Mary Crovatt Hambidge, and the Founding of the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences*

Dr. Virginia Troy's book, *Dynamic Design: Jay Hambidge, Mary Crovatt Hambidge, and the Founding of the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences*, details Jay Hambidge and Mary Crovatt Hambidge's cross-cultural and cross-historical explorations and examines their lasting contributions to twentieth-century art and cultural history.

Troy illustrates how Jay and Mary were important independently and collectively, providing a wider understanding of their lives within the larger context of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century art and design. They were from two different worlds, nearly a generation apart in age, and only together for ten years, but their lives intertwined at a pivotal moment in their development. They shared parallel goals to establish a place where they could integrate the arts and crafts around the principles of Dynamic Symmetry.

Troy explores how this dynamic duo's ideas and artistic expressions have resonated with admirers throughout the decades and reflect the trends and complexities of American culture through various waves of cosmopolitanism, utopianism, nationalism, and isolationism. The Hambidges' prolific partnership and forward-thinking vision continue to aid and inspire generations of aspiring artists and artisans.

Award for Excellence in Research Using the Holdings of Archives



Dr. LeeAnn B. Lands for the book *Poor Atlanta: Poverty, Race, and the Limits of the Sunbelt Development*

Poor Atlanta: Poverty, Race, and the Limits of the Sunbelt Development, a book by Dr. LeeAnn Lands, looks at the poor people's campaigns in Atlanta in the 1960s and 1970s, which operated in relationship to Sunbelt city-building efforts. With these efforts, city leaders aimed to prevent urban violence, staunch disinvestment, check white flight, and amplify Atlanta's importance as a business and transportation hub. As urban leaders promoted Forward Atlanta, a program to, in Mayor Ivan Allen Jr.'s words, "sell the city like a product," poor families insisted that their lives and living conditions, too, should improve.

While not always operating within public awareness, antipoverty campaigns among the poor presented a regular and sometimes strident critique of inequality and Atlanta's uneven urban development. With *Poor Atlanta*, LeeAnn Lands demonstrates that, while eclipsed by the Black freedom movement, antipoverty organizing (including direct action campaigns, legal actions, lobbying, and other forms of activism) occurred with regularity from 1964 through 1976. Her analysis is one of the few citywide studies of antipoverty organizing in late twentieth-century America.



Dr. Robin M. Morris for the book *Goldwater Girls to Reagan Women: Gender, Georgia, and the Growth of the New Right*

Goldwater Girls to Reagan Women: Gender, Georgia, and the Growth of the New Right by Dr. Robin Morris, is a statewide study of women's part in the history of conservatism, the New Right, and the Republican Party in the state of Georgia. Morris examines how the growth of the Republican Party in the 1960s and 1970s was due in large part to the political activism of white women. The book begins with the African American women who established the Georgia Federation of Republican Women and follows how they lost the organization and the party to white women moving to the Sunbelt South. Conservative white women developed a language and strategy of family values that they deployed to battle school busing, defeat the Equal Rights Amendment, and elect Republican leaders even in Jimmy Carter's home state.

Morris uses original interviews and archival research in personal papers of women activists in the Georgia New Right movement to reveal the motivations and actions that transformed the state from blue to red. Rather than a male-dominated, top-down approach, Morris centers her historical account on the middle-class white women whose actions changed the political landscape of the state and ultimately the country. Most of the collections researched are housed at Georgia State University.

Morris's ground level construction of Georgia politics and white women's central role in reshaping state and by consequence national politics in the 1960s and 1970s provokes many questions.

Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Undergraduate Level

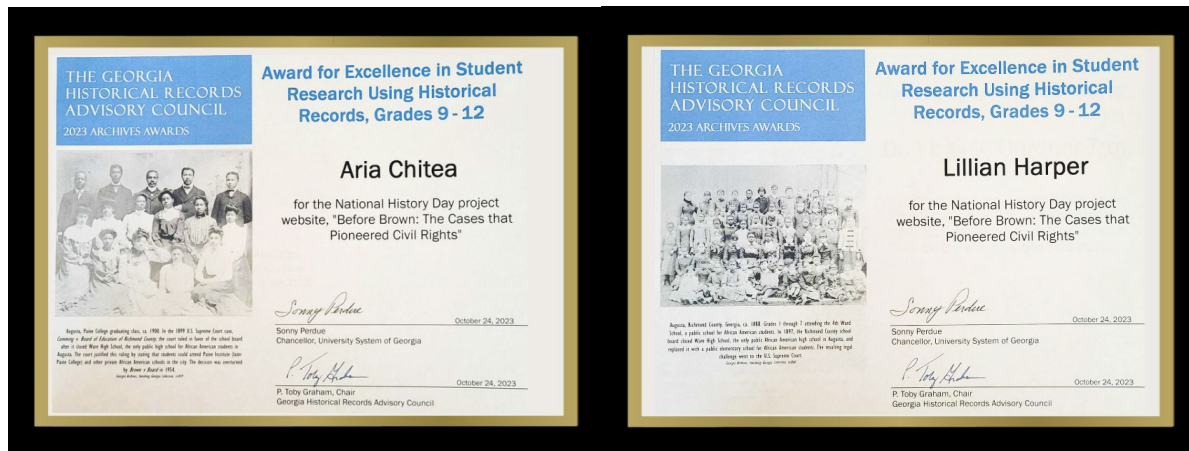


Christopher R. Wynn, Kennesaw State University, for the paper “From Southern Belles to Jezebels: An Exploration of Temperance and Suffrage on Notions of Womanhood Through the Georgia Women’s Christian Temperance Union during the Late Nineteenth Century”

Kennesaw State University graduate student Christopher R. Wynn’s 2023 paper, “From Southern Belles to Jezebels: An Exploration of Temperance and Suffrage on Notions of Womanhood Through the Georgia Women’s Christian Temperance Union during the Late Nineteenth Century,” looks at how the widespread acceptance of temperance in Georgia over several decades was threatened by the push for woman suffrage and the merger in some areas of the two movements.

Wynn used archival collections at Emory University and online newspapers and other collections to show that the two movements and their opposition created a space for mobilizing women.

Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Grades 9-12



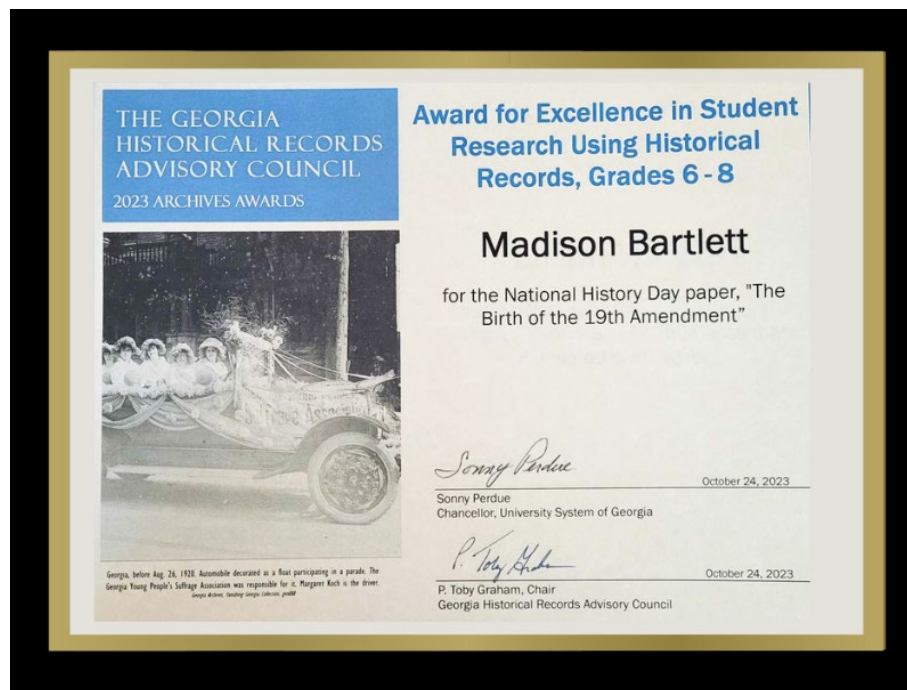
Aria Chitea and Lillian Harper, Howard High School in Macon, for the website “Before Brown: The Cases that Pioneered Civil Rights”

Howard High School of Bibb students, Aria Chitea and Lillian Harper, built a website for 2023 National History Day, Georgia that examines the series of supreme court cases that culminated in Brown v. Board of Education. People often think of Brown v. Board of Education as the beginning of the civil rights movement, but the website highlights the eight Supreme Court Cases that collectively challenged the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the 14th Amendment in the decision of Plessy v. Ferguson and ultimately pioneered the frontier for school desegregation.

Aria and Lillian used the collections of the Cornell Law Library, Justia Supreme Court database, The Library of Congress, The National Archives and Record Administration, National Constitution Center, and Fordham University Library to great effect.

The work of Aria and Lillian demonstrate the struggles and progress following the decision to declare racial segregation lawful if it is 'separate but equal'.

Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Grades 6-8



Madison Barlett, Ola Middle School in McDonough, for the National History Day paper “Frontiers in History”

Ola Middle School of McDonough student Madison Bartlett’s 2023 National History Day, Georgia paper, “Frontier’s in History,” examines the history of the 19th Amendment and the ‘frontier’ it redefined. The paper looked at the people who helped start the women’s suffrage movements, the people who opposed the 19th Amendment, how the bill was signed and ratified, and how it impacted society then and now.

Madison conducted research in the collections of The Library of Congress, The Georgia Archives, The National Archives and Record Administration, the National Slave Museum in Cincinnati, and various newspaper collections.

Bartlett used the sources from these various repositories to great effect to show how the 19th Amendment still impacts us today as women have gone from being seen only as child bearers to becoming the Vice President.

Lifetime Achievement Award



Jamie Credle, Davenport House Museum in Savannah

For over 20 years, Jamie Credle served as Director of the Davenport House Museum, birthplace and flagship of the Historic Savannah Foundation. From initially hosting 1,800 visitors in 1957, when its doors first opened to the public after its rescue from the wrecking ball, the museum now hosts 40,000 visitors annually, and provides them with tours, programs, special events, and print and online resources.

Jamie Credle received her BA in English Literature and History from Salem College, Salem, NC, and her MA in American History/Public History from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. Her professional experiences prior to coming to Savannah included The Museum of Stony Brook (NY), the Virginia Museum of Transportation, the Jekyll Island Museum, Shadows-on-the-Teche (New Iberia, LA), and the Cape Fear Museum (Wilmington, NC). Through the years, Credle's continuing education pursuits have included those with the Attingham Trust (UK), the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the U.S. National Park Service.

Jamie Credle's tenure at the Davenport House Museum began at a time when the site had not yet established solid direction for its development into a self-funded and sustainable "first-class" museum. She put the museum on course and achieved and maintained that goal. As she began

her directorship, Credle oversaw the synthesizing of the scholarship and identifying available craftsmen and vendors to realize the period-accurate restoration details in the House.

Credle created a Friends of the Davenport House program and achieved an 80% return on its annual giving campaign; ramping up rental income (especially for weddings); recruiting volunteer docents and compiling their training and reference manual; developing a Junior Interpreter Program and training its teenage participants; implementing PastPerfect software for a comprehensive holdings inventory; developing a disaster response plan; and developing collaborative relationships with community partners.

Credle's enthusiasm and dedication energized her staff of 4 to contribute to and participate in a variety of costumed, role-scripted interpretive programs, which were based on documentary research. These programs have been both successful fundraisers and knowledge-enriching components of the museum's interpretive programming.

The Museum's website includes full texts of the Museum's monthly Volunteer Newsletter and quarterly/semi-annual publications for 2010 - 2023, which include quotes and transcriptions from primary sources about the House and its occupants, guests, and artifacts, as well as calendar events, tour information, volunteer and Friends' spotlights, information on guest speakers and performers, and content articles written by staff.

Awards which were received during Jamie Credle's directorship:

- 2005 Preserve America Presidential Award: Private Preservation
- 2010 Governor's Award in the Humanities
- 2023 Multimedia Program of the Year Award, Georgia Association of Museums
- 2023 The first Scott W. Smith Award for Excellence in Leadership, Coastal Museums Association



Deborah Davis, Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections

Deborah Davis is a Full Professor and the Director of the Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. She is also an ACA Certified Archivist. At the end of 2023, she will retire after 30 years of service to the University System of Georgia.

As a librarian and archivist, Davis joined Valdosta State University in 1993 and became an archivist in 1998. Under Davis's leadership, the VSU Archives has grown from its origins as an old smoking lounge containing a few random collections to now include a reading room for special collections, workrooms, offices, and two climate-controlled vaults with compact shelving that house over 4,000 linear feet of records. Davis played a vital role in building important collections that reflect Georgia's heritage including an art collection, many by Georgia artists, of over 250 items that are now displayed throughout the campus. She also authored the College History series publication titled "Valdosta State University."

Davis oversaw the creation and ongoing maintenance of the VSU institutional repository, Vtext, which features the VSU Archives' digital collections and serves as the institutional repository for all campus research and accomplishments, including theses and dissertations.

Davis collaborated with the VSU History Department to provide extra credit opportunities for students who volunteered in the archives and has taught approximately 50 classes on basic archival research each year. She also developed a semester-long course on Archives/Libraries for Historians in collaboration with a history professor and created an extensive experiential learning

program, offering class projects for credit. Davis also taught an Intro to Archives course for the MLIS program for 14 years, inspiring potential archivists nationwide.

Davis has pioneered expansive public programming initiatives, including elaborate events for older alumni, the creation of a museum for 100 years of VSU history, and a large-scale Hidden History program featuring blown-up pictures displayed all over campus, costumed performers, and a real 3-ring circus. She also sponsors public programming in the Archives, such as Community Conversations, Black History Month Speaker series, and artist talks. Davis has an extensive record of professional activity, regularly delivering presentations to local, state, and national audiences.



Kayla Barrett, Georgia Archives

Kayla Barrett has spent the last 37 years working with archival collections at universities and state institutions. Prior to coming to Georgia, Kayla had already been special collections archivist at Auburn University, Librarian for the Oklahoma State University Archives, and had worked at the University of Oklahoma's Western History Collections. Originally from Wichita, Kansas, Barrett has bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Wichita State University and a Master's in Library and Information Studies from the University of Oklahoma.

For the last 27 years of her career, she served at the Georgia Archives in increasingly influential capacities, helping to shape it into the institution it is today. While she most recently acted as Deputy State Archivist, directing Preservation Services, Reference, Collections Management, and Education departments, she had previously overseen public services and arrangement and description of the Archives' state records and manuscript collections as well as worked with digital collections and the records management program.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Georgia Archives' move from its downtown Atlanta location to its current home in Morrow; an arduous task made easier by Kayla's coordination and involvement. In this and throughout her tenure at the Georgia Archives, she contributed heavily to the stewardship of over 86,000 cubic feet of paper records, not to mention the more than 1.6 million images on the Virtual Vault, and millions more images accessible through the subscription services she maintained.

Kayla's assistance to the State Archivist during the early days of his tenure, beginning in 2012, as well as during the Archives' transition to the University System of Georgia the following year was invaluable. She is a living record of how archival policies develop and why they exist as they do; a perfect example of when understanding the past prevents repetition of unfavorable events.

In 2014, the Society of Georgia Archivists made her a fellow in recognition of her involvement in SGA, as well as the impact of her leadership and advocacy in the Georgia archival community.

While she rose to the esteemed position of Deputy Director, Kayla continued to enrich the lives of everyday Archives researchers by listening to their stories and sharing with them her considerable knowledge of the collection, providing broad context to help them understand their family's role in Georgia's rich history.

Georgia Historical Records and Advisory Council

GHRAC works to promote the educational use of Georgia's documentary heritage and to support efforts to improve the condition of records statewide. The Board is charged with advising the Chancellor and the Georgia Archives on records and policy issues. Nominations for the 2024 Awards will be accepted beginning January 1, 2024, and they must be postmarked by June 1, 2024. More information is available from the Georgia Archives website https://www.georgiaarchives.org/ghrac/awards_program.

The Georgia Archives is a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and identifies, collects, manages, preserves, and publicizes records and information of Georgia and its people and assists state and local government agencies with their records management.

For more information contact Robin Klemm at Robin.Klemm@usg.edu. # # #