

Virginia

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

January 2017 Issue Vol. 26, No. 3



The Virginia Conservation Association promotes the care and preservation of cultural materials. The VCA offers education and training for those involved in conservation and provides a forum for discussion of pertinent issues and new developments in the field.

January Meeting!

This month's program will be presented by Dr. Susan Kern, Executive Director, Historic Campus. Dr. Kern will give a tour and presentation on the history & preservation of the Historic Campus of William & Mary. Thursday January 19th at 5:30pm. College of William and Mary, Wren Building.



Letter from the President



NANCY BECK, VCA PRESIDENT

As the year comes to a close, I would like to wish all of my fellow members of the VCA and their families and friends a safe and happy New Year.

While determining to improve yourself and your life, I would task you to please resolve to become more involved in our association in 2017. There are such a large number of social outlets and ways to form collected groups according to shared interests that most of us find ourselves pulled in many different directions and perhaps feel a bit overwhelmed trying to keep up with it all! However, the face-to-face, personal, human interaction is still an important part of our lives and necessary to our well-being. The VCA offers that essential connection between like-minded people and I hope that every one of our members will feel that attraction and not

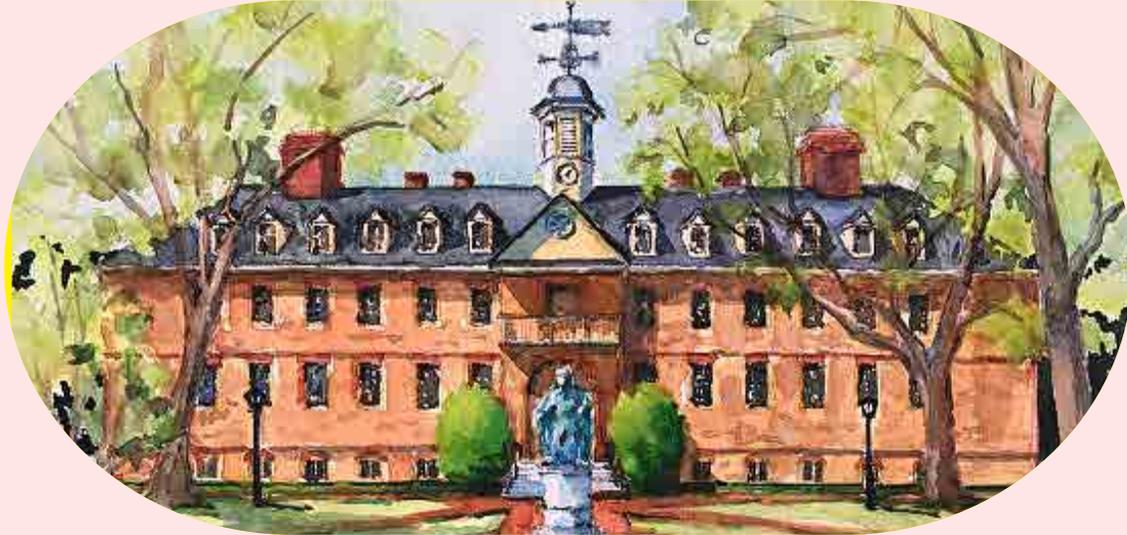
only attend meetings, but make the decision to support the group by agreeing to serve in some capacity as well.

When we meet on January 19th with Dr. Susan Kern for a presentation and tour at the Wren Building, the signature building of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, we will afterward convene into a brief business meeting to form a Nominating Committee that will focus on filling the upcoming open positions on our Board for 2017-2018. I urge you to consider becoming one of the VCA's dedicated leaders and help our organization continue to grow and serve the Conservation community here in Virginia, so we may remain strong in our connections. Here's to a great 2017 and I look forward to sharing it with you!

HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH VCA??

Think about joining one of our committees! The chairs cannot do it all alone and would love a few additional members to help with their committee work. If you are interested in one of the committees you can now indicate that on your membership form or contact the committee chair and see page 9 of the newsletter.

Please share any articles, photos, upcoming conferences, workshops, internships, etc. that you think would be of interest. The next newsletter deadline is February 13, 2017. Email taylorihealy@gmail.com



January Program

*Thursday, January 19th, 5:30 p.m. sharp. Refreshments to follow.
Wren Building, 111 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg, VA 23185*

Dr. Susan Kern will give a tour and presentation on the history and preservation of William & Mary's Historic Campus.

History Professor Dr. Kern was named the executive director of the Historic Campus in 2014, a position charged with the preservation and interpretation of the university's most historic buildings: the Wren, the Brafferton and the President's House and with research, writing and teaching about the early history of the College. Kern, who earned her doctorate in history from William & Mary, stepped into the role of chief preservation advocate for the College's historic buildings.

A visiting associate professor of history at William & Mary, Kern specializes in material culture of the American South and public history. Her research interests include how the material world influences human behavior and interaction; she is as interested in plantation field work, factory floor plans, and tools, as she is in consumer goods and decorative arts. She also studies how museums and historic sites make use of the recent and distant past. She has more than 20 years of experience in teaching and research with a focus on architectural history and historical archaeology. A prolific scholar, Kern has published multiple articles and reviews, and her award-winning 2010 book *The Jeffersons of*

Shadwell was submitted by Yale University Press for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in History.

As executive director, Kern plans and manages all archaeological excavations on the Historic Campus in coordination with other campus departments. Within the Wren Building alone, she helps manage a schedule of more than 500 events a year. Kern is also responsible for the antique furniture and decorative arts in the President's House and President's Art Collection.

This month's program will start promptly at 5:30. Parking Prince George Street Parking Garage located at 230 North Henry Street.

MICROFADING CONFERENCE
EASTERN ANALYTICAL SYMPOSIUM
SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY
NOV. 15-16 2016

VCA member Heather Logue Emerson, Paper

Conservation Technician at the VMFA attended the conference: The microfading sessions at the Eastern Analytical Symposium focused on the advantages, limitations and recent improvements of the microfading tester, which was originally invented by Paul Whitmore in the 1990's. Over the last fifteen years, several people have made improvements to Whitmore's initial design. Thirteen presenters from various parts of the world came together for this conference to discuss what has worked and what has not worked with the recent innovations.

Microfading is an accelerated aging test in which a high powered beam of light is aimed at an area on an object while a reflectance spectrometer is used to measure slight degrees of color change in the illuminated area over a period of a few minutes. The rate of change is used to estimate how much light an object can withstand before there is any noticeable color difference. This information can then be used to inform lighting and display guidelines for the individual object.

Several of the talks at the conference focused on the issues encountered with microfade testing. In some cases the microfade tester can overestimate or underestimate the fading rate of an object. One reason for this is that the lights used in a museum gallery are not the same type of light used in the microfade tester. Additionally, the beam of light in the microfade tester can cause heating and dehydration of the sample which can affect the data. Another issue is that not all objects are suitable for microfading (anything with texture or thick brushstrokes) because it is hard to focus the beam of light into crevices. Improvements to the initial design include adding a pen camera as well as using the Getty spectral imaging viewer to help interpret the data. Despite the limitations, there are also numerous advantages of the microfade tester. For one, the data produced from microfading test analysis can help conservators produce real numbers for curators and collections managers to consider when creating or adjusting lighting policies and display guidelines. One method of doing this is with a "Preservation Target", as discussed by Christel Pesme. This involves setting a goal for the ultimate display of an object (100 years, 500 years, 1,000 years?) and using the microfade test data to estimate how long and at what light levels an object can be displayed without risk of light damage over that length of time. Microfade testing can also be used as a screening tool. Objects can be tested prior to display and the data can be used to assign the object a lighting category and display guidelines on a per object basis. Microfade testing is a relatively recent invention and therefore will have some kinks to work out. However, this conference made it clear that many improvements have been and will continue to be made. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts plans to purchase a microfade tester soon and we are very excited to participate in future developments of this extremely useful device.



Above: Microfader evaluating photo sensitivity
Below: Portable Microfader owned by Pesme



Outreach Report

“Careers in Art and Historic Conservation” at the University of Virginia is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 19** at 5:30pm-7:30 at UVA Campbell Hall. UVA will confirm the date in January. Confirmed speakers are Carol Givens (Ethnographic Conservator and contract conservator for the Lady Astor American Indian Collection at UVA), Robert Self (former Robert H. Smith Director of Restoration, Monticello), Mark Kutney (Architectural Conservator at UVA), along with Eliza Gilligan (Book Conservator at UVA) and her graduate intern from Winterthur. Open to the public. The exhibit “Collection, Care, Conserve, Curate: The Life of an Art Object” will be on display in the Fralin Museum of Art through July.

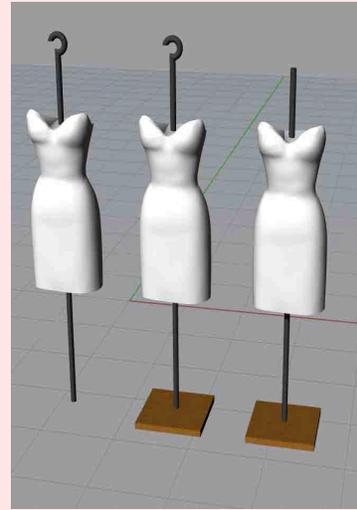
Any questions or concerns should be directed towards Outreach Committee Chair, Patricia Selinger at peselinger@gmail.com



VA Advocacy Day

Will you do your part to help make the case for museums? Advocacy brings museum professionals to the table when decisions are being made about funding, regulations, taxes and other public policy issues—all of which affect our institutions every day. VAM will host Virginia Museum Advocacy Day at the General Assembly Building in Richmond on **January 12, 2017**. Local government, the General Assembly and Congress make decisions that affect our organizations. Let’s make sure we’re at the table with them! There is a new administration coming to Washington, so now is an excellent time to introduce yourself and your museum to incoming legislators and their staff members. Remember, decisions made in Washington and in Richmond potentially affect the workings of your museum for years to come.

Contact Jennifer Thomas jthomas@vamuseums.org to register.



VCA Scholarship

On December 1, 2016 the Board of Directors voted and awarded Taylor Healy the first VCA Scholarship. Taylor submitted an application and proposal to the Board on her recent project, 3D Scanning and CNC Routing Custom Ethafoam Body Forms for the Charles James Collection. She plans to present this project at the upcoming 2017 AIC Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Taylor has worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Costume Institute Conservation lab to address the 28 ball gowns from Charles James collection in storage. She used her fine arts background in 3D scanning and CNC routing to create custom Ethafoam body forms for James’ masterpiece collections. Taylor intends to use her scholarship towards attending the AIC Annual Meeting, and presenting her project to the other attendees. Congratulations, Taylor! We wish you the very best!

To apply, see bottom of page 9.

VCA MEMBERS MEETING November 15, 2016 VDHR

Nancy Beck, VCA President, brought the meeting to order. Announcements: The Board has decided to create a scholarship to be awarded to student members to use for education purposes. There will be two scholarships awarded a year in the amount of \$250. Student membership costs \$15.00 per year. Great investment!

Membership Directories for 2017 are available for pick up, tonight (as of 11/15). If you haven't joined, there are applications available. Programs had a quick announcement of the upcoming programs: January- William & Mary
March- Univeristy of Virginia
April Field Trip- Stratford Hall
May- St. John's Church
See upcoming newsletters for more information.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Ainslie Harrison, Assistant Objects Conservator, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts discussed her experience with working in-situ at El Cano, Panama, a Pre-Columbian Site of Sito Conte.

Conservation work involved the stabilization and cleaning of a wide variety of materials including objects made of worked stone, whale and jaguar teeth, ray spines, shell, resin, ceramic, and gold. The gold was one of the most abundant

and well preserved of the materials present, and offered an excellent opportunity to study fabrication techniques through technical examination and analysis.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thanks to all of our new and renewing members, as of December we have 76 members of the VCA.

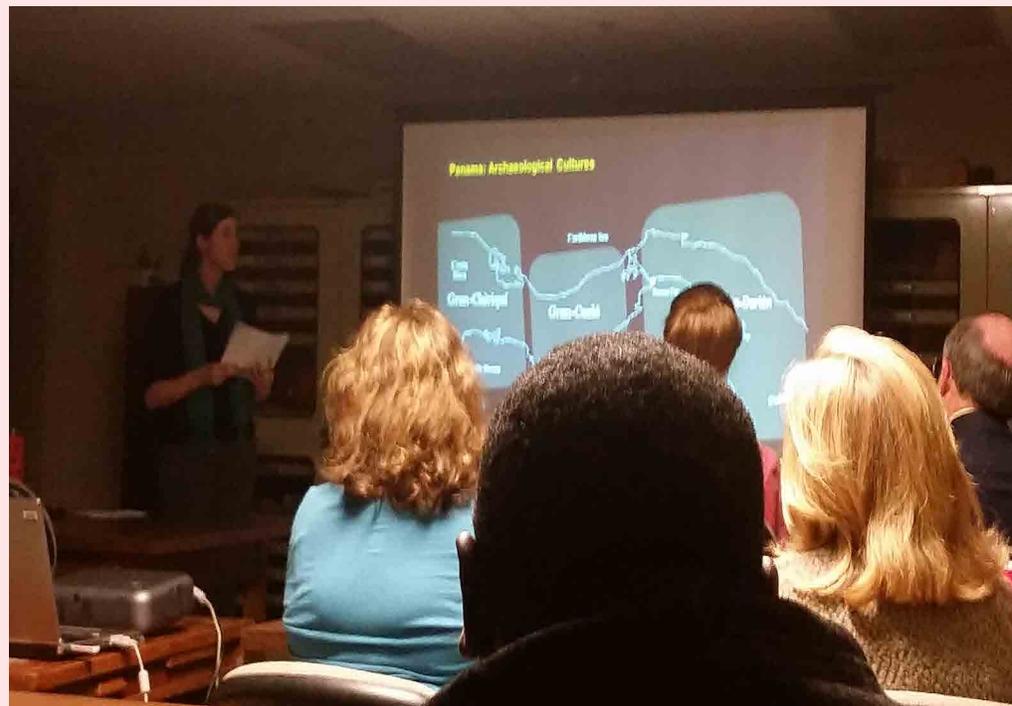
The new Directory has been printed and we began distributing them at the November meeting. They will be available at the January meeting and we will mail the remaining printed copies after the meeting. If you need one before then, please let me know. This year we will also be emailing a PDF version that is password protected and will contain information

about members who joined or renewed after the Directory was printed.

The Board continues to discuss ways to encourage new members, and we have begun inviting volunteers from our meeting venues to join us for our programs. January's meeting will be in Williamsburg at William and Mary, and I hope that you will invite colleagues and interested friends to join us for this interesting program. If you know of a person or organization you would like to receive our newsletter or an individual "e-vite" to any of our meetings, please let me know: membership@virginiaconservationassociation.org

As always, thank you for your continued support of the VCA.

-Dotty Robinson



VCA BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

December 1, 2016

ATTENDEES

Nancy Beck, Dotty Robinson,
Carol Boyers Givens, Christi
Barranger, Karri Richardson
and Dianne Roland

CALL TO ORDER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nancy Beck mentioned we
have had one mentor request.

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OFFICER REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Christi
Barranger reported she was
having trouble accessing the
bank's website, does not have
an update, at this time.

Vice President's Report: Carol
Givens discussed By-laws
for creating a Nominating
Committee: working with
Outreach in regards to Careers
in Conservation event at
the University of Virginia on
April 17-28, 2017. They have
participants lined up.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education: Keri Ragland
wrote the draft for our
scholarship application. We
already have one application
to review and vote on during
tonight's Board meeting.

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Outreach: Board discussed
the duties of the Outreach and
Membership Chairs and how
they might work together to
promote VCA membership.

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Membership: Dotty Robinson
reported we have 74 paid
members, to date.

1. A list of former members
that have yet to renew their
membership is ready to
be emailed to the Board
members. Asked each
Board member contact 5
people about renewing their
membership.
2. Discussed encrypting a pdf
copy of the directory to email
to the membership.
3. Membership will send out
an encrypted directory, via
email, to all paid members.
4. Board discussed contacting
lapsed members reminding
them to renew their
membership. Reminders have
been sent previously.
5. As a way to increase interest
and membership, members
employed at museum
institutions can reach out to
their docents about the VCA.
Also discussed creating a flyer
that could be used to promote
meetings to groups prior to
meetings in their areas.

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Programs: Karri Richardson
mentioned Maeve Bristow
has lead on the January
program. It will be held in the
Wren Building at William and
Mary College on Thursday,
January 19th at 5:30 p.m. in the
basement classrooms. There is
a kitchen; refreshments will be
served after the program.

1. March, Mary Andrews is
working with the Programs
chairs, plans still being firmed
up.
2. April Field Trip will be to
Stratford Hall, Thursday, April
20, 2017.
3. Programs Budget still full,
no spending, as of yet.
4. Programs will have more

information for next Board
meeting in February.

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Publications: Taylor Healy
says deadline for submissions
for the January newsletter
is December 19th.

Web Management: Discussed
plans for a new website. Carey
has requested feedback from
Board as to what they would
like and to send him links to
websites they like as examples.
Nancy will forward email from
Maeve from a web designer
she has spoken with.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

Quickly discussed Secretary
will take notes for business
portion of General Meetings,
only.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nancy will follow up with the
task force presentation headed
up by Fred Wallace.

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NEW BUSINESS

The Board received the first
Scholarship Application
from Taylor Healy. Taylor's
Application was read aloud,
discussed, and voted to award
\$250 to Taylor to help her
attend the AIC Annual meeting
and present a paper on 3D
scanning and CNC routing
for the Metropolitan Museum
of Art's Costume Institute
Conservation Department.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Next Board meeting will be in
February** either the 2nd or the
9th at the Libby Mill Library.
Nancy will be in touch when
date is settled.

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Steve Roy, Nancy Beck and Honoree Andrew Baxter at AIA Virginia's Visions for Architecture gala.

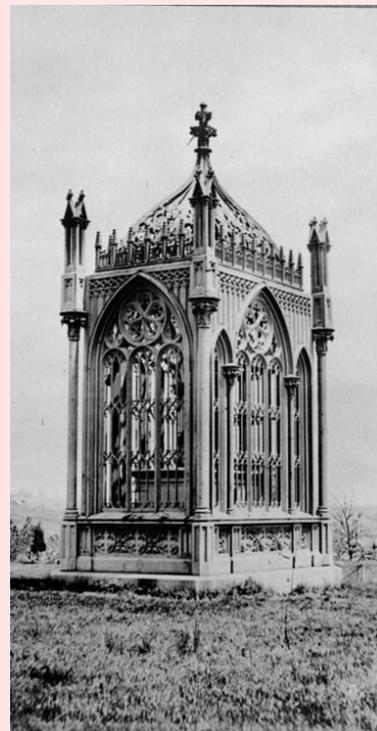
Congratulations: VCA member receives AIA Virginia Honors Award

Our esteemed member, Andrew Baxter, received the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Virginia Honors award at Visions for Architecture presented by the Board of Directors of AIA Virginia and the Board of Trustees of the Branch Museum of Architecture and Design. The event took place on Friday, the 4th of November at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. This award honors individuals or organizations that have inspired, influenced, or complemented the architecture profession in Virginia. Contributions may be made through allied professions, research, education, planning, legislation, architectural writing(s), the arts and crafts. Andrew Baxter, pictured above, with VCA president, Nancy Beck, and former VCA member Steve Roy.

Baxter, owner and principal of Bronze et al Ltd. has enhanced and protected many well-known pieces of public art in Virginia and beyond. Of particular note is his work on all thirteen statues of the George Washington Equestrian Monument at the Virginia State Capitol, the Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Maury statues along Richmond's Monument Avenue and President James Monroe's tomb canopy in Hollywood Cemetery (pictured right) Congratulations Andrew!

Retirement

This December, VCA's Patricia Selinger retired from Virginia Commonwealth University's Library Preservation and Inventory after 35 years in library leadership, serving as head of the department. She has devoted her work towards preservation repair effectiveness, bookbinding history, and book arts, as well as training students and interns and encouraging their career development in library sciences and conservation. She will continue her participation in the VCA in addition to her personal projects, but plans to spend time with her newborn grandson and family. Congratulations Patricia, we thank you for your great work!



PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the January meeting, 2 members will be elected to serve on the nominating committee. Nominations for officers to the Board will be solicited from the membership up to 30 days prior to the vote. The vote will take place at the May meeting.

VCA Nominations to the Board of Directors for 2017

Officers:

President *

Vice President *

Secretary

Committees:

Co-Chairperson for Programs

Chairperson for Education

Co- chairs: Publications and Refreshments

Chairperson for Outreach

*Note some duties have changed in the positions.

Refer to the By-laws for descriptions of duties.

Please email me with any nominations at Cbgivens09@gmail.com

VCA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES (UPDATED DECEMBER 5, 2016)

-The Virginia Conservation Association will offer two annual scholarships of \$250 each to be used towards costs associated with furthering education in the field. Use of funds may include conference or class fees or another related use as approved by the Board. Applicants must be VCA Student Members to apply.

-Applications will be accepted throughout the year and will be approved or declined by the VCA Board during the April and December Board meetings. Successful applicants will be notified within one week of the Board meeting and presented a check within the following 30 days.

-As a condition of the award, recipients will be required to summarize their experience as an article for an issue of the VCA newsletter.

-Applicants are welcome to apply again for consideration in the next year.

Suggestions for applications:

Applications should include a brief, one-page explanation of their proposed use of funds including information on the program, conference, class etc. Applicants should also explain their interest in conservation and how the VCA scholarship will benefit him or her in pursuing a career in conservation or a directly related field. Expenditures are welcomed but not necessary.

Applications can be mailed to the VCA, P.O. Box 7023, Richmond, VA 23221 or e-mailed directly to the current Education Committee Chair.