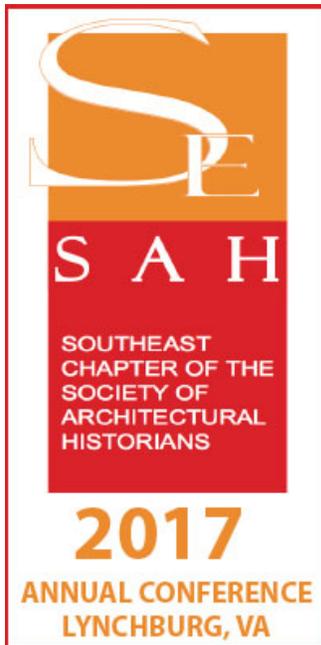


## *Southeast Chapter Society of Architectural Historians*



### **(Past) President's Message**

Our annual conference in the Hill City was **another one to remember!** The plenaries, paper sessions, and presentation of the Green Book posters were engaging and thoughtfully done. Dinner at Poplar Forest and the Saturday tours were all that was promised and more. Look for details of the conference in our upcoming newsletter.

Many contributed to the success of the conference; however, it all hinged on one person: Travis McDonald, who directed the conference program. Travis did an outstanding job of organizing the event and keeping us on track. Thank you!

I also extend my gratitude to Mikesch Muecke and Gavin Townsend for all their work with on-line registration and in managing the treasury to support our conference. Mikesch, Gavin and Travis did double time as A/V experts on call during the paper sessions.

Thank you to Clifton Ellis and Kathy Wheeler for their assistance behind the scenes and up front during the business meeting and tours. And to Danielle Willkens for her presentation about the *SAH Brooks Travelling Fellowship* that took us to exceptional places. Danielle invited us to join her on her study tour and, as we did so, to think about our impact as tourists on the very places we wished to see – on the hosts and for the ecosystems affected.

Closer to home, Travis knows very well the pressures of many arriving in a place, at once, as we did last week in Lynchburg. Thank you, again, Travis for hosting the conference, with a special thanks to Poplar Forest and the deeply knowledgeable staff that gave their time and shared their expertise with us. We are also grateful to the City of Lynchburg for making resources available to us during our time in town, to Liberty University for those marvelous buses, and to the University of Virginia and the Lynchburg Historical Foundation for their support. Shawne Farmer's pre-conference walking tour of Church Street provided an architectural preview of the story noted historian Al Chambers told of Lynchburg and its building history in his welcome address.

From Poplar Forest to the historic Academy Theater to the Piedmont Mills, recipient of this year's Best of the South: Preserving Southern Architecture award, Lynchburg is booming with restoration, renovation, and adaptive reuse projects. And restaurants! In our downtown location, we were at the center of it all. Thank you, Travis.

Congratulations to our award recipients! Their hard work and dedication in publishing and preservation, not to mention a highly competitive fellowship for travel to the conference itself, is inspirational. This year we recognized Louis Nelson, Jeff Shannon, Wallis Miller, NRM Associates (Piedmont Mills), Mary Fesak, Anna Nau, and Betsy Sweeny. Please look for more details on their accomplishments in our upcoming newsletter.

Thank you to all those who served on committees this past year, in addition to duties on the board and relating to the conference: Clifton Ellis, Kim Sexton, Kathy Wheeler, Stephen James, Michael Kleeman, Blake Wintory, Lydia Brandt, Art Clement, Andy Chandler, Bob Kelly, Susan Knowles, Lee Gray, Ashley Wilson, and Catherine Zipf. And with much appreciation for our communications team: Mikesch Muecke, Robbie Jones, Ruben Acosta, and Lydia Brandt.

We welcomed a new editorial team to ARRIS – Fred Esenwein and Andrew Tripp from Mississippi State University – in Lynchburg. Many thanks to our outgoing editors, Robin Williams and Celeste Guichard, from the Savannah College of Art and Design for their three-year tour! We are looking forward to the 28th volume of ARRIS later this year.

Coming up soon is the deadline for our new graduate student fellowships: an annual conference fellowship to support attendance at the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) meeting in Minnesota next April and a research fellowship for the coming year. These student scholarships complement the fellowship for up to three graduate students and one emerging professional in the field to attend SESAH's annual conferences. Information about these opportunities is on our website, [www.sesah.org](http://www.sesah.org).

In closing, please join us in Manhattan, Kansas, next October! As we move from the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Flint Hills where Kansas and Big Blue rivers meet, please stay in touch through the year via social media. Be a contributor to our discussions and share what you see in the architectural landscape and of work happening across the region. It is an honor to have served as President and to have collaborated with so many in SESAH.

Sincerely,  
Virginia B. Price