What a pleasure it was to be back in person for our annual conference in Natchez, Mississippi this October! I certainly reveled in our "family reunion," attended by around 100 intrepid SESAHers: toasting our accomplished award winners, learning new things from our brilliant paper presenters, snuggling into a Trinity Episcopal Church pew to listen to Keynote Speaker William C. Allen, or wandering through the buildings and landscapes of nineteenth-century Natchez. It was life-affirming (really!) to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, to see new places, and to share ideas. Thank you to everyone whose hard work made this possible, especially our Conference Chair, Carter Burns of the Historic Natchez Foundation, The SESAH board, and the Tulane School of Architecture, Visit Natchez, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the National Park Service, and the many private property owners who opened their doors to us.
For those of you who missed our meeting -- we missed you! But there are plenty of things happening with SESAH this year to keep you involved. We are embarking on a strategic planning process, our journal Arris will be available in a new digital format, and we will continue to offer and grow our robust awards and fellowship programs. And of course, we will meet for another reunion next fall -- this time in Memphis, Tennessee. IF you are interested in becoming more involved with SESAH, we'd love to hear from you! Please email me directly at president@sesah.org.

Thank you to everyone who attended, assisted, or stayed connected with SESAH this year. I am so excited and honored to be taking the reins of this important organization and eager to forge ahead with all of you!

See y'all soon!
Lydia Mattice Brandt, SESAH President

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**Thank you to our outgoing board members for their service to SESAH:**

Jennifer Baughn (President), Secretary (Lydia Soo), Annual Conference Chair (Carter Burns), Gerald McNeil (Louisiana Rep), Gabriela Campagnol (Texas Rep), Bryan Norwood (At-Large Rep)

**Welcome to our new board members and those transitioning into new roles:**

Lydia Mattice Brandt (President), Leslie Sharp (Vice President), Ralph Wilcox (Secretary), Jeff Rosenberg (Preservation Officer), Annual Conference Chair (Claudette Stager), Ruben Acosta (Florida Rep), Danielle Willkins (Georgia Rep), Nicholas Serrano (Louisiana Rep), Christopher Hunter (Mississippi Rep), Kathryn Holliday (Texas Rep), Joss Kiely (At-Large Rep)
Secretary's Report - SESAH 2021 Conference

The 2021 annual conference of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians took place in Natchez, Mississippi from Wednesday, September 29th until Saturday, October 2nd. SESAH Secretary, Ralph Wilcox, has prepared a report which recaps what was a successful conference. The report can be viewed here.
SES AH 2021 Annual Conference Study Tour: Concord Quarters

SES AH Award Recipients

The award committee chairs announced the winners of the annual SESAH awards at the conference in Natchez, Mississippi. The winners were:

**Best of the South:** Yaryan-Phoenix Naval Store Paymaster Office in the Turkey Creek Community of Gulfport, Mississippi.

Constructed around 1920, the Yaryan-Phoenix Naval Stores Paymaster's Office served the industrial turpentine plant, which employed primarily African Americans. In 1943, the naval store plant suffered two catastrophic explosions that killed 11 workers and seriously injured 2 others. The paymaster's office was the only building from the naval store plant that survived the explosions. In 1946, the paymaster's office was moved to a nearby lot and reutilized as a residence, serving as the childhood home of Eugenia Conner, a legendary African American women's basketball player at the University of Mississippi from 1981-1985.

A full press release can be found [here on the SESAH website](https://www.seasha.org/press-releases).

![Book Cover](image)


**Student Travel Grants:** SESAH offers up to $400 to graduate students and emerging preservation professionals who attend and present a paper at the annual conference. This year's graduate student travel grants were given in honor of the late Gavin Townsend and were funded through the Gavin Townsend Memorial Fund.

**Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant:** Ernesto Bilbao (University of Texas at Austin), Kyra Lucas (University of Florida), and Patricia J. Rangel (Georgia Institute of Technology).

**Emerging Professionals Conference Travel Grant:** No Applicants. Therefore, none awarded.

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**We Need Your Help!**

Ever wished you had a cool SESAH t-shirt or hat to wear to the beach or hardware store? If so, please let us know by [taking this quick survey](#)!

Do you have photographs you would like to share in the next newsletter from the SESAH 2021 Annual Conference? We've set up a [Dropbox here](#)!

Please help us spread the word about your achievements, job announcements, upcoming events, and opportunities to other SESAH members by completing [this form](#).
State News

Mississippi
Christopher Hunter, Mississippi State University (and Mississippi State Representative on the SESAH Board) recently gave a TEDTALK on the resiliency of the African American church at Ole Miss. Available here.

Georgia
Karen Gravel (Georgia) was featured on the website Madame Architect on "Historic Preservation and Creative Problem Solving."

SESAH Funding Opportunity:
Graduate Student Research Fellowship
Deadline: January 15, 2022

Not on our e-mailing list? Click here to sign up for the quarterly newsletter!