



Member Newsletter, May 2026

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Message from the President

Dear SAWH Members,

As the 2025–2026 academic year comes to a close and graduation season settles around us once again, I want to take a moment to thank you all for the work you continue to do on behalf of southern women’s history and the broader historical profession.

This time of year always arrives carrying multiple emotions at once: exhaustion, pride, relief, uncertainty, and, for many of us, the quiet hope that summer might offer at least a small

measure of rest. I hope the months ahead bring each of you moments of respite alongside opportunities for research, writing, archival discovery, and intellectual renewal.

If this year has made anything clear, it is that many of us are operating under extraordinary pressures. Across institutions and at every career stage, historians are managing increasingly heavy workloads, expanding service obligations, administrative demands, caregiving responsibilities, and deep professional uncertainty. We are, quite simply, overworked and overcommitted. That reality has shaped the work of SAWH as well, particularly as we seek volunteers for prize committees, governance work, and organizational leadership. I want to acknowledge candidly how difficult it has become to ask already stretched colleagues to take on additional service, even in support of an organization we all care about deeply.

And yet, despite these challenges, I remain profoundly grateful for the generosity of this community. SAWH continues to exist because of members willing to mentor, review manuscripts, organize panels, serve on committees, write letters, and sustain one another intellectually and personally. That labor often goes unseen, but it matters enormously.

I also want to share a brief update regarding the SAWH Triennial Conference. We are still actively seeking a university or institutional partner interested in hosting the conference. As many of you know, the Triennial has long served as one of the most important gathering spaces for scholars of southern women's and gender history—a place where new scholarship emerges, collaborations are formed, graduate students find mentors, and friendships deepen across generations of historians. If you believe your institution may have the capacity or interest to host the 2028 Triennial Conference, I encourage you to reach out. We would be eager to begin a conversation.

At a moment when the humanities often feel under siege, organizations like SAWH matter more than ever. Not simply because we preserve and produce knowledge, but because we create intellectual communities rooted in care, rigor, generosity, and historical truth.

Thank you for all you do, for your continued membership and support, and for the many ways you sustain this field and one another.

Wishing you a restorative and productive summer.

With gratitude,

Crystal N. Feimster

President, Southern Association for Women Historians

Reminder: Call for Proposals to Host the June 2028 SAWH Triennial Meeting

The Southern Association for Women Historians (SAWH) invites proposals from institutions interested in hosting the June 2028 Triennial Meeting. The triennial conference is SAWH's largest gathering, bringing together scholars of southern women's and gender history for several days of panels, plenaries, and sustained community engagement across the field.

Institutions submitting proposals should demonstrate both a strong intellectual community aligned with SAWH's mission and the logistical capacity to host a multi-day conference of this scale.

Proposals should include the following elements:

- 1. Institutional Overview**

Provide a brief description of the host institution, including size, academic profile, and relevant programs (e.g., History, Gender and Women's Studies, African American Studies, Sexuality Studies, Latino/a studies, and related fields). Highlight strengths that make the institution an appropriate host for a large, national conference.

- 2. Departmental and Scholarly Community**

Describe faculty expertise in southern history, women's and gender history, and related fields. Indicate prior involvement with SAWH and identify faculty, staff, and/or graduate students who would support conference planning.

- 3. Location and Regional Context**

Introduce the host city or region, noting its historical significance, cultural resources, and overall appeal. Include information about walkability, safety, and proximity between venues.

- 4. Research Opportunities**

List local and regional archives, libraries, and research centers that may be of interest to conference attendees.

- 5. Meeting Facilities**

Describe proposed conference spaces, including plenary rooms, breakout session rooms, and informal gathering areas. Given the scale of the triennial, please indicate the capacity to host multiple concurrent sessions and large plenary events. Include information on audiovisual capabilities, WiFi access, and accessibility.

6. Dining and Hospitality

Outline available dining options on and near campus. Indicate plans for conference-provided meals or receptions (e.g., opening reception, coffee breaks, boxed lunches, banquet options).

7. Lodging

Provide information about housing options, including on-campus accommodations and nearby hotels. Include approximate pricing, distance from meeting spaces, room block availability, and capacity to accommodate many attendees.

8. Transportation

Describe access to the host site, including nearby airports, public transportation options, and approximate travel times to campus and conference venues.

9. Financial Plan

Include a projected budget outlining anticipated income (registration fees, institutional support, sponsorships, exhibits) and expenses (meals, facilities, speakers, staffing, etc.). Indicate confirmed or potential sources of institutional funding.

10. Local Arrangements Committee

Identify the individuals who will lead local planning efforts and provide brief descriptions of their roles.

11. Proposed Dates

Confirm the ability to host the conference in June 2028 and suggest preferred dates if available.

Submission Guidelines

Proposals should be submitted as a single document (PDF preferred) and should include sufficient detail to assess both the intellectual and logistical strengths of the proposed host site.

Deadline for submission: June 1, 2026.

Please submit proposals to SAWH Executive Secretary: Erin N. Bush
(secretary@thesawh.org).

Call for Membership Renewals

There's never been a more important time to renew your membership in the SAWH—or to encourage colleagues and graduate students to become members! Join us in supporting the study of women's and gender history of the U.S. South and the work of women historians.

Membership is an opportunity to become a part of a valuable and supportive network. As always, SAWH members will receive a thrice-yearly newsletter with announcements of conferences, calls for papers, and news about the organization and the activities of its members. We do our best to keep the cost of membership low. If you are in a position to do so, please consider buying memberships for graduate students or junior colleagues. New and renewed memberships submitted before the end of the year will take effect immediately and apply through 2025.

The SAWH especially welcomes as members anyone who is interested in southern and/or women's history, as well as all women historians in any field who live in the South. The organization welcomes as members all who are interested in these fields, and we value individuals and their differences, including race, economic status, gender expression and identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, first language, religion, age, and ability status. The SAWH appreciates the work of public historians, archivists, independent scholars, and those in alt-academic positions, in addition to those teaching in colleges and universities. Please visit <http://thesawh.org/join/> to join or renew. Annual and gift memberships are \$45. Student memberships are \$20. Life memberships are \$500.

Have You Posted to H-SAWH?

H-SAWH editors regularly post selected posts from [H-Net Academic Announcements](#), jobs from the [H-Net Jobs Guide](#), and, with your contributions as a member, they moderate discussions. If you do not already have an H-Net account, be sure to create one and to subscribe to H-SAWH (go to <https://networks.h-net.org/>, click on “Register” first and then “Join a Network”). Once you subscribe, notifications will be sent to you via e-mail. [H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online](#) is a free, open platform that is moderated. It provides us with an opportunity to engage with each other in a digital format that is free from trolling and other issues that have made popular social media sites less welcoming in recent years.

SAWH Social Media

SAWH SOCIALS!

Click on the links below to make sure you are following SAWH's social media accounts.

- **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Southern-Association-for-Women-Historians-SAWH/100057304846575/>



If you are not on Facebook, you can still see the SAWH page feed - just click on the X on the pop-up screen begging you to create an account or to log in.

- **Instagram** [@sawh1970](https://www.instagram.com/sawh1970/)

<https://www.instagram.com/sawh1970/>



No Instagram account but you love to share photos and videos?

See <https://www.wikihow.com/Create-an-Instagram-Account>

- **X (formerly Twitter)** [@SAWH1970](https://twitter.com/SAWH1970)

<https://twitter.com/SAWH1970>



Send your post ideas today or any day to the SAWH Socials [Google form](#) or send content to sawh1970socialmedia@gmail.com.

Join in the Leadership of SAWH - Will You Volunteer?

Volunteers are the backbone of the Southern Association for Women Historians. Will you join us in this important work? We are looking for helping hands in some of our key committees - take a look at the many different committees below.

You can find out more about each of them on our website <https://thesawh.org/about/guidelines/>. Please consider how you might contribute this year. To self-nominate or to get more information, please contact SAWH President at crystal.feimster@yale.edu.

Member News

Edited by Mary Carroll Johansen

Erin Bush (University of North Georgia) is thrilled to announce that her first book, Under the Guise of Protection: Eugenics and Wayward Girls in Twentieth-Century Virginia, is now available from UVA Press. <https://www.upress.virginia.edu/title/10178/>

Lesley Chapel (PhD Cand., Wayne State University), in conjunction with the 2026 Winter Olympics, blended her expertise as an historian with her past experience as an ice dancer of 23 years and as a current skating judge to present, "The Leading Lady of Ice Dancing: Ludmila Pakhomova, 'Sex on Ice,' and Global Feminism in the 1970s," for the Center for Public Humanities at Oakland University in Rochester, MI, on January 28, 2026. She was also featured on WDIV Channel 4 as an Olympic analyst to speak about the results of the ice dance competition at the most recent Olympics.

Karen Cox (UNC-Charlotte) received a 2026-2027 Warren Center Fellowship at Harvard University to work on her next book, and was also invited to give the 2027 Fleming Lectures at Louisiana State University.

Christy Garrison-Harrison (Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College) published two articles in 2025: Garrison-Harrison, Christy. "Interjecting a Black Feminist Geographies Framework into Social Science Research Paradigms," *Global Black Thought* 1, no. 1 (2025): 158-182. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/gbt.2025.a960152> ; Garrison-Harrison, Christy. "Conjure Women Are Alchemists Who Can Transform Bright Green into Blue Gold," *Journal of World Philosophies* 10, no. 2 (December 26, 2025). <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/iupjournals/index.php/jwp/article/view/9365> . She was also selected to join the 2026 Mellon-funded faculty cohort in the Institute for Race and Social Transformation (iRaST) at Rhodes College.

Debra Greene (Lincoln University emeritus) is completing two chapters for a local history project, volume two of Michelle Brooks' Interesting Women of the (Missouri) Capital City. The two women are Dr. Thomasina Talley Greene, a concert pianist and long-time piano teacher, and F. Yvonne Walker Hoard, Lincoln University professor of physical education and coach.

Mary Carroll Johansen (Holy Family University) received the 2026 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award, Holy Family University's highest teaching honor.

Cindy Kierner's (George Mason University) biography of Mets owner Joan Whitney Payson is in production. In May, she will give a paper based on her research at the annual history conference at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

A special issue of *Modern American History*, which emerged out of a 2025 conference on "A Water's History of the United States," at the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies in Middelburg, The Netherlands, includes an article by SAWH member **Ellen Griffith Spears** (Professor Emerita, University of Alabama). The essay, entitled "'Radical Impermanence': Riverine Environments in the Politics and History of the U.S. South" explores challenges to environmental injustice along the Alabama River and can be accessed at: <https://doi.org/10.1017/mah.2025.10074>.

Rebecca Sharpless (Texas Christian University) published People of the Wheat: Culture and Cultivation in North Texas with the University of Texas Press and survived her year as chair of the TCU faculty senate.

Rose Stremlau was promoted to full professor of History at Davidson College.

Felicity M. Turner (Georgia Southern University) published an article in the October 2025 issue of *Gender & History*, "Serving Her Sentence: Gender, Race, and the Segregation of Carceral Space in Nineteenth-Century America." She also published a review essay entitled "Reconstruction and the Regulation of Sexuality" in the December 2025 issue of the *Journal of the Civil War Era*. In January 2026, she presented on a panel at the American Historical Association conference on abortion in the late nineteenth-century south.

Allison Tyra reached out last year about her first book, *Uncredited: Women's Overlooked, Misattributed, and Stolen Work*. Her second, *The View from the Hill*, has recently been published (<https://www.infinite-women.com/books/>): "What if being 'over the hill' isn't an ending, but a beginning?" *Infinite Women* creator Allison Tyra shares the stories of more than 340 women who made their mark on the world in their 40s or later. They come from around the world, across centuries and from all different fields: arts, sciences, business, military and more. Taken together, they challenge the myth that a person's value – particularly a woman's – diminishes as they grow older. Instead, these women prove that many of us only get better with age." Please let Allison know if you have any questions, or if you would be interested in joining her for a chat for the *Infinite Women* podcast. (amtyra@gmail.com)

In 2023, you may have heard **Melissa Walker** (Converse University emeritus) give the SAWH annual address entitled, "The heyday of a woman's life is the shady side of fifty'–or Is It? Twentieth-Century Women and the Experience of Aging." Melissa recently began a Substack where she is sharing more of that research. Check out *The Heyday of a Woman's Life* - the most recent post: "When Does Aging Begin Anyway?" <https://melissawalker2.substack.com/p/when-does-aging-begin-anyway?r=r2ej>. Additionally, Melissa was one of the scholars who contributed to *Our Story, Too*, a documentary produced by South Carolina Educational Television. The film highlights the role of women, African Americans, and Native Americans in the American Revolution. She wrote the introduction to *A Grand Day: The Forgotten Voice of a Farm Woman Through Dust, Depression, and War*, edited by Veda Rogers (University Press of Kansas, 2026). In April, she was honored by the Converse University Alumni Association as an honorary alumnus, an award that meant a great deal because it was bestowed by her former students. She continues her work as a life and career coach specializing in clients who work in higher education.

News of the Profession

Edited by Jessica Brabble

Calls for Papers

- [Centering the Black Experience in the Civil War Era](#): North Carolina Central University and the Society for Black Military Studies invite proposals for a two-day scholarly conference commemorating the 1st North Carolina Colored Volunteers (1st NCCV), later redesignated the 35th U.S. Colored Troops, and centering the Black experience in the Civil War era. **Deadline: May 24.**
- [Society of Early Americanists Conference](#): The Society of Early Americanists seeks submissions for its 2027 biennial conference, to be held in Chicago, March 18-20, 2027. We welcome proposals for individual papers and fully constituted panels, roundtables, or workshops on any aspect of the literatures and cultures of the early Americas. **Deadline: May 26.**
- [44th Annual West Indian Literature Conference](#): The Institute of Caribbean Studies and the Department of English at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus are delighted to host the

44th Annual West Indian Literature Conference, which will be held in San Juan from October 7-11, 2026. This year's conference is convened around the tripartite theme, "Freedom, Creative Spirit, & the Poetic Imagination." In its broadest sense, the conference asks what Caribbean writers and literary works tell us with respect to a central question: what does it mean to be free? **Deadline: June 1.**

- [Huntington Library Conference on Early Modern History and the Public Humanities](#): On April 8–9, 2027, The Huntington will host a conference to explore the essential—yet often misunderstood—relationship between specialized academic scholarship and public-serving applied humanities work. Centered on the early modern period (ca. 1400 to 1800), the two-day event will highlight original research that has enabled, supported, or shaped specific public humanities or public interest projects. **Deadline: June 1.**
- [Northeast Conference on British Studies](#): NECBS welcomes proposals for its 2026 annual meeting, to be held at the College of the Holy Cross and the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. **Deadline: June 1.**
- [New England Historical Association Conference](#): NEHA program committee welcomes proposals for presentations on any subject, period, or geographical area from scholars within or outside the New England region. **Deadline: July 1.**
- [MAPACA 2026 Conference](#): Proposals are welcome on all aspects of popular and American culture for inclusion in the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association (MAPACA) conference in Baltimore, MD. Single papers, panels, roundtables, and alternative formats are welcome. **Deadline: June 30.**
- [Big Berks 2027 Conference](#): The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians invites proposals for its 2027 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Gender, and Sexualities, also known as the "Big Berks," which will be held at the Hilton Minneapolis June 10-13, 2027. **Deadline: June 30.**
- [James A. Rawley Graduate Conference in the Humanities](#): The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's History Graduate Students Association invites all graduate and advanced undergraduate students studying the humanities to participate in the Eighteenth Annual James A. Rawley Conference in the Humanities. **Deadline: September 15.**
- [2027 Agricultural History Society and Rural Women's Studies Association](#): For their joint 2027 conference, the Rural Women's Studies Association and the Agricultural History Society invite scholars and students, artists and scientists, and community practitioners to explore the theme "Identities, Landscape, Boundaries." Boundaries—whether physical, political, social, cultural, or ecological—shape how people define themselves and their communities. **Deadline: September 15.**

Call for Applications

- [Access to the Archives Travel Grant](#): The Center for Archival Collections at Bowling Green State University (BGSU), is pleased to announce the availability of three competitive Research Travel Grants to support researchers who plan to spend at least five full working days using collections held by the CAC. The award is intended to promote and support original scholarly or creative work and to defray the costs of travel to and residence in Bowling Green, not to exceed \$1,500 per award. **Deadline: May 31.**
- [NACBS/NAVSA Early Career Network Collaboration](#): The ECN collaboration will bring together precariously employed early career scholars from both organizations for several online networking and professionalization events in advance of our conferences, and will culminate with an in-person

workshop and networking event at our annual meetings. Successful applicants will receive funding of up to \$1000 to cover travel and accommodations to attend our in-person annual meetings. **Deadline: June 5.**

- [William & Mary Special Collections Research Travel Grant](#): The Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) of William & Mary Libraries is pleased to announce that it will award travel grants to faculty members, graduate students, and/or independent researchers to support research use of its collections. Writers, creative and performing artists, filmmakers, and journalists are welcome to apply. **Deadline: June 12.**
- [New York Labor History Association Prize in Labor History](#): The Bernard Bellush Prize recognizes outstanding unpublished scholarship by graduate students in American labor and work history. Please do not submit either published work or accepted to be published work or a full dissertation. The Bellush Prize honors the contribution to labor history made by Bernie Bellush, as a scholar and as an activist. **Deadline: July 1.**
- [Smith Award, Southern Historical Association](#): The Smith Award is given by the European History Section of the Southern Historical Association for the best book published in European history by a member of the Section or a faculty member of a Southern college or university, or by a Southern press. **Deadline: August 1**
- [Friends Historical Association](#): The Friends Historical Association is pleased to offer funding to support contributions to the field of Quaker history. There are three grant opportunities: projects, publication subventions, and research funds.

Jobs and Fellowships

- [Postdoctoral Research Scholar – Columbia University](#): The Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life (IRCPL) of Columbia University invites applications for a full-time appointment as a Postdoctoral Research Scholar for one year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year based on satisfactory performance. The Institute seeks a scholar whose research and teaching directly address the Institute's foundational terms: religion, culture, and public life. Preference will be given to projects that seriously engage with the theme of religion and at least one of the other two dimensions. **Deadline: May 31.**
- [American Nineteenth Century History Journal Editors](#): American Nineteenth Century History, which was established in 200 and appears three times a year from Taylor & Francis, is seeking a new editorial team to begin work on January 1, 2027. Editors will receive a modest annual stipend and should be of at least mid-career status. **Deadline: June 1.**
- [Nanticoke Indian Association Inc – Museum Curator \(Delaware\)](#): The Museum Curator for the Nanticoke Indian Association, Inc. will serve as an ambassador of the Nanticoke Indian Museum, providing guided tours, educational presentations, and assisting with the preservation and interpretation of the Tribe's rich cultural heritage. **Deadline: June 30.**
- [University of South Carolina – Research Assistant Professor](#): The Institute for Southern Studies at the University of South Carolina invites applications for a Research Assistant Professor. The successful candidate will be required to teach 2 courses each Fall and Spring semester, one course entitled "Introduction to South Carolina," and a second, "Introduction to the American South". Administratively, the successful candidate will serve as content coordinator, scheduler, and assistant producer of our highly successful Take on the South podcast. **Deadline: August 15.**

Pay It Forward

We are grateful for the gifts to Pay It Forward - this generous support allows SAWH to offer free registration for graduate students and contingent faculty with little or no institutional funding. Please visit <https://thesawh.org/give/> to add your name to the list!

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

The SAWH is a 100% volunteer-driven organization, and we love the volunteers who serve on the Executive Council, staff committees, and keep the day-to-day machinery of the organization running. If you'd like to volunteer for the SAWH, [let us know at this link](#). Here's the current roster of amazing SAWH volunteers:

Officers and Executive Council, 2025

President: Crystal Feimster

First Vice President: Anne Marshall

Second Vice President: Joan Johnson

Past President: Michelle Haberland

Executive Secretary: Erin Bush

Treasurer: Sheri Huerta / Bea Burton

Executive Council Members

Kelly Kennington '25

Melissa McEuen '23

La Shonda Mims '24

Graduate Student Representatives

Tracie Grube-Gaurkee '24

Georga-Kay Whyte '25

Prize Committees 2026

A. Elizabeth Taylor Prize

Pippa Holloway (Chair)

Leah LaGrone

Elizabeth G. Masarik

Willie Lee Rose Prize

Carole Emberton (Chair)

Greta De Jong

Sarah McNamara

Julia Cherry Spruill Prize

Christina Greene (Chair)

Shannon Eaves

Cynthia Kierner

Anne Firor Scott Mid-Career Fellowship

Sarah Case (Chair)

Ami Pflugrad-Jackisch

Whitney Stewart

Standing Committees 2026

Graduate Committee

TBA, Chair

Megan Brett '24

Diane Mutti-Burke '24

Graduate Student Members:

Morgan Bettin-Coleman '24

TBA

Membership Committee

TBA, Chair

Rachel Gunter '24

Amanda McGee '24

Professional Development Committee

TBA, Chair

Susan Ashmore '24

Alex Colvin '24

Anne Marshall '24

Finance and Investment Committee

TBA, Chair

Social Media Committee

TBA, Chair

Beatrice Burton '24

Mandy Cooper '24

Laura June Davis '24

Nominating Committee

Michelle Haberland, Chair

Allison Fredette

La Shonda Mims

Newsletter Editors

Jessica Brabble '22, editor, news of the profession

Randolph Hollingsworth '21, managing editor

Mary Carroll Johansen '23, editor, member news

Website Editor

Hannah Rose Greer LeComte, Chair '25

H-SAWH Editors

Jessica Brabble '23

Lai Wah Chen '23

Erica Hayden '23

Jesse George-Nichol '23

Megan Jeffreys '23

H-SAWH Advisory Board

Randolph Hollingsworth '23

Shannon Lalor '23

Summer Perritt '23, blogger

Tanya Shlosman '23

Antoinette van Zelm '23

Triennial Campus Host Liaison

TBA

Triennial Program Committee

TBA



If you have news of the professions (job postings, calls for papers, fellowship or award competitions, etc.) that you'd like to share with SAWH members, please send them to professional news editor Jessica Brabble at jmbrabble@vt.edu.

If you have member news to share, please [click here](#) to submit your news. It will be compiled by member news editor Mary Carroll Johansen.

If you have suggestions for the newsletter, please e-mail newsletter editor Randolph Hollingsworth at newsletter@thesawh.org.

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