



# SUPER JACKSONVILLE!

The University of North Florida hosted the 2004 conference in **Jacksonville, Florida**, at the Adam's Mark Hotel overlooking the beautiful St. John's River. The city was buzzing with anticipation of Super Bowl XXXIX in February 2005. Conference chair **Debra Murphy** provided a memorable conference. Florida sunshine was much appreciated, particularly after the state had endured four hurricanes in six weeks.

A welcome reception at Gallery L, hosted by The University of North Florida professor and gallery director **Paul Ladnier**, featured an exhibition of prominent Jacksonville artists. After sessions and meetings on Thursday, both The **Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens** and the newly renovated **Jacksonville Museum of Modern Art (JMoMA)** provided the membership with lavish receptions. **JMoMA** also featured the impressive seventh annual **SECAC member's exhibition**, in its Regional Exhibition Gallery, and hosted the **SECAC Awards** program. The keynote speaker on Friday night was internationally known photographer **Jerry Uelsmann**. His lecture was on the campus of the University of North Florida where his groundbreaking work was also on display in an exhibition, "Fabricated According to the Truth," curated by Paul Ladnier. The University of North Florida provided a reception before the lecture.

A Saturday tour of **St. Augustine** and **Flagler College** was capped by a reception at the **J. Johnson Gallery**, currently showing "Visions of Now." Despite a slow return to Jacksonville in a badly disabled bus, tour participants were in high spirits when they joined other revelers on the Jacksonville Princess for a delightful dinner and dancing cruise on the St. John's River honoring retiring administrator **Anne Thomas**.

In the conference program a number of organizations and individuals who helped make this conference a success were mentioned, including: **the University of North Florida, JMoMA, the Cummer, Flagler College** and **J. Johnson Gallery**.

Total registration was 299, including 239 individuals, and 60 students.

**A motion was approved at the General Business meeting on Saturday expressing gratitude to conference chair Debra Murphy, and all who helped make 2004 such a success.**

## AWARDS PRESENTED

Members of the 2004 SECAC Awards Committee included Jane Brown from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Peggy McDowell from the University of New Orleans; William Eiland from the University of Georgia Museum; David Voros from the University of South Carolina; and Howard Risatti from Virginia Commonwealth University.

**The 2004 SECAC Award for Excellence in Teaching** was presented to two individuals. **Jane Allen Nodine**, professor of art at the University of South Carolina Upstate was nominated by several of her colleagues. In the nomination letter, they say that Professor Nodine "Began her career at USC Upstate in the early '90's when there was no art program; studio and art history courses were offered only for general education purposes." They go on to say that she "Initiated and steered to fruition the first art degree program at the university, the Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design." Chancellor of USC Upstate, John C. Stockwell, wrote in a letter of congratulations to Professor Nodine, "I have had the pleasure of working with Professor Nodine for ten years. During that time, I have witnessed great growth in the University's art program, largely through her intense commitment to her students and to the development of opportunities for their advancement as artists and scholars. Whether offering study abroad opportunities, developing new major programs, designing studio facilities, giving thoughtful guidance and advice, or committing herself to the day-to-day diligence of a working artist for whom teaching by example is the only way, Jane is the best."

**Porter Aichele**, associate professor of art at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, also received **the 2004 SECAC Award for Excellence in Teaching**. Patricia Wasserboehr, the head of the department at UNC Greensboro, nominated Professor Aichele. She writes "Professor Aichele's contributions to curriculum development, teaching, advising, and career planning at UNCG have been exemplary.

Vol. XXXVII, No. 3  
November, 2004

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As Department Head, she worked with faculty to revise our MFA curriculum to national standards recognized by the College Art Association. As well, she gained administrative support to reinstate a visiting artist residency program which has served the program by introducing to our students fresh and diverse approaches to teaching and art making." She goes on to say "Professor Aichele is an outstanding teacher with excellent teaching evaluations and letters of support written by students whose career development has been profoundly and positively influenced by the support, advice guidance generously offered, and sustained over many years." Nancy Doll, Director of the Weatherspoon Art Museum supported the nomination by writing, "She utilizes the Weatherspoon as a teaching resource more than any other faculty member in the university. By doing so, she provides her students the invaluable opportunity to learn directly from works of art, while she also encourages their own creativity, conceptual understanding, and communication and critical skills."

**The SECAC Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research and Publication** was presented to **William Levin** for *The Allegory of Mercy at the Misericordia in Florence: History, Context, Iconography, and the Documentation of Confraternal Charity in the Trecento*. Professor Levin is professor of art history at Centre College. In a letter of introduction, Nicole Caddigan, the acquisition editor for the publisher, University Press of America, wrote, "In his book, Dr. Levin provides the first complete sociological, historical account of the fresco at the Misericordia in Florence. The author masterfully weaves his analysis with the inspirational story of the Misericordia's aid to needy Florentines during the 14th century. This remarkable research will certainly leave an indelible mark in art history scholarship." Supporting this nomination, Dr. Elizabeth Bailey, professor of art at Wesleyan College, wrote, "Dr. Levin's book adds significantly to the important research in confraternity studies by John Henderson and Konrad Eisenbichler, and furthers the contributions made by the recent collection of essays edited by Barbara Wisch and Diane Ahl. His focus on the Compagnia di Santa Maria della Misericordia and its patronage of the building now known as the Museo del Bigallo in the center of Florence will be of interest to students of art, social history, and popular devotion at the Misericordia." Professor Bailey continues, "He has taken a fresh look at the Allegory of Mercy fresco and offers new insights and a deeper understanding of it, deftly interweaving his microscopic analysis, meticulous reading of the documents, and an astute comprehension of the roles of charity, mercy, and devotion at the Bigallo." She concludes, "The qualities that I admire most about Dr. Levin's work are his attention to detail, the clarity of his writing, the logic of his argumentation, the depth of his knowledge, and the way in which he interweaves texts and images."

For their work as co-editors of *Monuments to the Lost Cause: Women Art and the Landscape of Southern Memory*, **Pamela Simpson**, professor of art history at Washington and Lee University, and **Cynthia Mills**, executive editor of the Smithsonian Museum of Art, were each presented the **SECAC Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research and Publication**. Betsy Fahlman, who nominated Simpson and Mills, wrote, "This volume is an important scholarly achievement of considerable significance. Both Pam and Cindy are leading scholars in

the area of public sculpture and Southern art. Together they gathered a group of scholars, all with new material, to contribute essays on art relating to what is, next to the Civil Rights movement, the most transformative historical event of the modern South." Fahlman points out that both editors also contributed essays—Simpson on the Lee Chapel at Washington and Lee University and Mills on monuments to Confederate women. Fahlman says, "Monuments to the Lost Cause is not just fascinating reading for those interested in the history of American art or the South, but for anyone intrigued by the resonant connections between the past and present, place and region, art and cultural identity, public memory and historical fact."

**The SECAC Award for Outstanding Exhibition and Catalog of Historical Materials** was presented to **Roberta Smith Favis**, professor of art history at Stetson University and Stetson University's Department of Art for the exhibition and catalog *Oscar Bluemner: A Daughter's Legacy—Selections from the Vera Bluemner Kouba Collection*, Stetson University. The exhibition, held at the Duncan Gallery of Art at Stetson University January 23 through March 28, 2004, introduced the public to an extraordinary collection of works by an important American artist of the early 20th Century. Janet Toohey, chief curator at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens in Jacksonville, Florida, said in a letter supporting this nomination, that "Dr. Favis' catalogue and Duncan Gallery exhibition are not only outstanding achievements for Dr. Favis and Stetson University but also significant contributions to art history and the field of American art." She goes on to say, "As a historian of American art familiar with Bluemner's work, I found that the joint catalogue and exhibition project offered the greatest depth of material on Bluemner's biography and career that has been available in a decade." University of Milwaukee art historian Jeffrey Hayes commended "Favis and her collaborators for creating a handsome, highly accessible installation of the works and for producing a clearly written, cleanly edited, beautifully designed document."

**The Halsey Gallery** at the College of Charleston's School of the Arts was presented with the **SECAC Award for Outstanding Exhibition and Catalog of Contemporary Materials** for its cumulative record of exhibitions and supporting materials. Dean Valerie Morris with the School of the Arts at the College of Charleston nominated Halsey Gallery. She said in her introduction, "Through the efforts of its Director, Mark Sloan, the Halsey Gallery has become one of the most adventurous and innovative venues for display of contemporary art in the southeastern United States. She wrote, "Halsey Gallery's programmatic focus is on contemporary art by emerging and mid-career artists of national stature." She points out that Halsey "also has maintained a strong international component over the years, bringing in artists, or their work, from Italy, Canada, Germany, Japan, Slovenia, China, India, and Ivory Coast." Dean Morris concludes that "Whether the Halsey Gallery's publications are basic exhibition guides or more involved catalogues, the publications allow the viewer to focus his or her attention in order to gain the maximum understanding of the works on display. Sometimes playful, but always scholarly, the publications feature curatorial essays and articles by art historians that enhance the viewer's experience."

At the Thursday evening presentation of awards, **Charles R. Mack**, University of South Carolina, was recognized with an **Award of Distinction**. Donald Van Horn, Vice President of SECAC, presented Mack with a silver tray that bore the engraved inscription "SECAC Award of Distinction, Presented by the Southeastern College Art Conference, October 2004, For Distinguished Service as President 1976 and 2002-2004."

Mack, who for health reasons resigned before completing his full term as President of SECAC, will continue on the Board of Directors as Past-President. He has a long history with the organization beginning in 1972 when he presented his first paper at the annual conference. A faithful attendant at the annual meetings, he presented many papers and chaired sessions. He served as Editor of the SECAC Review and as a Board member for six years. Donald Van Horn, who succeeds him as President, lauded his contributions to the organization.

At the Thursday evening presentation of awards President Charles R. Mack recognized **Arthur Marks**, recently retired from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He presented an engraved silver tray as an **Award for Exemplary Achievement** to Marks who served the organization as Secretary-Treasurer and as representative from North Carolina on the Board of Directors.

Charles Mack presented **Anne Thomas** with an engraved silver tray "In recognition and appreciation of her years of devoted service to the Southeastern College Art Conference as SECAC Administrator, 1991-2004, Secretary-Treasurer, 1974-1981, SECAC Executive Secretary, 1972-1973. Don Van Horn on behalf of the Board and SECAC presented her a digital camera in gratitude of her long service.

## 2004 ARTIST'S FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

**Pat Wasserboehr**, Chair of the Artist's Fellowship committee, announced that from 12 applicants the committee selected **Carol Prusa** of **Florida International University** as the recipient of the 2004 award of \$3000. The members of the Artist's Fellowship Committee who assisted Wasserboehr were Virginia Derryberry, University of North Carolina at Asheville, and Robert Cocanougher, University of North Florida. Prusa expects to have an exhibition in Little Rock at the 2005 conference, and an interview published in the *SECAC Review*.

Prusa has exhibited widely in regional, national and international exhibitions; has served artist residencies, received grants and awards; and her work has been reviewed and documented in newspapers, catalogs and magazines. Her recent one-person exhibitions include J. Johnson Gallery (2004), Gallery Camino Real (2004), Dominican University (2004), Kendall Campus Gallery, MDCC (2003) and Coral Springs Art Museum (2002). In 2002, she received both the South Florida Cultural Consortium Visual Artists Fellowship and a State of Florida Individual Artist Fellowship. Her work is in the permanent collection at the Fort Lauderdale Art Museum. In 2003-2004 her work traveled internationally in the Triennial Exhibition of German and American Artists, curated by the American Museum of Arts and Design, NYC. Upcoming shows include the project room at Bernice Steinbaum Gallery in Miami and Gallery 621 in Tallahassee.

Application information for the 2004 Fellowship can be

found on the SECAC website or obtained by contacting **Pat Wasserboehr, Chair, Department of Art, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, PO Box 26170, Greensboro, NC, 27402. Email: p\_wasser@uncg.edu.**

## SECAC MEMBERS EXHIBITION JUROR'S CHOICE AWARD

From entries of 43 artists who submitted work, 19 were accepted by jurors George Kinghorn, deputy director and chief curator of JMoMA, and Paul Karabinis, director of the University of North Florida University gallery. The winners of the **Juror's Choice Award** were **Rachel Simmons**, assistant professor of art at **Rollins College**, for "Symbiosis No. 3," and **Kevin Haran**, assistant professor of art at the **University of Central Florida**, for "House and Figure."

## GULNAR BOSCH TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GRANT

**Debra Murphy** announced that the **Gulnar Bosch Travel Assistance Grant** recipient was **Christine Filippone** of **Rutgers University**.

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Some of the matters that came before the General Business Meeting are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter and will not be repeated here. Significant action is reported below. Minutes of the 2004 Board and General Business Meetings will be posted on the website ([www.furman.edu/secac](http://www.furman.edu/secac)).

President **Charles R. Mack** opened the meeting by recognizing the new members of the SECAC Board of Directors: **Carol Crown**, representing Tennessee, **Floyd Martin**, representing Arkansas, **Elise Smith**, representing Mississippi, **Debra Murphy**, representing Florida, **Helen Langa**, representative-at-large, and **Beth Mulvaney**, Secretary-Treasurer.

Highlights of the meeting include

1. Charles R. Mack resigned, and passed the gavel to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Donald Van Horn who assumed the final year of Mack's presidency of SECAC, after which he will serve the three year term to which he was elected.
2. A budget for 2005 was adopted that included conference income based on registration fees of \$110 (pre-registration) and \$140 (registration at conference). Budgeted expenses included paying for 2 issues of the Review in 2005.
3. The Nominating committee nominated Debra Murphy for the just vacated position of 1st Vice-President and President Elect. She was elected by voice vote. President Van Horn then announced the appointment of Steven Bleicher of the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale to fill Murphy's unexpired term on the board of directors for the state of Florida.
4. Revisions to the SECAC Position Papers were approved, and they will be available on the SECAC website: Statement of Standards and Principles; Statement of Standards for Evaluating the Performance of Art Historians in Matters of Tenure and Promotion; Statement of Standards and

Practices Concerning the Promotion, Tenure, and Retention of Studio Art Faculty; Criteria for the Hiring and Retention of Visual Resources Professionals; SECAC Policy for Visual Arts Education, and Guidelines for College and University Galleries and Museums.

5. The following addition to **Conference Policies** was approved: ***In accordance with professional standards, participants on the conference program are expected to make their presentations in person. Only if a last minute emergency occurs can a substitute make the presentation. Because the participant has received the professional benefit of being listed in the program, no conference fees will be refunded in the event of such emergency.***

6. Affiliate members reported as follows:

**SESAH**—Pamela Simpson, President, reported that SESA's 2004 conference would be in Knoxville, Texas 2005, and Alabama 2006.

**VRC**—Tina Updike reported the VRC sponsored one session at the CAA national meeting in Seattle, and will also have one at the CAA Atlanta conference. VRC sponsored a digital assets organization round table at the national meeting in Portland OR, and is having a similar one here in Jacksonville. Updike will demonstrate the James Madison University MDID.

**CWAO**—Kyra Belan reported that CWAO is sponsoring a panel on southern women's art. Their next sponsored CAA session will be a panel on women and post-modernism.

**FATE**—Scott Betz noted that their Biennial meeting is in March at the Columbus College of Art and Design. This is Betz' last term as representative of FATE on the board.

**ATSAH**—Liana Cheney reported that ATSAH is sponsoring three sessions at Jacksonville, two at CAA in Atlanta, and two Renaissance Society meetings in Cambridge, England.

## NEXT YEAR IN LITTLE ROCK

The Department of Art of the **University of Arkansas at Little Rock** will welcome SECAC to Little Rock **October 26-30, 2005**. Since previous annual meetings in 1978 and 1989 there have been notable changes in the city. Designed by James Polshek, the Clinton Presidential Center will be open, as will be the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. Planning is underway to have a panel discussion on art and politics co-sponsored by the Clinton School and SECAC.

**The Arkansas Arts Center**, famed for its collection of works on paper, underwent major expansion three years ago; similarly the **Historic Arkansas Museum** has been enlarged. **The Little Rock Public Library** has new quarters including gallery space. **The Old State House** has been restored, and **Central High School** and its Visitor Center is now a federal park site.

The **Peabody Little Rock** is a renovation of what was formerly the Excelsior Hotel, where guests at the SECAC 1989 meeting stayed. The Peabody ducks swim in the lobby fountain every day. Luxurious accommodations await SECAC 2005 attendees, and conference sessions will be held in meeting spaces of the Peabody and the adjacent Statehouse Convention

Center. The room rate will be \$115. Reservations may be made at 501-906-4000. The Peabody is in the River Market area, with restaurants, bars, and shops, and the **Clinton Library** within walking distance. By the time of the meeting there will be some renovated areas across the Arkansas River in North Little Rock, accessible by bridges over the river, or by streetcar.

Some events will be held on the UALR campus, and there will be a special session concerning works on paper at the Arkansas Arts Center. There will be the usual exhibition for SECAC members. Laura Heon, curator at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, has been invited to be the juror, and she will also deliver a presentation as part of the SECAC program. Saturday activities will include walking tours of downtown Little Rock and its historic area, studio workshops on the UALR campus, and possibly an optional trip to Hot Springs. The Saturday night party will be in the atrium of the Arkansas Arts Center. Sessions for studio art, art history, and art education will be organized by a program committee, and by the affiliate organizations. Members with ideas for sessions should contact a member of the program committee by December 30, 2004.

**Floyd Martin**, Department of Art, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, will serve as conference chair. All members of the program committee may be reached at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Department of Art, 2801 S. University Ave, Little Rock, AR 72204-1099. Telephone the art department at 501-569-3182, or fax 501-683-7022. Program committee members may also be contacted at their e-mail addresses.

**Please send session proposals by December 30, 2004.**

**Floyd Martin**, fwmartin@ualr.edu (Art History)

**Jane Brown**, jhbrown@ualr.edu (Art History)

**Laura Amrhein**, lamarhein@ualr.edu (Non-western Art History)

**Michael Warrick**, mrwarrick@ualr.edu (Studio Art)

**Bonnie Black**, bjblack@ualr.edu (Art Education)

**Brad Cushman**, becushman@ualr.edu (Gallery Curator)

## AHEAD IN 2006– 2007

The board accepted invitations from **Vanderbilt University** in Nashville Tennessee to host the 2006 conference, and **Davidson College** to host the 2007 conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR 2005 SECAC AWARDS

SECAC authorizes the presentation of several annual awards to SECAC members for distinguished service and contribution to the arts and to our organization. These awards are:

- The SECAC Award for Exemplary Achievement
- The SECAC Award for Excellence in Teaching
- The SECAC Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research and Publication
- The SECAC Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement
- The SECAC Award for Outstanding Exhibition and Catalog of Historical Materials
- The SECAC Award for Outstanding Exhibition and Catalog of Contemporary Materials

In addition to these professional achievement awards, SECAC also presents, upon occasion, a special President's Award. It also gives a Certificate of Merit to retiring members of long and true standing, as well as an Award of Distinction to former SECAC Officers. The Organization encourages nominations for awards in all these several categories.

The 2005 SECAC First Vice President and Chair of the Awards Committee **Debra Murphy** invites nominations and self-nominations for any and all of these awards for the year 2005, to be presented at the annual meeting in Little Rock, October 2005. Initial nominations should be followed by a letter explaining the nomination and accompanied by evaluation materials to enable the committee members to reach their decision (such materials may be furnished by either the nominator or the nominee). Send nominations to **Debra Murphy, Department of Art and Design, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32224, phone, 904-620-4037. Email: dmurphy@unf.edu.** Nominations should be received before the end of April 2005.

## NOMINATIONS FOR SECAC BOARD

The SECAC nominating committee chair Debra Murphy invites nominations for Director positions for a number of states. Directors may serve two consecutive three-year terms, and incumbents from **West Virginia**—Janet Snyder, and **South Carolina**—Robert Lyon, are eligible for re-election. **Kay Arthur, Virginia**, concludes her second term in 2004, and is not eligible for re-election. **Tina Yarborough of Georgia** is filling an unexpired term. Please send suggested names for Directors from the states listed above to **Debra Murphy, Department of Art and Design, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32224, phone, 904-620-4037. Email: dmurphy@unf.edu.** Nominations should be received by February 1, 2005.

## SECAC REVIEW

The publication of the 2003 issue is still in progress. As noted by President Donald Van Horn in his message, he wants to move forward immediately with the 2003 issue. **Michael Duffy** (duffym@mail.ecu.edu), the new editor of the SECAC Review, hopes that the 2004 issue will be released in the spring of 2005.

All Chairs of sessions for the 2004 conference in Jacksonville who have not submitted the abstract for their sessions should submit them by **January 30, 2005** to Michael Duffy.

**Anna Fariello** is the Editor for Exhibition Reviews. She has guidelines for persons interested in writing reviews. Please contact her, with a brief abstract, no later than the end of the calendar year if you are interested. A complete draft is due by March 1, 2005. Anna Fariello, SECAC Exhibition Review Editor, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 24061-0227, or, fariello@vt.edu.

**Helen Langa** of American University, Book Review Editor, can be reached at hlanga@american.edu.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

SECAC apologizes for the omission of the name of **George Cress**, professor emeritus of The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, as a contributing member of SECAC in the Spring 2004 newsletter.

**Helen Langa's** book, Radical Art: Printmaking and the Left in 1930s New York, was published by The University of California Press. Langa is associate professor of art history at American University.

**Christina B. Urdike** (Visual Resources Specialist, JMU School of Art and Art History) received the 2004 James Madison Distinguished Service Award from the JMU Alumni Association, which recognizes staff or non-teaching faculty for service to JMU and beyond that continually advances the mission and goals of the institution. The award, which included a plaque and \$1,000 for professional development, was presented at the Homecoming Black-tie Gala held October 25, 2004.

The Department of Art of the **University of South Carolina** has appointed two art historians to tenure-track positions as assistant professors. **Andrew Graciano** (Ph.D. University of Virginia) joined the faculty in 2003 as a specialist in 18th- and 19th- century European Art and **Carlton Hughes** (Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) received his appointment this year as a specialist in High and Late Renaissance and Baroque Art.

**Charles R. Mack**, professor of art history at the **University of South Carolina**, has received his institution's 2004 Educational Foundation Award for Scholarly Research and Publication in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Paintings by **Virginia Derryberry** were seen at an exhibition "Vanitas" at the Mars Hill College Art Gallery, September 1-October 15, 2004. Derryberry is assistant professor of art at **The University of North Carolina at Asheville**.

The University of North Carolina Press published **Samantha Baskind's** book, Raphael Soyer and the Search for Modern Jewish Art. Baskind is assistant professor of art history at Cleveland State University.

**Virginia Derryberry**, assistant professor of art at the **University of North Carolina at Asheville**, **Reni Gower**, associate professor of art at **Virginia Commonwealth University**, and **Alison Helm**, professor of art at **West Virginia University**, were among five women artists exhibited in a traveling group show, "Convergence," at the South Carolina State Museum, May 21-July 11.

**Kate Kretz**, associate professor of art at **Florida International University**, held an open studio at her New York studio, October 3-29, 2004.

SECAC has just received word that **Mary Evelyn Stringer, Mississippi University for Women**, is seriously ill, confined to a nursing facility, and unable to communicate. Dr. Stringer was an active member of SECAC through her tenure at Mississippi University for Women and a regular participant in the SECAC conferences. Since her retirement she has been a loyal and generous contributing member of the organization. Anyone wishing to get further information about Dr. Stringer should contact Dr. Sue Coates, scoates@muv.edu.

## POSITION NOTICE

**The University of North Carolina at Wilmington**, Department of Art and Theatre, seeks a Lecturer/Visual Database Curator with an MA in Art History or equivalent degree. Position begins in January 2005. For a full position description please consult the SECAC website [www.furman.edu/secac](http://www.furman.edu/secac).

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the incoming president for SECAC, I want to first recognize Randy Mack for the fine work he has done over his many years of association with our organization and most recently for his tenure as president from 2002-2004. It has been a real pleasure for me to serve as his vice president as it has provided me with an extraordinary opportunity to gain a greater perspective on SECAC. Randy has been associated with SECAC for over thirty years and he serves as a wealth of information. Moreover, he has a very good idea of where SECAC should be heading based on his long tenure and a keen sense of vision for the future.

I also want to express a deep sense of gratitude to Anne Thomas, who will be retiring at the end of December as the SECAC administrator. Anne has served SECAC in many roles over the years and she has done as much as anyone I know to help SECAC mature into the fine organization it is. It has been my privilege to have worked closely with Anne over the past 10 years and I've learned a great deal from her. She knows SECAC inside and out, and with her moving on to different pursuits all of us are presented with the challenge of maintaining the organizational excellence she has established without having her steady hand and level headedness immediately available. Like Randy Mack and many others, Anne's long association with SECAC, coupled with her ability to see down the road, has proven invaluable.

Clearly, we are in a state of transition. Our new administrator, Rachel Frew, has worked with Anne closely over the past couple of years and she will assume her duties entirely on January 1, 2005. Debra Murphy, from the University of North Florida, is the new vice president/president elect, and Beth Mulvaney, Meredith College, is our new secretary-treasurer. I am excited about SECAC's future and I look forward to working with these folks and all members of SECAC as we chart a course for where the organization needs to travel in the next several years. Higher education is changing rapidly, and the challenge for us in this environment is to maintain SECAC's legacies while cultivating new opportunities for growth and advancing the work and influence of our organization.

At the Saturday business meeting in Jacksonville I touched briefly on some of the significant issues I think SECAC needs to deal with in the near term. I want to speak to a few of those issues here.

Perhaps our most pressing concern is the issue of future conference sites and conference planning in general. Anyone who has put a SECAC meeting together will tell you the responsibility is enormous. The financial ramifications for host institutions can be sizeable, and the demand on human resources is undeniably significant. As SECAC grows, and as colleges and universities continue to deal with dwindling resources, there may very well come a time when the organization can't always count on faithful members stepping up to the plate with offers to host meetings. We are working on a number of possible conference sites for the next several years that will be hosted by member institutions. However, our long-range plans have to include options for meetings in locations that aren't hosted by a single college or university. I am going about putting together a group of people representing a cross

section of SECAC's membership to discuss these matters and to try to formulate some recommendations to be considered at the 2005 meeting in Little Rock.

Because of the growing size of our organization, I think it is prudent to begin discussions about how we might better use technology for communication purposes. This is a complex issue because we have limited staff and, in order to manage electronic communication systems, we would probably have to rely even more on volunteerism and the good graces of people like Ross McClain. Ross has been the webmaster for the SECAC website for several years and he does that out of the goodness of his heart. However, I believe there are opportunities to explore that would make communication more immediate and more accessible to our membership, and as a result, make SECAC even more efficient than it is now. For example, is it possible to establish electronic list serves for institutional and individual members? Do we wish to consider an online version of the Review? Through technology, I believe we can expand services to our membership and I want a group of members to discuss these issues.

The Southeastern College Art Conference Review is a signature component of this organization, and we have to get back on schedule, pure and simple. That means publishing the Review in the year it is dated. A number of dedicated members are working together to see that the 2003 Review is published as quickly as possible, and editor Michael Duffy at East Carolina University is working on the 2004 issue now. My goal is to have the Review back on its appropriate production schedule by late 2005 if at all possible and at the latest, in the 2006 year.

The last concern I want to mention here relates to everything above and more. As I said at the Saturday business meeting in Jacksonville, over the years SECAC has grown to be much more than an organization that puts on an annual conference. I believe we serve our individual and institutional members as well as higher education in many ways that go beyond the opportunity the annual Conference represents for sharing the scholarship and creativity that goes on daily in our region. I will be establishing a "futures" committee from the membership to help identify the many ways we are serving our constituencies and to help SECAC better define itself as an organization of substance and influence that extends to 365 days of the year.

It is an honor for me to serve this organization as its president. My presidential predecessors elected to serve as more than the conference chair, Martha Belle Caldwell, Pam Simpson, Larry Ligo, Lloyd Benjamin, Robert Lemon, Peggy McDowell, and Randy Mack, have all provided sound leadership to SECAC and each one stands as an excellent model to follow. These presidents all worked to build on a solid foundation that was established by SECAC and its members from its earliest beginnings. We have a truly wonderful organization, and thanks to the folks above and all the members over the years, SECAC thrives today as the most active and productive regional conference in the country. I have been handed a precious legacy, and I look forward to working with every member of SECAC to make us stronger, more meaningful, and more influential in higher education and the arts.

**Donald Van Horn**

## MESSAGE FROM CHARLES (RANDY) MACK

I have been a member of SECAC since 1971, almost as long as I have been teaching. I published my first article on the mimeographed pages of its Newsletter/Review in the same year and have been pleased, over the years, to have had additional articles accepted for publication on the pages of the increasingly respected SECAC Review. I presented my first professional paper at the SECAC "Conference That Almost Wasn't" in New Orleans in 1972 and have given numerous papers or have chaired sessions at SECAC Annual Meetings ever since. In fact, I cut my academic teeth on SECAC and the organization has served me well. I have missed only one Annual Meeting since 1972 (I was on sabbatical leave in Europe) and have found each of them a stimulating fusion of unpretentious professionalism and fun. More than that: each meeting has been rather like a family reunion. I also have been pleased to give something back to SECAC, having served as SECAC Review editor for three years, president/meeting chair in 1976, and as a member of the SECAC Board for six years. I review all this personal history only to emphasize how truly honored I felt when I was asked to serve SECAC again—this time for six years as vice president and president-elect.

It was not long after I returned from the 1999 SECAC Meeting in Norfolk that I first became aware of the symptoms of what, ten months later, would be diagnosed as the onset of Parkinson's Disease. My term as vice-president had not yet begun and, perhaps, I should have stepped away at this point but the effects of the disease were mild at its start and the medications most effective. And I really did want to serve. I consulted with our president, Peggy McDowell, and other officers and decided to go ahead. At that point, I believed I could fulfill my six-year service obligation to SECAC and could do so effectively. I was wrong.

Parkinson's Disease is relentless and the medication dosages, despite increases, are proving less and less effective; the "off times" lengthen and the "on-times" diminish in length. Increasingly, I am preoccupied by my physical limitations and my abilities for "multitasking" are restricted.

SECAC needs solid and forceful leadership; it needs a president who is an activist, who can cooperate with innovation with other national and regional organizations and who can come up with fresh ideas. That is not the role to which I now am able to aspire.

Thus, it is with regret that I have resigned from my position as president of SECAC and have passed the "gavel of leadership" into the capable hand of your vice president, Don Van Horn. Don is exceptionally suited to the task. He possesses keen administrative skills, sharpened by his role as Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Marshall University. He also is truly dedicated to SECAC. My decision to resign the presidency was made easier by knowing that Don was there to take over and by the fact that Debra Murphy has agreed to accept the nomination as the next vice president/president-elect. Debra, like Don, brings to the job valuable administrative gifts and a strong commitment to SECAC. Fresh from the grueling task of organizing the recent Annual Meeting, she will have an especial insight into many of our organizational needs. I can now step aside, not with pleasure, but with the confidence of knowing that the leadership is in place for SECAC's future success. In fact, as it now turns out, our long-serving SECAC Administrator, Anne Thomas, and I are turning over our respective duties to our successors at the same moment. It was not planned this way, but Anne is just as confident in her successor, Rachel Frew, as I am in mine. SECAC is in good hands!

I will miss SECAC and all of my colleagues and good friends within the organization. I invite each of you to play the activist role within our association, to present papers, appear on panels, participate in workshops, contribute articles to the SECAC Review, submit news of yourself and your department to the Newsletter, serve on the SECAC Board and professional committees and, at home, encourage your colleagues (and your students) to become members, to attend our Annual Meetings, and to enjoy SECAC's truly nurturing environment.

With all best wishes to all of you,  
**Charles R. (Randy) Mack,**  
**University of South Carolina**

## MESSAGE FROM ANNE W. THOMAS

I am truly grateful to the Board and to all the members of SECAC for the gracious recognition that I was accorded in Jacksonville, and for the digital camera, a very special gift which will provide great satisfaction (once I master it!). It has been a genuine pleasure and privilege to work with you over these many years and I cherish the friendships that are the rewards of my tenure. I look forward to maintaining my association with SECAC in the role of member and to enjoying future conferences from a perspective other than the registration desk. As of January 1, 2005, Rachel Frew,

who has worked with me for the past two years and who has participated in two conferences, will become the SECAC Administrator. Rachel knew many in SECAC before she began to work with us and she has become acquainted with many more at the two past conferences. She has had responsibility for membership records, has worked on financial records, and she has served as editor for this Newsletter. We anticipate a seamless transition in January.

My warm good wishes to all,  
**Anne W. Thomas**

## SESAH CALL FOR PAPERS

The Southeast Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians, issues this call for papers to be considered for the 2005 Annual Meeting to be held October 12 through 16 in Fort Worth, Texas. Papers are sought on any aspect of architectural history, urban history, and the history of landscape or of the allied arts of design. For complete information contact Professor Jay C. Henry, SESAHA Conference Chair, School of Architecture, Box 19108, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX 76019.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The *Call for Papers* will be published in late January 2005, and it will include detailed information for the 2005 conference. Deadline for the Spring *Newsletter* will be April 15, 2005. A preliminary program for the 2005 conference will be mailed in late August.

**The physical change of the location of SECAC will be underway in December and it will result in changes of mailing address, email address and telephone number for SECAC. Watch the website for announcement of ways to reach the SECAC staff after January 1, 2005.**



*Anne Thomas receives silver tray from Charles (Randy) Mack, center, and Don Van Horn*

**secac**

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