

fall 2020

The LEGACY

A Publication of Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.

Called
TO HEALTH
— ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT —

Doggone
GOOD TIME
T.R.R. COBB'S NEW EXPLORER

WHAT'S OLD
is
NEW AGAIN
GOODRUM GETS SOME NEW SILK



Contents



4

Campus Notes

Watson-Brown Scholar Updates

10

Alumni Spotlight

by Shannon Friedmann Hatch



12

Goodrum House

by Barbara Hyde

14

T.R.R. Cobb House

by Ashleigh Oatts



16

Sticks & Stones

by Michelle Zupan

OUR MISSION

The Watson-Brown Foundation, through creativity, diligence and financial support, labors to improve education in the American South by funding its schools and students, preserving its history, encouraging responsible scholarship and promoting the memory and values of our spiritual founders.

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CAMPUS NOTES



Watson-Brown Scholars in Action

Melody Brown, Sophomore, North Greenville University: “This past year has opened many doors for me as I began my first year at North Greenville University. As a biology student on the clinical track, I had the opportunity to participate in many exciting events. First, I was able to join the Biology Club where we competed in the Homecoming competitions and parades, shared movie and game nights, and were looking forward to visiting the cadaver lab at Sherman College of Chiropractic this past spring. I also had the pleasure of completing a field journal in my Comparative Biology lab. This included trips to two local nature reserves, where I observed the developments of plant and animal life. The streams and waterfalls only added to the majestic nature I observed, or felt, as I slipped and tripped enough times for the enjoyment of the birds that flew nearer for a better view.



MELODY BROWN



HAYDEN DUNCAN

“I have also had many fulfilling experiences as I worked to complete the requirements for my Business Administration minor. I had the pleasure of volunteering at the local Miracle Hill Rescue Mission that works to provide shelter for homeless men in the Greenville area. From the times I helped stack diapers at a local pregnancy center when I myself was still in diapers, to the more recent years I spent helping out at my local Resource Center, volunteering has always been a part of who I am; therefore, being able to continue volunteering while in college has been a tremendous blessing. I am forever grateful for the experiences I have had this past year, and I am anxiously awaiting the experiences yet to come.”

available in the lab. As of the conclusion of spring 2020, it feels like I finally have a semblance of direction.

“This summer will be a busy one again. I have Organic Chemistry II and a multicultural class to take online. I’ll probably watch through a YouTube playlist to refresh my memory before the summer semester officially begins. Don’t want to be overwhelmed on the first day and all that.

“Busy, busy, busy. That is me, indeed.”

Hayden Duncan, Junior, University of Virginia: “At UVA, it has been an immense opportunity to participate in the various aspects of student self-governance which

the university prides itself on, including the Honor Committee as a First-Year Education Coordinator. This has allowed me to reach out across the various organizations across the university, and even incoming students, to educate them on the importance and function of the Honor System within the university. Beyond individual organizations, I’ve enjoyed getting to expand my understanding and knowledge of the local Charlottesville community. Mostly, because of the proximity of Charlottesville to many nearby state and national parks, I’ve been able to engage with nature often as an escape from academic life but also as an opportunity to bond with many of my friends.

Kailin Chen, Junior, University of Georgia:

“Fall 2019 felt like ages ago, and I suppose that’s because it was. I passed Organic Chemistry I and Physics I, learned a bit of German, and joined my school’s Residence Hall Association as a hall council executive board member. As far as I can recall, nothing incredibly noteworthy happened in the first half of sophomore year, other than making plans to enter into a dual degree program. (Everything noteworthy happened in the latter half, yes.)

“This past semester has been a lot for me, excluding the current pandemic. I finally mustered the courage to join the UGA Overwatch team, and in doing so, I met one of my closest friends to date. My self-confidence during this period has risen too. I am doing research with a lab at the Regenerative Bioscience Center. It investigates extracellular vesicles and microglia; currently, I am working on a protocol to optimize cell-imaging software



KAILIN CHEN

Hunter Berry, Senior, Berry College: “This year, I added my Economics minor because it was a field I became extremely interested in after getting more involved with the topic through a mentorship program (with the outside community) hosted by my school. I also helped lead my school’s new mock trial team, which I co-founded, started my role as president of the Honors Student Union, among my others roles as an SGA officer, ODK officer, Leadership Fellow, and much more. I’m looking forward to going back to school and serving as a first-year mentor, helping our freshmen navigate and get orientated to college during their entire freshman year. This summer, I am also interning through The Fund for American Studies. Although I was supposed to be in Washington, D.C., all summer doing my internship, taking classes, and getting to network in the city with judges, congressmen, White House staff, and more, the internship was unfortunately moved to virtual. However, I’m having a great time interning through the program still. I am working with The Charles Group, a government relations firm that does a lot of work with companies and government entities from around the nation, and also taking my classes, engaging in professional development seminars, and getting the chance to speak with and learn from a variety of politicians from not only the U.S. administration but also from countries worldwide.



HUNTER BERRY



VICTORIA GRABOVSKIY

Victoria Grabovskiy, Senior, Clemson University: “My junior year in college has been the best year yet! The coursework itself was the most challenging, but it is always rewarding to look back at all that I accomplished. This was also my first time working part-time while in school. Not only was I learning something new each day in my classes, but also I got my first retail experiences at my weekend job. My greatest accomplishment this year was the growth of my communication and soft skills. Working in a team environment while serving customers in retail taught me how to communicate with people of different backgrounds. Connecting with so many different people throughout the day just always teaches you something new as long as you are willing to grow. Balancing school, work, and college life really helped me later in my spring semester during recruitment season for accounting majors. Networking with recruiters became that much easier when attending their social events and interviews. Ernst & Young has extended me an internship offer for the summer of 2021, and I absolutely cannot wait for the hands-on experience in the Greenville office. I cannot stress enough how important it is to be active outside of academics and to learn to be a communicator. Every experience matters, and you have to get out of your comfort zone to get where you want to be.”

Rachel Oue, Junior, Anderson University: “Freshman year was a time of extraordinary academic, personal, and spiritual growth. As I entered college, I was a Biochemistry and Research Psychology major with a minor in Art. Ambition, pride, and a desire to prove myself drove my every decision. Near the beginning of my first semester, I began working with the chair of the Anderson University Psychology department in order to refine a research project that I had completed during my senior year of high school. My goal was to achieve publication in an undergraduate journal by the end of the year. In my mind, I believed that if I could be published as a freshman, then perhaps I would finally feel as though I had truly accomplished something. In late March, the *Undergraduate Research Journal of Psychology at UCLA* conditionally accepted my article out of a large selection of submissions from over 35 universities within the nation and around the world. While this is most definitely an exciting opportunity to publish work in a prestigious

academic journal, it has also caused me to reflect on my motivations and reconsider my plans for the future. When the conditional acceptance arrived, I became more and more intimidated. After all, what would it take to surpass this? Perform. Advance. Attain. Repeat. In a society obsessed with comparison, high-achievers are continually expected to pursue greater levels of success. As I reflected on this culture of achievement that I had somehow become trapped in, the futility of this endless pursuit of perfection began to sink in. Nothing would ever satisfy. If I continued down the path of pre-med, with its unspoken understanding of success as a zero-power sum game, the same intense drive that had enabled me to accomplish so much would have eventually consumed me. The time spent doing online school during the quarantine allowed me to see that, while I may be capable of majoring in Biochemistry, I was not passionate about this major. Nursing, in contrast, will enable me to more quickly reach classes that apply biology, chemistry, and psychology to the medical field, which

align more closely with my interests. As a Nursing major, I will be able to gain clinical experience and work with patients through my degree program, rather than waiting to obtain higher education. Nursing will enable me to take courses such as pathophysiology, pharmacology, and learn via firsthand experience in hospitals. In addition, I will graduate with a degree that will enable me to immediately enter the workforce as a health-care professional. Due to these advantages, as of one month ago, I have now changed my major to Nursing and am projected to enter the program the fall of my junior year. I still hope to eventually pursue further education and have not eliminated the possibility of eventually attending medical school in the future. Rather than being limited to a single pathway, I will have the flexibility to continue my education or immediately begin my career in the healthcare system. Having grown so much in this first year of college, I look forward to all that my next three years at Anderson University hold!”



RACHEL OUE

Shreya Thammana, Sophomore, Clemson University: “During my freshman year at Clemson, I discovered my love for research. It all began with the EUREKA! program. Joining EUREKA! allowed me to perform research over the summer as an incoming honors college freshman. This program also helped me find my closest friends at Clemson. Over six weeks, I performed research under Clemson University’s Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department. Under the training of a chemical engineering graduate student, I learned how to synthesize batches of cellulose nanocrystals all by myself. He taught me everything from using a pipette to performing more complicated procedures like acid hydrolysis. So, there I was, a freshman at the EUREKA! program at Clemson University, investigating the aqueous behavior of sulfonated CNCs. After six weeks of research, I presented my research findings and what I learned at the annual EUREKA! poster forum.

“That summer, I discovered that I enjoyed doing research so much that I joined a creative inquiry project to perform research on taxidermy, where I learned about animal preservation and helped document the specimens in the museum. I presented my findings on animal preservation and documentation to professors of the College of Science at Clemson University.

“I also applied for a counselor position in the EUREKA! program for the summer of 2020 and was hired as one of the three counselors. This summer, I will be in charge of leading the incoming freshman during their EUREKA! experience and will also get to perform computational cardiovascular research. I’m looking forward to giving back to the EUREKA! program and helping incoming freshman discover their love for research. Due to current circumstances, the EUREKA! program is continuing in an online format and I, as

a counselor, will try to run this program successfully, even if the program cannot occur on campus like normal.

“Next semester, I will be performing honors research in the Bioengineering Department at Clemson on the project of ‘Developing an Antibacterial, Non-Adhesive Wound Dressing Contact Layer for Infection Management.’ I am very excited about this project because I have always wanted to learn more about S.M.A.R.T. wound dressings and medical textiles. This project also piques my interest because it involves both bioengineering and computer science concepts.

“I believe that research is the future, which is why I want to get involved in it. I’ve always wanted to find ways to help other people, and this has been one of my goals since I was a child. In sixth grade, I discovered the importance of research when I designed a winning invention for the invention convention, a machine created to help people with disabilities find lost items easily. In this process, I researched different methods of building the machine and implemented one. It showed me that my research and hard work can help others, inspiring me to keep working towards my dream.

“I don’t know what type of research I want to perform yet, but I’m dedicated to figuring it out. Clemson has so many opportunities for me to do this, in the lab and abroad, and I’m looking forward to pursuing them. By getting involved with research and trying the many different projects Clemson has to offer, I will be able to find a project that interests me, one that I can dedicate time and hard work to. Someday, I hope to perform bioengineering research, creating medical devices or artificial limbs that will change people’s lives. I can’t wait for the day when my work will be used to make a positive difference in the world, and getting involved in research labs and performing undergraduate research will be the stepping stones that will help me get there.



SHREYA THAMMANA



JOSEPH HORNE



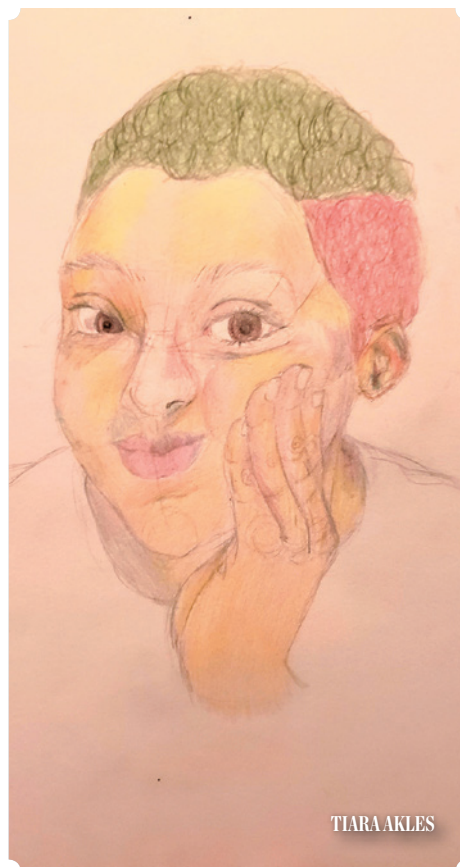
KIMBERLY CANNON

Joseph Horne, Junior, Illinois Institute of Technology: “This school year I enjoyed working at the architectural model shop on campus. Sadly, this work was cut short by the coronavirus epidemic, but during the time that I worked at the shop, I learned many new methods of woodworking, how to fix many tools including 3D printers and laser cutters. I was the Second Year Representative in our AIAS chapter, where I acted as the connection between the club, the students, and the professors in the College of Architecture. Being a part of the American Institute of Architecture Students has provided me with experience learning about architecture and its impact as well as the ability for me to travel to AIAS FORUM in Toronto over winter break with my chapter, where I learned from many architects and designers on a different level. Continuing with AIAS, I have been elected as the Director of our school’s Freedom by Design program for next year which is a subgroup of AIAS that provides a program to design and build for the community. I hope to strengthen IIT’s bond with the community that we inhabit through more outreach as the new Director.

“Coronavirus brought me back to the great state of South Carolina from far away Chicago. It has been an experience unlike any other that I have gone through, and I have heard the same from many. During online schooling, I had to cope with the decreased drive that I had towards my new forms of courses. Designing on the computer is the new way that technology has advanced architecture and my new goal of the spring semester was to better hone my skills of the digital aspects of design. Usually my strengths lie with model making and spatial relations that can be interpreted through my models, and this year I focused more on my digital renderings, presentation techniques, and overall drawing quality. This final

project for studio ended up being one of the favorite projects that I have worked on and taught me how to overcome laziness and become strongly self-motivated. I have been nominated for the Samuel Horwitz Memorial Scholarship and the Faculty Award once again and am hoping for good results after my portfolio review.

“This summer I have had to change my initial plan of studying abroad in Italy to staying at home due to coronavirus. I am planning on bettering my new skill of roller-skating, playing the piano, woodworking with my grandpa, and increasing my abilities in architectural design programs. My hope is that by the fall semester we will be able to go back to campus to continue to learn.”



TIARA AKLES

Kimberly Cannon, Junior, Asbury University: “During the ’19 – ’20 school year, I had the opportunity to serve as an Admissions Student Ambassador and on the Mu Kappa Leadership Board (a club for international missionary kids and third culture students). I also lived, and will continue living, in the Spanish House, an on-campus house for girls studying Spanish, where we get to practice speaking the language together. As a part of my Equine major, I am the trainer/caretaker of a police horse in training. This spring, he was chosen by a mounted police unit in Michigan, where he will go to serve after I complete two more years of training with him. I am very proud of my work with him and his progress, because he and another horse who were selected together are the first two of their age group to be spoken for by a police unit. He is pictured here with me below. I had an amazing school year!”

Tiara Akles, Sophomore, Rocky Mount College of Art and Design: “My first year has been amazing and I’m not at all worried about my financial aid thanks to this scholarship! When I began my first week of classes, I realized that the requirements and curriculum for an online bachelor’s program were different from the technical college I attended on campus beforehand. Procrastination and working during summer and fall stressed me out to the point that I thought I might give up before I even got started, but a huge part of me was telling myself, ‘If you can’t handle this now, when will you ever be able to?’ So, I developed a better work habit to get my work done on time and changed my job availability on days that assignments were due! Each start of a semester can be a little bumpy at first, but all it takes is a little flexibility and commitment! As a newly deemed sophomore, I’m excited for the next three years of my program!”

JOSEPH WILSON, JR.



Alumni Spotlight

BY SHANNON FRIEDMANN HATCH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GLOSSY PEACH CREATIONS

According to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, more than 1.65 million people worldwide have died as a result of contracting COVID-19. More than 300,000 of those deaths have occurred in the United States. (The pandemic is tragically surging, and both of these numbers may seem out of date by the time you read this profile.)

With these figures in mind, it's hard to fathom that only a year ago, most Americans had not even heard of the coronavirus—the first case was reported in China on December 31, 2019. The U.S. would follow less than a month later on January 20, 2020. But as early as November 2019 in a classroom in Baltimore, Joseph Wilson, Jr., said he heard talk of COVID-19. As a public health graduate student at Johns Hopkins, he watched what he was studying unfold on a global scale. “It was surreal,” he said.

Joseph had to leave Johns Hopkins last spring and complete his master's degree from his uncle's home in New York City. The pandemic followed and raged while he quarantined. His aunt passed

away. Being knowledgeable in public health means you know how to best prevent the spread of the virus ... but it still doesn't make you immune from the impact.

Had the virus not hit, Joseph may still have landed a job post-graduation in environmental health at Mount Sinai in New York City. But he would not have been “commuting to work” via his parent's Wi-Fi in Augusta, Georgia. For a man who is dedicating his life to serving the greater community, it's an unexpected twist that he has the chance to start his career surrounded by those who nurtured his own health and well-being from the very beginning.

The oldest of seven children, Joseph was born and raised in Augusta. His father is a preacher, and his mother, who is from New Orleans, makes gumbo that tastes like salvation. Joseph was a good student and attended magnet schools, that focused on health science and engineering. “I'm a nerd, and I have no problem with it,” he said with a laugh. “But even there I was a nerd!” His sense of humor and supportive family kept him buoyed and thriving.

Medicine was not his first choice. While in high school, his love of HGTV and dislike of needles and math steered him initially towards architecture, and he dabbled in art. “You could say, my style was abstract,” he said. Instead, he earned a full academic scholarship to Williams College in Massachusetts, and began his path towards his future career.

Moving to the Northeast was a “culture shock” for Joseph. When he was looking for colleges, he wanted a “different experience than what I had known” but he wasn’t prepared to feel so homesick and out of place. He missed the backbeat of music and conversation in his parents’ house, and the dining hall food was bland after eating his mom’s Cajun cuisine. But most of all, the black community he was surrounded by in Georgia simply wasn’t present in the Berkshires.

But instead of packing his bags, Joseph took a job on campus as an admissions ambassador and started getting involved in student organizations like the Black Student Union and the Gospel choir. “I grew as a person,” he said. “I was able to engage fully both spiritually and academically.” When he zeroed in on his major and realized that, through a focus in psychology and public health, he could put his passions in action, everything clicked. “I had a desire to integrate in the community and wanted to initiate change that helps people lead healthier lives,” he said.

While at Williams, he took summer internships in New York and Baltimore, the former learning how to disseminate health

information at the community level and the later researching the health and racial disparities involved in kidney donation. Joseph said of his chosen field of public health, “It might be a slow train, but the train is moving.”

Directly after earning his undergrad degree, he began his graduate studies at Johns Hopkins, which is ranked number-one in public health by U.S. News & World Report. Joseph focused his studies on environmental health or how our “built environment” like cities, housing, etc., impacts health outcomes. He’s specifically interested in pediatric environmental health. “Children can’t control their surroundings and what might be causing harm and can impact them in the future. Policy and awareness can change that,” Joseph said.

He and his classmates studied toxicology, epidemiology, and biostatistics, diving into science and data. “We need to understand the broad strokes, like you understand a painting even if you don’t know exactly how to paint it,” he said. A master’s degree in the field can open “a world of opportunity,” Joseph said, and he’s already testified before the Maryland State Legislature in support of a bill with environmental health impact.

Eventually, Joseph will return to New York and use his knowledge and voice to help advocate for the health of children in Spanish Harlem and beyond. “I have faith and a desire to help my fellow man,” he said. He has been called to serve in other ways, too. “A few years ago, I became a preacher myself. My faith guides my work and self.”





Library, May Patterson Goodrum House, c. 1932 (courtesy Kenan Research Center, Atlanta History Center)



ALL THAT SHIMMERS



Goodrum House

BY BARBARA HYDE

While the 2020 pandemic certainly put a dent in our tour schedule, the downtime gave us the opportunity to concentrate on a major project; namely, recreating the shimmering gold silk damask for the library walls at Goodrum House. To be honest, this project started over three years ago in May 2017 when I was leafing through a book in the archives at the Atlanta History Center and discovered a photograph of the fabric matching the design of the one in our library. The photo was of the bedroom in the Nightingale-Brown House in Providence, Rhode Island. A quick email to Ron Potvin, Assistant Director for Professional Programs at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage, revealed that the home had undergone several changes throughout the years, but it was possible a remnant had survived in their archives. Unfortunately, none of the boxes were catalogued, but it was a great project for their summer intern!

By November 2017, we received a disheartening response that nothing had turned up matching our fabric, but there were still a few more boxes to open. By February 2018, all the archive boxes had been opened and nothing matched our fabric. As a shot in the dark, I asked if Ron would contact any of the Brown family members to inquire if anyone had the furniture or screen pictured in the photos. Thirty minutes later, we hit pay dirt! One of the family members remembered the screen and some other items had been offered to the Preservation Society of Newport County in 1993. Ron's records showed the proposed gift but no acceptance letter.

Oddly enough, while working at The Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida, I had the pleasure of working with Paul Miller, Curator at the Preservation Society of Newport County. One quick call and he immediately confirmed they had the screen in storage, it still had the original fabric, and would I like to borrow it as a long-term loan? My response to Paul was, "Oh my gosh! I think I'm going



Nightingale-Brown House, Providence, Rhode Island (courtesy Brown University Libraries)

to cry!” By October 2018, the screen arrived at Goodrum House.

Now what? How do we go from an antique textile to a newly manufactured one? I was hoping one of the large textile manufacturers could confirm it was one of their designs, but that line of inquiry proved unfruitful. I decided to have Prelle et Cie, a company based in Lyons, France, recreate the fabric. We couldn’t go wrong with 200 years of experience in manufacturing sumptuous silks! Crated and shipped, the screen arrived in France in November 2019. By December we had two strike-off samples to choose from and manufacturing began. In April 2020, the new damask was ready to be shipped to its new home in Atlanta!

While Prelle was hard at work custom dyeing the silk and setting up the looms, I had to find someone who knew how to upholster silk damask to walls. This is when it helps to know a few interior designers in the area! Everyone recommended Richie Mullins. Steve Tillander and Chip Miller of Restoration Craftsmen had been hard at work removing all the millwork in the room and preparing the plaster walls. Richie spent three weeks in July stapling batting to the original wood curbing and carefully stretching the silk damask over the wall. By the end of July 2020, the room was transformed into a glistening gold jewel box. I couldn’t stop sneaking into the room at all hours of the day and in different levels of sunlight to experience it.

But that's not the end of the journey! While Steve and Chip are still working on installing and painting the millwork, I'm dreaming of the next project: There's that wonderfully playful chintz on the couch and chair in the design of a camellia with a pair of canoodling chickadees on a branch. And look at those water silk taffeta curtains dripping with handmade passementerie trim ... I'm pretty sure Prelle et Cie still makes handmade passementerie!



Batting installed on library walls



Keith Miller and Steve Tillander of Restoration Craftsmen installing trim



Fabric on loom, Prelle et Cie, Lyon, France



THE T.R.R. COBB HOUSE GOES TO THE DOG



T.R.R. Cobb House

BY ASHLEIGH OATTS

The year 2020 was the year to adopt a dog, as shelters across the United States can confirm. With almost all travel canceled and while working from home on research for the T.R.R. Cobb House, I finally found the time to devote to raising a puppy.

I adopted Henry, a nine- to ten-week-old terrier mix, from a shelter in Tennessee. Soon after his arrival in Athens, Georgia, Henry was “hired” to be the T.R.R. Cobb House’s Social Media Assistant. He was even featured on his shelter’s “Working Dogs” Instagram story one day after he joined in some Zoom meetings with other historic house employees!

Due to Henry’s special status as Social Media Assistant, he’s been able to do a lot that normal puppies cannot. While the T.R.R. Cobb House was closed, he gave a room-by-room tour of the house and highlighted some of our new collections pieces to his admiring followers. He also promoted the Watson-Brown Foundation Junior Board, highlighted Historic Preservation Month, and was able to attend a Junior Board meeting (socially distant, of course). He “hid” objects and gave clues about them for anyone to make guesses about, before revealing them at the end of the week during the summer. Most importantly, he has been able to take field trips to see places important to the Cobb family that we previously have not highlighted very often.

Henry visited the Lucy Cobb Institute, named for Tom’s daughter

Lucy who died of scarlet fever before she could attend the school, and shared the history of the school for his public investigators. Later, he visited the Oconee Hill Cemetery, where most of the Cobb family (and their related families) are buried. He has also visited the exteriors of the Joseph Henry Lumpkin House and the two Howell Cobb Houses in Athens. The Old Governor’s Mansion in Milledgeville also welcomed Henry with open arms so that he could highlight Howell Cobb’s time as governor. He was even featured on their social media channels during the October visit!

Henry was a very lucky dog, getting an invitation to check out the Crawford W. Long Museum in Jefferson, Georgia, since Long was the Cobb family doctor. The folks at the Crawford W. Long Museum weren’t open to the public but allowed Henry access to inside, where he posed for photographs.

Having enjoyed the National Park system since I was young, growing up with the Great Smoky Mountains in my backyard, I made a point to try leading Henry into the field as a Junior Bark Ranger (combining Junior Ranger and Bark Ranger programs). Thanks to a connection made with a Park Ranger from Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park who visited the T.R.R. Cobb House to take a tour a few years ago, Henry was able to earn his first Junior Bark Ranger badge while researching Tom Cobb’s final battle. Henry (with a little

assistance) completed the Junior Bark Ranger program virtually and received his badge in the mail, along with a special bandana. They even spotlighted his work on their Facebook account and have invited him to visit in real life when it is safer to travel!

Visiting a park a bit closer to home, Henry tramped up to Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park. Like his Fredericksburg “trip,” Henry (again, with a little help) worked on their Junior Ranger activity book virtually in advance, since dogs are not allowed in National Park Visitor Centers. He had a few activities that still had to be completed in order to receive his Junior Ranger badge, like touching a cannon and getting his picture with the NPS logo (he couldn’t find a monument smaller than him, so he couldn’t get Blackout on the Bingo card), so those tasks were accomplished first.

It’s a good thing that Tom Cobb and his Georgia boys liked to travel because Henry loves setting out from his city of dogs to see interesting places and new people. Who knows where he will turn up next! Be sure to follow his adventures on Facebook (T.R.R. Cobb House Museum) and Instagram (@trrcobhouse).



Henry Oatts, Social Media Assistant, prepares a meeting for the Athens Junior Board



Henry Oatts, Junior Bark Ranger, surveys the Chickamauga Battlefield



Henry Oatts poses for his adoring public



Henry Oatts lecturing the staff of Georgia’s Old Governor’s Mansion on the life of Howell Cobb



2020: THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING



Sticks & Stones

BY MICHELLE ZUPAN

I don't know who created the "review" of 2020 and actually gave it one star, but they were being generous! Along with the rest of the world, we have been swinging at the ever-increasing number of curveballs that 2020 seems to excel at throwing. Here are just a few of the pivots we have made.

On March 12, we had our second and last group of field trip students come onsite for programs. They were fourth graders from a Columbia County school, and we had a fantastic time with them. Those students will be sixth graders before we might see a field trip from their school again. Over the summer, when it became apparent that field trips would be curtailed, we shifted into high gear to create "virtual field trips" or, as our intrepid leader calls them, "Franke-in-a-Box" programs! These range from traveling exhibits with lesson plans to traveling trunk programs with artifacts (eBay is our friend) to online primary source lessons. They have been really popular with our overwhelmed teachers! The record albums in the Harlem Renaissance Trunk are going to blow some fifth graders' minds!

Our Junior Board meetings became virtual, as did the site visits related to the grant applications. Video conferencing is challenging

2020



Very bad, would not recommend.

Anonymous (and accurate) review of this year

is all I have to say about that (apologies to Forrest Gump). The Board members made it work and awarded six grants in four counties around the CSRA. Seeing stabilization of the kitchen at Callaway in Wilkes County will be worth seeing. And, don't miss a visit to the Wright House in Lincolnton; it has a wonderful history and some of the most amazing doors on the kitchen/slave dwelling! We have added five new members to our Junior Board this year.

Our third major pivot came in deciding to attempt holding summer day camps during a pandemic. The American Camp Association, the Governor of Georgia, and the CDC issued some very stringent mandates for camps. It was a pivot, a juggle, and a struggle, but we were victorious in finding a way to meet or exceed the guidelines. Parents were relieved to have a summer option for the kids, and the kids were ecstatic to be with their peers. Most of our campers came from McDuffie County; they learned how to properly wear masks and got very dirty spending most every day outdoors. A fabulous time was had by all!

It wouldn't be 2020 if we hadn't weathered our share of disasters, including a water leak that necessitated an adventure in drying out the walls followed by plaster and wallpaper restoration. No artifacts were impacted, and the house is slowly coming back online.

So, as we slog through the 765th day of this interminable year, I have been reminded by our ever-helpful educator that the film "Mad Max" was set in the year 2021. Stay safe, and may 2020 prove to be a cosmic fluke!



The Dig History Archaeology Camp always results in fascinating finds and muddy campers!



"Inventions Camp" - Campers wanted to test out the DaVinci Bridge they constructed in the Incredible Inventions Camp



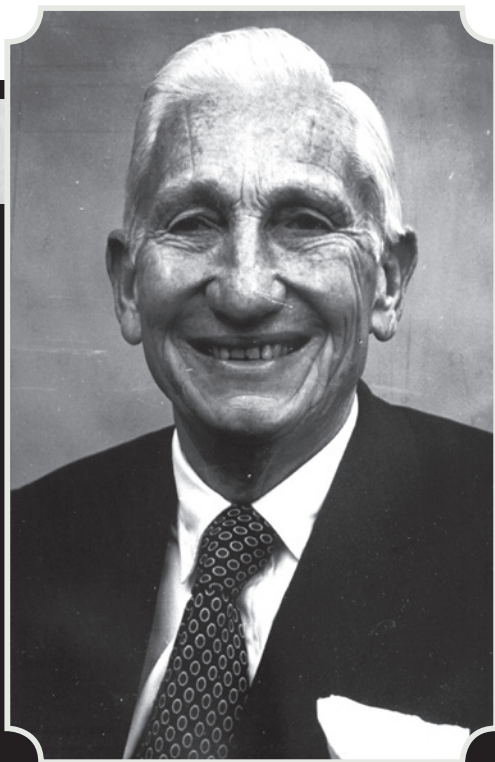
"Harlem Renaissance" - Our new traveling trunk celebrates the people associated with the time period and their important contributions to art, music, literature, and film



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OUR FOUNDER

Walter J. Brown was a journalist and a broadcast pioneer who built and chaired what would become Spartan Communications, Inc., one of the larger privately held TV companies in the country.

Early in his career, Brown had an office in the White House when he served on the staff of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. Brown's enduring love for politics was eclipsed only by his respect for Jimmy Byrnes. Inspired in part by Byrnes's philanthropy—which in 1948 established the James F. Byrnes Foundation—Brown created his own private Foundation in 1970. Named for Thomas E. Watson and J.J. Brown, the men to whom Brown attributed his success, the Watson-Brown Foundation today continues to ensure that hundreds of deserving students are provided the opportunity to excel at the college of their choice.