



Spring 2023

The LEGACY

A Publication of Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc.

A Call TO SERVE

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

PHILIP TRAMMELL SHUTZE
AN EYE FOR THE

Eclectic

DRESSER DRAWERS
and
RABBIT HOLES

FURNITURE INSPIRING RESEARCH

Distinctive
DECORATIVE ARTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

Contents



Staircase and Landing, Plate 43. Vernay, Arthur S., *Decorations and English Interiors*, 1927.

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4 The Design Inspo of Shutze

BY BARBARA HYDE

4 Campus Notes

WATSON-BROWN SCHOLAR UPDATES

10 “Distinctive” Decorative Arts

BY SAM THOMAS

13 Sticks & Stones

BY MICHELLE ZUPAN

16 Alumni Spotlight

BY TIARA HODGES

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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THE DESIGN INSPO OF SHUTZE



Goodrum House

BY BARBARA HYDE

SHAKESPEARE WROTE IN HENRY VIII:

*Things done well, And with a care,
exempt themselves from fear;
Things done without example,
in their issue
Are to be feared.
Have you a precedent?*

Fittingly, this quote is pasted at the front of one of Philip Trammell Shutze's many scrapbooks filled with clippings from the popular architectural magazines printed between the early 1910s through the mid-1930s. These scrapbooks would serve as inspiration for both his residential and commercial architectural designs for

years to come. The ethos of having his work develop through roots in the precedence of Classical Greek and Roman architecture was germane to his creativity. It was in searching through these scrapbooks that I found various visual images that might have inspired Shutze's design of Goodrum House.

Vincent Scully, in his introduction to Elizabeth Dowling's book *American Classicist: The Architecture of Philip Trammell Shutze* (1989), criticized Shutze's work as lacking in innovation. He scathingly wrote, "So many modern architects had Big Ideas, while Mr. Shutze had almost none." He insinuated that the work was too weighted in the Classical idiom, lacked inspiration, and merely copied previous architectural designs. But a closer examination of the details of his work would beg to differ. Shutze was a master of the Classical language of architecture. Yes, he could mimic the proportion, volume, and details of numerous styles, but he did so with an eye for the eclectic. The other piece of the equation that critics also seem to forget is that Shutze worked for a client, and every client had their own vision for what type of setting they wanted to create for their personal home. After all, they were footing the bill! This is evident in many of his residential designs, including the one at Goodrum House.

Thankfully, upon his death in 1982, Shutze donated what was remaining of his personal and professional papers to the Atlanta



May P. Goodrum House Entry Hall, MSS439 Philip Trammell Shutze papers, James G. Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER



House in Doyle Road, Plate 11. Ramsey, Stanley C.,'s Small Houses of the Late Georgian Period, 1750-1820, 1919.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER



May P. Goodrum House South Façade, MSS439 Philip Trammell Shutze papers, James G. Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

History Center. I qualify that with “what was remaining” because while he had inherited most of the firm’s papers starting with projects from the mid-1900s, as he downsized his office space over the years, he culled and destroyed paperwork or building plans he deemed to be extraneous. But he did leave his entire collection of books and numerous scrapbooks as a well of inspiration for his designs. It is through researching his collection that we find some interesting connections between what he might have been looking at whilst designing Mrs. Goodrum’s Regency-style home; in particular, two books — Arthur S. Vernay’s 1927 book titled *Decorations and English Interiors* and Stanley C. Ramsey’s *Small Houses of the Late Georgian Period, 1750-1820* printed in 1919.

Upon entering the home, one of the most prominent features of the entry hall is the Chippendale-influenced balustrade with hand-carved stair brackets by Herbert Millard. Arthur S. Vernay, a prominent British antiques dealer with shops in both London and New York was promoting his business through a series of antique shop catalogues, as well as a handful of published books filled with photographs to inspire the display of furniture and decorative arts objects throughout one’s home. He used photographs of his own flat in London at 51 Berkley Square, which showed a similar Chippendale-style balustrade. Shutze would tweak its proportions and a bit of the design. Who decided on the warm tomato bisque/coral color is anyone’s guess; possibly May Goodrum or her interior decorator, Edith Hills, a wizard with vibrant color combinations and patterns. It’s a color that unites

each of the rooms throughout the interiors, and cheerfully greets visitors at both the front and back entrances of the main house. In fact, Shutze wasn’t just acquainted with Vernay’s work through print, but also corresponded with him regarding client needs. May purchased several items from Vernay’s shop, presumably with Shutze as an intermediary.

Another of Shutze’s inspirations was Plate 11 in Stanley C. Ramsey’s 191 book of photographs of Georgian houses. The back porch at Goodrum House can trace its lineage directly back to a home on Doyle Road in St. Peter Port on the Island of Guernsey. Even the function of that of a garden façade was lifted. But Shutze altered the rear wall of the façade with two undulating bays running the full height of the façade, triple hung windows, which could be fully opened to the garden to be used as doors, dormers to allow light and air into the third-floor attic, and a parapet to hide the gutters. His additions create movement in an otherwise static Georgian design.

There are numerous more details and elements throughout Shutze’s design library which help inform his work at Goodrum House, including the hardscape and plant materials used throughout the gardens. A trip to the archives at the Atlanta History Center always turns up new pieces of information, happily sending the researcher down another rabbit hole to make new discoveries regarding Mr. Shutze’s inspiring work.

CAMPUS NOTES



Watson-Brown Scholars in Action

KALIKA BRIDWELL

SENIOR, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA

This past semester was the beginning of the early childhood education professional program, which meant that I finally got to start spending more time in the classroom! My first practicum was in a kindergarten class, and it was a fantastic experience; the opportunity to critically observe my coaching teacher and her students taught me far more than I could have ever learned from my typical college courses. Every day that I got to spend with the kindergarteners was a delight (even though there were certainly some days with classroom management situations that were not so delightful), and the experience helped me to grow in my confidence as a teacher and a professional. Although I ultimately intend to pursue speech-language pathology rather than teach, the practicum was encouraging to me because I could really see myself thriving in either atmosphere. No matter which route I end up taking, I am excited for the opportunity to spend time with children as amazing as the ones I met this semester, and to be able to support them on their way to successful development in whatever form that might take.



Kalika Bridwell



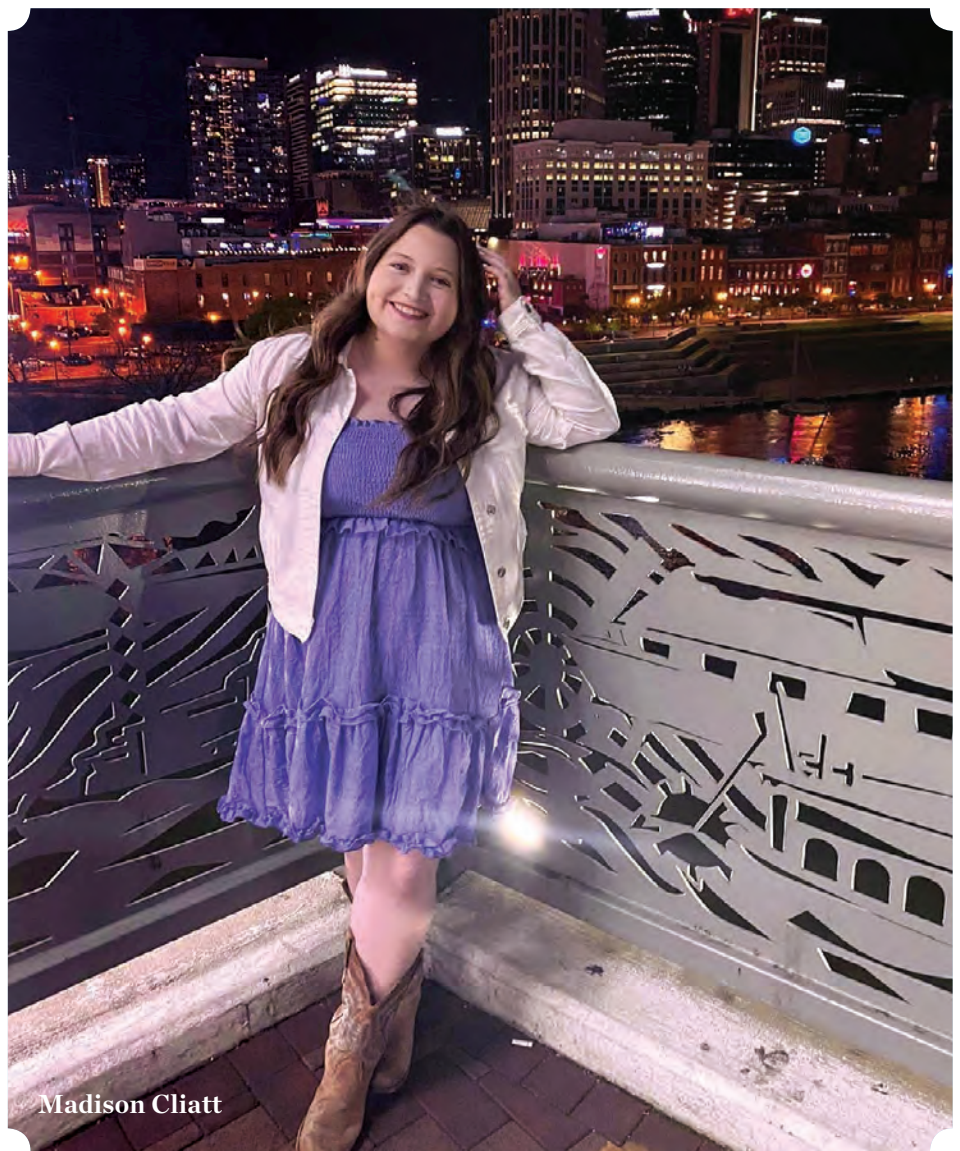
Matthew Byrne

MATTHEW BYRNE

JUNIOR, GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The past year of my life at Georgia Tech has been arguably one of the greatest years of my life. I met many new friends, fell in love, met dozens of new people from all over the world — including one that I visited during winter break in San Sebastian, Spain! I visited my girlfriend in Key West, Florida, took public transportation all around Atlanta with my roommates to discover new areas, and found some of the best spots to eat within five miles of campus — perhaps the most important note of them all.

On campus, I became involved on the executive board of Mission: Brain, a Georgia Tech chapter of the international organization that raises funds and resources in order to provide neurosurgical care to those around the world who need it, based out of the Mayo Clinic in Florida. Additionally, I recently accepted a position to be a laboratory teaching assistant for the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Though the first Fall semester kicked my butt, as is expected at Georgia Tech, this past Spring I made an incredible comeback with my GPA. I shocked myself by being able to go out with my friends much more, be involved on campus, and succeed academically. I believe that this came from me taking on a new sense of pride



Madison Cliatt

for all my studies and organizations, which made me invest not just the time, but the commitment to success needed.

This summer I came back home to Augusta, Georgia, to push forward on a nonprofit that I have been working on for the past few years. In addition to playing mad scientist, I am also taking a physics class through Augusta University to stay on top of my classes the most I can. One of my proudest personal accomplishments in the past year and so forth has been my physical change from working out and losing thirty pounds in a year, while practicing my Spanish.

MADISON CLIATT

SOPHOMORE, BELMONT UNIVERSITY

My first year at Belmont University was absolutely incredible and somehow

even better than I imagined it would be. I immediately felt welcomed when I arrived on campus and quickly cemented myself into my new home through engaging classes, exciting clubs, and extraordinary friends.

Among my favorite courses in my first year were Sociology of Gender, which I completed as a requirement for my Sociology minor, and Copyright Law, which I took as a required class for my Music Business major. In all my classes, but especially in the two aforementioned, I took part in such meaningful discussions with my peers and professors, which provided a thorough understanding of the material at hand and inspired me to work diligently and apply my knowledge across various subjects and areas in school. In the gender course, I learned about topics such as intersectionality, that I am sure will prove to be vital as I work toward ensuring gender equality

within the music industry. In copyright law, I learned about many of the laws and practices that are important in the creation and consumption of music. It opened my eyes to the songwriting side of the music industry, which I had little knowledge of beforehand, and now I am enthusiastic about completing my publishing class in the upcoming fall semester. Beyond the subject matter, both Sociology of Gender and Copyright Law were my two favorites because the teaching methods of the instructors combined with the heavy course material taught me some extremely beneficial study habits that I will be sure to employ moving forward.

I was also able to participate in incredible opportunities relating to my chosen career field in the music business through a multitude of volunteer events, such as assisting in setting up and promoting my school's bi-monthly singing competition and working for a renowned Nashville-based songwriting festival, among several other experiences. Each showcase and seminar I attended this year, whether it focused on artists, executives, diversity, or any other facet of my degree program or the world in general, served as confirmation that I am truly following my dreams and implored me to further develop my passions and strengths as I determine where I want my education and career to lead.

Many highlights of my freshman year were illuminated and made most memorable through the dependable, comforting, and encouraging friendships I forged at Belmont. I have such unique connections with each of my closest friends and created memories that I hope I never forget. From dancing around and laughing with my roommate in our dorm room, to spending hours in the cafeteria catching up with my tight-knit friend group at brunch every Saturday morning, to chatting over coffee and pulling all-nighters in the library with classmates who turned into best friends, I basically have a film reel ingrained in my memory with each person who made Belmont feel like home for me.

I could not be more content, fulfilled, and hopeful to continue pursuing my education and career aspirations when I return to Belmont in August, where I know I will delve deeper into the subjects

I am enthralled by, take part in more events that provide invaluable experience and skills, and share such lessons with people who share similar visions and push me to achieve my goals. Attending college is something I hoped to be able to do nearly all my life, and I cannot thank the Watson-Brown Foundation enough for your generous contribution in helping me work toward and realize some of my greatest aspirations. My first year in college was truly worthwhile, and I look forward to progressing and sharing such accomplishments with the foundation in the future.



SAMER DAKHLALLAH
JUNIOR, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Watson Brown Scholarship opened doors for me to attend college and participate in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. I received a bid to a prestigious international business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi. Out of 200 people who registered for recruitment, only 25 received bids based on merit, a rigorous interview, and the way interviewees carry themselves in business settings. During our six weeks of pledging, we were allowed to run for positions within the pledge class, and I ran for and won pledge class president, the highest position available. I then completed community service, professional development, résumé write-ups, and diversity, equity, and inclusion

tasks to meet the requirements and be initiated as a brother in the fraternity. Upon joining the fraternity and being a brother for only ten days, I participated in the executive elections for our fraternity. Among our 120 brothers, there were only ten available positions; I ran for and won VP of Faculty Relations and have already started reaching out to faculty over the summer to coordinate campus events.

During this semester, I was honored to receive Clemson University's Sports Marketing Award, which is presented to a student who has "shown excellence in marketing related coursework and extracurricular activities." I was also on the Clemson University dean's list for having a 3.5 GPA and above. Additionally, I applied for and was selected to serve on Clemson's Student Advisory Board, a prestigious board where upperclassmen help incoming freshmen adjust to college life.

I feel humbled and so blessed that I was selected as a Watson-Brown Foundation Scholarship recipient or I would never have been able to afford college and never have known that all these opportunities existed. I am excited to return to Clemson this fall so I can continue to nurture my talents and participate in more activities. Along with achieving my career goals, I strive to make a positive impact on the lives of students like myself who come from humble beginnings and need guidance on how to navigate college so they can build a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

BRENDON FRAZIER
SENIOR, COASTAL CAROLINA
UNIVERSITY

I didn't know what to expect from the 2021-2022 school year but it was a year filled with excitement and trial and error. We opened the campus again where we could host more events, have more fans at sporting events, participate in exercise classes, and more. This year, I had the honor to join Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. which is a big deal for me because I am the first one to join a Greek organization in my immediate family. I was also on the Executive Board for our Activities Board on campus where we put on events. I was a little worried about the



Brendon Frazier

year because I knew that I would have a lot on my plate, but I managed and was able to proceed to my senior year of college. I was involved with numerous things this year and it kept me busy but also helped me network more and have an opening to different opportunities. This summer, I will be an orientation leader here at Coastal Carolina and I am very excited for that because I have the chance to welcome incoming students and transfers to this wonderful campus of ours. The Watson-Brown Foundation Scholarship has helped me a lot with paying for school. With this, I am able to take a little stress off of my dad and mom because they have to raise my little brother as well. I am grateful that I was a recipient of the scholarship and hope to continue to use it to help me reach my dreams.

KEVIN FU

SOPHOMORE, DUKE UNIVERSITY

I did not know what to expect coming into college; I certainly did not expect the rollercoaster of emotions and experiences I had this past year, which was the first time I really had total responsibility for my day-to-day activities. And because of that, I felt that I was able to truly be myself. From the incredible learning environment in the classroom to the amazing group of friends I met, this year went by incredibly fast. At each point, there always seemed to be something to look forward to, some event to be excited for. But at the same time the



Kevin Fu

friends and people I encountered kept me grounded in the moment. As the year wound down, I reflected on the moments as I scrolled through our group shared photo album, smiling to myself after each photo, reliving the moments. Freshman year was an unforgettable tale.



Lia Hancock

LIA HANCOCK

SOPHOMORE, BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

I had a great freshman year at Brigham Young University. It was kind of scary to move all the way to Utah and live away from my family for the first time. I would have to shop, clean, and cook for myself while surviving classes and making friends. I was excited for the adventure but scared of the unknown. One of those unknown factors was the five girls I would be living with. I did not know any of my roommates before this year and I

was nervous about getting to know them. The six of us would be living together in a three-bedroom, two-bathroom, apartment-style dorm for eight months, so we at least needed to tolerate each other. We all have different majors, different hobbies, and come from five different states. Despite our differences and disagreements, we get along very well and became fast friends. I think that is thanks to our willingness to make friendship work. I had great experiences going to activities, events, museums, plays, church, and even just talking with my roommates. My experiences with my roommates shaped my freshman year and helped me to enjoy college. This next year and a half I will be taking a break from school to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Though my roommates and I will be going our separate ways for now, we plan to always keep in contact. I am thankful that they will always be my freshman-year roommates. I would not have it any other way.



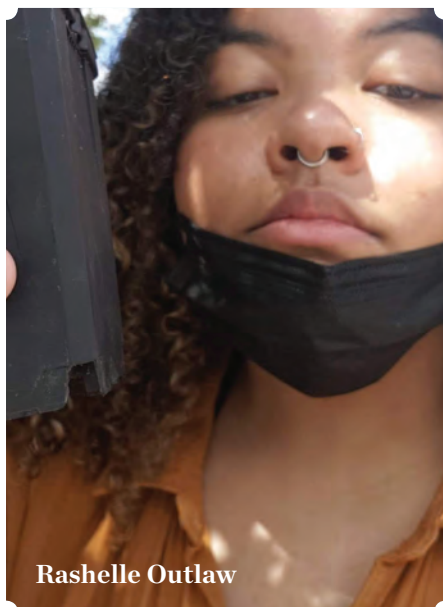
Shreya Jannu

SHREYA JANNU

SENIOR, KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

The Watson-Brown Foundation Scholarship has been very beneficial in my college experience. By pushing me to become a better student every day, I was able to excel in all my classes this academic year. In addition to this, I have also registered in summer classes which will allow me to get ahead in my academic endeavors. This year, I was able to land a job with Cardinal Group Companies as a Leasing

Agent. This part-time job has taught me the importance of time management, versatility, and endurance. This would not have been possible if it was not for the Watson-Brown scholarship. As an international student who was crippled by the standards that placed me in the category of being an “out-of-state” student, I was ecstatic when I realized that this scholarship would lift the emotional and financial burden from my parents, and I was able to venture out and discover and enhance my true potential without the fear of debt and additional stress regarding finances. I want to thank this foundation for believing in me as I further my education and allowing me to be rid of the burdens that come with being an immigrant, international student, and a minority woman in STEM.



Rashelle Outlaw

RASHELLE OUTLAW

SOPHOMORE, AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

I work in a lab now. It was entirely unexpected and honestly, sort of an immediate thing. One moment, I get an email from my advisor about a position he thinks I and about 400 other students would be interested in, and the next I'm forgetting basic math skills under the pressure of my professor Maggie, a 40-year-old Polish woman trying to get me to create a BSA solution for western blotting membranes. I've only been here for about two weeks now as of this writing, so please, bear with me. During

my first year of college (technically second because of dual enrollment where I took classes affectionately named by those who took them, failed, and then took again: “Classes that Weed Out the People Who Aren't Really into Science”), the thought of working 40-hour-work weeks, Monday through Friday, with no pay and nothing except a “I swear this will look good on your CV so you can get into grad school” would have gutted me, because look at me: I'm 19 and I feel like I'm going on 30. My friends are in Florida, and I'm sitting in a lab with no natural light. I've always wanted to do some sort of research, always had a drive to get somewhere, to do something, but it took a bit to swallow to understand I was truly an adult now.

I'm not sure if I had that epiphany that I was an adult until 15 minutes ago, where I had just frozen like a deer in headlights in front of Maggie. An exaggeration, sure, but a true statement, nonetheless. I make actions based on what I want, decisions based on what I need, and I'm swallowing the pill now that nothing gets done unless I make it get done, nothing works unless I make it work. Before college, and thus before my researcher position, I had some basic sense of self. I've always been independent, driven, goal-oriented — everything that looks good on papers. I've had some bad classes. I've had some great classes. I had one class when every time I walked into it, morale was so low you would have thought that every person was having a breakdown the size of Rome's failure. The point of this though, is that even though class made me walk a little bit too slow in the crosswalk, it taught me perseverance — something easy to claim, but hard to prove you have it.

And honestly, I think that's all that matters and the biggest lesson I've learned being in college: Just stick with it. It's embarrassing when the Polish woman has to walk you through basic multiplication despite having taken all your required math courses, but at least you know it now. It's embarrassing when you get that 70 on a chemistry test because you're a biology major with no

lick of sense, but at least you'll have a drive to do better. It's embarrassing when your fellow lab mates stick you in front of your PI's and giggle at you when you have no idea what the connection between CTRL and ATP7A are, but you'll definitely learn it next time. College is all about putting your best foot forward and immediately being sucker punched by 30 different things you didn't know existed. It's a tough experience I've learned, but it's taught me at the very minimum, just stick with it. You'll get it eventually.

And to Maggie, the woman who reminded me of my math skills. I am so sorry. I swear I took calculus, it's just that decimals just scare me and sometimes, you do, too.



Lauren Sermersheim

LAUREN SERMERSHEIM

JUNIOR, MARS HILL UNIVERSITY

This year, I served about 400 service hours in the Center for Community Engagement at Mars Hill University as the Leadership Intern for the Bonner Scholars Program. It was so amazing to learn about how nonprofits function, and I have found a passion in this type of work. This year, I planned different events for our community as well as organized service opportunities for students at our school and in our program. I can't wait to spend this next year with this program as well!



Larry Sullivan II

LARRY SULLIVAN II

SENIOR, MERCER UNIVERSITY

This 2021–2022 school year has been my best year at Mercer University. In the fall, I became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and was elected to be the Polemarch (president) of the Theta Pi chapter at Mercer. The Theta Pi chapter is located in the Southeastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi and I was elected to be the Georgia undergraduate board member for the province. In the spring, I decided to run for student government as a Senior Senator and I won the position, so I'm very honored that my class voted for me. Then finally, I was initiated into the Order of Omega



Joseph Thibodeau

honor society this spring semester, so it's been a great year. This summer, I will be interning with The Telegraph, a newspaper in Macon, Ga. I will be working as a photo collaborator, which is pretty exciting because I have a passion for photography and I love seeing my photos in the paper and on the front page.

JOSEPH THIBODEAU

SENIOR, GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

About a month ago I completed one year of working for John Deere alongside being full time in college! I am a part-time student manufacturing engineer, and I support the Manufacturing Engineering team in making safety, quality, and efficiency improvements, as well as maintaining day-to-day operations of the John Deere compact utility tractor factory. I will continue to work for them throughout my time in college, and hopefully beyond. While this experience has transformed my education and given me the skills I need to succeed as an adult, it has also allowed me to give back to our local community and the agriculture industry across the globe.

FURWAH TURABI

JUNIOR, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

My entire life I have always wondered when I would grow up. When would I stop thinking like a teenager and start acting like an adult? This year, I truly felt as if I had grown up and started to become more responsible. Even though I was only 18 my sophomore year, I think I understood what it was like to grow up. Technically, growing up is optional, but for me, it was mandatory. Like every other child, I have always wanted to be a grown up and life would be so much better when we are older and "wiser." Most people now would say that they crave for their youth and that they would give anything to be a kid again. I, however, don't feel that way. I like this version of me and it makes me feel like

I am independent, more put together, and an added bonus: I feel better than ever! And so, I think this was my greatest accomplishment of the year. I did well in my studies, was involved in many organizations, and even got a research position! But, the one thing I really enjoyed and was so proud of was the fact that I grew up. I started taking responsibility of myself and dealing with the consequences that came with it. I learned that I didn't have to accept the opinions of others. I accepted that failure is a part of life, and learning and understanding that is crucial. I grew up when I learned from those mistakes instead of repeating the same mistakes. I realized that there are other people with the same interests as me and that I am not always going to feel like an outsider. Most importantly, this year I learned that I do not necessarily have to figure out everything all at once. Growing up was my biggest accomplishment of the year.



Furwah Turabi

“DISTINCTIVE” DECORATIVE ARTS



BY SAM THOMAS

In 1960 in Salem, North Carolina, there began a new venture to rectify a widespread belief by scholars of decorative arts. This belief, originating primarily from the Smithsonian Institution, was that no decorative arts could be deemed “Southern.” So, in the 1960s, a small group of Southern decorative arts collectors sought to prove that train of thought completely erroneous. Following five years of fundraising, the group purchased and restored a former Kroger supermarket to house examples of Southern decorative arts.

The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, more commonly known as MESDA, began an innovative research program in June 1972 of sending forth teams of decorative arts collectors and researchers to document Southern regional arts in both public and private holdings. The program had two elements: objects and artisans. That first element, to locate and record surviving examples of Southern material culture, has evolved to become the MESDA Object Database. The purpose of MESDA Object Database is to record and make accessible images and data about objects made and used in the South before 1861. Since 1972, MESDA representatives have visited over 11,000 homes and documented nearly 20,000 Southern decorative arts pieces and identified more than 80,000 artists and artisans from the early South.

Decorative arts collectors around the world now recognize MESDA as the preeminent center of research of Southern decorative arts and material culture in the U.S. and the museum is now partnering with the University of North Carolina through their Digital Libraries and Archives to make their entire database available free-of-charge to any researcher through the internet.

Now, why am I telling you all of this? Because just before the holidays in 2022, we had a visit from MESDA wishing to take a look at the growing collection of the T.R.R. Cobb House.

For the past 16 years, the T.R.R. Cobb House has grown the holdings of the house museum by acquiring pieces through purchase or donation. We do not, however, take in every piece offered to us. Those that we do accept must adhere to three criteria: First, the piece must fit the period of 1852–1862; second, it must have descended through the Cobb family or related families, or from the Athens region; and third, it must have provenance, a history of its own.

By keeping to these rather rigid requirements over the years, the T.R.R. Cobb House has created a regional decorative arts collection that is quite unique to many house museums. Most small museums and house museums tend to simply stick to our first requirement of a standard time period. We could have



Gary Albert, Director of MESDA Research, and Kim Wilson-May, Manager of MESDA Research Center assess works in the T.R.R. Cobb

outfitted the T.R.R. Cobb House more easily by requiring just the first prerequisite and giving visitors a false portrait of how folks lived in the 1850s. Instead, we chose to take it further and create for our visitors a more in depth look into the life of Tom Cobb and those around him. Even though the Cobbs were considered Southern elites, that does not mean they possessed the most extravagant and stylish pieces.

We do the same thing today when we outfit our own homes. When we buy a new piece of furniture, we do not simply throw the old piece out. We generally move the older piece to a back room or upstairs where visitors seldom go, or we give it to younger family members just starting out. That is the way it has worked for generations upon generations. When Tom and Marion Cobb first prepared to move into their “new” house on Prince Avenue in the 1840s, one of their first acts was to go to the Cobb family’s early home at Cherry Hill in Jefferson County and bring back a wagon load of furniture. In that respect, they were no different than we are today.

If you visited any house in Athens of the mid-1800s you most likely were entertained in rooms displaying any number of styles: Empire, Federal, Chippendale, Rococo Revival. You may have even seen a Georgian-styled piece here or there, even if it was British and not from the state of Georgia. In December 1843 on the eve of their marriage, Tom wrote Marion from Milledgeville: *As to the furnishing of the house, assure your Father he shall have full scope to gratify his own taste, for I will leave it entirely with him.* In 1852, after the addition of the octagons on the T.R.R. Cobb House, Tom wrote to Howell: *I am just home from Charleston where I have been on a trip with Marion Judge*

L & my two oldest girls. We went to buy a little furniture & had a pleasant trip.

So, they had a house of old furniture from Jefferson County and now new furniture from Charleston. The new furniture might have been Charleston-made, or since it was a port city, imported from Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, or New York, or possibly even from Britain or France. Local craftsmen within the region saw these styles coming in from the outside world and duplicated them, often with their own embellishments or variations. Pieces can vary slightly between those made in Charleston and those made in Savannah, between those made in Savannah and those made in Augusta, and those made in Augusta from those made in Athens. In general, the farther you got away from a main market, such as Charleston, the less sophisticated the pieces became in their appearance as the best craftsmen tended to be attracted to the best markets.

If you take the time to look closer at a piece you may recognize some small difference in it as compared to another of the same style. The bellflower inlay may vary between two tables, the spurs on the skirt of the cupboard may be altered, the backsplash of a sideboard may be plain. All these slight differences give these pieces a regional origin — a Southern regional origin.

The basis of decorative arts scholarship is our ability to examine objects for their construction, style, and technology, and to show relationships to each other. An object with provenance enables scholars to recognize the products of individual locales and shops, a key ingredient in identifying the circumstances and geography of its early manufacture. In turn, migration patterns and routes mirror the spread of intricacies and variations of more common

styles. The end game is to understand how decorative arts styles and design shapes reflect the historical experience of the region and how style is developed and transmitted.

In his groundbreaking study of the South at the time, Ulrich Bonnell Phillips wrote in *Life and Labor in the Old South*, “Let us begin by discussing the weather, for that has been the chief agency in making the South distinctive. The climate has been responsible...in a measure also for the quality of the soil... [however] it’s not just the climate and soil that has made the South distinctive...to these elements must be added the people.” Studying Southern decorative arts adds to the public’s awareness of a regional craftsmanship in both expression and style and enhances our own understanding of our own regional history.

The role of Southern decorative arts on the national scene is its importance of a regional flair. Often derived from our natural environment and cultural traditions, these variations can be more obvious in examining the secondary woods of these pieces, whether the back of the piece is of yellow pine (Southern) or white pine (Northern).

In 1976, the decorative arts world of regional styles added a Georgia regional style as a result of the Henry Green exhibition, “Furniture of the Georgia Piedmont Before 1830” held at the Georgia Museum of Art. Regional styles in Georgia are often attributed by distinctive inlay designs and construction characteristics, many of which are variants of transplanted Scotch-Irish cabinetmakers settling in the Broad River Valley; and many of them having moved from the Catawba River Valley of the Carolinas, the Shenandoah Valley, and the Chesapeake region.

Dale Couch, Curator Emeritus of the Georgia Museum of Art recognizes the importance of the regional decorative arts collection at the T.R.R. Cobb House: “A collection such as that at the T.R.R. Cobb House is a key component for any decorative arts researcher because it focuses on local, regional and even family pieces with great provenance. Collections such as this presents an important cross section of consumer taste and local production, and testifies to the Southern elite’s impact on national decorative arts. The visit from MESDA staff and the inclusion of key objects from the T. R. R. Cobb house ensures that Georgia data at MESDA will be enriched and the Cobb House collection will be part of the overall analysis of decorative arts scholarship.”

MESDA representatives continue to visit private collections and add new records on a regular basis to the MESDA Object Database, creating a living archive of the material landscape of the early American South. Regional and family collections, such as those documented at the T.R.R. Cobb House, fill important gaps and deepen our understanding of regional tastes and preferences.



Director of MESDA Research Gary Albert setting up for documentation.

“The objects that descended in the Cobb family are especially significant,” wrote Kim Wilson-May, manager of the MESDA Research Center. “Objects such as the gothic bookcase, the turned crib, the Lumpkin sideboard, and others, with their strong family histories are fixed to a time and place. They reveal important information not only about the history of the Cobb family but also about the material landscape of the region.”

So, what exactly did the folks from MESDA find at the T.R.R. Cobb House during their visit last year? It seems that the T.R.R. Cobb House has 14 pieces within its holdings deemed to be important examples of Southern decorative arts and soon to be included in the MESDA database. Not bad for a small house museum.



A DRAWER FULL OF RESEARCH



Sticks & Stones

BY MICHELLE ZUPAN

Historians and archaeologists are famous for falling down the rabbit hole of research. One small thing can lead us on a merry chase through historic documents, maps, newspapers, and photos. That is what recently happened while moving a dresser in Mrs. Watson's bedroom at Hickory Hill.

The American Empire-style dresser has a pristine white marble top, delicate acanthus carving around the mirror, and five mahogany veneer drawers with tight miter joins. American Empire was derived from the more ornate French Empire style introduced under Napoleon's rule. It was popular in the early 19th century, especially in the American South. The American Empire style enjoyed a late 19th-century revival, which is likely the period of the Watson dresser. The last drawer pulled from the dresser sparked the descent down the research bunny trail.

It's clear from the back of the drawer that something was missing from a box, mostly letters from words. To be fair, Noah Webster did not print the first American speller until 1783 and didn't



The back of the dresser drawer bears an interesting message.

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WATSON M. L. (Laura), Antique Furniture House,
(Colonial, Clippendale and Cheson). 413 8th, h 107 10th, Tel 2057 (See page 27)

- *Watson Patrick (m), lab, h 1120 10th
- *Watson Richard, lab, h 1120 10th
- Watson Robert J. (Alma), piano tuner, h 456 Telfair
- Watson Rufus W., claim clk Sou Ry, h 722 Moore av
- *Watson Squire, lab, b 1227 D'Laigle av
- Watson Thomas E. (Carrie), carp, h Central av, Monte Sano
- Watson Virgil, foreman Armour Fert Wks
- Watson Wm C. (Henrietta; The Watson Furniture Co.), h 605 Moore av
- Watson W Herman, student, b 204 Broad
- Watters John H. (Mamie), asst mstr mech Ga R R, b 460 Greene
- Watts Albert, mill hd, b 146 Ferry
- *Watts Alexander (m), lab, h rr 1736 Welsh av
- Watts Arthur H. (Susie M.), cabtmkr, h 1017 Roberts
- *Watts Calhoun, lab, b 1145 (1133) Gordon
- *Watts Calvin (m), brklyr, h 601 Fenwick
- *Watts Dafney (wid), mill opr, b 1438 Moore
- *Watts Edward, porter, b 1558 Turknett Spring rd
- *Watts Ellen (wid), dom, h 1636 Twiggs
- *Watts Ellen (wid), Indrs, h 1636 Savannah rd
- *Watts Hattie (wid), Indrs, h 1214 Turknett Spring rd
- *Watts Henrietta (wid), Indrs, h 851 2d av
- *Watts Henry, lab, b 638 Gwinnett
- *Watts Katherine (wid), Indrs, h 638 Gwinnett
- Watts Lillie, b 1666 Brinson
- *Watts Lovie, lab, b 1638 Savannah rd
- *Watts March (m), lab, h 1145 (1133) Gordon
- Watts Marcus L. (Pearl), furn, h 107 10th
- Watts Margaret L., music tchr 1740 Telfair, b 609 Crawford av
- *Watts Maria (wid), Indrs, r 73 Daniel
- *Watts Mary, Indrs, r 1440 Twiggs
- *Watts Moses (m), lab, h 515 11th
- *Watts Nancy (wid), Indrs, r 1638 Savannah rd
- *Watts Peter, cook shop 1115 9th, h 1243 9th
- *Watts Reuben (m), lab, h 32 Ellis
- *Watts Samuel, hackman, b Edgar Brown, H'ville
- *Watts Wm (m), lab, h 1638 Savannah rd
- *Watts Wm (m), lab, h 1135 10th
- *Watts Wm (m), lab, h 1638 Twiggs
- *Way Adassa, dom, b 24 Gregg
- *Way Arthur, porter, b 24 Gregg
- *Way Carrie, Indrs, b 24 Gregg

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The Watsons advertised in the October 21, 1906 edition of the Augusta Herald.



Marcus Watson, c.1900

issue the first American dictionary until 1828, so perhaps this dresser was too early for standardized spelling.

We know that the Watsons often purchased pieces from used or antique furniture stores. The bottom of the drawer provided confirmation. Stamped in black lettering is "Antique Furniture House M. L. Watson Augusta - GA."

And who was M. L. Watson? A visit to Ancestry.com ensured me it was not a family member. The next stop was the Augusta City Directory. City directories were the precursors to the Yellow Pages and are wonderful sources of information on businesses, residents, addresses, and even telephone numbers. The 1909 directory listed "M. L. Watson (Laura) Antique Furniture House" at 413 8th St. The directories as far back as the 1890s indicate that Marcus Lamar and Laura Carlton Watson had an antique furniture store in various locations throughout downtown Augusta.



American Empire furniture often incorporated acanthus leaf carving and mahogany veneers.

Two final research stops at Georgia's Historic Newspaper database and Ancestry.com rounded out a bit more of the Watsons' story, including supplying a photo of Marcus. The Watsons were from Greene County. Laura was Marcus' second wife; they married in 1878, the same year Georgia and Tom Watson wed. Their daughter Laura, aka Lolie, was born a year later. Marcus had a cotton business and

Apart from Ancestry.com, all of the databases employed to round out the history of the dresser are free to use and have copious amounts of family data too! Antique furniture often has stamps, pasted-on labels, maker's signatures, handwritten notes, or other clues to its origin or history. So, flip over those chairs, turn the tables, and start researching!

ANDREW PINSON



Alumni Spotlight

BY TIARA HODGES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDRINA'S PHOTOGRAPHY

When chatting with Justice Andrew Pinson, it is ever present that he feels deeply honored to serve as a judge on the Supreme Court of Georgia. "I felt called to public service for some time and I'm in a position now where the work I do on a daily basis is meaningful for the people of Georgia."

Pinson was born in Dekalb County and grew up in Lincolnton near Augusta. He went to UGA for his undergraduate studies and continued there for law school. He began his career as a judicial clerk for then Chief Judge David Sentelle on the DC circuit. He

for the multinational firm. Returning home to Georgia was a natural decision for Pinson and his wife Sara Beth, who is also from Georgia.

"I knew I wanted to end up in public service and I wanted to do that in my home state. That was a big impetus for coming back home," Pinson said.

After Jones Day, he joined the Office of the Attorney General in the Solicitor General Unit, which handles and oversees all the appeals for the state of Georgia. He first served as a deputy and then as Solicitor General.

One of the highlights of his career came from his time as Solicitor General where he defended the state of Georgia in the tri-state water wars conflict, which was a lawsuit filed in the US Supreme Court by Florida over the use of shared river basins between Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. Pinson and team prevailed in that lawsuit, which he considers a fulfilling part of his time as Solicitor General.

Pinson was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor Brian Kemp in 2021, and now, he's in his second year on the bench of his appointment to the Supreme Court of Georgia. "I feel very fortunate to have the opportunities I've had," Pinson said. "Looking back, I do think for me it is a fascinating and fulfilling career to have a chance to uphold really important principles in our government and our society: the rule of law and equal justice under the law. Those are principles that are crucial to our country and our state."

Although Pinson is one of the younger members on the court, he came with plenty of experience. "I have done the kinds of things that make me well-suited for and prepared for the job despite my age." He continued, "The range and experience and backgrounds [of the court] includes people from different generations. It's a great thing to have people on our court who



then worked in the private sector at Jones Day before spending a year clerking at the Supreme Court of the United States. For Pinson, judicial clerkships were informative for him as a young attorney because they taught the basics of how to analyze cases, prepare for arguments, draft opinions, and learn how judges ultimately make their decisions.

Pinson spent a few more years at Jones Day after his clerkship in DC and then came back to Georgia and continued to work

range from their late 30s like me up into their 60s, like some of our more senior justices. Having those different perspectives, having grown up in different times and different generations, I think makes our understanding of the law and the real world richer and better. Our law and our justice system are better for it.”

Pinson believes his role in law is to decide cases with certainty, predictability, and reliability and to work to ensure laws are applied consistently, fairly, and justly, and that he and the court takes that as a great responsibility. “One thing I always try to remind people when they ask me ‘how do you like the job?’ is that I am one vote and one person on a nine-person court. It’s a fantastic court and a fantastic group of colleagues who come from a wide and diverse range of places and backgrounds and experiences. I think everyone should have great confidence in our court as a whole. It’s been a fantastic experience and I look forward to many years of this.”

When reflecting on his trajectory from college student to judge, Pinson noted that the Watson-Brown scholarship, along with other financial resources like the Hope Scholarship, gave him the flexibility to have a well-rounded college experience. “I worked during college but [the scholarships] made it such that the financial burdens of college did not outweigh my ability to engage in both the scholastic and academic part of college,” Pinson said. “It’s really amazing and helpful to have that kind of flexibility and support when you’re in college and certainly the Watson-Brown scholarship was a very meaningful and helpful part of that.”

Outside of the court, Pinson and his wife Sara Beth are huge dog people. Both of his parents were veterinarians and Sara Beth’s career has revolved around animals and the pet-care industry. In fact, she’s a professional dog trainer who trains in agility. Most of their hobbies naturally include being outside, as they also love to hike. And their dogs aren’t the only ones they’re fans of — as a UGA alum, Pinson is of course a Georgia Bulldogs fan and enjoys the Atlanta Braves. He noted, “it’s been a great couple of years for sports in Georgia.”

And for any future Georgia Bulldogs or any student in pursuit of a successful career, Pinson offered some advice: “Work hard and meet people.” He continued, “I wouldn’t be where I was today without that combination of things. Having people in your corner supporting you is necessary to getting to where you want to go, and I’ve been very fortunate to find myself in these various opportunities and none of that would’ve been possible without having a wide variety of people in my corner.”



NOTE

In the Winter 2023 issue, the alumni spotlight feature image and cover image were photographed by Page Gordon of CCP Photos LLC.





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.