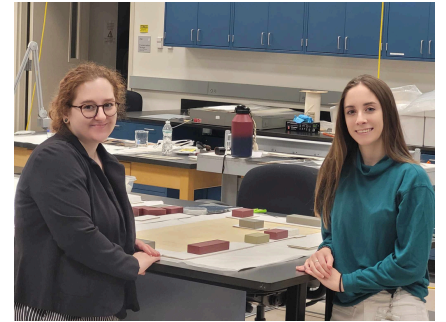


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Meet the 2024 Pre-Program Conservation Interns

This summer, the Georgia Archives is excited to welcome two exceptional pre-program conservation interns: Grace Mattaliano and Laura Schneider. Grace, an Art History major from Connecticut College, and Laura, a Collections Research Associate at the Madison Historical Society, are exploring the complex world of book and paper conservation. Their journey is made possible by the generous sponsorship of the Friends of Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH).



A Unique Internship Experience

Our Pre-Program Summer Conservation Internship is renowned for its immersive and hands-on approach to conservation training. Under the guidance of our expert conservator, Sigourney Stanford, Grace and Laura are not just learning about conservation—they are actively engaging in projects that preserve Georgia's historical heritage.

Grace chose this internship to combine her two greatest interests: conservation and archives. Her fascination with conservation began during her freshman summer at Connecticut College when she participated in archaeological conservation work in Italy and Greece. One of the most challenging projects Grace tackled at the Georgia Archives was a soil map from 1922, which required removing over 20 pieces of tape and mending numerous tears. This painstaking work taught her the importance of patience and managing multiple projects simultaneously. She learned that the sense of achievement at the end of such a meticulous process makes the effort worthwhile.

Laura, on the other hand, discovered her passion for art conservation through her love for art, history, museums, and science. She was drawn to this internship by the prospect of expanding her paper conservation skills and experiencing the unique environment of an archive. One of her ongoing challenges has been mastering tape removal, a delicate process requiring heat and precision to avoid damaging fragile paper. Over time, Laura has refined her technique for safe tape removal, enhancing her practical skills.

The Importance of This Internship

This internship is a vital stepping stone for aspiring conservation professionals, providing a rare opportunity to develop essential skills and experience crucial for postgraduate conservation programs. By the end of their time with us, Grace and Laura will have gained a deep understanding of conservation ethics and practices, the ability

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to perform basic book and paper conservation treatments, and familiarity with a variety of conservation tools, equipment, and materials. Their efforts will culminate in a professional portfolio, showcasing the techniques and skills they've honed at the Georgia Archives.

Grace's experience at the Georgia Archives has deepened her understanding of the science and chemistry behind conservation treatments. She now appreciates the significance of conservation ethics, recognizing that each object is unique and must be preserved as the original maker intended. Laura's internship has provided her with an inside look at the life of a working conservator, where she has learned to develop treatment plans by analyzing objects from multiple angles and considering their individual needs.

Future Aspirations

As they look to the future, Grace plans to return to Connecticut College for her senior year, where she will present her Museum Studies capstone project related to this internship. She will also be starting her first semester of Organic Chemistry and fulfilling prerequisites for graduate school. Laura is seeking another position in conservation or museum collections, and she plans to visit the UK in September to explore museums and possibly tour conservation graduate programs.

About FOGAH

The Friends of Georgia Archives & History is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to supporting the Georgia Archives. Since its formation in 2004, FOGAH has played a crucial role in enhancing the programs of the Georgia Archives and the Georgia Capitol Museum. The organization funds research tools, conservation efforts, and educational programs, while members also volunteer for various events and advocate for the value of archives. FOGAH supports archival training through internships and the Dunaway Scholarship to the Georgia Archives Institute. By underwriting education programs, public lectures, exhibits, and projects, FOGAH helps bring the rich history preserved at the Archives and Capitol Museum to life, highlighting the significance and impact of historical documents and artifacts. To learn more about FOGAH, please visit [FOGAH.org](https://www.fogah.org).

The Georgia Archives, with the unwavering support of the Friends of the Georgia Archives and History (FOGAH), is proud to offer this unique and impactful internship. We eagerly anticipate the contributions Grace and Laura will make in the field of conservation and beyond.

For more information about the Georgia Archives and our programs, visit our website: [Georgia Archives](https://www.georgiaarchives.org).