Theodora Hamilton Huszagh Light

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# Education

**PhD *University of Georgia***, History **May 2026 (expected)**

Major Advisor: James F. Brooks, PhD

**MA *University of Georgia****,* History **May 2022**

Major Advisor: James F. Brooks, PhD

Thesis: “Forging Refuge between Shatter Zones: The Tocobaga Maroons of the Wacissa”

**BA *University of South Carolina Beaufort***, History **May 2020**

Double Major – Spanish

Undergraduate Thesis: “U.S. Immigration Policy’s True Humanitarian Potential: Refugees of Indochina, the Former Yugoslavia, and Cuba”

Advisor: Timothy James, PhD

# Honors and Awards

**UGA Warner-Fite Award 2022  
USCB Governor Paul Hamilton Sons of the American Revolution 2020**

**Outstanding Student in History**

**USCB Outstanding Spanish Student of the Year** **2020**

**Phi Alpha Theta Inductee**   **2019**

**Gamma Beta Phi Inductee 2017**

# Grants and Fellowships

**Greg and Amanda Gregory Travel Grant**  **2023**

Department of History, University of Georgia

**Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education 2022**

**Student Research Grant**

“Tocobaga Diaspora: Restoring Community Agency through Kinship and Knowledge”

**Greg and Amanda Gregory Travel Grant**  **2022**

Department of History, University of Georgia

**Greg and Amanda Gregory Travel Grant**  **2021**

Department of History, University of Georgia

**Fulbright Predoctoral Research Grant, Spain 2021**

Universidad de Sevillaand Archivo General de Indias

**USCB Magellan Scholar Grant Award Recipient**  **2019**

“Barnwell Site Background: Archival Research on Other Contemporary Tabby Structures”

# Publications & Presentations

***Discussant, Chair, and Other***

Organizer, Chair, and Presenter, “Reclaiming Narratives: Southern History in Technicolor” *Slave Dwelling Project Conference*, Sept. 30, 2021

## Journal Publications

“Frankenstein’s Monster: Constructing a Legal Regime to Regulate Race and Place,” *Southern Cultures*, Fall 2022.

“US Asylum Policy: Human Rights Policy Damned by Politics,” *May River Review: An Interdisciplinary Critical Journal*, Volume 4, 2017: 90-95.

***Presentations***

“Indian Slavery and Maronnage in Early Modern Florida,” *Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society*, Feb. 2, 2023.

“Refuge and Resistance between Shatter Zones: The Tocobaga and Calusa of South Florida,” *Southern Historical Association Conference*, Nov. 11, 2022.

“From Riverboats to Railroads, to ‘a little city-fied’: Memories of Dublin through the *Allen Thomas Oral History Collection,*” Laurens County Library, Nov. 7, 2022.

“Frankenstein’s Monster: Constructing a Legal Regime to Regulate Race and Place” *Slave Dwelling Project Conference 2021*, Sept. 30, 2021.

“U.S. Immigration Policy’s True Humanitarian Potential: Refugees and Asylees of Cuba” *18th Annual Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages & Literatures,* Oct. 22, 2020.

“Students Connected: Barnwell Site Experience” *Students Connected: Fieldwork for the Future Kick-Off*, Oct. 3, 2019.

“The Man Behind your Miranda Rights,” *2017 USCB Student Research and Scholarship Day*.

# Teaching Experience

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, HIST 2112: American History since 1865

University of Georgia, Department of History

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, HIST 2111: American History to 1865

University of Georgia, Department of History

# Professional Affiliations

**Oconee Regional Library System,** Laurens County Library **Summer 2022**

As a summer digitization intern, I digitized 21 oral history interviews in the *Allen Thomas Oral History Collection,* including an interview I conducted with Mr. Allen Thomas. Using the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer, I indexed and digitized the collection, now housed in the Digital Library of Georgia. Additionally, I helped publicize the collection by writing blog posts and a press release, and planned an event to launch the ATOHC and celebrate the work of Laurens County Library.

**Santa Elena Foundation 2017-2020**

Lead Docent in charge of managing volunteers and sharing unique local history with the public at the Santa Elena History Center. Additional responsibilities include assistance with exhibit display updates, lecture scheduling and event coordination, as well as management of online programs calendar and social media presence.

# Archaeological Field Experience

***Barnwell Tabby Site*(38BU90),** Assistant Field Director **May 2019 – Aug 2019**

Hilton Head Island, SC       Principal Investigator Dr. Audrey Dawson

***Mitchelville Preservation Project* (38BU05),**Site Docent **June 2019- July 2019** Hilton Head Island, SC Principal Investigator Katherine E. Seeber

***Sea Pines Shell Ring* (38BU07),** Volunteer Excavator  **July 2018**

Hilton Head Island, SC Principal Investigator Dr. Matthew Sanger

***Mitchelville Preservation Project* (38BU05),** Volunteer Excavator **June 2018**

Hilton Head Island, SC Principal Investigator Dr. Matthew Sanger

# Service

**UGA History Graduate Student Association -** Vice President **2021 – 2022**

The primary liaison for M.A. student as well as the manager for the semi-annual book sale. Coordinates HGSA meetings. When the President is unable to fulfill their duties, fills in as substitute.

**League of Women Voters,** Board Member - Chair of Voter Services **2018 – 2020**

I directed dozens of voter registration and activation drives within the community, finding particular success presenting and operating within local public high schools. I also chaired a committee which manages and distributes our charitable funds.

# Hospitality

Over ten years of experience in cooking and hospitality, both front and back of house, most recently in the following establishments:

**Butcher & Vine, Athens –** Cook **2022**

**Brody’s Bar & Grill –** Floor Manager, Bartender  **2015—2017**

**Breakwater Restaurant & Bar** – Expediter  **2014-2016**

# Languages

**English**: Native Language

**Spanish**: ACTFL Superior Speaker and High Advanced Listener, Reader, and Writer

**Paleography:** Early Modern Spanish reading proficiency

# References

**James F. Brooks**, PhD, Carl and Sally Gable Distinguished Professor of History, University of Georgia, [james.brooks@uga.edu](mailto:james.brooks@uga.edu)

**Kimberly K. Cavanagh**, PhD, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of South Carolina – Beaufort, [KCavanagh@uscb.edu](mailto:KCavanagh@uscb.edu)

**Anna C. Vinton**, PhD, NSF Postdoctoral Fellow - Salgo Team, University of Oxford, [anna.vinton@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:anna.vinton@zoo.ox.ac.uk)