

Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award



Patrick H. Garrow

The Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) established the prestigious Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award to honor individuals who have a record of sustained and truly outstanding service to the society. In January 2015, at the 48th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Seattle, Washington, SHA presented the Ruppé Award to an archaeologist who exemplifies a life of service to his profession and to his colleagues: Patrick H. Garrow. A true gentleman scholar, his dedication to our science and to our society is reflected in his many years devoted to making SHA, and especially the annual conference, what it is today. Pat's service to SHA spans decades and numerous positions. His selfless contributions include leadership roles on the SHA Board of Directors and organizing and chairing the now-legendary 1998 SHA conference in Atlanta.

Although Pat has served SHA in several capacities, perhaps his most substantial and lasting contribution is as chair of the SHA Conference Committee, a position that is also, by default, SHA Conference Coordinator. Serving in this position for many years, Pat oversaw the growth of the SHA annual meeting from a rather small gathering of a few hundred people to a major annual conference of international proportions attended by over a thousand archaeologists. Pat

steered the planning of conferences into an organized, efficient, and repeatable process through his careful and detailed stewardship, including a major revision and updating of the official SHA Conference Manual. Moreover, Pat worked for years to establish a process and pattern for securing conference venues well into the future, giving SHA and local conference committees ample time to plan the meeting. Today, thanks to his efforts, SHA strives to secure conference venues at least five years in advance, sustaining Pat's vision of successful, affordable, and exciting annual meetings. Furthermore, his careful mentoring enabled the smooth transition to a new conference coordinator, who took over planning in 2012 with the goal of keeping Pat's vision focused and progressing.

Pat served as a member of the SHA Board of Directors from 2009 to 2012, as chair of the SHA Conference Committee and conference coordinator from 1999 to 2013 (co-chair with Barbara Garrow 1999–2002), and as conference chair for the 31st Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1998. He extensively revised the SHA Conference Manual in 2006 and over the years has made significant personal donations to the annual conference and to the silent auction.

In addition to his direct service to SHA, Pat is a leading researcher and scholar in historical archaeology, dedicating his nearly 50-year career to the cultural resource management (CRM) and academic sectors, and producing numerous publications on a variety of topics, ranging from 19th-century coffin hardware to historical ceramic analysis to Civil War encampments. Furthermore, Pat has been a consummate mentor to hundreds of new professionals. It is a rare historical archaeologist in the state of Georgia who has not been mentored by Pat in one way or another while navigating the ins and outs of CRM archaeology. Pat continues to serve the field of historical archaeology, currently as president of the Register of Professional Archaeologists and through present and past leadership positions in other organizations, including the Society for American Archaeology and the Society for Georgia Archaeology.

Pat's dedication to SHA, commitment to mentoring students and young professionals, promotion of public outreach and education in archaeology, and devotion to the field of historical archaeology make him the ideal recipient of the 2015 Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award.

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