



QUESTIONS

for Laura Hartz Stanton

CCAHA Executive Director / Education: B.A., Anthropology and Archaeology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA; M.A., History and Museum Studies, The Cooperstown Graduate Program, State University of New York College at Oneonta, Cooperstown, NY / **Years at CCAHA:** 10

You spent 7 years as the Director of Preservation Services. What made you want to be the Executive Director?

Simply put, CCAHA is a remarkable organization and I love this place. I'm continually awed by the astounding treatments done by our conservation team and proud that we're playing a huge role in ensuring that those items are around for future generations. During my tenure in Preservation Services, I worked with hundreds of nonprofit organizations and I saw how far a little support and advice can go in helping an institution meet their preservation goals. I look forward to the opportunity to build upon Ingrid's legacy and extend the reach of the Center even further.

What are your primarily responsibilities as Executive Director?

Honestly, I'm still new to this job! I handle a lot of day-to-day management for the Center, like budgeting and building maintenance. More broadly, my responsibilities are to ensure that we're fulfilling our mission, maintaining our level of excellence, innovating in our field, and meeting the needs of the institutions and individuals we work with. This is a tall order and one that I could not do alone. CCAHA has a remarkable staff and Board that are invested in this organization—everything we do is truly a team effort.

What are you looking forward to the most about being Executive Director?

While it may be cliché, I'm excited to play a bigger role in making CCAHA an even better organization and having the chance to explore new opportunities and expand our services. I'm also happy to learn even more about the

work of our conservators. In Preservation Services, most of my work was external, so I'm looking forward to being more engaged in the treatment side of CCAHA.

What are your goals for the upcoming year?

I'm very lucky that I inherited a successful organization with a wonderfully dedicated staff, so my biggest goal is to build upon what's already been done. I plan to look at new potential partnerships and joint ventures that would allow CCAHA to better meet the needs of our clients. I'm also aware of how many institutions and individuals don't know about CCAHA, so I hope to spread the word about our services.

How do you think your experience in Preservation Services informs your vision for the Center?

I'm going to miss my work in the Preservation Services department. In that position, I had the opportunity to work with so many different institutions and help them to achieve their goals. Working with both tiny volunteer-run organizations and large nonprofits taught me to think creatively and to come up with multiple methods of approaching a challenge. As we move forward as an organization, I always hope to remember the lesson that there's no one-size fits all strategy and let that inform our work in conservation and preservation services.

You have degrees in Anthropology, Archaeology, and History/Museum Studies. How has that affected your approach at the Center?

While getting my undergraduate degree, I realized what I loved about archaeology was the act of discovery and working with objects. I pursued my work in the museum field and quickly found my niche in collections management and preservation. I hope that my love of objects and the wonder of unearthing new approaches for preserving cultural heritage informs everything I do at CCAHA.

Fall of 2014 had a lot of changes for you. You had your second son, Elijah, just a month or so before assuming your new job. Do you have plans for which museum to take him to first?

Since Elijah has an older brother who loves dinosaurs, I think that his first museum will probably be the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. There are so many wonderful places I want to take him, though! Both kids have a long list of museums that they're going to be seeing, and my husband and I joke that in a few years, they'll be saying, "No, Mama, not another historic house!"

How old is your first son, Teddy? What is his favorite book?

Teddy is almost five! One of his all-time favorites is called *The Big Red Barn*, which was actually given to us by a CCAHA client. We can all recite it from memory. Teddy is also excited by anything that involves pirates. A particular favorite right now is called *Victricia Malicia: Book-Loving Buccaneer*, about a pirate who opens a bookstore.

—AMY HEUER