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SPOTLIGHT ON...STEPHEN HALLER

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University Libraries welcomes Stephen Haller, curator of historical manuscripts and archives, who began work on August 1. Although still in the process of relocating to Hattiesburg, Steve already feels at home at McCain Library and Archives thanks to the “passionate and dedicated” staff within Special Collections.

Steve has more than 30 years of archival experience at nonprofit organizations and historical societies in three states. Before coming to Southern Miss, he was the senior director of collections and library at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis. While there, he increased online digital collections and managed a new award-winning digital exhibit program. Prior to that, Steve served as director of archives and records at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Virginia, where he designed an archives and records program to support the Foundation’s educational, historic property, public relations and development goals.

Steve grew up in the Midwest and has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in history from Miami University of Ohio. His research interests include military history, the Revolutionary War period, the early republic and early 20th century America. He is the author of *William Washington: Cavalryman of the Revolution*, published by Heritage Books in 2001.

While a graduate student, Steve interned with the Ohio Historical Society. He enjoyed the experience so much that when an archivist position became available there the following spring, he was quick to apply for it. Among his many contributions to the profession, Steve has taught college and adult education classes and has held leadership roles in local and regional professional organizations. He is also a certified records manager (CRM).

Steve's next steps as curator involve becoming more familiar with the local community so that he can preserve its history, and with the university environment, which he describes as a "welcome challenge." Steve is eager to promote Special Collections to Southern Miss students and the community at large, and he has always enjoyed working with student interns and is looking forward to interacting with students again to support their research needs. Preserving and making historical materials accessible have always been priorities in his career. To meet these objectives in his current role, Steve intends to rely on his experience to facilitate the efficient processing of collections, new and old. He will also need to make important decisions about which university records to retain and how to make best use of limited space.

Steve is married and has two adult children, both of whom live in the South. He has been heavily active within community nonprofits, including Big Brothers Big Sisters and adult literacy programs, and would like to get involved with similar organizations in Hattiesburg. Furthermore, as a Vietnam veteran, Steve is interested in reaching out to student veterans.