Courtney Baron, Visual Resources Curator, University of Georgia; MLIS student, Valdosta State University:

I am honored to be the recipient of both the 2014 ARLIS/NA Student Conference Attendance Award and the 2014 ARLIS/SE Professional Development Award, which I used to attend the ARLIS/NA annual conference in Washington, D.C. This was my first annual conference and it was a wonderful learning experience. I really enjoyed the convocation ceremony that took place in none other than the fabulous Library of Congress! It was amazing to tour the Jefferson Building. As a classicist, I really enjoyed browsing Jefferson's collection of Greco-Roman tomes, and I had a giggle at the librarians geeking out over being allowed behind the librarian desk in the main reading room!

My favorite session was the pre-conference workshop Bookings: Making Makerspaces for Artists Books, sponsored by the Washington Art Library Resources Committee (WALRC) with instructors from the Women’s Studio Workshop. The workshop involved making three small artists books, each with increasing difficulty, and we learned the value of creating makerspaces in libraries for the visual arts. It was hands-on and engaging and I left feeling confident that I could produce a similar activity back home.

The conference location couldn't be beat, and I loved getting lost in the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery. I was eager to connect with like-minded professionals in the field with similar interests, so I made sure to attend the Visual Resources Interest Group and the Archaeology and Classics Interest Group. I really do believe attending this conference helped me achieve my goal of becoming the Visual Resources Curator at the University of Georgia, a position I will begin on July 7. I thank the ARLIS/SE Professional Development Award Committee for their generosity and look forward to continuing my membership in ARLIS/SE.