

April 22, 2021

Matt Joyce
Senior Managing Editor
Texas Highways
150 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, TX 78704

Stephanie Cole, Ph.D.
Associate Professor & Associate Chair; M.A. Graduate Advisor
The University of Texas at Arlington
Department of History
Box 19529 · 201 University Hall
Arlington, TX 76019

Dear Dr. Cole:

I'm writing to recommend Regina Burns as an applicant for the University of Texas at Arlington's M.A. in History program. I've known Regina for 15 years, dating to our time as colleagues at The Associated Press bureau in Dallas. Over the years, Regina has always impressed me with her capability, diligence, and resilience. She has a terrific work ethic.

I reconnected with Regina last year when I was looking for writers to contribute to *Texas Highways* magazine's My Hometown section, which profiles small towns through the eyes of a local resident. Regina embraced the concept and set about proposing ideas. She quickly struck gold with her pitch for a story about Terrell, highlighting a local barber named Edmund Morrow. Regina's deft interpretation went beyond introducing us to Morrow as a representative resident of Terrell. She also dug deeper into the stories of Morrow and his hometown, developing new insights into the African American experience. For example, Morrow was a barber at the Terrell State Hospital during segregation and cut the white patients' hair.

Regina's story about Terrell was a success. Readers loved it. But what impressed me most was Regina's engagement with the history of the subject. In particular, her interest in uncovering more about Morrow's alma mater, Tyler Barber College, was fascinating. Largely forgotten today, Tyler Barber College was the first school of its type in the U.S. for African Americans. Our country is full of countless similar examples of history that has been overlooked. Regina has the talent and drive to uncover them. We need storytellers and historians like Regina to give us a more complete picture of who we are as a nation.

I look forward to seeing Regina's important work in the field of history in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Matt Joyce | matt.joyce@gmail.com