

In This Issue

[Building
Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)

[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)

[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)

[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)

[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)

[President's Message](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

Ohio's 2003 Conference on History, Preservation & Revitalization is November 6- 8 in Columbus

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

Instead of holding a Fall meeting this year, SOA was a co-sponsor of the Building Connections Conference.

Building Connections: Ohio's 2003 Conference on History, Preservation & Revitalization was held November 6-8, 2003 at the historic Columbus Athenaeum. Organized to strengthen ties among heritage-related interests in Ohio, this inaugural event was a collaboration of the Ohio Historical Society including the National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center, National History Day in Ohio, and Ohio Historic Preservation Office, with Downtown Ohio, Inc., Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, Ohio Preservation Alliance, and Society of Ohio Archivists.

Over 50 sessions covered revitalizing neighborhoods and business districts, building codes, school curriculum, organizational development, exhibit planning, working with archival collections, maintaining and renovating buildings, preservation easements, preservation law, History Day, fund raising, conducting oral history interviews, and much more. 'Hands-on Preservation' workshops offered demonstrations and practical advice on conserving wood, paint, plaster, windows, slate roofs, and box gutters.

The History, Preservation & Revitalization Showplace featured products and services, and a bookstore offered related titles. An Educators' Luncheon, the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums Awards, Ohio Historic Preservation Office Awards, a silent auction, tours of historic places, and a reception at the 1861 State Arsenal - now the Columbus Recreation & Parks Department Cultural Arts Center - allowed for plenty of networking opportunities.

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Fall2003 OA](#)**

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[Top of Page](#)



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In This Issue

[Building
Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)

[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)

[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)

[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)

[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)

[President's Message](#)

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In This Issue

[Building](#)

[Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)

[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)

[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)

[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)

[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)

[President's Message](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

News and Notes

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

[Hudson Public Library](#)

[Lloyd Library](#)

[Ohio Memory](#)

[Ohio State University, Byrd Polar Research Center Archival Program](#)

[Seeking Proposals for Future MAC Meeting Locations](#)

[Ohio University](#)

Gwen Hudson has been promoted to Acting Archivist at the **Hudson Library & Historical Society** and Renee Booksh has been named Assistant Archivist.

Maggie Heran (Yax formerly) was named the new Director of the **Lloyd Library** in Cincinnati, OH.

Ohio Memory hosted a symposium discussing survey results on digitization in Ohio and recognizing participants in Ohio Memory Phase 2 at the Ohio Historical Center on Thursday August 28, 2003.

The survey results are available online at:
<http://www.ohiomemory.org/survey/index.html>

You can view photographs of the event at:
<http://www.ohiomemory.org/om/symposium.html>

The **Byrd Polar Research Center Archival Program (BPRCAP)** is among 33 archives across the country that have been awarded preservation funds to save American "orphan" films that are not preserved by commercial interests.

Laura Kissel, Polar Curator, wrote the successful grant proposal on behalf of the Ohio State University Libraries. Funds totaling \$5,010.00 from the National Film Preservation Foundation will preserve two films from the Harrison H. Richardson collection. Richardson was the meteorological observer on the U.S. Antarctic Service expedition, 1939-1941, Admiral Richard Byrd's third expedition to Antarctica. The film is believed to be some of the first color footage shot in Antarctica.

The Admiral Richard E. Byrd Collection is rich in original historical material, particularly from Byrd's earlier expeditions. The collection also holds a relatively small quantity of materials from subsequent missions. The U.S. government, the official sponsor for the U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition, maintains the expedition's official records in the National Archives. As part of its collecting mandate, the BPRCAP collects documentation and artifacts that complement existing collections. In 2001, Dr. Richardson's son donated 3.5 cubic feet of material, including 18 reels of original 16 mm film that Richardson himself shot during the U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition and Operation Highjump, 1946-1947.

The preservation work will entail cleaning and repair of the original film, and then transfer to 16mm internegatives and 16mm prints. From the new 16mm prints, a Digibeta, VHS, and DVD will be produced. This will allow the BPRCAP to produce viewing copies for patrons while preserving the original films and film preservation masters in the climate-controlled stacks of Ohio State's Book Depository/Archives building. ColorLab, in Rockville, Maryland, will complete the preservation work.

For more information about the Richardson films and the Richard E. Byrd collection, or any of the other polar collections held by the BPRCAP, please visit <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/arvweb/polar>, or contact Laura Kissel at 614-688-8173 or kissel.4@osu.edu.

Seeking Proposals for Future MAC Meeting Locations. Yes, fellow MACers, your professional association needs your help. We are beginning to look at possible venues for MAC meetings. Our present meeting schedule lists MAC in Milwaukee in spring 2004 and Des Moines in fall 2004. Beyond those dates, the calendar is wide open. This is your opportunity to invite MAC to your state/city, to show off your local repositories, restaurants, and fun things to do. If you've been thinking how nice it would be to have MAC in your own backyard, we want to hear from you. Hosting a MAC meeting is a lot of fun

(OK, it's some work, too, but the MAC leadership stands ready to assist you). If you're interested in learning more, please contact MAC President Steve McShane or MAC Vice President Sherry Williams, or any Council member.

The **Mahn Center for Archives & Special Collections at Ohio University** will contribute to Ohio University's bicentennial with a series of exhibits that began this summer and will run through fall 2004. The university, founded in 1804, will officially celebrate during the 2003-04 school year. The topics for the series of exhibits are:

- " The Changing Campus Landscape, October-December 2003
- " Present at the Creation, January-March 2004
- " The Seasons of the (Academic) Year, April-June 2004
- " No More Pencils, No More Books . . . , July-September 2004
- " Range, Revolution, and the River: Changing Times at Ohio University during the Volatile 1960s and 1970s, October-December 2004

Learn more at

<http://www.library.ohiou.edu/libinfo/depts/archives/exhibits.htm>

Web pages have been mounted for the Governor George V. Voinovich Collection at

<http://www.library.ohiou.edu/libinfo/depts/archives/voinovich/biography.html>

and the Cornelius Ryan Collection of World War II Papers at

<http://www.library.ohiou.edu/libinfo/depts/archives/ryan/ryan1.htm>.

Both sites are still under construction, but have a look.

Sheppard Black, long-time employee of the Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections, retired at the end of June. Judith Connick has been promoted to take his place as Special Collections Librarian.

Bill Kimok, University Archivist, was featured in the latest issue of the alumni magazine, "Ohio Today." The article features the archives and serves as a precursor of the University's celebration of its bicentennial next year.

Gary Ginther, Senior Library Associate and graduate student in the MLS program through Kent State, is doing his practicum at the Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections. Gary will take an in-depth look at the department's photographic collections.

Andrea Spence, graduate student in Wright State's Public History program plans on doing a practicum working with the Voinovich Collection during the winter break.

Two new manuscript collections currently in processing are the Rybarczyk / Fisher Letters and the E. Barton Worthington Collection. The former is a collection of correspondence covering the writer's experiences in the Army Air Force in World War II and his early days as a student at the University. The latter contains materials relating to a British water ecologist working in Africa, Honduras, and South-East Asia from the 1940s to the 1970s.

A lasting legacy of the University's celebration of its bicentennial is the recently published book, "Ohio University, 1804-2004: The Sprit of a Singular Place," by Betty Hollow. Betty camped out for months in the Mahn Center and many of the materials come from our collections. To compliment the book and the other bicentennial events, the department's staff will mount numerous exhibits and displays over the next year and a half.

The Ohio Humanities Council has contributed an amount of \$7,500 to support the publication of the guide, **Preserving the Memories of the Great Dayton Flood: Proceedings of the Symposium, October 22, 2002**. This guide seeks to aid scholars and researchers in locating photographs and photographic collections of primary and secondary documents dealing with the Dayton Flood of 1913.

The first part of it will deal with the proceedings of the highly successful symposium, **Preserving the Memories of the Great Dayton Flood: Proceedings of the Symposium, October 22, 2002**, held in Dayton, Ohio on Oct. 22, 2002. This symposium, funded by the Ohio Humanities Council, drew more than 150 participants and was well covered in the local media, including a front-page article in the Dayton Daily News. These proceedings will be essential to the historian writing about early 20th century floods and flood control.

The second part of the guide will describe important collections. It will include

the personal papers of Mr. Charles Adams, (a 1913 flood survivor), all the repositories -federal, state, and local- plus other collections of primary and secondary materials that have direct relevance to the Flood of 1913.

The third part of the guide will include a bibliography of rare and valuable books and a listing of web sites where collections from all over the country dealing with the Flood of 1913 can be accessed. No other such guide is currently available, and both researchers and lay scholars interested in the subject will find it of value.

This project will preserve and disseminate historical information and materials that may otherwise be lost. This book will contain heretofore unpublished photographs that will capture the true human drama of the flood and events that led to the creation of the Miami Conservancy District.

The guide will be ready by December 2004; free copies will be distributed in more than 100 institutions throughout the Dayton area and Ohio, including high schools, colleges and universities.

[Top of Page](#)



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In This Issue

[Building](#)

[Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)

[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)

[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)

[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)

[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)

[President's Message](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

Fall 2003 Legislative Update

Compiled by Pari Swift

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

124th General Assembly-Passed Legislation

SB 258 - Amends sections 149.43 to exempt from the Public Records Law specified residential and familial information about an EMT or a member of a fire department. Effective April 9, 2003

125th General Assembly-Passed Legislation

HB 53 - Amends sections 5309.24, 5309.25, 5309.95, 5309.96, 5309.98, 5310.03, and 5310.07 and enacts section 5309.031 of the Revised Code to allow a county recorder to maintain registered land records by the use of photographic, magnetic, electronic, or certain other processes, means, or displays.

HB 95 – Eliminates the Office of State Records Administration and the position of state records administrator, repeals section of law that allowed state or local registrar to provide uncertified copies of vital records (birth, death, marriage, etc.), increases fees for certified copies of vital records, allows the Ohio Historical Society to charge a reasonable price to Ohio public libraries and schools for publications and materials related to Ohio history, authorizes the Archives Administration of the Ohio Historical Society to establish a fee schedule, which may include cost of labor, for specified activities relating to providing copies of public records. Effective June 26, 2003

125th General Assembly-Pending Legislation

HB148 – To amend section 507.04 to permit the board of township trustees, when township records are not kept at a public facility, to request that the clerk, on a quarterly basis, provide them with copies of those records for their review.

HB 170 – To enact section 317.082 of the Revised Code to generally prohibit the inclusion of an individual's social security number on documents submitted for recording in the office of the county recorder and to create an affirmative defense to associated civil liability of a good faith effort to comply with the

noninclusion requirement. (Passed House consideration on June 25, 2003, sent to Senate on June 26, 2003)

HB 204 – To amend sections 1.59, 9.08, 9.314, 101.691, 125.072, 149.38, 149.432, 307.12, 341.42, 505.10, 718.07, 721.15, 753.32, 955.013, 1306.16, 2307.64, 3517.10, 3517.106, 3517.11, 5145.31, and 5703.49 and to enact sections 117.111, 304.01, 304.02, 304.03, and 304.04 of the Revised Code to provide for the use of electronic records and signatures by county offices if specified security procedures are adopted, to require the Auditor of State to audit electronic record security procedures adopted by county offices, to create a single definition of the "internet" to be used throughout the Revised Code, and to provide notice to county historical societies and other local entities that county records are being sent to the Ohio Historical Society for potential distribution.

SB 85 - To enact section 317.082 of the Revised Code to prohibit the inclusion of an individual's social security number on copies of certain documents that are filed for recording in the office of the county recorder and to permit the removal of a social security number from certain records kept by the office.

SB 87 – To amend section 149.43 by requiring a public office or person responsible for public records to provide copies of public records within ten days or, if requested to be provided by United States mail, within 15 days after receipt of the request.

[Top of Page](#) 

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In This Issue

[Building
Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)

[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)

[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)

[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)

[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)

[President's Message](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

Oberlin College Archives Publishes Guide to Donald J. Pease Papers

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

Well over 200,000 individual documents chronicling the 30-year career of the late Donald J. Pease, U.S. Congressman for Ohio's 13th district, 1976-1992, have been distilled into A Researcher's Guide to the Donald J. Pease Papers by the Oberlin College Archives.

"The papers are a treasure trove of primary-source materials and an incredible resource for historians and students of national, state, and local policy," says Archivist Roland J. Baumann, who initiated the guide and served as its general editor.

Project assistant Katherine Shilton '03 found the experience to be invaluable. "I loved the daily chance to work with such primary documents," said Shilton, a history major. "Working with archives is a way of learning history like no other. It is the ultimate in hands-on history."

"In the course of sorting the papers, I discovered not only a first hand account of Pease's activities as Oberlin's congressman but also fascinating details of his work on the 1978 trade bill, which banned U.S. coffee imports from Uganda to protest the genocidal regime of Idi Amin in the late 1970s; the politics of workers' compensation legislation here at home; and the daily nitty-gritty of life on Capitol Hill."

The 136-page guide catalogues correspondence, legislative files, reports, legislative bills, clippings, campaign literature, audiovisual material, and other files generated by Pease during more than three decades of public service in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Ohio General Assembly.

"The collection is particularly strong in the areas of environment, human rights, labor, social issues, tax reform, and trade," Baumann states. The guide also lists documents reflecting Pease's legislative work at state and local levels that affected greater Lorain County, including the communities of Elyria, Lorain, Oberlin, and Wellington.

Pease began placing his papers with the College in 1971 and by 1993 his records totaled more than 5,000 files. Between 1994 and 2001 Pease frequently used the collection as a resource for his work as a visiting distinguished professor of politics at Oberlin. Though the collection had to be pared by more than 50 percent to make it accessible, the methodology used to do so "successfully preserved the documentation of important issues and activities and captured the unique personality of Pease and his congressional office," says Baumann.

A Researcher's Guide to the Donald J. Pease Papers was made possible through the support of the Community Foundation of Greater Lorain County and the endowed Gertrude F. Jacob Publications Fund of the Oberlin College Archives. Copies are available for \$12.95, plus \$3.00 for postage and handling, from the Oberlin College Archives, 420 Mudd Center, 148 West College Street, Oberlin, OH 44074-1532, 440-775-8014.

[Top of Page](#)



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***In This Issue***[Building](#)[Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)[News and Notes](#)[Legislative Update](#)[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)[President's Message](#)[Treasurer's Report](#)

Electronic Records Committee Update

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

The Ohio Electronic Records Committee (ERC) last met on June 26, 2003 at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus, Ohio. During this meeting, Charles Arp, ERC Chair, announced that Dr. David Larson resigned from the ERC and the ERC Membership Sub-committee. Dr. Larson's position as State Records Administrator was abolished by H.B. 95. Since Dr. Larson's new position with DAS is not records related, he felt it necessary and prudent to resign from the ERC.

The ERC then unanimously approved the Revised Digital Imaging Guidelines submitted to the ERC by the Digital Imaging Sub-committee. These guidelines were updated with current technical information and were reorganized to provide better access. The guidelines now have four sections, including a section on Archiving and Long Term Maintenance of Digital Images. The project planning section of the guidelines also includes two cost/benefit analysis spreadsheets. The glossary, links, and bibliography sections of the Guidelines were also expanded. Mark G. Schmidbauer was the Chair of the Digital Imaging Sub-committee whose members also included Kevin Callaghan, Judith Cobb, Joe Dickman, Pari Swift, Carol Thomas and Charlie Arp. The ERC thanked Mark and the other members of this Sub-committee for all their work on revising the Digital Imaging Guidelines.

Acting at the request of an ERC member, the ERC initiated a survey of state agencies to see whether or not ERC resources were being used by state agencies. Seven agencies have been surveyed thus far and the survey results indicate that although most agencies are aware that the public record laws apply to electronic records, most electronic records are not scheduled. Six out of the seven agencies knew of the ERC and had made use its resources. The ERC and its publications are held in high regard by the agencies because of the wide variety of views expressed by the ERC's membership and the practicality of its work. The ERC viewed a video that the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation made to train its employees on how to schedule email based on the ERC's Guidelines for Managing Electronic Mail. This video is impressive evidence that the work of the ERC is being used by state agencies.

Mary Beth Parisi discussed the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on

Technology and the Courts, which is broken down into three sub-committees. The first sub-committee is researching national standards for courts, including a uniform case numbering system. The second is the Policy Committee, which makes decisions on what is appropriate, in court records, for public access. The third sub-committee is charged with making the court systems interoperable. Given that 99% of Ohio's courts are automated the Advisory Committee would like to create a centralized data center for the court's electronic records to provide a central access point for these records and to maintain and preserve these electronic records.

During its meeting it is standard procedure for the ERC to create a new sub-committee to deal with some technological or policy issue concerning electronic records. The sub-committee then presents its work for the ERC to consider at its next scheduled meeting. At this meeting, however, the committee agreed to wait to establish a new sub-committee because of the uncertainty of the OHS budget and how the implementation of that budget would affect the State Archives and the ERC.

With the resignation of Charlie Arp as State Archivist at the Ohio Historical Society, Richard Whitehouse of the Inspector General's Office will act as temporary chair of the ERC. Richard is a long-standing active member of the ERC and comes from an office that has no jurisdictional stake but great interest in electronic records issues.

[Top of Page](#)



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In This Issue[Building](#)[Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)[News and Notes](#)[Legislative Update](#)[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)[President's Message](#)[Treasurer's Report](#)

The Future of Our Past

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

More than 100 archivists, librarians, curators, records managers and public officials gathered on Sept. 26 at the Ohio Historical Center to discuss creation of a long-range and collaborative agenda for strengthening historical records programs throughout Ohio.

As part of Ohio's bicentennial celebration, the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board convened "The Future of Our Past: Ohio's Historical Records at 200 Years" to examine the creation, maintenance and preservation of Ohio's historical records and to propose solutions to challenges faced by records programs. The conference was designed in two parts. During the morning the conference attendees heard two presentations created to put records issues into context. During the afternoon the attendees broke into discussion sections to provide their opinions on selected records issues.

"In The Future of Our Past, we encouraged frank discussion of what needs to be done to sustain our accomplishments and also move forward on the many challenges we face," said George Parkinson, division chief of the Archives/Library of the Ohio Historical Society and deputy state coordinator of OHRAB. "We also sought to rekindle the enthusiasm of those who create, use and preserve Ohio's historical records."

Speakers at the records conference included Dr. John Grabowski, associate professor in applied history at Case Western Reserve University and director of research, Western Reserve Historical Society, and Dr. Ken Thibodeau, director of the electronic records archives program at the National Archives and Records Administration. In addition, William K. Laidlaw Jr., executive director of the Ohio Historical Society, and Elaine H. Hairston, vice president of the OHS Board of Trustees, opened the records summit.

After the morning's presentations the conference attendees split up into five discussion groups to voice their opinions on four issues selected by OHRAB members. These issues were:

1. How do we articulate the importance of records to Ohioans

- and those who allocate resources?
2. How can we increase public awareness of and interest in Ohio's historical records?
3. How should public and private entities in Ohio deal with the challenges of electronic records?
4. What is the most effective and efficient structure for administering Ohio's public records programs?

Each discussion group considered two of these four issues and each discussion group was afforded the opportunity to voice their opinions on any records issue not covered by the issues selected by OHRAB members.

This meeting was the first time the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board contacted records creators and users in an organized manner to ask them what their opinions were on the records issues that face all of us. The conference was deemed a success by conference attendees as evidenced by their conference evaluations. Barbara Floyd, University Archivist at the University of Toledo and OHRAB member said of the conference, "I was impressed by the turn-out for the conference from such a wide variety of constituent groups. I believe that if archivists in Ohio want to improve the state of Ohio's historical records, we need to have more conferences like this one so that our message gets out to the general public. It is time for the historical record to stop being the concern of archivists alone, and start being the concern of every citizen in Ohio."

[Top of Page](#)



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***In This Issue***[Building](#)[Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)[News and Notes](#)[Legislative Update](#)[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)[President's Message](#)[Treasurer's Report](#)

OHS Names Dr. William K. Laidlaw Jr. Its 10th Executive Director

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

The Ohio Historical Society Board of Trustees appointed Dr. William K. Laidlaw, Jr., a former academic administrator at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland with over 30 years experience leading non-profit organizations in management education, as the Society's next executive director, effective August 18, 2003.

Laidlaw, 60, served as interim dean and professor for the practice of management at Case Western's Weatherhead School of Management until 2002. He was recommended to the Society's Board by an eight-member executive search committee led by Dr. Elaine Hairston, vice president of the Society Board and former Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents.

He will succeed Dr. Gary C. Ness, who has led OHS since 1980. Last August, Ness informed the Board of Trustees of his intention to retire in the second half of 2003.

"Bill Laidlaw is the right person at the right time," said Grant L. Douglass, president of the OHS Board of Trustees. "He has the perfect blend of business acumen and non-profit experience to lead the Ohio Historical Society into the future. We are quite fortunate to have attracted a person of his broad experience and excellent qualifications."

He will have a five-year contract with a beginning salary of \$165,000. Because of the extensive state travel required, he will have access to a vehicle.

Laidlaw also served as associate dean at the Weatherhead School. From 1975 to 1999, he was the executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Based in St. Louis, AACSB has 850 members and serves as the accrediting agency and service organization for university-based business schools and programs.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the Society and the citizens of Ohio," said Laidlaw, who will become the organization's 10th leader since its

founding in 1885. “By any measure, the Society is one of the finest and most comprehensive state historical organizations, and I view my role as providing stewardship for a public trust.”

“Because these are challenging economic times for the Society and the state of Ohio,” he said, “I hope my experience applying sound management practices and working productively with members and other stakeholders will allow me to make a positive contribution to this organization. I am particularly interested in the value that historical perspectives play in shaping decision-making. And, I have long recognized and appreciated the importance of preserving and interpreting the past, which is what the Society has been doing so well since its inception.”

In his position as associate dean at Weatherhead, where he had responsibility for a \$7 million budget, Laidlaw restructured marketing efforts, ran executive education as a business, developed strong brand identity and expanded relationships with companies. As interim dean, he achieved several new milestones in fundraising, revised the MBA curriculum, streamlined academic programs and reorganized staff to improve services to students and alumni while overseeing a budget of \$34 million and a staff of 225. During his tenure at AASCB, corporate membership doubled, a new strategic planning process was developed, strategic partnerships were established, finances improved and the number of staff increased.

“Bill Laidlaw’s experience, education, service, creativity and personal style will serve the Society well in the coming years,” said Dr. Hairston. “We conducted a truly national search with the assistance of Brigham Hill, a search firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas. More than 150 candidates from both the public and private sectors were considered and 19 were interviewed in-person. Candidates included university administrators, historical organization executives, not-for-profit directors, business leaders and government officials. But none was as outstanding as Bill Laidlaw.”

Laidlaw earned his bachelor’s degree from Hamilton College in New York in 1964, his MBA from Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and his Executive Doctorate in Management (EDM) from Case Western in 1999.



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***In This Issue***[Building](#)[Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)[News and Notes](#)[Legislative Update](#)[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)[President's Message](#)[Treasurer's Report](#)

Ohio Memory Receives AASLH Award of Merit

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that the Ohio Historical Society is the recipient of an AASLH Award of Merit for the [Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook](#). The AASLH Annual Awards Program, now in its 58th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local, state, and regional history. Awards for 2003 represent 91 organizations and individuals from the United States. Award winners will be honored at a special banquet during the 2003 AASLH Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island on Friday, September 19, 2003. A generous contribution from The History Channel will once again help underwrite the cost of the Awards Banquet.

The awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout America. The AASLH Awards Program not only honors significant achievement in the field of local history, but also brings public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena. For more information about the awards program, contact AASLH at (615) 320-3203.

The American Association for State and Local history is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH works to advance knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of local history in the America. AASLH publishes books, technical publications, a bimonthly magazine, and monthly newsletter. The Association also sponsors regional and national training workshops and an annual meeting.

[Top of Page](#)

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In This Issue[Building](#)[Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)[News and Notes](#)[Legislative Update](#)[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)[President's Message](#)[Treasurer's Report](#)

President's Message

Doug McCabe

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

First, I must give a sincere thank you to Maggie Yax for all the hard work she did over the last two years as president of SOA. And, to all those of you who went off Council last spring and those of you still on or new to Council thank you so much for all your contributions. Finally, to those of you who volunteer your time and effort without an office, an extra thanks. Without you an organization such as SOA could not exist.

Just after our Spring Conference things got interesting as the Ohio Historical Society faced serious financial cuts through the state legislature. Numerous organizations went to the mat to support OHS's attempt to reverse the cuts. On behalf of SOA, I wrote letters to the editor to all the papers of Ohio and testified before the Senate committee. Fortunately, OHS was mostly able to weather the storm although the archival operation was not so lucky.

I also represented SOA at the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board's special conference, "The Future of Our Past: Ohio's Historical Records at 200 Years" in September. OHRAB's mission for this meeting was to update The Ohio 2003 Plan which sets goals for historical records programs in Ohio.

Charlie Arp will be sorely missed as State Archivist as he moves on to serve with Battelle. Charlie can surely be proud of what he accomplished at OHS, sometimes under trying circumstances. Fortunately, Charlie will remain as SOA's vice president and continue to contribute to the cause of archivists throughout the state.

Other news this fall includes SOA's endorsement of and inclusion in the Building Connections Conference. This is an important first annual gathering and collaboration of organizations dedicated to historic preservation and revitalization. So, instead of doing our usual fall get-together we elected to sponsor this conference which combines the meetings of the Downtown Ohio, Inc., Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, the Ohio Preservation Alliance, and SOA, through collaboration of OHS, the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, National

History Day in Ohio, and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. The conference ran from November 6 – 8, 2003 at the Columbus Athenaeum.

Our own spring conference will be held April 15-16, 2004 at a site yet to be selected in Columbus. Council is also considering holding a retreat to access the goals we set for the society at the last retreat that seems so long ago. What do you think? If we do such a retreat we will need the input of the membership – either through your attendance or through the ether – to help us plan our future. I am particularly hopeful one of the results of the Building Connections Conference will bring us new ideas on where to take SOA and how we can increase collaboration with history organizations throughout the state.

[Top of Page](#) 

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In This Issue

[Building
Connections: Ohio's
2003 Historical
Conference](#)

[News and Notes](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

[Oberlin College
Archives Publishes
Guide to Donald J.
Pease Papers](#)

[Ohio Electronic
Records Committee](#)

[OHRAB: The Future
of Our Past](#)

[Ohio Historical
Society Announces
New Executive
Director](#)

[Ohio Memory
Receives AASLH
Award of Merit](#)

[President's Message](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

Treasurer's Report

[Printer Friendly Version](#)

The Treasurer's Report records the SOA treasury as of 16 September 2003.

Recent Expenditures

Reimbursement Spring Meeting \$113.39

Reimbursement for book sales \$40.00

Membership Committee Mailing \$74.00

Bank Fees \$5.67

Deposits \$700.00

Interest \$4.61

Current Balance \$6631.15

Membership renewal notices were sent out on August 15, and September 17, 2003. At the time of this report, 64 members had renewed their membership for this year

[Top of Page](#)



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