

2022 Slate of Candidates

Vice President / President-elect

Melissa Dalton

Treasurer

Brittany Hayes

Council

Rachael Bussert

Matt Francis

Sule Holder

The following statements were given by the candidates seeking election as officers or council members to the Society of Ohio Archivists in 2021. This year voting will take place virtually.

Candidates were asked to answer both questions in one 350-500-word essay.

- ***What skills and experiences can you offer to SOA?***
- ***What are some of the most important themes/issues the SOA should address in the next 5-10 years?***

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Vice President / President-elect

Melissa Dalton

Public Outreach Coordinator, Greene County Records Center & Archives

I appreciate the nomination for Vice President/President Elect of the Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) and the opportunity to serve our membership in a new capacity. I entered the public history field over a decade ago, and throughout those years I pursued opportunities to expand my knowledge and understanding of archives, libraries, and museums. I have worked and/or volunteered in museums and archives in the Dayton region, and welcome the prospect of applying these skills in a new way.

Something that was impressed upon me early in my career was the importance of maintaining memberships with professional organizations. I have attended and presented at regional and national conferences, and in 2018, joined the SOA Advocacy and Outreach Committee, becoming a co-chair in 2019. I was elected to SOA Council in 2020, with my term ending this year. In 2021, I took on the role as Chair of the Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), which serves as the roundtable for Southwest Ohio.

My background in anthropology, public history, and library science instilled in me that concepts such as diversity and fair and equal access to information are vital to the growth of our communities. I adopted the belief that respect for our differences, and the diversity it creates, is key to understanding our increasingly connected and digital world. Being part of SOA Committees and Council has allowed me to learn more about the various cultural institutions throughout Ohio. No two are alike, and this further illustrates the fact that it is our differences that make us so great.

The last several years, our society has been fraught with divisive rhetoric. As I reflect on the core values we share in the archival field, the key concepts of diversity, access, and equity/inclusion continue to guide and shape how I view the world, and the work

we do as archivists. As such, I believe we, as individuals and SOA as a whole, have the obligation to our communities to be inclusive, provide all members access to information, and be safe spaces for learning. As vice president/president elect, these core values must remain central to our mission. In particular, I would like to continue the good work of the SOA Black Lives Matter and Social Justice Task Force, and expand the reach beyond our institutions and find new ways to connect with our communities.

Ohio is known for being a bellwether, and SOA is uniquely positioned to be a leader in the field. SOA must continue to reach out to our communities, not just to provide access, but also be a resource. As the Public Outreach Coordinator for the Greene County Archives, I see the impact outreach has on local communities. School children, teachers, and residents alike have a chance to learn about our collective history, and this allows them to connect with the past in a unique and engaging manner. Additionally, community engagement and public outreach promotes information literacy, which is an ever-increasing need in the current environment. By working with our local citizens, and listening to their needs, we not only benefit the community, but also become better advocates for our field.

Previous Positions: Education Assistant, Carillon Park, Dayton History, 2015-2017; Fellow (Processing Archivist), History Office, Air Force Research Laboratory, 2012-2016; Intern/Museum Curator, Collections Division, National Museum of the United States Air Force, 2010-2011; Field Supervisor/Collections Consultant, Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Dayton Society of Natural History, 2007, 2009-2011

Education: M.L.I.S., Library and Information Science, Kent

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State University, 2021; M.A., History with a concentration in Public History, Wright State University, 2010; B.A., Anthropology, Ohio University, 2003

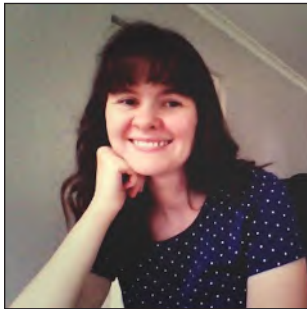
Professional Associations: Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA), 2012-present; Advocacy & Outreach Committee, 2018-present; Co-Chair, 2019-2020; Council Member, 2020-present; Society of

American Archivists (SAA), 2010-present; National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA), 2018-present; County Archivists & Records Managers Association (CARMA), 2018-present; Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), 2010-present; Chair, 2021-present; Midwest Archives Conference (MAC), 2009-2015, 2021-present; American Alliance of Museums (AAM), 2009-2017

Treasurer

Brittany Hayes

Library Specialist, University of Akron



I offer a variety of skills and experiences to SOA. The skills I can offer are organizational skills, time management skills, project management skills, and good communication skills. These are important transferable skills for any occupation, and I think they would serve well in the treasurer role. As far as experiences go, I was

a member of the Educational Programming Subcommittee in 2020, so I have had some experience in planning a meeting especially if it's a virtual one. This past experience would make me a good fit for the treasurer position because I am already familiar with SOA and I have served SOA in some capacity. I think there are two important issues that SOA should address in the next 3-5 years. One issue is the rise of born digital records. Born digital

records can range from emails to Word documents to cellphone video recording an event. These records are becoming more common, and we must come up with ways to prolong those records. Another issue the SOA should address in the next 3-5 years is diversity or lack of diversity in the archival field. Not only should we address how to get people of different racial and cultural backgrounds to explore a career in the archival field, but also taking in more diverse collections like African American and LGBTQ collections.

Previous Positions: Library Cataloging Specialist, University Libraries Electronic Services, University of Akron, 2014-2020

Education: M.L.I.S., Library and Information Sciences, Kent State University, 2013; B.A., Baldwin-Wallace University, 2011

Professional Associations: Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA), 2017-2021; Educational Programming Committee, 2020; Society of American Archivists (SAA), 2020-2022; NOTSL, 2014-2020; OhioDig, 2016-2020; AMIA, 2019-2020

Council

Rachael Bussert

Local History Librarian, Dayton Metro Library



I have been working professionally as an archivist for thirteen years and have worked with local history collections, congressional papers, and university archives in both academic and public libraries. I bring a background in collection management, instruction, and public programming. I started my career as a student in the Public

History program at Wright State University. As it often happens, job opportunities took me away from Ohio for most of my career up until recently. Since returning to Ohio, serving on the SOA Educational Programming Committee has been invaluable in reconnecting me to issues archivists face across the state. If given the opportunity, I would like to take my involvement in those issues to the next level by serving as a Council Member.

I am currently serving as the cochair for the SOA Educational

Programming Committee. Prior to my service on the Educational Programming Committee, I have experience in developing archival continuing education from my service on the Academy of Certified Archivists and the Association of Hawaii Archivists (AHA) Board of Directors. My work on the Academy of Certified Archivists Exam Development Committee included aligning the exam questions with current archival standards and reviewing publications to include in the test preparation material. As a member of the AHA Board of Directors I served on the Education Committee, focusing on bringing online archival continuing education opportunities to members in the neighbor islands.

What issues should SOA address in the next three to five years? We are in a time right now where archival institutions need to reframe their role in the communities that they serve. There truly is a new paradigm in the stewardship of history and an understanding that at times it better serves communities to be their own archivists than to deposit their material in an institution.

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How can we help support community archivists as they preserve their own history? As an organization we should be a partner to community archivists by offering opportunities such as training and mentorships.

Additionally, SOA has been a strong supporter of paid internships. There is still the huge issue of internship flexibility. Graduate students start their programs from different life stages and economic conditions. As a profession we need to explore how we can create internships that include evening and weekend hours with remote and onsite opportunities.

Previous Positions: Information Services Librarian, Archives Emphasis, Dayton Metro Library, 2018-2021; Congressional Papers Archivist, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2014-2018; Acting Head, University Archives and Manuscripts Department, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2015-2017; Senior Project

Archivist, Michigan Technological University, 2012-2014; Project Archivist, Northern Michigan University, 2010-2012

Education: B.A., History, The Ohio State University, 2005; M.A., Public History, Wright State University, 2010; M.L.I.S., Wayne State University, 2014; Certified Archivist, 2013-present

Professional Associations: Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA), 2013-present; Miami Valley Archives Roundtable (MVAR), 2018-present; Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA), 2018-present; Educational Programming Committee Co-Chair 2020-2022; Midwest Archives Conference (MAC), 2010-2014, 2021-present; Association of Hawaii Archivists (AHA), 2016-2018; Board of Directors 2018; American Library Association (ALA), 2021-present; Society of American Archivists (SAA), 2012-2016, 2018, 2020-present

Council

Matt Francis

Archivist, Ohio Northern University



I am honored to put my name forward for a council position with the Society of Ohio Archivists. After receiving my MA in public history from Wright State University in 2008, I began a mini-nationwide tour to start my career as an archivist, beginning in Wyoming, moving to the northern reaches of New York, and then to central

Pennsylvania, before finally returning home to Ohio in 2018 to work as the Archivist at Ohio Northern University. Since coming back to Ohio, it has been a true privilege to serve SOA over the past four years first as the Chair of the Membership Committee, and then after a recent merging of committees, the Co-Chair of the Membership & Awards Committee. During this time I have come to owe our organization a debt of gratitude. Thanks largely to SOA, I have continued to grow and develop as an archivist, due to both the professional development opportunities offered by SOA, as well as having the opportunity to regularly engage with the members of our organization through my committee work. Now, I hope to continue to build on these experiences, along with my past service to other professional organizations, including the Society of American Archivists (Mentoring Subcommittee, 2018 Annual Meeting Program Committee, and the CFW Coker Award Subcommittee) and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (2016 Annual Meeting Program Committee), to hopefully continue to serve our SOA community through a seat on council.

If trusted with this opportunity, I would look forward to collaborating with others as we seek to build on the previous work and accomplishments that have built our organization. More specifically, in the role of a council member, I would work to

continue to explore and advocate for ways that SOA can continue to offer new opportunities and resources for our members and potential new members, particularly students and new professionals. Additionally, I would focus on continuing to listen, learn, engage, and take actions to help push our organizations continued growth in regards to diversity, equity, and inclusion work. In support of both of these aims, I would continue to build on the work and mindset that I brought to my Membership Committee work, including engaging on ideas such as (but not limited to) student member specific benefits, the potential launch of a new SOA mentorship program, to continuing looking at new ideas and spaces for how and where our members can engage with one another.

Thank you for your time in reading our candidate statements, and for your consideration. Regardless of outcome, I truly look forward to collaborating with, serving, and being inspired by our members for years to come.

Previous positions: Associate Head, Special Collections Library, Penn State University, University Park, 2017-2018; Head of Collections Management, Special Collections Library, Penn State University, University Park, 2013-2017; College Archivist, College Libraries, SUNY Potsdam, 2011-2013; Processing Archivist, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, 2008-2011

Education: M.A., Public History, Archival Administration Concentration, Wright State University, 2008; B.A., History, Bluffton University, 2002

Professional associations: Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA), 2018-present; Membership Committee Chair, 2018-2020; Membership and Awards Committee Co-Chair, 2020-2022; Society of American Archivists (SAA), 2008-present; Theodore Calvin Pease Award Subcommittee, 2021-present; Mentoring Subcommittee, 2018-2020; Annual Meeting Program Committee, 2017-2018; CFW Coker Award Subcommittee, 2014-2017; Academic Library Association of Ohio, 2018-present; Mid-Atlantic Archives Conference, 2011-2018; Annual Meeting

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Program Committee, 2015-2016; New York Archives Conference, 2011-2013; Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists, 2008-2011; National Council on Public History (NCPH), 2008-2011; Working

Group, Historical Truths and Reconciliation: Interpreting Indigenous and Other Difficult Histories, 2008-2009

Council

Sule Holder

Collections & Library Assistant, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum



I began my career in Information Science 20 years ago in my undergrad library as a Reference Assistant. Since that time, I have gained a considerable number of experiences and skills I can provide the SOA. However, I want to highlight that my main asset as a Council Member is my professional diversity. Working as a Collections & Library Assistant at the Rock

Hall has provided me with a non-traditional approach on how I view the acquisition and conservation of artifacts. More importantly, many current duties allow me to tell a narrative of the artifacts and the individuals behind them. In my experience, the story behind the artifact is just as exciting as the artifact itself.

The duties that I perform include being a registrar, communicating with potential donors to the Library & Archive, providing condition reports for incoming artifacts and artifacts being deinstalled from exhibits, to finally installing the pieces into the exhibits. In summary, my position allows me to view the whole process of acquiring artifacts for an exhibit to sealing them in their exhibit cases for display in the museum.

Unfortunately, my past experiences with Information Science have been mostly limited to being a member, paying dues, and hopefully attending a conference. However, if elected by the SOA I can change that narrative by becoming an active and engaged participant in the direction on the organization.

In the next 3-5 years I believe that some of the themes and

important issues should be diversity, outreach, and collaboration. Diversity is not limited to the demographic of the SOA, but it is geared to how we view occupations that are not in the traditional Library and Archive setting. It's about expanding the notion of who and what an Archivist is. For example, your social media page or YouTube.

By becoming more diverse, the SOA will increase its ability to have more outreach and possible collaborations/partnerships from that region as well. In addition, I am passionate about the annual Ohio History Day and have asked to be a judge for Region 3 for this year. If elected I would like to increase the visibility of this project for under-privileged students in Northeast Ohio.

Previous Positions: Adjunct Instructor-ASC 101, Cleveland State University, 2015-2016; Coordinator, Multicultural Engagement & Student Success Initiatives, Cleveland State University, 2014-2015; Reference Librarian/Library Clerk, Cuyahoga County Public Libraries, 2012-2013; Academic Coach, Cleveland State University, 2011-2012; Registrar Intern, International Women's Air and Space Museum, 2012; Curatorial Intern, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, 2011; Library Assistant I, Young Adult Services, Cleveland Public Libraries, 2006-2011; Associate Teacher, 5th Grade, National Presbyterian School, 2005-2006; Reference Assistant, Founder's Library, Howard University, 2002-2003

Education: M.A., History, Museum Studies Specialization, Cleveland State University, 2012; B.A., History, Howard University, 2004

Professional Associations: Ecclesiastes Lodge #120, Cleveland, OH; Cleveland Emerging Museum Professionals