

Richard Pearce-Moses Elected Vice President/President-Elect

by TERESA BRINATI, Director of Publishing

Members of the Society of American Archivists have elected **RICHARD PEARCE-MOSES** vice president. He will begin his one-year term this August, then become SAA's 61st president in 2005–2006. Pearce-Moses is director of Digital Government Information at Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records.

"I look forward to working with the breadth and depth of archivists—from coast to coast and across boundaries; in manuscript collections, government archives and records centers, and corporate and religious archives; and from many diverse cultures," Pearce-Moses said in a recent interview.

A member of SAA since 1988, Pearce-Moses has served the association in a variety of capacities: on Council, Committee on Education and Professional Development, Education Office Advisory Board, Nominating Committee, Committee on Archival Information Exchange, Task Force on Sections and Roundtables, Liaison to USMARC Advisory Board, and chair of the Visual Materials Section.

"Is there any other time when being an archivist could be more exciting? The changing nature of records forces us to rethink our jobs," Pearce-Moses further stated. "We must be advocates, not for records or archives, but for a trustworthy, authentic, and reliable understanding of the past and for the ability to hold individuals, governments, and corporate bodies accountable for their actions. We cannot passively wait for records to come to us, but we must be actively involved with records creators, elected officials and policy makers, and technologists to ensure that records will be created today in a form that will be useful to future patrons."

Pearce-Moses has published numerous articles and two guides to photographic collections, as well as co-taught SAA workshops on managing photographic archives. Currently he is working on *A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology* for SAA's Archival Fundamentals Series II. He was named an NHPRC Archival Research Fellow in 2002–2003 and the Lila B. Wallace Reader's Digest Museum Collections Accessibility Initiative Research Scholar in 1993–1994.

Candidates for SAA vice president/president-elect were required to answer the following question posed by the Nominating Committee: *Which issues pertaining to our cultural*



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heritage should the president of SAA respond to and how can the president effectively represent the organization's interests to legislators, the scholarly community, the media, allied professionals, and other constituencies?

"As president, I would lead efforts to empower archivists by ensuring that they have the information necessary to do their jobs in the 21st century," Pearce-Moses wrote in response to the committee's question. "I would also work for programs that give archivists the communication and networking skills to reach key audiences in order to explain the role of records in contemporary society."

To accomplish these goals, Pearce-Moses noted that SAA should take leadership to build collaborations with other archival organizations and groups with interest in records, such as historians, genealogists, journalists, and others, to study key issues and give clear voice to archival values. In particular, SAA must work to educate elected officials. This involves monitoring legislation and news stories, and responding quickly.

"SAA has the brand name and the brain power to be the organization that people turn to for authoritative information about records," Pearce-Moses said.

Being an authoritative voice is important because of the changing nature and use of records in modern society. Pearce-Moses believes that "All archivists must make records and record-

keeping visible to those who create and use records to ensure that they understand the value of records in all formats."

He offered the following suggestions for raising awareness: "We must speak eloquently and passionately about the importance and nature of records.... We can help system designers build technologies that create trustworthy records in formats that can be preserved over time. We can use our knowledge of appraisal to demonstrate how records support accountability and our understanding of the past. We can explain to lawyers and judges what makes records reliable as evidence. We can help businesses and consumers know which records are sufficient to protect their interests. We can show government agencies placing public records on the Internet how to balance access with privacy. We must find some way to reach individuals, so that their email, word processed documents, and digital photos are captured for future manuscript collections." ❖

Mark Duffy, Aimee Felker, and Peter Gottlieb Join Council

SAA members elected Mark Duffy, Aimee Felker, and Peter Gottlieb to Council. Their three-year terms begin this August following the conclusion of the 68th Annual Meeting in Boston, and they will serve through the conference in 2007. They will succeed outgoing Councilors Danna Bell-Russel, David Haury, and Megan Sniffin-Marinoff.

Candidates for Council were required to answer this question posed by the Nominating Committee: *SAA will soon learn more about our profession through a major national survey of archivists. How could SAA use this information to strengthen both the profession and its services to members?* Duffy, Felker, and Gottlieb's respective responses, along with brief biographical sketches, follow.



MARK DUFFY is the director of the Archives of the Episcopal Church USA and a doctoral candidate in the Graduate School of Information Studies, University of Texas at Austin. He has served SAA as chair of the Archivists of Religious Collections Section, Nominating Committee, Committee on Continuing Education and Professional

Development, and Awards Committee.

Duffy cited A*CENSUS as an opportunity to gather and analyze important data about working professionals. "Council's task will be to use that information to evaluate our educational offerings with attention to our niche in nurturing the profession and SAA membership," Duffy wrote in his candidate statement. "Council should take up the survey as one of many tools that enable leadership to be innovative and the membership engaged in advancing the archival community."

Duffy further stated, "Surveys often help to support ideas that have already taken shape at some level, and the proof will be in the subsequent analysis. The surprise may lie in what SAA can learn about the valuable input of others who practice their skills outside the organization." Duffy noted that SAA is fortunate to have models to draw upon, specifically the National Forum on Archival Continuing Education, which has effectively gathered information across a community of interest.

The challenge, according to Duffy, is to sustain collaborative efforts over time. "In this respect, the Society has strengths to offer the whole profession by virtue of its gifted staff, well-developed publications program, and the products of its several task forces on aspects of graduate and continuing education."



AIMEE FELKER is the senior records analyst in the Modern Records Life Cycle Management Division at the National Archives and Records Administration. She is a past president of the New England Archivists. At SAA she has served on the Program Committee, Nominating Committee, Privacy and Confidentiality Roundtable Steering Committee and

Committee on Regional Archival Activity, and as editor of the

Women's Caucus Newsletter. Currently she is chair of the Joint ARMA/SAA Committee on Archives and Records Management.

Felker also cited the A*CENSUS is an opportunity for SAA to learn more about its members, to identify potential new members, and to initiate alliances with related professional organizations so that the professional needs of archivists continue to be met and records that have enduring value remain accessible.

In her candidate statement, Felker wrote, "Depending on the issue, SAA members may be divided into four distinct groups that overlap and, generally, work together to create one strong professional association...: institutional affiliation, educational background, professional identity, and geographical location. Through the A*CENSUS, SAA will be able to identify how these four groups intersect and how each is unique. With this knowledge, SAA will be better able to develop programs that meet members' needs. . . . By understanding its membership, SAA will become a stronger advocate for the archival profession."

Felker further noted that as a member of Council, she would be an effective advocate for SAA members because of her diverse professional background. Her experience would help her "represent individual members and groups within SAA and to apply the A*CENSUS data in ways that strengthen SAA's primary mission, which is to serve its members in ways that are important to them."



PETER GOTTLIEB is the state archivist and director of the Library and Archives Division, Wisconsin Historical Society. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. Gottlieb is a member of the SAA Working Group for the A*CENSUS Project. Other professional activities include serving on the Council for the Midwest Archives

Conference, the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board, and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators Steering Committee.

Gottlieb noted in his candidate statement that for the first time in twenty years SAA's A*CENSUS survey project will collect systematic information about archivists nationwide. SAA can use the data gathered in the survey to improve the profession in several ways: to better plan its membership recruitment and service programs; to enrich its own education offerings and provide valuable data to college and university graduate archival education programs; and to share data with the other archival associations and allied professional organizations.

"In this way, the survey can expand and strengthen SAA while improving its service role to the profession," Gottlieb concluded. "[It] will strengthen collaboration among archivists and other information specialists at the state, regional, and national levels on such major issues as bringing greater diversity into the profession, developing a new generation of archival leaders, and effectively advocating for archival programs."

Laurie Baty, Karen Jean Hunt, and Elisabeth Wittman To Serve on 2005 Nominating Committee

The SAA election also yielded three members to serve on the 2005 Nominating Committee: Laurie Baty, Karen Jean Hunt, and Elisabeth Wittman. The committee is responsible for identifying and selecting next year's slate of candidates. Two members of Council also serve on the Nominating Committee.

Candidates were required to respond to the following question posed by this year's committee: *Please explain how you would participate in developing a slate of candidates that is balanced geographically and also reflects the increasingly diverse nature of archival work as represented by SAA's committees, sections, and roundtables.*



LAURIE BATY is deputy director of the Collections Division at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is a SAA workshop instructor and editor of the Visual Materials Section newsletter. She has served on the Publications Board and is a past chair of the Committee on the Status of Women.

Baty cited her experiences as a program officer for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, as a workshop instructor for more than 15 years, and service on various groups within SAA that allowed her to work with a large network of archivists around the country who are reflective of the diverse nature of archival work.

"These professional archival activities have given me a broad professional perspective, a working knowledge of archivists, and a sizeable group of colleagues in which to solicit opinions about the future SAA leadership," Baty noted in her candidate statement. "I believe that many personal and professional perspectives should be represented within the SAA leadership in order for us to be proud of the organization and steer it in a direction that will suit many of our needs."



KAREN JEAN HUNT is the director of the John Hope Franklin Collection of African and African American Documentation at Duke University. She currently serves on the *American Archivist* Editorial Board. Other SAA activities include serving on the Los Angeles Host Committee and the Denver Program Committee.

In her candidate statement, Hunt wrote, "Selecting a slate of candidates from our diverse body of members is central to the success of the next Nominating Committee and SAA. Encouraging service from members outside of our normal 'Leader List' will not only tap new talent, especially from underrepresented groups, but also encourage professional identification for those taking the time to serve."

Hunt added that she would like to see the Nominating Committee reach out to individuals who have "given up" on

service. "Regardless of how we come to SAA, or come back to SAA, I know first hand that the door to service and leadership is always open."



ELISABETH WITTMAN is director for archives and chief archivist at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She is the former chair of the SAA Archivists of Religious Collections Section and has also served on the Program and Awards committees.

In her candidate statement, Wittman wrote, "the position of Nominating Committee member is a difficult one, in that SAA has grown into a large and diverse organization and it is hard to know everyone personally. The Nominating Committee must do its job to maintain a balanced slate."

"As a long-time SAA member, I continue to be impressed with our newer and younger SAA members," Wittman further stated. "More experienced archivists should not be overlooked either, including those who may have run in the past unsuccessfully. All in all, it is not an easy task, but when we make diversity a goal from the outset, we are more likely to reach that goal."

Ballot Box

The 2004 ballot was mailed in February to 3,020 individual members of the Society of American Archivists who were asked to vote for a vice president, three Council members, and three members to serve on the Nominating Committee. Approximately 27.5 percent of the ballots mailed were cast (831).

SAA thanks all candidates for standing for office, congratulates those elected, and welcomes them to important leadership positions.

Trends in SAA Voter Participation

YEAR	BALLOTS MAILED	VOTES CAST	PARTICIPATION %
2004	3,020	831	27.5%
2003	2,961	870	29.3%
2002	2,930	802	27.5%
2001	2,847	828	29%
2000	2,910	879	30%

Thank You!

A special "thank you" to the official SAA ballot counters—Mike Bullington, Roger M. Dahl, Kathleen Feeny, and Becky H. Tousey—for volunteering a morning of their time to tabulate the votes cast in the 2004 SAA elections.