

## 2014 Election of Governance Board Members

### Statements from the Candidates

#### Very Large Membership Level:

*Cynthia Ghering, Director, Content and Collaboration Teams and of University Archives and Historical Collections, Michigan State University*

As the director of both a public land-grant university archives and several teams with central Information Technology Services, I'm very aware of the challenges facing archivists and technologists with limited resources and a finite capacity for innovation. I understand firsthand the complexity of web application and software development and the challenge of balancing the sometimes competing interests of customers, developers and administrators. From my current career at Michigan State University and my former position at the Ohio Historical Society, I also know that there is no "one" archival voice or flavor of cultural heritage institution. The exciting and sometimes perplexing reality is that we have as many types of archival repositories as there are formats of archival records. While I am passionate about the mission and goals of ArchivesSpace, I also realize there are many challenges ahead in the implementation, adoption, support, maintenance and continued improvement of a community developed system for a mainly non-profit, and traditionally under-resourced user base. However, I am a huge advocate for real-world, practical solutions that can prove their value through measurable outcomes and cost/benefit analysis. If elected as a member of the ArchivesSpace Governance Board, I would call upon my leadership experiences in the archives, library, museum and Information Technology fields to responsibly guide and support ArchivesSpace through the initial implementation phase and into a steady-state future that positively impacts as many archival institutions as possible.

#### Biography 2014

Cynthia Ghering is director of the Content and Collaboration Teams in central IT Services and director of the University Archives and Historical Collections at Michigan State University (MSU), a position she has held since January of 2008. The IT Services Content and Collaboration Teams coordinate tools and services that support productivity tools including content management and repositories, institutional messaging (e-mail) and calendaring services, web development and

hosting, departmental desktop support, and the central service center. The University Archives is responsible for the preservation and access of the university's historical and business records and provides records management services and inactive records storage to campus. Altogether Cynthia is responsible for a 3.5 million dollar budget, eight teams and several enterprise-wide services. Prior to assuming her present role, Cynthia spent over eight years with the Ohio Historical Society where her last position was the Assistant Director of the Curatorial and Collections Services Department.

Cynthia organized an electronic records forum: *Managing University Digital Assets and Resources: Collaborative Approaches and Persistent Challenges* for the Big Ten Universities and co-authored an EDUCAUSE research bulletin, *Electronic Records Management: Today's High Stakes*, based on the 2008 summit. She is the primary investigator on a three-year NHPRC grant to build a prototype electronic records archive for the vital business records created by MSU's Registrar's Office. Cynthia led a year-long, university-wide project to identify current digital asset management efforts on campus and co-authored *Digital Curation Planning at Michigan State University* for Library Resources & Technical Services in 2010-11. She co-authored the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) SPEC Kit 329: *Managing Born-Digital Special Collections and Archival Materials* in August 2012 with a panel of recognized leaders in the digital preservation field. Cynthia is an adjunct instructor at the University of Michigan's School of Information teaching SI625 Digital Preservation and SI629 Access Systems for Archival Materials. Cynthia also created the day long workshop "Developing Specifications and RFPs for Recordkeeping Systems" and teaches for the Society of American Archivist's Digital Archives Specialist program. Cynthia was recently appointed to the Digital Archives Specialist's Curriculum Committee.

Cynthia received a BA from Western Michigan University in 1991 and MS in Information from the University of Michigan in 1999.



*Megan Sniffin-Marinoff (incumbent), University Archivist, Harvard University*

ArchivesSpace and the ArchivesSpace community are essential to the continuing development of the open source archives information management application that many of us now depend upon for managing our archives, manuscripts, and digital objects. ArchivesSpace has quickly become a critical tool for operations and staff representing a wide and diverse range of collections. The ArchivesSpace Governance Board plays a key role in pushing work forward on behalf of *all* users and requires a variety of perspectives and individuals who know and understand the needs of the community-at-large. For the past year, I have been fortunate to be an initial member of the board as it has worked on bylaws, the establishment of user and technical councils, and plans for further outreach and mechanisms for response to community need.

I have worked at the 'director' level for the past twelve years (first as head of Harvard's Schlesinger Library, then as head of the Harvard University Archives), which has required me to manage a wide range of functions that meet the needs of the board. I have a good amount of budget/financial experience at both large and small organizations and on both soft and hard money. Over the past 30 years I have worked at or consulted for institutions the size of each of the ArchivesSpace membership categories. Having served on numerous advisory boards, I understand the fiduciary and other responsibilities of this role. I have served as president of the New England Archivists, on the Council of the Society of American Archivists, and on the board of the Section on University and Research Institution Archives, the International Council on Archives. I have also has served as a board member for the Archives Advisory Committee, American Academy of Arts and Science; the Advisory Committee on History of Physics, American Institute of Physics; the Advisory Committee of the New England Historic Genealogical Society; the Advisory Committee of the USS Constitution Museum's Library; and the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board. I am currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Rockefeller Archives Center. As a firm believer in the importance of ArchivesSpace to both the larger and smaller archives and special collections communities across the country, I would continue to work hard to make certain that we are establishing a sound and sustainable organization. I hope that my experience, knowledge, and administrative abilities would serve ArchivesSpace well.



## **Small Membership Level:**

*Lynda Kachurek (incumbent), Head of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Richmond*

Serving on the ArchivesSpace Board of Trustees (now Governance Board) and working with the ArchivesSpace community during the past year has been a privilege I have enjoyed immensely. The Board's development of governance documents and the creation of robust user advisory and technical advisory councils have set a strong foundation for the continued growth and success of ArchivesSpace and its community of users. By submitting my candidacy for a second term on the Board, I hope to continue my commitment to support and sustain the ongoing development of ArchivesSpace and to advocate and represent both the small level membership and institutions coming to ArchivesSpace without having utilized either of its predecessors, Archon or Archivist's Toolkit.

As the first full-time Head of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of Richmond, my current position provides leadership and strategic direction for a department that is finding its voice within a long-established institutional framework. In coming to an institution with no established archival program, I was fortunate to be able to adopt ArchivesSpace as a way not only to structure the necessary recordkeeping but create a discovery layer for collections long hidden from public access. Along with my archival responsibilities, additional duties include acquisition, preservation, and providing access to the rare book collection; instruction and advanced reference related to special collections and rare books; and, research assistance, instruction, collection development, and outreach services to the History and Military Science departments. Additionally, the department is creating a Book Arts studio complete with full book binding and letterpress equipment. Prior to this position, I worked as Collections Manager and Digital Projects Coordinator in Special Collections and Archives at Wright State University, in addition to serving as an adjunct instructor in the public history program. Through these positions, I've garnered experience in managing competing and diverse responsibilities while meeting deadlines and budgets responsibly.

During the past year, I've advocated for and encouraged the growth and development of ArchivesSpace on an institutional and a programmatic level, work I hope to be able to continue if elected to a second term on the Governance Board. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy for this position.

*Valerie Komor, Director, AP Corporate Archives*

As the Director of the AP Corporate Archives, I have a strong interest in the success of ArchivesSpace, because it has contributed to our own programmatic success. During the past 11 years, we have created an archival operation that did not exist before, implementing policies in collections management, preservation, reference, digital projects, oral history, exhibitions, and educational outreach. In the process, we have become integrated into the research function of the news department, so that reporters seek us out for archival material that will enhance their stories. We could not have achieved all of this without the Archivists' Toolkit.

The Associated Press Corporate Archives has been using Archivists' Toolkit since it became available in 2006. As we are a small department within a news organization that employs around 4,000 people, we generally prefer open source offerings to proprietary solutions, and we have been very pleased with Toolkit. From the start, it was apparent that the development teams on both coasts were composed of gifted professionals and would be dedicated to ensuring a smooth launch. With every update, we saw improvements. And we are very eager to begin using ArchivesSpace, following data migration.

I think every archivist has an interest in seeing ArchivesSpace succeed, not only because it is a fine example of collaboration and problem-solving, but also because it has been of such benefit to the smaller shops, streamlining numerous individual tasks and providing such great efficiencies. It is also a service that is positioned to go on developing, as it adds functionalities by listening carefully to its user community.

Prior to coming to AP, I held archival positions at the Oberlin College Archives, the Rockefeller Archive Center, the Archives of American Art Smithsonian Institution, and the New-York Historical Society. I have a B.A. in English and Classics from the University of California, Davis; an M.A. in Medieval Studies from Yale University; and the M.L.I.S. from the University of Texas at Austin.

I am honored to have my name placed on the ballot to serve as a member of the ArchivesSpace Governance Board and I thank you for your consideration.