

## 2015 Election of Governance Board Members

### Statements from the Candidates

#### Large Membership Level:

*Christian Dupont, Burns Librarian and Associate University Librarian for Special Collections, Boston College*

I am very pleased to be nominated as a candidate for service on the ArchivesSpace Governance Board representing large member institutions. I am also very eager to engage the full range of my experience and expertise to helping the board perform its function of advising LYRASIS, as the organizational home for ArchivesSpace, on the ongoing development and support of ArchivesSpace for the benefit of our user community.

Since September 2014, I have been serving in my current role as Burns Librarian and Associate University Librarian for Special Collections at Boston College, an early adopter of ArchivesSpace and active member of the Boston Library Consortium. My previous management positions have included serving as director of the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia and director of the Special Collections Research Center at Syracuse University.

From 2008-2014, I worked with Atlas Systems, a software development and services company dedicated to serving libraries and archives, to conceive, develop, and promote Aeon, an automated user request and workflow management system for special collections libraries and archives. As Aeon Program Director, I cultivated a community of current and prospective users to envision and define system functions and worked closely Atlas's software development team to prioritize and design them. I also managed Aeon sales and marketing and helped coordinate implementation and support services. My efforts to promote Aeon enabled me to visit and form ongoing relationships with archivists and senior leaders at more than 150 colleges and universities, public and independent research libraries, and historical societies across the country.

Because integration with other software systems is an essential aspect of implementing Aeon, I negotiated agreements and advised on the technical requirements for integrating Aeon with a variety of ILS systems, discovery platforms, retrieval systems, and content management systems, including CONTENTdm, Islandora, Archon, Archivists' Toolkit, and ArchivesSpace.

Through these activities and occasional projects as an adjunct field consultant for special collections and archives with LYRASIS, I have had opportunities to work with senior leaders at LYRASIS since its

formation in 2009. I have a good understanding of its business model, challenges, and opportunities, and how ArchivesSpace fits in with them.

Throughout my career I have exercised leadership roles in a number of professional and academic associations. I have been most active in ACRL's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, serving as section chair and in many other roles. I have also become increasingly active in SAA, and worked closely with SAA leadership to organize a series of joint standards development task forces with ACRL/RBMS, including the task force charged with developing standardized statistical measures for public services in archival repositories and special libraries, which I am currently co-chairing. As secretary and librarian for the Dante Society of America, I am responsible for managing membership and other services through our relationship with Johns Hopkins University Press. Additional information on my professional and academic activities, publications, and presentations may be found on my academia.edu site.

*Lee Pecht, CA, University Archivist and Director of Special Collections, Rice University.*

I am responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the special collections unit of the Fondren Library, including a staff of four professional archivists, volunteers, students and interns; budget of \$1M+; collections management, donor and community relations, exhibits. My prior board service includes the Houston History Association, the Rice Historical Society, the Archivists of the Houston Area, and the William J. Hill Texas Artisans & Artists Archive Advisory Board (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston). The Fondren Library has hosted its own instance of Archivists' Toolkit and has recently migrated that data to an instance of ArchivesSpace. We have held a workshop to learn AS basics, and we are beginning to experiment with customization as we become more experienced with the software.

In contributing to advancing the mission of the ArchivesSpace Governance Board, I would like to see increased communication among the various member institutions, improvements to the software that lower technical barriers, increase the intuitiveness of the interfaces, and more rapid updates to the user documentation. I believe membership will continue to increase, but especially if some technical barriers present in the application are reduced.



## Medium Membership Level:

*Gerald (Jay) Gaidmore. Marian and Alan McLeod Director of the Special Collections Research Center, College of William and Mary.*

Jay Gaidmore is currently the Marian and Alan McLeod Director of Special Collections in the Earl Gregg Swem Library at the College of William & Mary. He has been an archivist for almost twenty years, working at different types of institutions in a variety of roles. He has experience using both Archivists' Toolkit and Archon, and since 2013, has served on the ArchivesSpace Governance Board, having been elected to represent the Medium-level membership.

His vision for ArchivesSpace is as follows: "ArchivesSpace is playing an influential role in the archival community, helping standardize practice and providing a system that is easy for archivists to implement and use so they can better manage, describe, and make information more widely available about their holdings. ArchivesSpace, however, is more than a piece of software; it is a community and serves as a model for how archivists can pool their knowledge and efforts to develop a system that will benefit archivists regardless of the type of institution, size of their holdings, number of staff, or resources. It is important for the system's adopters to remember that ArchivesSpace is more than just what it can do for their institution but what it can do for the archival community as a whole."

*Ann Hodges, Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist, Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi*

I have more than 20 years of experience in archives administration. Formerly the head of special collections and archives at the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, I have held the same position at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Mary and Jeff Bell Library since August 1, 2014.

I am a past president of the Society of Southwest Archivists and have been a Certified Archivist since 1994. I presently serve on the Texas Archival Resources Online Steering Committee and on the Academy of Certified Archivists Exam Development Committee.

In my new position, I have just begun to implement ArchivesSpace to consolidate and enhance collections data presently located in an internal database and paper files. As a new user and one for whose repository ArchivesSpace provides the critical infrastructure to improve control of and researcher access to collections, I am not only positioned to bring a fresh eye to the governance of ArchivesSpace but motivated to support its progress. I also can contribute the perspective of a finding aids consortium that is on the brink of major change, as TARO begins its NEH-funded upgrade.

Its centrality to my vision for my own institution means that I am committed to the welfare and improvement of ArchivesSpace. I would like to see it continue to add features and for its users to promote its success so that those still deliberating whether to join may be persuaded to become part of, and help strengthen, the ArchivesSpace community.



### **Very Small Membership Level:**

*Tom Adams, Archivist, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory*

In the past five years, Tom has been involved with archiving the history of molecular biology at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, including digitizing the collections from Nobel Prize winners. During that time, Tom has created a new Web presence for the library and archives, created an institutional repository, developed an oral history platform and rolled out an Omeka-based repository.

Tom is the principal champion of ArchivesSpace at CSHL and has been transferring finding aids from EAD, Word and Excel spreadsheets into ArchivesSpace.

Tom wants to ensure the technical hurdles for ArchivesSpace adoption are not too large, for if they are large they will likely prohibit smaller repositories from being able to benefit from what ArchivesSpace has to offer.

*Polina Illieva, Head of Archives and Special Collections, University of California, San Francisco.*

Polina is the Head of Archives and Special Collections at the University of California, San Francisco Library. For the past three years she has been directing the activities of the department which consists of Special Collections that include materials in all formats on the history of the health sciences and ancillary disciplines, the University Archives, Manuscript, and East Asian collections.

Polina started working at the UCSF Library in 2006. She worked for five years as a Project Archivist for the Legacy Tobacco Documents Library (LTDL) at UCSF processing and digitizing tobacco industry audio-visual materials. Prior to that Polina worked as a reference librarian and processing archivist for the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty collections at the Hoover Institution Archives at Stanford University where she was also in charge of the archival web and digitization projects. Polina has a doctorate in History from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Russia) and a Masters in International Relations from the same university. Polina is a graduate of the Archives Leadership Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2011) and is a certified archivist. She is active in many regional and national archival professional organizations and currently serves on the Board of the Society of California Archivists.

The University of California, San Francisco became a member of the ArchivesSpace Community in December of 2013. The UCSF Archives & Special Collections is part of the CDL-hosted ArchivesSpace pilot program that was launched in February of 2014, and, since that time, we have been using



ArchivesSpace to accession and process our new collections. The archives staff accomplished a successful migration of resources from Archivists' Toolkit to ArchivesSpace last year and is now working on a project to migrate the legacy FileMaker Pro accession database data into ArchivesSpace. This will allow us to use ArchivesSpace as a sole archives information management system. I support the organization of the membership meetings in conjunction with SAA and other regional conferences. I would like to see more ArchivesSpace style guides shared by members and streamlined process for identifying and prioritizing issues/timeline for the ArchivesSpace development team.

