

## **NOMINEES FOR OFFICE, 2016**

### **SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE**

#### **NOMINEES**

##### **President--Elect:**

Janet E. Levy  
Tom Pluckhahn

##### **Editor--Elect:**

Mary Beth Trubitt

##### **Executive Officer:**

Jen Birch  
David Morgan  
Ben Steere

### **NOMINEES' STATEMENTS**

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT:**

JANET E. LEVY

Ph.D. Washington University – St. Louis, 1977

B.A., Brown University, 1971

Although I participated in archaeological projects in western Kentucky while in graduate school at Washington University (St. Louis), I started my career as an Old World archaeologist, focusing on northern Europe. I retooled as a southeastern archaeologist when I came to UNC Charlotte as an assistant professor in 1980: the only professional archaeologist for 50 miles in any direction. (Luckily, that has changed). In interests of transparency, you should know that I will retire from UNCC in December 2016; this will allow me to turn my energies to much more enjoyable projects with SEAC, rather than writing more 5-year plans and assessment rubrics. I attended my first SEAC meeting in 1981 in Asheville, NC. My main interests are the development of social complexity, gender, and representation in archaeology. I maintain a strong commitment to the value of comparative archaeology in expanding our understanding of the past of our species. I also have a strong commitment to supporting SEAC as a “big tent” organization. I think one of our strengths is incorporating academic archaeologists, CRM, museum, and government archaeologists, serious avocational archaeologists, community members, and students with a broad range of interests. I have served in the governance of the Archeological Division of the American Anthropological Association (division president) and of the Society for American Archaeology (board member; later Secretary), and I was a department chair for 7 years. I have also been an organizer for two SEAC meetings in Charlotte (2003 and 2008), and recently served on SEAC’s board. I have also served on Ethics Committees for both the AAA and the SAA. These experiences inform my goals for SEAC: to maintain intellectual rigor and excitement in publications and meetings; provide mentoring to students; provide outreach to the diverse communities throughout the Southeast who are stakeholders in archaeology; maintain SEAC’s fiscal stability and grow its resources for a future which may require professional

management; support efficient management of the organization; and, support conservation of archaeological resources in our region. I am honored to be nominated for the position of President of SEAC and would work hard to serve effectively.

TOM PLUCKHAHN

Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2002

M.A., University of Georgia, 1994

B.A., University of Georgia, 1988

I attended my first SEAC as an undergraduate in 1987, fresh off a field school. Those were heady times for someone just entering the field, with work at various de Soto and other Spanish sites in full swing. But perhaps not surprisingly, my main memory is of the dance, fueled that year in Charleston by a concurrent wine convention and the archaeo-band Slant 6. If the fun of field school had not already convinced me to become an archaeologist, SEAC certainly cinched the deal. Almost thirty years later, as an Associate Professor at the University of South Florida with a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, SEAC remains the professional organization to which I identify most strongly. Indeed, like many of us, I think of SEAC as more of a community of friends than a professional group.

My career has prepared me to represent much of the diversity of our community. I have extensive experience in CRM, having worked as a field technician for many firms, a Project Archaeologist for Southeastern Archaeological Services and Brockington and Associates, and as Consulting Archaeologist for Fort Stewart Military Reservation (through Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants). Now, as a professor in an academic department with a strong applied and public focus at a Research 1 university, I balance research with consultation, advocacy, and education. I am Principal Investigator on two regional centers of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, as well as Vice President of the Florida Archaeological Council.

My previous service to SEAC has given me a good understanding of the responsibilities of the President and the work of the organization generally. I grew to understand the Board as an Executive Officer. Later, as the Journal Editor, I worked with others to make much needed improvements to our web site and to create the position of Social Media Editor. I also managed much of the transition to Maney Publishing (now Taylor and Francis), a move that has presented some challenges but also many opportunities.

SEAC has undertaken a number of important initiatives in recent years. If elected President, I would endeavor to expand our ongoing efforts to collaborate with descendant communities, to attract membership from under-represented groups, and to support our student members. Regardless of the outcome of the election, however, I am honored to be asked to continue service to the organization that has meant so much to me.

## EDITOR-ELECT:

### MARY BETH TRUBITT

Ph.D., Northwestern University, 1996

M.A., Northwestern University, 1989

B.A., Oberlin College, 1981

Mary Beth Trubitt is an Archeologist for the Arkansas Archeological Survey (a unit of the University of Arkansas System) and a Research Professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas. Based at the Survey's Henderson State University Research Station in Arkadelphia since 2000, she conducts research, teaches anthropology courses at HSU, and works with members of the public on historic preservation in Arkansas. Trubitt's research interests include craft production and exchange, social complexity, and the archaeology of households and communities in eastern North America. She has published articles in *Southeastern Archaeology*, *American Antiquity*, *North American Archaeologist*, *Journal of Archaeological Research*, *Caddo Archeology Journal*, and *Arkansas Archeologist*. Recent projects have resulted in a co-authored book, *Caddo Connections: Cultural Interactions within and beyond the Caddo World* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014), the "Arkansas Novaculite: A Virtual Comparative Collection" website (<http://archeology.uark.edu/novaculite/>), and an edited festschrift, *Research, Preservation, Communication: Honoring Thomas J. Green on his Retirement from the Arkansas Archeological Survey* (Arkansas Archeological Survey, 2016). She is currently finishing a co-authored book on quarry landscapes for Oxbow Books' American Landscapes series. Trubitt serves SEAC as chair of the Patty Jo Watson Award Committee, and is on the editorial boards of *Journal of Texas Archeology and History* and *Caddo Archeology Journal*. Trubitt earned a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Northwestern University in 1996.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

### JEN BIRCH

Ph.D., McMaster University, 2010

M.A., Carleton University, 2006

B.A., Trent University, 2003

Originally from Ontario, Canada, I relocated to the Southeast in 2011 to take up a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Georgia. I was hired as an Assistant Professor in 2013 by the same department at UGA. While my primary area of archaeological expertise is in the archaeology and history of Northern Iroquoian societies of the Lower Great Lakes, my research interests are driven by the desire to understand the relationship between the lived experiences of individuals and communities and broad-scale macroregional processes, including settlement aggregation and geopolitical realignment.

In 2013, I initiated two long-term research projects in the Southeast. One considers the settlement dynamics of the Late Woodland-to-Early Mississippian transition in Georgia. The other is aimed at unravelling the occupational history of the large Mississippian community centered upon Singer-Moye, a multi-mound center in the lower Chattahoochee River valley. I have taught field schools at Singer-Moye since 2013. That field school has evolved into

SMASH—the Singer-Moye Archaeological Settlement History Project. SMASH endeavors to involve field school students in the goals and research design of the project such that they are involved in articulating research questions, placing excavation units, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of results. Last year, our students presented four posters at SEAC and we expect to contribute at least that many this year.

It would be an honor to serve as Executive Officer II for SEAC. I have previously served as Vice President of the Canadian Archaeological Association (2012-2014) and on the board of the Ontario Archaeological Society (2008-2010). I would be interested in furthering SEAC's interests and visibility through relations with other regional and national organizations. Other areas I would be interested in pursuing in my role as Executive Officer II include promoting undergraduate involvement in SEAC and facilitating workshops on navigating the job market for undergraduate and graduate students.

**DAVID MORGAN**

PhD, Tulane University 2003  
MA, University of Alabama 1992  
BA, Millsaps College 1988

I am the Director of the National Park Service's (NPS) Southeast Archeological Center (the "other" SEAC). I am the lead archeologist for the 66 national parks located in the Southeast and Caribbean, and I serve on cultural resources advisory committees within NPS at both regional and national levels. One of my duties is to help ensure that NPS participates in a robust network of partnerships with other stewardship stakeholders including non-profits, management firms, universities, and state and federal agencies. Outside NPS I am active within numerous professional organizations and serve on a committee for the Society for Historical Archaeology (technology), on a committee for the International Council on Archaeological Heritage Management (membership), and on an advisory board to an academic historic preservation program. My prior employment includes duties in grants administration, technology research, cultural resources management, and university teaching. My research in the last decade has dealt primarily with the terrestrial and maritime archaeology of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, with a focus on the processes of creolization. The Southeastern Archaeological Conference taught me what archaeological professionalism has to offer. It was the first conference I ever attended (1994), the first professional body I ever joined, and I have been fortunate to be able to attend nearly every meeting since my initial one in Lexington. I learned what archaeology was about from SEAC, and what archaeology ought to be about in terms of professionalism, collegiality, collaboration, and tradition. In many ways it is my professional home. I would be honored to serve the Conference and its members.

**BEN STEERE**

Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2011  
B.A., Wake Forest University, 2003

I am an assistant professor of Anthropology at Western Carolina University. My research is focused on household archaeology, domestic and monumental architecture, and the archaeology of the Appalachian Summit. I have worked in academic positions since earning my Ph.D. in

2011, but I also have experience working as a field technician and field director on cultural resource management projects with TRC, Inc. I attended my first SEAC meeting a decade ago, and last year I became a Life Member and began serving on the Public Outreach Grant Committee. With experience in academic, professional, and public archaeology, I would bring a broad, inclusive perspective to issues that concern our members, and several years of relevant experience serving on university committees and organizing local and state-level public archaeology events. I am particularly eager to help the conference continue to tackle sexual harassment and gender discrimination in our discipline, increase participation by underrepresented communities, and advance archaeological knowledge in the Southeast. I get more excited for SEAC each year than I do for the ACC Basketball Tournament, and for somebody who grew up along Tobacco Road, that's saying something. I care deeply about our organization and will work hard to help it prosper.