

**2018 NOMINEES FOR OFFICE
SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE**

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Maureen Meyers

Tom Pluckhahn

TREASURER-ELECT:

Patrick Livingood

EDITOR-ELECT:

Rob Beck

EXECUTIVE OFFICER II:

Paul Eubanks

Jayur Mehta

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR:

Meg Kassabaum

NOMINEES' STATEMENTS

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Maureen Meyers (PhD, University of Kentucky, 2011; MA, University of Georgia, 1995; BS, Radford University, 1993)

I first attended SEAC in 1993 as a newly minted graduate student. While I may hold the longest record between first attending SEAC and earning tenure (packet submitted University of Mississippi September 2018), I did a few other things along the way. I began in archaeology in high school as a volunteer at Mount Vernon. During my 25-year career, I have worked for the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, the Florida Museum of Natural History, the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, three cultural resource management firms, and I taught at five colleges in different capacities before taking a tenure-track appointment at the University of Mississippi. These experiences have allowed me to better understand the range of challenges faced by our members—those in academia, whether community college or Research 1 institutions; those in CRM, whether large or small firms; those in government, whether state or federal jobs, and those in museum and curation facilities.

I have been engaged in much service at the local, regional and national levels and along the way I gained knowledge on how organizations like SEAC successfully operate. This includes serving on the SAA National Historic Landmarks committee, Current Research Online Southeast coordinator, Task Force on Sexual Harassment Survey, AAA Archaeology Section Nomination Committee, the Society for Economic Archaeology, and as a National Park Service Sexual Harassment peer-reviewer. More locally, I have served in multiple capacities for professional

archaeological organizations in Virginia, Georgia, and Mississippi. I co-organized the MidSouth meeting in Oxford, MS in 2017, and next year will serve as a co-organizer of the 2019 SEAC meetings in Jackson, Mississippi.

In the past, I have served SEAC as an Executive Officer, on the Nominations Committee, and as member and Chair of the Student Paper Award. In 2012, I approached the board to suggest a survey of sexual harassment in the field. With their approval, I formed a committee and we created and oversaw this survey, whose results are published in the SEAC newsletter and a forthcoming article in *Advances in Archaeological Practice*. Through this work, I had extensive interaction with the SEAC Executive Board and gained insight into not only the operations of the Board, but of SEAC in general. I welcome the opportunity to help others reach their goals of making SEAC an organization that works for them. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve SEAC in this capacity.

In the interests of full disclosure, I would also point out I danced the first (and only) Irish jig at the Knoxville meetings in 1995.

Tom Pluckhahn (PhD, University of Georgia, 2002; MA, University of Georgia, 1994; BA, University of Georgia, 1988)

At the gracious invitation of the nominating committee, I am honored to be considered (again!) for the position of SEAC President. By way of introduction for those I have yet to meet, I am a Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida, and the Principal Investigator for two regional centers of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. I serve on the Tampa Historical Preservation Commission, and also on the editorial boards for the University of Alabama Press and the University of Florida Press. My previous service to SEAC includes terms as an Executive Officer and as Editor of *Southeastern Archaeology*. Prior to my career in academia, I worked for more than a decade in cultural resource management, primarily for firms in the Southeast.

For me, and probably for you too, SEAC is more than a conference—it's a community. Over the past few years, we have been very fortunate to have had officers and committee members who endeavored to make our community more inclusive and safer for everyone. If I earn your vote as President, I will continue and expand these efforts to increase the diversity of our membership, perhaps particularly targeting the recruitment of more people of color. I will also develop new initiatives. As an example, it seems clear by now that the Southeast has more to risk in terms of heritage loss to sea level rise than any other region in North America; I think SEAC should take a more aggressive stance toward public awareness of this crisis, as well as the development of mitigative measures. SEAC is a great community of people concerned about the past, but we should always be looking to the future.

TREASURER-ELECT:

Patrick Livingood (PhD, University of Michigan 2006; MA, University of Michigan 1999; BS, University of North Carolina, 1996)

I am currently an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma and a lifetime member of SEAC. My research focuses on the Mississippian period, on Caddo archaeology, and on computer and quantitative methods in archaeology. I have served SEAC previously as book review editor, member of the program committee for the Tulsa SEAC, and as chair of the Archives committee. SEAC is the most rewarding professional organization I am a part of, and the conference serves a vital function in promoting and facilitating archaeology in the Southeast. The conference has been fortunate to have excellent stewards as officers over the years which has allowed it to fulfill its mission and expand its reach. I see serving as Treasurer-Elect as my opportunity to give back to the conference.

EDITOR-ELECT:

Rob Beck (PhD, Northwestern University, 2004; MA, University of Alabama, 1997; BA, University of North Carolina, 1981)

Rob Beck is Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan and serves as Associate Director and Curator of North American Archaeology in the University's Museum of Anthropological Archaeology.

His research interests include the archaeology and ethnohistory of complex societies in eastern North America and the Andes of Bolivia and Peru, early colonial encounters in what is now the southeastern United States, and the broader issues related to social organization and change. He is the author of *Chieftoms, Collapse, and Coalescence in the Early American South* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), editor of *The Durable House: House Society Models in Archaeology* (CAI Press, SIU Carbondale, 2007), and co-editor of *Fort San Juan and the Limits of Empire: Colonialism and Household Practice at the Berry Site* (University Press of Florida, 2016). He has published articles in *Southeastern Archaeology*, *American Antiquity*, *American Anthropologist*, *Current Anthropology*, *Latin American Antiquity*, *Historical Archaeology*, and *Ethnohistory*, and has also contributed to numerous edited volumes. Beck received SEAC's C. B. Moore Award in 2006 and currently serves as the chair of SEAC's Lifetime Achievement Award Committee.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER II:

Paul Eubanks (PhD, University of Alabama, 2016; MA, University of Alabama, 2010; BA, University of North Carolina, 2008)

I am an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) specializing in late prehistoric and early historic archaeology. Much of my research has dealt with the production, trade, and use of salts and minerals in the southeastern United States. In

2017, I began running MTSU's annual archaeological field school. Thus far, our efforts have been concentrated at the previously unexplored mineral springs at the Castalian Springs Mound Site in north-central Tennessee. Our field school includes a weekly outreach component where members of the public are invited to visit the site and participate in our excavations.

SEAC has always been one of the highlights of my fall semesters, and I have attended every year since my first meeting in 2006. Over the past several years, I have been involved with mentoring undergraduate students on various research projects, and as a SEAC executive officer, I would welcome the opportunity to take a leadership role in encouraging undergraduate participation at the SEAC meetings. In the past, I have helped to run several workshops on finding a career in archaeology after graduation, and I would be happy to run similar workshops at SEAC or to serve on committees dealing with this issue or other issues of importance to the SEAC membership. In sum, the continued prosperity of SEAC and its members is important to me, and it would be an honor to contribute to the success of this organization.

Jayur Mehta (PhD, Tulane University, 2015; MA, University of Alabama, 2007; BA, University of North Carolina, 2004)

The Southeastern Archaeological Conference and its membership have made the Southeast a welcoming home and an exciting place to conduct research, to advocate for historical preservation, and to meet families with deep ties to their ancestral homeland. After living in the land of Lincoln for a year, I'm excited to move to Florida and begin my career as an assistant professor at Florida State University (FSU). While at FSU, I will continue my research on the Cahokian diaspora outside of the American Bottom, focusing on Mississippian cultures in the Deep South. I also study contemporary historic preservation issues in Louisiana, especially as related to the destruction of archaeological sites due to climate change, coastal land loss, and sea level rise. While academia is my where I hang my hat, I have worked in a broad diversity of fields, including for state agencies, non-profit organizations, in the CRM field, and as a high-school educator. In addition to a diverse career background, I have served the Southeastern Archaeological Conference as both chair of the Student Affairs Committee and the Public Outreach Grant Committee. These experiences have allowed me to stress the importance of our organization to students and to the general public. I believe that if we are going to continue to make deep impacts in the lives of young people and further advocate for historic preservation legislation and programming, our work will be to reach out to students and the public in ways that are meaningful to them. For me, this means engaging with farmers, hunters, land-owners, and collectors who have a deep respect for their homeland and its history, and supporting the work of avocational archaeologists, as well as teachers, historians, and legislators, among others, who are advocates for archaeology. My main goals as Executive Officer II will be to support the mission of SEAC, to serve the conference and its membership, and to provide a lift to all aspiring archaeologists and preservationists, regardless of their background, education, and/or occupation.

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR:

Meg Kassabaum (PhD, University of North Carolina, 2014; BA, Beloit College, 2005)

I currently serve as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania and the Weingarten Assistant Curator for North America at the Penn Museum. I specialize in Woodland period archaeology of the Lower Mississippi Valley, particularly on considering how food consumption and monument construction relate to communal identity. Since arriving at Penn, I have been running a field school at the Smith Creek site, a multi-component mound site in Southwest Mississippi. I am currently analyzing the materials from these excavations while finishing a book manuscript on pre-Mississippian platform mounds across the Eastern U.S. In addition, I am working with both undergraduate and graduate students on research projects throughout the Eastern Woodlands. Finally, my role as curator involves exhibit work as well as offering a variety of publicly accessible events focused on the archaeology of North America to our global visitor base. I recently curated an exhibit called *Moundbuilders: Ancient Architects of North America* that explores the over 5000-year-long history of indigenous mound building and highlights that you don't need a passport to visit amazing archaeological sites. I am now working with students at Penn and local advocacy groups in Mississippi to bring a similar exhibit to the local historical museum.

The SEAC Annual Meeting is my favorite week of the year, and I have attended every meeting since 2005, when I presented as an undergraduate student. As a graduate student, I was determined to figure out a way to make the excitement and inspiration that the annual meeting always provides available year round. I found two methods of accomplishing this using web-based platforms. First, as the public outreach assistant for the Research Labs of Archaeology at UNC, I created and maintained our Facebook page, sharing news about the Labs and Southeastern archaeology more generally. Second, I worked with a group of my peers to start a blog that would encourage SEAC members and others to share their research results, ideas, and opinions with one another and foster open discussion. During my time at Penn, I have been reminded that this sort of year-round communication is necessary, especially to scholars who are physically located outside of the Southeast. I have also come to be much more committed to the public engagement that such platforms allow. For these reasons, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to these important ventures as Social Media Editor for the conference.