

Alyson A. Gill

Candidate for Membership Secretary



Nationality: American

Occupation: Director, Center for Digital Initiatives (<http://www.astate.edu/cdi>), Arkansas State University (United States); Associate Professor, Art History, Arkansas State University (ASU)

e-mail: agill@astate.edu

Motivation to run for Membership Secretary:

Since my first involvement with CAA in 2007 as session chair and a member of the scientific committee, I have found CAA to be an invaluable resource for my work. CAA is unique in its focus on computer applications in archaeology, and the community of scholars who come together each year to present and share their findings and resources are, to a large part, part of the engine that is driving the field forward.

While CAA is exemplary in this regard, I feel that our organization would benefit from more open and frequent communication with its membership. If elected, I plan to make membership growth a top priority for the Steering Committee and will make sure that it is a regular item on the agenda of our meetings. I will also take those steps appropriate for a Secretary to do on her own to increase membership. Here the basic goal will be to raise awareness of CAA and of our annual conference among those who might be expected to show an interest and take an active part. This can be done by tapping resources that we already have, including promotion of the CAA website and annual conferences on university websites. We can also target universities and organizations working in digital technologies in an effort to raise awareness of the annual conference. In this same vein I would like to investigate the intensified strategic use of social networking sites. I will make it far easier to become a member by paying the annual dues online using a service such as Paypal. Finally, I will encourage communication between members by publishing an online listing of members which (subject to their specific permission) will include their contact information.

I have been involved with CAA for five years and feel that I have much to offer. If elected, I look forward to work with the other members of the Steering Committee to move the CAA strongly forward.

CV

I completed a M.A. in Art History specializing in Greek architecture from University of California, Irvine, in 1996, and I was awarded a Ph.D. in History from the University of Memphis in 2004. My dissertation topic was Greek baths and bathing practice, and I lived in Greece on and off from 1990-1998 working at the Ohio State University excavations at Isthmia and later returning to Greece on a Fulbright scholarship. I have taught at ASU since 2000 and was the first at the university to promote the use of 3D modeling of architecture in the classroom. In 2007 I was awarded a Digital Humanities Start-Up grant through the National Endowment for the Humanities in collaboration with Arne Flaten (Coastal Carolina University) for a project that modeled several monuments at Delphi and Delos. In 2008 I launched the university's virtual environment presence, creating and managing five sims for research, teaching, and housing of ASU's five virtual heritage sites. In 2009, as director of a team at ASU, I launched the university's first heritage site in Second Life (the Lakeport Plantation), and since that time we have gone on to re-create immersive 3D environments in Second Life, Open Sim, and Unity for all of our heritage sites. In 2011, I was named director of the Center for Digital Initiatives, a Center of Excellence at ASU. The CDI is now a leader in 3D modeling and animation in this region with strong internal and external support, and we have moved into Unity 3D as well as several modeling programs in an effort to more broadly visualize our heritage sites. Examples of these can be found on our website (<http://www.astate.edu.cdi>).

For an overview of my publications, see my profile on Academia.edu:

<http://astate.academia.edu/AlysonGill>

Activities related to CAA:

- CAA 2007 (Berlin)—session chair and presenter, CAA 2008 (Budapest)—session chair, presenter, and panel member (SAVE), CAA 2009 (Williamsburg)—session chair and presenter
- Reviewer for CAA 2007 (Berlin), 2008 (Budapest), 2009 (Williamsburg), 2011 (Beijing)
- Member of the Scientific Committee (CAA 2007)
Member of the Scientific Committee (CAA 2008)
Member of the Scientific Committee (CAA 2009)
Member of the Scientific Committee (CAA 2011)