



PRESS RELEASE

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AJHA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS

The American Journalism Historians Association elected a new second vice president and three new board members during its 41st Annual Convention in Memphis, Tennessee.

Debra van Tuyll, professor emerita, Augusta University, will serve as second vice president during 2022-23, beginning a three-year tenure which will culminate in her serving as the organization's president in 2024-25.

Elected to the board were Elisabeth Fondren of St. John's University; Tom Mascaro, Bowling Green State University (emeritus); and Ashley Walter of Utah State University. Their three-year terms span from 2022 to 2025.

Van Tuyll served on the AJHA board from 2005-2008 and 2016-2019. In 2019, she was awarded AJHA's highest honor, the Kobre Award, in recognition of her exemplary record of sustained achievement in journalism history. She retired as a full professor from Augusta University in June 2021.

"I'm so excited to serve AJHA as second vice president. This organization has been integral to my career as well as the source of some of my most valued colleagues and friends. I look forward to paying back and paying forward all this organization and those friends and colleagues have done to support me through my career," said van Tuyll.

Fondren is an assistant professor of journalism in the Collins College of Professional Studies at St. John's University. She has served on the AJHA Curriculum Committee and was part of the 2020 Coordinating Committee for the Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference. She currently serves on the Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize Committee.

"I am truly honored to have been elected to the AJHA Board of Directors. I am delighted to help advance AJHA's mission, and I look forward to contributing international perspectives on journalism history research and teaching," Fondren said.

Mascaro retired as a full professor from Bowling Green State University in December 2019. He has served as chair of the Service Awards Committee, a judge for the AJHA Book Award competition, and a referee for the annual convention's paper selection. He also is a long-time reviewer for *American Journalism*.

"As this is my first year on the board, I expect to do a lot of listening and to try to contribute thoughtfully to issues that arise. One area of interest to me in the future, though, is to develop publicity through AJHA to re-educate others about the value of journalism to a free, democratic society, especially during a time of numerous assaults on truth," Mascaro said.

Walter is a postdoctoral teaching fellow at Utah State University. She is a member of the Oral History Committee and served for two years as editorial assistant for *American Journalism*.

“I’ve been fortunate to receive a ton of support from AJHA since I joined in 2017. I see this board position as a way for me to give back and pay forward the kindness I’ve received,” Walter said.

AJHA’s new president will be Mike Conway of Indiana University, who served as second vice president from 2019-2021, and as first vice president from October 2021-October 2022.

Tracy Lucht of Iowa State University will serve as first vice president, and Ken Ward of Pittsburg State University will serve as treasurer. Erika Pribanic-Smith of the University of Texas-Arlington will continue as executive director.

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Debra van Tuyll



Elisabeth Fondren





Tom Mascaro



Ashley Walter

Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society. For more information on AJHA, visit <http://www.ajhaonline.org>.

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