MELISSA GONZALES BIO for MUSEUM SECTION SECRETARY NOMINATION

Hello, my name is Melissa Gonzales, and I am currently the University Archivist at the University of Texas at Arlington, but as of July 17th, I will take on a new role as Archivist/Librarian at the Witte Museum in San Antonio, Texas. Prior to working at UT Arlington, I worked as the Processing Archivist at the Donald C. & Elizabeth M. Dickinson Research Center at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and as the Goliad County Archivist in Goliad, Texas. I received my MS in Library and Information Science with an Archival Concentration from Simmons College in 2009 and became a certified archivist in 2011.

Professional activities include serving on SAA’s Mentoring Subcommittee for the past two years, in addition to participating in the Students and New Archives Processional (SNAP) Roundtable’s Bylaws Subcommittee before being elected to the Steering Committee from 2012-2013 and Chair from 2013-2014. In 2012, I contributed as a peer reviewer for the “Digitizing Historical Records Grant” for the National Historical Publications & Records Commission. Regionally, I have served as an Executive Board member for the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) from 2012-2013, as well as currently serving on the Membership and Publicity Committees, respectively. Until May 2013, I was the SSA newsletter liaison for Texas for over two years, and as an Executive Board member, I was responsible for establishing the SSA Twitter account which I still manage. This past year, I had the honor of being elected to sit on the SSA Executive Board for a two-year term.

In all of my positions, I have been regarded as having excellent note-taking skills and took official meeting minutes for various gatherings. Recently, UT Arlington Libraries has undergone a reorganization that saw the creation of many task forces and strategic initiative groups. As such, I have been in charge of taking notes throughout many of these meetings, in addition to search committee meetings, and I am the official recorder for the Knowledge Management Advisory Group. I am looking forward to venturing back into the museum world, and I feel my attention to detail and level of awareness make me a strong candidate for Secretary of SAA’s Museum Archives Section.