At-Large Director

At-Large Directors serve a three-year term. At-Large Directors have no particular brief, but may, as needed, be tasked by the Board of Directors. At-Large Directors have a presence on the Finance, Program, and Planning Committees.

Justin McDaniel
Roberto Lint Sagarena


McDaniel has received grants from the NEH, Mellon, Rockefeller, and Fulbright Foundations, and the Social Science Research Council. He is the co-editor of the *Buddhism Compass* and *Journal of Lao Studies* and is also the Chair of the Southeast Asian Studies Council of the Association of Asian Studies. McDaniel has won teaching and advising awards at Harvard University, Ohio University, and the University of California, Riverside.

Statement on the AAR

My relationship with the American Academy of Religion has been, can we say, rocky. Although I have been a member since 2003, I have drifted between participation in annual meetings, joining new committees, and helping with conferences. I have not been as active as I should be, and I have not taken advantage of the wide range of resources the Academy can provide. I have also not been as open to new ideas and new people. I would like to change this.

Besides these somewhat ambitious and broadly defined goals; specifically, I am concerned with the way
It is not all negative though! I am running for this position because I “grew up” as a student and work-in-progress. Lint Sagarena has served the AAR in a number of capacities over the course of the last fifteen years, beginning as a student in the early 1990s.

Statement on the AAR

I am grateful for this nomination and welcome this opportunity to contribute to the growth and well-being of the AAR. Directors-at-Large are responsible for representing the interests of AAR members to the Board of Directors. The diversity in the approaches to the study of religion present in the work of members of the AAR, from theological, anthropological, and historical perspectives, and sensibilities in the study of religion would help me to serve the wide range of constituencies that make up the AAR.

Among the causes most important to me are the active promotion of equity in the profession, the mentorship of graduate students, and strengthening existing forums such as Consultations, Seminars, and Roundtables. These functions of this job seem particularly attractive and rewarding to me. I feel prepared to take on the challenge of the position of Director-at-Large because of my previous work within the AAR and the Board of Directors, and my deep commitment to doing the work of making the AAR function as well as it can for as many of its members as possible.