

"Dignity... Always Dignity."

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN is one of my family's favorite musicals. We quote from it given the slightest excuse. As I began to write my candidate statement for an Academic Director slot on the BEA Board of Directors, I immediately thought of this famous line as my "campaign slogan."

Of course, all of us who love the movie know that Don Lockwood's "lifelong motto" is the opposite of the truth. That is why I thought of it. Anyone who knows Carey Martin knows that I care about dignity in general and my own in particular as much as... well, about as much as Don cared about his during his rise to the top.

What I do care about is getting the job done, which is why I want to serve on the Board of Directors. I have been a member of BEA since 1997 - longer than I've been at my current institution, in fact - and the opportunities I've had as a result have been unforgettable.

My first BEA Convention presentation was in 1998. Missing the next year, I then presented at every convention held from 2000 to 2026. I've reviewed research for the Law & Policy and History Interest Divisions. I've judged creative work in News and in Video for the Festival in both faculty and student categories. I currently serve as a peer reviewer for Journal of Media Education. As engaging as those were, I have been even more engaged in my two "home" Interest Divisions, Writing and Religion & Media. Besides reviewing creative and research work for competitions therein, I've been honored to serve each as Division Chair, in R&M from 2021 to 2023, in Writing from 2006 to 2008 and again from 2023 to 2024.

I believe that my wide-ranging experiences grant me a strong understanding of BEA. I also believe that I can bring this hands-across-the-water approach to move the Association past the challenges of today to, well, the challenges of tomorrow. For one thing that my years in the professorate (and before that the profession) taught me beyond the shadow of a doubt is that there will always be challenges.

Unlike Don Lockwood's erstwhile costar, I do not claim to be "a shimmering, glowing star in the cinema firmament." But also unlike Lina Lamont, I would be honored to work hard as your Academic Director on the BEA Board.