



2020 Board of Directors Election

Nominees' Biographies

September 14, 2020: For consideration in the online election survey provided to SSURF members. For more information on the election please contact Dan Powers, SSURF Executive Director at dan.powers@ssurf.org.

There are six (6) seats up for election. New board member terms will start October 1st, 2020 and run through 2023. Voting will take place through September 23, 2020.

Nominees *(in alphabetical order)*

Kara Clayton

Jennifer Greenamoyer

Dr. Allison Hatt (incumbent)

Richard Leonard (incumbent)

David Martin

Dr. Jodi Muckelbauer (incumbent)

Lauren Rotman

Crystal Schrof

Dr. Matthew L. Whitaker

Society for Science at User Research Facilities
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Kara Clayton

Kara Clayton serves as Finance Officer for the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences (CNMS) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. In this role Kara manages all CNMS financial matters including interfaces with Department of Energy clients, academia, and private industry. Kara provides financial guidance to CNMS management and to the User Program Office regarding budget and accounting policies, methods, and techniques. She maintains current knowledge of financial laws and regulations as well as being proficient in the DOE accounting system. Kara's responsibilities include development of annual budgets, analysis of financial performance, and calculation of labor and indirect rates. Kara has also prepared over 300 proposals for CNMS in excess of \$160M.

Prior to her CNMS role, Kara served as Finance Officer for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program Office, Nuclear Technology Program Office, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Program Office. Kara also served in the Lockheed Martin Energy Systems Banking and Cash Management Division.

Kara earned a BS in Finance from Murray State University in 1987. She is a member of both the Institute of Management Accountants and the Association of Government Finance Officers. She serves on the ORNL Finance Officers Advisory Guild. Kara serves her East Tennessee community volunteering in a number of non-profit organizations including serving as treasurer.

Why Would I Like to Serve?

It would be an honor to serve on the SSURF Board. Since working directly with the CNMS User Program for over 10 years I have come to understand the value of the DOE national user centers. The user centers tend to be an undiscovered gem that would benefit the world-wide research community. ORNL is committed to supporting the CNMS User Program as the Center strives for excellence. The SSURF's mission is to share experience and promote the benefits of using the user facilities. I believe if the research community would use the facilities then it would increase their efficiency, R&D, and timeline to production.

In my role at CNMS I serve as a bridge between the scientific community and the financial community. I have seen personally that these two communities have a symbiotic relationship that must be healthy in order for science to thrive. While I have come to understand basic science from my CNMS colleagues, I also enjoy serving as a financial mentor to many in the CNMS scientific community that have limited financial experience. I take pride in serving in this CNMS capacity and believe I could add value to the SSURF Board in a similar manner.

Jennifer Greenamoyer

Jennifer Greenamoyer is the American Institute of Physics' principal government relations liaison, working to assist AIP's Member Societies with development and implementation of government relations initiatives. She regularly represents AIP to Congress and other policy makers to forward science policy interests and works with the S&T community to influence policy developments and lobby for appropriations. In addition, she manages AIP's Congressional and State Department fellowship programs.

Jen received her MSC in Oceanography and Master of Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island. She began her career working for the Environmental Protection Agency helping with the development of regulations in the Office of Water and the Office of the Administrator. At EPA, she also conducted training for EPA staff on regulation development and worked on small business regulatory relief. While on Capitol Hill, Jen worked as professional staff for the House Committee on Small Business where she specialized in regulations, primarily pertaining to environmental and labor issues. Before joining AIP, Jen worked for the Sea Grant Association as Director of External Affairs where she was responsible for working to secure annual appropriations and monitoring legislative developments.

Why Would I Like to Serve?

Hello and thanks for the opportunity to connect with SSURF. As a government relations professional, I have worked to help advocate for DOE's National Labs for over fourteen years. (Some of you might remember me from presenting at NUFO meetings in the past.) I am passionate about engaging with policy makers and translating policy goals in ways that best connect with people and their values. I am interested in working with SSURF to explore the best ways that SSURF and similar organizations can help educate and inform Congress and other government officials about the significance of user facility and lab research. I am also always interested in learning more about research projects, I find the work interesting and inspiring.

Dr. Alison Hatt

Dr. Alison Hatt is a program manager and science communicator based in Portland, Oregon. Previously she was the Director of the User Program at the Molecular Foundry, an Office of Science user facility for nanoscience at Berkeley Lab. Dr. Hatt first joined the Molecular Foundry in 2010 as a postdoctoral fellow in the Theory of Nanostructured Materials group. She has a background in science writing and communication, and has worked as Public Affairs Specialist for the Berkeley Lab Materials Sciences Division and been a freelance writer for the Materials Research Bulletin and other publications. Dr. Hatt received a Ph.D. in Materials from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a B.S. in Physics from the University of Utah.

Why Would I Like to Serve?

I have served on the SSURF Board of Directors since 2017 and am a member of the subcommittees for communications and outreach. My interest in SSURF derives from my love of the federally funded user research facilities and a belief in the value of those facilities to serve the research community and, ultimately, the general public. SSURF has a vital role to play in uniting the user facilities in a way that makes each of them more valuable, efficient, and effective and lets them operate as part of a national science infrastructure rather than a constellation of local resources. By continuing to serve on the SSURF Board of Directors, I hope to keep applying my experience and enthusiasm to the challenge of building SSURF into a productive and sustainable organization.

Richard Leonard

Rich Leonard is Director of Federal Programs for the Indiana Innovation Institute leads capture and implementation of major federal programs by building teams from across the region, state, and nation. His focus is on areas of evolving requirements in most need of innovative solutions.

Prior to this, he held research, program management, business development, and line management roles at Battelle Memorial Institute. These included President/CEO for Battelle Ecology Inc., Co-Principal Investigator for the National Science Foundation's National Ecological Observatory Network (an NSF funded User Facility), and President/CEO of Bluefin Robotics. His career has spanned a wide range of science and engineering disciplines on projects for all major national security agencies extending from early discovery through production. He also served as a Captain in the United States Army.

Leonard received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. He earned a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Eisenhower School of the National Defense University where he was also an Industry Fellow. His studies were focused on Technology Innovation. Leonard completed the Defense Acquisition University's Senior Acquisition Course. He currently serves on the board of the Society for Science at User Research as Secretary. If reelected this would be his 2nd term.

Why Would I Like to Serve?

Through engagements with multiple laboratories within the DOE National Laboratory infrastructure over the course of my career and more recently as the leader of a NSF User Facility, I have seen and benefited from the impact these major science facilities can have. A critical element of operating the National Ecological Observatory Network was building strong support from the user community, this is a dynamic unique to "user" facilities, where the budget may be provided by the federal government but the "consumer" is the scientific or engineering research community. Both the facility operator and those integrating the facility into their long term research must be aligned and advocate for construction of new, operation of existing, and major upgrades when needed. The budgets required to construct and operate a major user facility are also significant and require engagement across the federal and state government ecosystem to gain and sustain active support.

SSURF is unique among the myriad of technical societies in its focus of federal user facilities with no constraints on the scientific discipline at play. I find this cross disciplinary position particularly compelling and the potential for SSURF to expand of its facilitation of transfer of best practices particularly open to expansion and impact. If reelected to the board my priority will be the growth of interfacility communications and sharing.

David Martin

David Martin is Manager, Industry Partnerships and Outreach at the Argonne Leadership Computing Facility at Argonne National Laboratory, where he works with industrial users to harness high performance computing and take advantage of the transformational capabilities of modeling and simulation. David brings broad industry and research experience to ALCF. Prior to joining ALCF, David led IBM's integration of internet standards, grid and cloud computing into offerings from IBM's Systems and Technology Group. Before IBM, David managed networks and built network services for the worldwide high-energy physics community at Fermilab. David began his career at AT&T Bell Laboratories, doing paradigm-changing work in software engineering and high-speed networking. David has a BS from Purdue and an MS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, both in Computer Science.

David has help building strong communities through leadership positions in the Internet Engineering Task Force, the ESnet Steering Group, the Global Grid Forum, the Blue Gene Consortium, the Intel Extreme Performance Users Group and the HPC User Forum.

Why Would I Like to Serve?

I've been involved in building strong communities to harness advanced technology for my entire career. I was involved in the early days of NUFO and saw how sharing common challenges and working toward common solutions helped strengthen the community of user facilities. I'd like to join the SSURF Board of Directors and help expand SSURFs impact on user research facilities. I think the main strength of SSURF is listening to member priorities, establishing communities to address those priorities, and sharing the knowledge gained. I also think there's a great opportunity to work with researchers, funding agencies and industry to educate them about research user facilities capabilities and hear their needs and concerns. Through community-building, outreach, and education SSURF can help the nation's research user facilities leverage their collective knowledge to improve their operations.

Dr. Jodi Muckelbauer

I am currently the Director of Structural Biology within the Small-Molecule Drug Discovery group at Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Company (BMS). My group focuses on the structure/function relationship of proteins; delivering 3-dimensional protein structures in complex with drug candidates using structure to guide, optimize and speed up the drug discovery process. My group at BMS are facility users - co-running a synchrotron beam line at APS and are frequent users of beam lines at NSLS-II and ALS. I have been a Board Director of SSURF since 2015 and have served as SSURF secretary and treasurer (current role). I obtained a BS in Biochemistry/Biophysics at Oregon State University and a Ph.D. at Purdue University using X-ray Crystallography to study the structure/function relationship of picornaviruses in the laboratory of Michael Rossmann.

Why Would I Like to Serve?

As a board director, I would continue my role as an active, engaged board member serving SSURF in the role of treasurer. Since this will be my last term as a board director, I will ensure sustained support on all SSURF financial matters and will plan for a smooth transition of information to the executive director and new treasurer at the end of my term. I have established a breadth of knowledge about SSURF and having me continue my role on the SSURF board will be highly advantageous to the organization.

Lauren Rotman

Lauren Rotman is the Science Engagement Group Lead for the Department of Energy's Energy Sciences Network (ESnet) managed by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. In this role, she leads a team that drives adoption of high speed research networking for data sharing, storage and computing by DOE scientists. In an era of unprecedented data growth, Lauren advocates for increased federal investments in Information Technology for the research community. To assist scientists in adoption of data transfer services, she has developed forums to build bridges between laboratory IT leaders and the scientists they support.

With nearly two decades of experience working within the research and education community, Lauren has developed international partnerships, built high-performance teams and led positive organizational change. Prior to ESnet, she was the Director of Communications for Internet2, a non-profit that provides high-speed networking and cloud computing to the higher education community. In this role, Lauren managed outreach programs including the organization's communications strategy and public policy efforts. She successfully co-authored a proposal leading to a \$62M Department of Commerce grant which extended high bandwidth networking to small colleges, K-12 schools, libraries and hospitals.

In her early career, Lauren held various Public Relations roles. As Corporate Communications Manager for MCI (now Verizon), she served as an "on the record" spokesperson requiring rapid responses to high profile media deadlines. She also held positions with Strategic Communications Group, Edelman Public Relations and the White House. Lauren has a B.S. in Communications and Political Science from Boston University.

Why Would I Like to Serve?

My home organization - ESnet - is a unique DOE user facility. Our organization serves all of DOE by connecting together its labs, computing centers and its scientific user facilities. ESnet is built with advanced Internet technology optimized specifically for the high volume data demands of DOE science. As instruments or facilities undergo upgrades or as new facilities are built, we know these demands are growing exponentially.

This is one of the primary reasons for my interest in the SSURF Board of Directors. User facilities, which serve diverse scientific domains, are faced with grand challenges in this new data-intensive environment. Many science areas will depend upon strategic investments in networking tools for data sharing and remote collaboration; storage for data management and archiving; and high performance computing for analysis. Leveraging my experience, I am interested in working with SSURF to investigate User Facility data strategies. With a common vision, the U.S. User Facility complex can together advocate for the data capabilities needed to ensure scientists - no matter which facility they use - have the resources for discovery and do not miss the needle in a haystack of data.

Throughout my career, I've built a deep passion and commitment for the mission of science. For nearly 20 years, it has driven me to be a successful champion for the research and education community. I believe my diverse background in technology, federal public policy, and communications would be a resource to SSURF as it continues to expand to serve our nation's greatest scientific assets.

Crystal Schrof

Crystal Schrof is currently the Scientific and Program Services Office Manager for Oak Ridge National Laboratory's (ORNL) Neutron Sciences Directorate (NScD). Her office has responsibility for the User Program for the High Flux Isotope Reactor and Spallation Neutron Source. Prior to joining NScD, she served as the Independent Oversight Manager and Associate General Counsel at ORNL. Her practice area included environmental, safety and health, export control, contracts, and national security. Crystal recently participated in the ORCID Working Group to establish profile categories for Research Resources and Service and Membership and the changes to the Journal Article Tag Suite (JATS) standards and manuscript acceptance schema. She has served as the acting Chief Operating Officer (COO) for SSURF since December 2018. During her tenure as the acting COO, she worked to establish the organization's new committee structure and established an Operations Calendar to ensure continuity of operations. She holds a BA from Eastern Illinois University, a MA from University of Illinois – Springfield, and a JD from the University of Tennessee. She is licensed to practice law in Illinois and Tennessee.

Why Would I Like to Serve?

As a board member, Crystal would focus on three key areas. First, ensuring the legal and organizational structure of SSURF complies with its statutory obligations, maintains its nonprofit status and adheres to its articulated mission. Second, expand the involvement of the research user community and user facility staff in the mission and outreach of SSURF. Finally, build on SSURF's past success to expand its advocacy role with funding agencies and decisionmakers.

Dr. Matthew L. Whitaker

Matt Whitaker is a Research Assistant Professor in the Mineral Physics Institute and Department of Geosciences at Stony Brook University and a Partner User Beamline Scientist for the high pressure Multi-Anvil program at the XPD beamline at NSLS-II (MAXPD). He also currently serves as a high pressure Beamline Scientist for beamline 6-BM-B at the APS, and is the co-PI of the Consortium for Materials Properties Research in Earth Sciences (COMPRES) Multi-Anvil Facilities Program, which supports the two aforementioned beamlines. Prior to these current appointments, Matt was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at Ehime University in Matsuyama, Japan, and then served as High Pressure Beamline Scientist for X17B2 at NSLS-I from 2011 until its closure in 2014. He has been an active synchrotron user for nearly twenty years at nineteen different beamlines at six different synchrotron facilities in three countries. Matt currently serves as the Chair of the NSLS-II Users' Executive Committee, interfacing regularly with both the users of the facility and its management team. He has also changed the format of the communications of the UEC, developing, writing, and hosting the "NSLS-II UEC Show" where he is often reassured that he is indeed very, very funny.

Why Would I Like to Serve?

Matt has been an active member of the SSURF Outreach Committee, serving as co-chair, and has also sat on the SSURF Operations and Communications committees. Communication and Outreach are two of his professional passions, and he seeks to bring that enthusiasm to the SSURF Board. Matt also has a background in running and operating 501(c)3 organizations, which will hopefully be of use to the organization. Scientifically, he is very interested in pursuing multi-modal studies of materials using multiple techniques available at multiple facilities. Matt hopes to bring his enthusiasm for SSURF's mission to bear in helping to expand awareness of National User Facilities and potentially help in expanding the user base of these unique facilities. He also hopes to continue to advocate for more streamlined and easier external access to experimental data, better infrastructure and access to integrated data management and analysis tools, and interactive platforms for user support across facilities which will greatly improve the experience of the users. In his spare time, Matt is the father of three children, and the lead singer in two hard rock bands, one of which was voted the Best Band on Long Island in 2019. You know, back before the world ended.