

BRIAN D. FORS, Ph.D.

Education

- 2018 Digital Archives Specialist (DAS), Society of American Archivists
- 2017 Certified Archivist, Academy of Certified Archivists
- 1995 Ph.D. American Diplomatic History
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
- 1994 Archivist Training and Intern Program (1992-1994)
National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC
- 1988 M.A. History
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
- 1987 B.A. History, Political Science minor
Minnesota State University -Moorhead, Moorhead, MN

Professional Experience

Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, 2019 – Present
Curator, Waring Historical Library

- Reference, historical interpretation and public outreach, preservation, acquisitions, and general management of the university's rare book and special collection.

The History Writers, Mankato, MN, 2015 – Present
Historian and Archivist

Major Projects:

- Processed archival records for the Dotson Company, a company in existence since 1876, including over 65 linear feet of records. Processing included preservation measures, description of the records, and inventory of the records, in preparation for donation to the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN.
- Conducted research and oral histories to write a history of the Dotson Company; working title is *Dotson: The Rise and Fall and Rise Again of American Manufacturing*.
- Processed the personal archives of a prominent civic leader's family in St. Paul, MN.
- Researched and identified historical resources and primary documents related to the cultural history of Mankato MN, and prepared detailed documentation of these resources for presentation to local historical societies and the Minnesota State University-Mankato Archives. This project, part of a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, was intended to assist future researchers in topic related to cultural diversity.
- Conducted research and analysis on the changing community demographics for the 2015 and the 2016 Annual State of Diversity report for the Greater Mankato Diversity Council.
- Developed Archives and Records Management plan for the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota.
- Conducted oral histories of the twelve founding board members and the first Executive Director of the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota.
- Conducted eight individual and group oral histories for an extensive family history project in Iowa.
- Researched and wrote a variety of family histories for clients.

Rochester Community and Technical College, Rochester, MN. 2016 - 2018
Interim Dean, Sciences and Health Professions

Major Accomplishments:

- Co-Chair for the HLC Steering Committee in achieving reaffirmation of accreditation for RCTC.

- Implementation of an Academic Performance Review process and academic program prioritization process for Sciences and Health Professionals division.
- Implementation of program and division strategic plan.
- Implement budget process and adjustments while supporting academic programs.
- Improve communications across the division and between faculty and the President's Cabinet.
- In the day-to-day management of the division, streamlined processes and procedures and engendered an atmosphere of cooperation among faculty and staff.

South Central College, North Mankato and Faribault, MN. 2007 - 2015

Special Projects Administrator, Oct 2014 – Jan 2015

Major Projects:

- Developed plan to strengthen student retention for various diverse populations throughout the College.
- Worked with the MNSCU office and Poverty Institute to address issues and challenges for students with limited means.
- Represented Academic Affairs on a Leadership Team to completely redesign working policies throughout the campus.
- Redesigning a process for acquiring and hiring adjunct faculty for all areas of the College.

Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, June 2007 – Oct 2014

Major Accomplishments:

- Facilitated the development of and implemented a Strategic Plan for the Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- Reconciled the Liberal Arts budget to bring all cost centers into alignment using MNSCU Institutional Cost Study parameters.
- Expanded Liberal Arts Curriculum and created a comprehensive assessment process for all area.
- Successfully secured funding to create new facilities spaces for a state-of-the-art chemistry lab, a fully-equipped fitness & wellness center, the first ever art exhibit space on campus, and to expand on faculty and staff offices for the expanding division.
- Fostered the development of a two-day, biennial Global Conference to create educational opportunities for the region, helping to generate a greater awareness of Minnesota's diverse populations. Cultural activities included keynote speakers, break-out sessions, art exhibits, performances, and looking at cultures through their culinary cuisine. Four conferences to-date include General Native American, African and African Immigrants; the US-Dakota War; and the Hmong Society in Minnesota.
- Developed a First Year Experience course and process for implementation.
- Established a new Multimedia Program in partnership with Bethany Lutheran College.
- Collaborated with Minnesota State University-Mankato to create a new Associate of Fine Arts degree at South Central College.
- Secured an articulation agreement with Concordia University for business management and accounting students to complete a baccalaureate degree at South Central College.

The Higher Learning Commission, Chicago, IL. 2005 – 2015

- Peer Review Corps. Served as an agent of the Higher Learning Commission in its evaluation and decision-making processes for AQIP, PEAQ, and Program for Seeking Initial Status. 2005-2015
- Appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve a three-year term as a Reviewer of the First Committee of the Institutional Actions Council to conduct reviews and take appropriate actions on the majority of accreditation recommendations to come before the committee. 2011-2014

Mesabi Range College, Virginia and Eveleth, MN. 2012-2013

Interim Provost

Major Accomplishments:

- Facilitated the development of a new Strategic Plan, Mission and Vision Statements, and Institutional Learning Outcomes.
- Maximized budget areas to free up funds that allowed for facilities investment in refurbishing Student Services, bringing the gymnasium up to code, enlarging the bookstore, and adding faculty offices, all in one year.
- Created and implemented a budget process for the College.
- Restructured duties for Academic Support, the Chief Financial Officer and the Technology Director, consolidating responsibilities among campuses where possible.
- Conducted a comprehensive budget and needs analysis review to align programs with community and industry needs.
- Restructured fitness and athletic programs, policies and personnel to ensure NJCAA compliance.
- Evaluated, negotiated new service, and put in place formal agreements for new Food Service providers for both campuses.
- Created a food service dining card for students, particularly for those at-risk, so that financial aid could be used as needed.
- Successfully prepared for a Higher Learning Commission Focus Visit

Teaching American History Grant - South Central Services Cooperative, North Mankato, MN. 2009-2012

Academic Director, Minnesota River Valley Teaching American History; made possible through a Department of Education Teaching American History Grant.

Major Accomplishments:

- Successfully facilitated the development of a three-year, \$1M "Teaching American History Program" grant through the Department of Education.
- Designed educational programming around annual themes and topics to include Minnesota and American History that would aid in the professional development of history teachers in grades 4-12 from the Southern Minnesota River Valley region.
- Designed travel immersion experiences to state and national historic sites.
- Facilitated Professional Learning Communities and worked with the Minnesota Historical Society to develop Minnesota History Day curriculum.
- Worked with external evaluators to design assessment tools and collaborated with St. Mary's University and created an agreement to provide graduate credit for K-12 teachers based on program content.
- Served as the liaison to higher education partners; wrote annual reports to the Department of Education; and collaboratively wrote the final report to the Department of Education that showed the project exceeded the original grant objectives.

United States Naval Academy; Annapolis, MD, 1994 – 1996

Archivist

- Integrated the Archives within the Naval Academy Library while developing and expanding records management systems for departments throughout the Naval Academy.
- Worked with donors of archival collections; appraised records and determined disposition; provided comprehensive reference service and research assistance.
- Prepared the Annual Command History for the United States Naval Academy.
- Researched and wrote the "*Naval Academy Library (A Short History)*," United States Naval Academy's 150th Anniversary Yearbook; 1995.
- Established and executed conservation/preservation procedures; utilized MARC format for electronic cataloging of archival collection, and supervised the work of all archives technicians and volunteers.

National Archives and Records Administration; Washington, D.C., 1992– 1994

Archivist

- Trained and performed duties and completed projects in the areas of transfer (accessioning), disposition, and storage of records (including space management); records arrangement, description, and preservation; reference service and outreach.

Teaching Experience

St. Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, MN. 2010-2012

Adjunct Faculty, History Department

- Faculty member of record for graduate credits offered for Teaching American History Grant.

Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, MI. 1996-2007

Faculty Member (Continuous Full-Time) for Introduction American Government, U.S. History I and II, Western Civilization I and II, World Civilization I and II, and History of the Americas.

Academic Leadership

- Served as Chair of the Curriculum Committee from 1998 to 2007; the Chair of Social Science and Education from 1998-2001 and coordinated the North Central Accreditation, Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP) from 1999 – 2002.
- Served as Advisor for the College Student Senate from 1996-2007 and led four Student Senate trips to Washington DC. securing grants and private funding for student participation.

Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, MD. 1993-1995

Adjunct Faculty, Social Science Division

- Taught U.S. History Survey: Colonial to 1865 and U.S. History Survey: 1965 to present.

Moorhead State University, Moorhead, MN. 1990-1991

Adjunct Faculty, History Department

- Taught History of World War I, World War II, and History of America in the Vietnam War.

Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City, IA. 1989-1990

Adjunct Faculty, Social Science Division

- Taught U.S. History Survey: 1870 to present.

Professional Development and Training

2018	Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference, November 8-9, St. Paul, Minnesota
2018	Northern Great Plains History Conference, September 20-22, Mankato, Minnesota
2017	Coursera Course Certificate, Research Data Management and Sharing, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill/University of Edinburgh
2016	National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA), Digital Preservation Conference, November 9-10. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
2016	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Workshop, Winona, MN
2014	MnSCU Poverty Institute, Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, MN
2013 – 2014	MnSCU Executive Leadership Development Program, St. Paul, MN
2011 - 2012	Civil and Family Mediation Training, Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN
2008 – 2009	Greater Mankato Leadership Institute, Mankato, MN

- 2007 – 2008 Frontline Leadership: The Science and Art of Supervision, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- 1999 – 2000 The Chair Academy for Leadership Training and Development, Academic leadership training, Michigan Community College Association

Civic and Community Involvement

ARCHIVES RELATED:

- Member, Society of American Archivists, 2015 - present
- Heritage Preservation Commission member, Mankato, MN, 2015 – present
- Archival Consultant: Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota, 2017
- Archival Consultant: Betsy-Tacy Society, Mankato, MN, 2011-2012
- Archival Consultant: Ironwood (MI) Historical Society, 1998-2000

HISTORY RELATED:

- Historic Canoe Interpretive Guide and brochure development for Flambeau Trail; Hurley (WI) Chamber of Commerce, 1999-2000
- Regional Judge, History Day Competition, Minnesota Historical Society, 2015-2016.
- Historical Consultant, Wisconsin Humanities Council/Iron County Development, 2003-2006
- National Judge, History Day Competition, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 1996

OTHER:

- Board of Directors, Greater Mankato Diversity Council, Mankato, MN, 2010 –2013
- Charter Member, American Association of University Women, Ironwood, MI, 2003
- Volunteer, Hurley, WI, Public Schools, 1996-1998

Papers, Projects, Publications & Presentations

- *“Dotson: The Rise and Fall and Rise Again of American Manufacturing”* - current project.
- *“Hmong in South East Asia; The Miao Rebellion and Hmong Migration”* South Central College Global Connections Conference, North Mankato, MN. October 9-10, 2014.
- *“The Dakota War: A Historical Perspective”* South Central College Global Connections Conference, North Mankato, MN. October 11-12, 2012
- *“The Dakota War,” A Synapse: Building Connections Between Neurons, Ideas, and Community* Presentation. South Central College Lecture Series. January 18, 2012
- *“Developing Your Archival Collection,”* Presentation at the Northwestern Regional Convention, Wisconsin Council for Local History, September 27, 2003.
- Abstracter, ABC-CLIO, *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life*, 2001 – 2006.
- *“The 1931 Panamanian Revolution and the United States: A Response to Central American Political Instability.”* Great Lakes History Conference, Historical Perspectives on Diplomacy and Negotiation. Grand Rapids, MI; October 1998.
- *“An Historical View of Racial and Ethnic Violence in America,”* Presentation for Public Forum on Racial Intolerance in America, Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, MI; September 1997.
- *“Naval Academy Library (A Short History),”* United States Naval Academy’s 150th Anniversary Yearbook; 1995.
- *“Politics, History and the Public.”* Northern Great Plains History Conference, Grand Forks, ND; October 1990.