

Balancing Two Worlds

Heather M. Porter

After many years of attending the *Slayage* Conferences and being an active member of the Association, it is my pleasure and privilege to serve as treasurer through this new iteration of our organization, The Association for the Study of *Buffy+*. The *Slayage* Conference in 2004 was a formative experience for me. I was early in my career post-graduate school and working fulltime in the entertainment industry, but I was missing the academics that I had been involved in for so long. The conference itself, and relationships I formed there, allowed me to find my footing in two worlds. I came to realize that just because I was not officially involved in academia did not mean I had to leave behind my academic self. Through the mentorship, friendship, and support that I found through the *Slayage* Conferences, I expanded my work in popular culture studies to other conferences, publishing and editing (both things I never thought I would do), becoming an independent scholar while continuing to work in unscripted television.

Going into our ninth conference and as an officer for the organization, I have my feet firmly in both worlds. In my full-time career, I provide logistics and handle financials for television shows, and it is that experience I bring to my new

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position as treasurer. I will use my special skill set to the best that I can for the financial accountability and health of this organization. To be trusted to help keep this organization moving forward into a more inclusive space is something I do not take lightly. The support and mentorship that I received from this group is what I want to pay forward. I especially want to be able to help those scholars coming from nontraditional backgrounds and from outside of academia to find their place in our organization and popular culture studies as a whole.