

# Society for Values in Higher Education

## Views and Values

November 2015



What a delight it was for the SVHE staff to host SVHE members and friends in Bowling Green this summer! Many thanks to Dave Stewart and Amy Berger for their leadership on the Program Committee. But, as we all know, there are dozens of people who help make our meetings such successes—Morning Group Seminar conveners, participants and presiders in the Working Groups, all the people who help with the auction, Board members who lend a hand, our super staff person in our national office, and many more.

As usual, I left this year's meeting energized and inspired— this year by the excellent plenary lecture by Tim Eatman, the passion and commitment of the panelists from Western Kentucky University and the region, the vibrant discussion in my Morning Group, the exciting presentations in the Working Groups, and just the many conversations I had throughout the conference.

It is with that energy and inspiration that we begin planning now for the 2016 FM at historic Oberlin College in Ohio, July 13-17.

The theme of the conference is **The Politics of Dissent: Satire, Sarcasm, and Spite in Civil**

**Society.** It is a perfect topic for the Presidential election year—and it is very appropriate that we hold the meeting in a traditional swing state like Ohio.

As always, our meeting will be intellectually engaging. It will provide attendees with an opportunity to think critically about the current crises (or even if there are any crises) in American political discourse and, we hope, find some viable paths forward.

We already have secured two compelling plenary speakers for the meeting. Dr. Sophia McClennen from Penn State University will speak on Wednesday night (she is the author of numerous books, including *Is Satire Saving America?*) and Thursday night will feature Rebecca Schuman, an education columnist for Slate.

Don't forget to direct your colleagues to our Call for Papers which can be found [here](#). And we certainly hope to see all of you in Ohio next summer!

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Save the Date!

FM 2016

July 13-17

Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH

The Politics of Dissent:

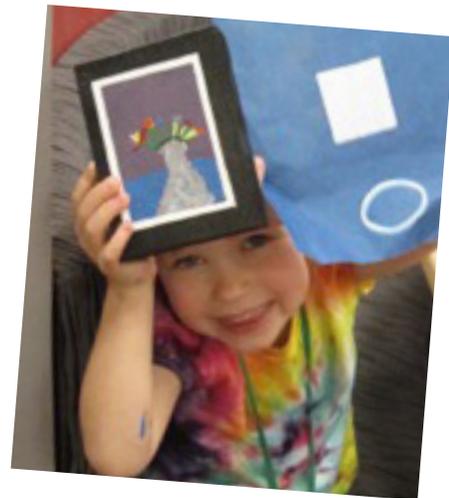
Sarcasm, satire, and spite in Civil Society

## Fellows Meeting 2015

### Western Kentucky University

Over 125 attendees gathered at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY for our 92nd meeting. David Lee, Dean of Potter College of Arts and Letters, welcomed the group at the opening social on Wednesday night. The plenary on Wednesday featured Dr. Timothy Eatman, Professor of Higher Ed at Syracuse University and Research Director for Imagining America. On Thursday afternoon, Dr. Eatman and SVHE Executive Director, Eric Bain-Selbo led a National Issues Forum focused on *The Changing World of Work: What Should We Ask of Higher Education*. Thursday ended with a panel discussion on Challenges and Opportunities to Collaboration in Higher Education that featured participants from the Peabody School of Education at Vanderbilt University, administrators from the SKCTC system, and faculty members from WKU.

The meeting schedule was full with Morning Groups and Interest Groups as well as the return of Reacting to the Past. Cathy Bao Bean offered opportunities for gentle stretching and Howard Carter led sessions in qiqong. The Call for Papers brought in a record number of first time attendees. Denise Damico and William Strosnider of St. Francis University were awarded the Robert Spivey Excellence in Scholarship Award for their work titled, *A Confluence of Crises: One Example of Interdisciplinary Collaboration on*



*Sustainability*. Jeff Moody, of the University of Tennessee was the winner of the second Spivey award for “*Hard-Won Collaboration: The Swift Closing and Subsequent Reinstatement of Tennessee’s LEAD Summer Institute*.”

Many attendees took advantage of local offerings, heading downtown to a baseball game or dinner at one of Bowling Green’s locally owned restaurants. The Reacting to the Past and the Children’s Groups both paid a visit to the Kentucky Museum on campus and the Sustainability Group was introduced to the campus activities that have earned it a Silver star rating from American Association for Sustainability in Higher Education.

The Children’s Group, once again led by John McAllister, took trips to Mammoth Cave, the Rail Park, and a local artist’s studio where they learned about sun prints and mini still-life painting. As has become tradition, they wrapped up the week with a stop at a local ice cream parlor.

No Fellows’ Meeting would be complete without the Auction. Once again Laura Bain-Selbo did a fantastic job of organizing. The live auction featured vacation stays in Ft. Myers, San Diego, and the Upper Peninsula in Michigan. The much-coveted Bean Pot, donated by Bennett Bean, as won by Bob and Martha Spivey. After a successful run, Laura

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## Fellows Meeting 2015 Western Kentucky University

### Collaboration - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

*Senior Fellows Lecture*

*Mary Papke*

I am most honored to be asked to speak to you today, and I promise to follow the 3 B's of a successful speech—Be brief, Be blunt, and Be gone. Last year, when I was waiting for the last Board meeting to finish, I overheard the discussion about this year's theme—collaboration. I had an immediate kneejerk reaction—what kind of collaboration: the good, the bad, or the ugly? No doubt this was because I am a child of World War II survivors, two people who suffered through a cataclysmic collaboration, what Martin Amis has called the exceptionalism of the Third Reich. My maternal grandfather, a Catholic school teacher, died in Gusen concentration camp, my mother was incarcerated in Ravensbruck, a concentration camp specifically for women, and my father worked his way through five forced labor camps over six years. I am not going to speak about that nor am I intending to equate incidents of collaboration one to the other. Instead, this example serves to set one end of the spectrum on collaboration with the horrifically evil. I will now turn to other less fraught illustrations from my own life on the effects of good, suspect, bad, and ugly collaborations, all curiously related in one way, it seems to me—the reproduction of the same at the cost of erasing difference.

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*Mary Papke is the Carroll Distinguished Teaching Professor, the co-chair of Commission for Women and the chair of Tennessee Studies in Literature at the University of Tennessee. She became a member of the Society in 2002 and has been a lifetime member since 2013. The full text of her presentation at the Senior Fellows Breakfast can be found [here](#).*

### Mary Jo Small Fellows

Four new Mary Jo Small Fellows were welcomed into SVHE this year in Bowling Green. **Melissa Lingle-Martin** was nominated by Fiona Tolhurst. Melissa is a colleague of Fiona's at Florida Gulf Coast University where she is an Assistant Professor of English specializing in early and nineteenth century American literature and culture, women's writing and law and literature. She is currently working on a book manuscript, *Provocations of Justice in the Civil War Era*. Former Mary Jo Small Fellow, Art Remillard nominated two individuals who were selected to receive fellowships, **Anne Blankenship** is starting a tenure track position at North Dakota State University in the History, Philosophy and Religious Studies department. **John Wilsey**, is an assistant professor of history and Christian apologetics at Southwestern Baptist Theological seminary in Houston, TX. He also serves as Senior Research Fellow for Faith and Liberty at Southwestern's Land Center for Cultural Engagement. His specialty is American historical theology, particularly the study of civil religion and its contact with Christianity. Wilsey's most recent book titled, *American Exceptionalism and Civil Religion: Reassessing the History of an Idea*, is being published by IVP Academy and will be released in early November 2015. Finally, **Terry Shoemaker** is a doctoral student at Arizona State University pursuing a PhD in Religious Studies with a concentration in Religion in Americas. He has conducted research with Harvard's Pluralism Project and currently serves as a Research Assistant at ASU's Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict. He is the author of several articles, including "God, Guts, and Glory" in the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Religious Studies* and "The Mason Jar Mentality" in the *Journal of Inter-Religious Studies*. Since its inception in 2010 the MJS Fellowship program has been awarded to 19 individuals, two of whom are currently serving as Board members.

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## Fellows Meeting 2015 Western Kentucky University

### Thanks to all who helped make FM 2015 a success!

David Stewart - Program  
Chair

Amy Berger - Program Chair

Judy Meschel

Carol Ochs

Jo Margaret Mano

Greg Sapp

Lynore Banchoff

Mary Papke

Eric Bain-Selbo

Allen Dunn

Erika Goodman

Nancy Cunningham

Fiona Tolhurst

Art Remillard

Greg Robbins

Paul Swift

Cathy Bao Bean

Howard Carter

Carl Edwards

Laura Bain-Selbo

Noel Lampazzi

Bennett Bean

Judith Puncoschar

Don Faust

Jerry Berberet

James Longstreth

The Fabulous Pottery Lottery  
ticket sellers

Adam Wright

Ellen Wright

Anna Eliot

Ruth Eliot

Alexander Bean

Audrey Bean

Elizabeth Phillips

Izzy Mano

Posy Proctor

James Proctor



### 93rd Annual Fellows' Meeting Plans in Progress

Plans for the 2016 Fellows' Meeting, to be held at Oberlin College, are well under way thanks to co-chairs Art Remillard and Stephen Baker. The Call for Papers is available for download from the website. Please share it with colleagues!

Sophia McClennan, professor of International Affairs and Comparative Literature at Penn State University, will speak on Wednesday night. Sophia's work includes *Colbert's America: Satire and Democracy* and *Is Satire Saving our Nation?*

Thursday night's presentation will feature Rebecca Shuman, a post-academic who now blogs on education issues for Salon and is a columnist for the Chronicle of Higher Education's "Vitae." An admitted "hell-raiser, truth-teller, and all purpose blabbermouth," she recently ignited a storm of controversy in the blogosphere for her unusual take on parenting a newborn.

Former SVHE president, SWCT in China leader, and author of *The Chopstick's Fork Principle*, Cathy Bao Bean, will speak at the Senior Fellows Breakfast in Oberlin.

Oberlin is located near Cleveland, OH and is a beautiful campus in a charming small town. Registration will begin in early 2016.

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## Office and BOD News

### A Call for Contributions

The SVHE Board of Directors invites you to get the FEVER: the Forum [for] Engaging Values, Education, [and] Responsibility.

What is the purpose of FEVER?

To help SVHE function as the conscience of higher education in the US and increase membership in the Society through getting our name better known.

How can I contribute to FEVER?

Write or video a short position paper of about 750 words on a challenging issue within, and impinging upon, higher education.

What are some topics FEVER might tackle?

- \* The economic and emotional complexities of the exploitation of the adjunct workforce.
- \* The place of the humanities on the campuses of newer institutions.
- \* The role of institutions of higher education in relation to the children of immigrants.
- \* The place of faith-based student groups at institutions of higher education.

Please email a position paper of 750 words, or attach a video to an email and send to Fiona Tolhurst at [ftolhurst@gmail.com](mailto:ftolhurst@gmail.com). Questions? Contact Fiona Tolhurst.

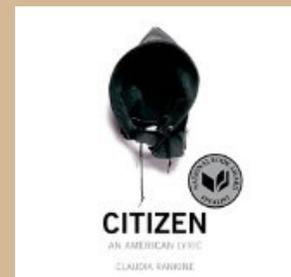
### Reading for the Common Good

Our Reading for the Common Good program continues this semester with five groups participating. Choices for the Fall reading groups included fiction and non-fiction book. *Straight Man*, a novel by Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Russo, is a hilarious send-up of the politics of academia. *The Outrage Industry: Political Opinion Media and the New Incivility*, by Jeffrey Berry and Sarah Sobieraj, provides a revealing look at today's angry rhetoric and the networks and systems that make it tick.

Designed to facilitate gatherings and conversation (a common good) in order to discuss issues related to our lives together (the common good), the program has provided over

160 books to more than 13 different groups since it began in 2013.

Jason Heller's *Taft 2012: A Novel* and Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric* are the selections for the Spring. Contact Eric Bain-Selbo for more information or to lead a group.



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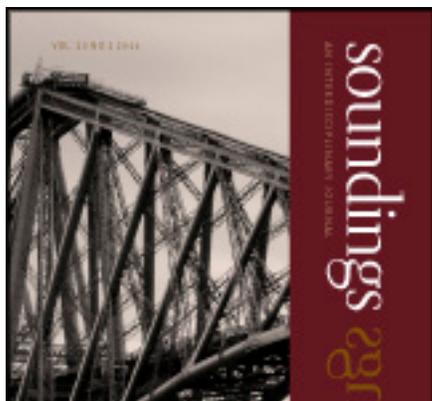
## Board of Directors 2015-2016

Eric Bain-Selbo	Executive Director	
Allen Dunn	President	
Greg Robbins	Vice President	2016
David Stewart	Treasurer	
Betsy Williams	Secretary	2016
Art Remillard		2016
Greg Sapp		2016
Melanie Howard		2017
Paul Swift		2017
Axel Steuer		2017
Fiona Tolhurst		2017
Margie Jones		2018
Julie Phillips		2018
Sylvia Skaggs McTague		2018
Amy Berger		2018
Cathy Bao Bean	Chair	
Bob Spivey	ex-officio	
John Kelsay	Soundings Editor	

Thanks to Alfred Guillaume and Meg Wiant for the service to the Board and to the Society. We will be electing 4 new Board members this Spring please let Eric or Sandy know if you have anyone you would like to nominate

### Dues Letters/Annual Fund

Dues and Annual Fund letters are in the mail! Your support through dues payments and annual fund contributions is critical to the Society. As always, you can pay dues or contribute online at [www.svhe.org](http://www.svhe.org). You do not have to log in to the members section to pay.



### Soundings An Interdisciplinary Journal Call for Papers

Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal invites essays on topics related to any and all aspects of human values, including aesthetic, moral, political, economic, scientific, or religious values. We welcome work from a variety of disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary approaches, including the arts, cultural studies, history, literature, philosophy, and religion, among others. To submit an article online click [here](#).

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# Fellows News

## Reynold Feldman

Dr. Reynold Ruslan Feldman has recently released a new book, *Terranautics 101: The Basics for Navigating an Uncertain Future*. A three-time Yale graduate and author of nine previous books, he guides readers on how to become "Terranauts"—individuals trained to navigate life well.

Dr. Feldman is also the founder of The Terranautics Project. "I believe that human development is a three-legged stool made up of parenting, formal education, and life experience," he says. "To become a good person skilled at living effectively in the world, an individual must develop their body, heart, mind, and spirit."

His belief is that all people should both be granted access to crucial information regarding their personal development and help decide how one can become an effective global citizen. That is the goal of the Project.

While he thinks *Terranautics 101* is only his personal contribution to this global need, he has made his book accessible in digital format for the low price of \$2.99. He says that he wants people to go online to Amazon or Smashwords and check the book out. But more importantly, he hopes that *Terranautics* will make people think about not only what it means to live well, but also how we each, individually and together, have the power to change the way we treat others, ourselves, and the Earth. Wanting to hear as many opinions on the matter as possible, he encourages readers to share their ideas at the *Terranautics* website: <http://www.terranaautics.org>.

## Sean O'Connell

In 1976, long-time SVHE Fellow swam around his island home of Bermuda, becoming the first and only man to do so. Sean's decision to circumnavigate Bermuda came out of a night of shooting the breeze one Friday over pints with a friend. His swim, completed on a second attempt is listed in the Guinness book of World Records and raised

thousands of dollars for the Bermuda Physically Handicapped association.

Now, 39 years later, Sean's swim has been ranked 12th by the 24 Hour Club, a list that recognizes open water swims lasting more than 24 hours.

Sean became a member of SVHE as a Kent Fellow in 1966 and is a Life Member.

Coverage of his swim can be found [here](#).

For more about it's listing by the 24 Hour Club, click [here](#).

## Axel Steuer

Axel has been elected to the position of Vice Chair of the Board of the Normandie Community College Foundation, a 14,000 student college that serves many first-generation, high need, and/or immigrant students. Axel became a member of SVHE in 1965 as a Danforth Fellow. He is currently serving as an SVHE Board member.

## John Raby

John is active with the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Friends Service Committee, working on issues related to women's rights, campaign finance reform, war and peace, global warming and, socio-economic justice. He has testified before the state legislature several times and has been able to meet with several presidential candidates. Currently, he is a columnist for his local newspaper, The Intertown Record. He was elected to SVHE in 1994.

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# In Memory

## Owen Thomas

1922-2015

The Rev. Dr. Owen C. Thomas passed away on June 29 at The Berkshire retirement community in Berkeley, California.

Owen Clark Thomas was born in 1922 in New York City. His father, Harrison Thomas, was the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in New York City; taught history and political science at Hamilton College; and published several history books. His mother, Frances Thomas, was the educational director at the League of Nations Association (later the U.N. Association) and worked with Robert Moses at the Bureau for Municipal Research in New York.

Dr. Thomas graduated from Hamilton College in upstate New York. He studied Physics in graduate school at Cornell as World War II broke out. During the war, he worked in the Naval Research Lab in Washington on ultra-high frequency radar and its counter measures. He started to attend Episcopal church services in Washington, heard the Rev. James A. Pike speak at the Church of the Epiphany and St. John's Church, and grew more involved in church activities.

After the war, in which many of his friends died, he re-thought his vocation, entered the Episcopal Theological School and was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1950. Subsequently he completed his doctorate in Philosophy at Columbia and Union Theological Seminary in 1955. His theological mentors have included James Pike and Howard Johnson at St. John's and Columbia; Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich at Columbia and Union; and Karl Barth, with whom he studied on sabbatical in Basel, Switzerland in 1963.

Owen joined the Society as a Kent Fellow in 1950. More of his obituary can be found [here](#).

## Charles William "Bill" Swain

1937 - 2014

Charles William "Bill" Swain, age 77, died unexpectedly early Christmas morning. He was born in Des Moines Iowa to Sara and Charles Swain.

He grew up in Des Moines, graduating from East High School in 1955. He got his BS degree at the State University of Iowa in 1959, followed by his PhD from Brown University, Providence, RI. He taught at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio from 1963 until 1965 when he was called to teach as one of the first two full time Professors in the newly formed Dept. of Religion at FSU. In the 1967-68 academic year he did post doctoral work at Harvard University in Asian Studies, traveled extensively in S.E. Asia and Japan, and taught at the University in Taiwan the 1985-86 academic year. He also traveled to Mainland China, and served as Director of Asian studies at FSU on his return. He retired from FSU in 1998.

He volunteered for a number of years with the Funeral Consumer Association, locally and nationally on the Board for many years and lobbied for consumer issues. He was a member and Elder at First Presbyterian Church since 1965 and actively involved in its community outreach. He loved chess and started a chess program at the character and faith based prison at Wakulla Correctional Institution, which he did until his death. He was a performer at Tallahassee Little Theatre over the years and a member of FSU Musical Associates, being a lover of music and the arts. He thought of himself as a man for others and truly lived that.

Bill entered the Society as a post doc in 1972. More of his obituary can be found [here](#).

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