



# Society for Values in Higher Education

## Views and Values

### President's Message

In late January, ten of your Board members gathered at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Among the significant things we discussed was the draft strategic plan drawn up by a committee chaired by Fiona Tolhurst (VP), and including David Stewart (Pres.), board members Joel Cunningham, Judy Meschel, Andy Sfekas, and (now former board member) Art Small. The turn to strategic planning followed from efforts made in 2007-08. The report (available to members by request), offered ten “findings” of our perceived achievements and challenges, seventeen recommendations, and nine additional recommendations related to a possible new Society focus on “Democracy.” The board laid aside the suggested focus and reaffirmed our general focus on Higher Education. This crystallized in a lengthy discussion of a draft name for the Society, “The Society for Higher Education and the Common Good.” This, as an “actual” name for the Society, has not quite been settled—but it did find consensus as representing the focus and a “value statement” (the Common Good) for everyone. You could think of it as a very short draft mission statement. Something close to it may become our proposed new name. Our hope is to present you with a version of this at the Town Meeting this summer.

Falling out from the discussion we formed a program committee for FM 2021 (to be held at Bowling Green, KY) to consider how to operationalize this mission in its program. Two recommendations, that clearly excited many board members and the program committee, were “#8. Create a space in which individuals can develop possible solutions to challenges facing higher education” and “#16. Intentionally use the Fellows’ Meeting and projects to facilitate the scholar-studio space.” The phrase “scholars’ studio” has a literature you might want to look up and learn more about. It suggests that scholars (academic and otherwise) form communities that work somewhat like an art studio. They work together to brainstorm, create, research, and construct new understandings, designs, practices, and ideas. In a way, this notion captures one of the heralded practices of the Society. Don’t we come together, talk with each other in various groups (informal and formal), and find space to imagine and dream?

Time fails me to tell you the exciting details of our By-laws update (ask for them), our budget, our new personnel review process, our membership efforts, and the things that remain on our plate. We hope to digest more of the strategic plan at our April Board call and I look forward to telling you so at the Fellows’ at IUPUI in Indianapolis, July 22-26, 2020. Be there, or be square!

Your President, Dave Stewart



96th Annual Meeting  
of the  
Society for Values  
in Higher Education  
July 22-26, 2020  
IUPUI  
Indianapolis, IN  
Registration opens soon!

FM 2020

Fellows  
News

In Memory

### About Indianapolis University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)

IUPUI resulted from the merger of Indiana University and Purdue University in 1969. It has since become Indiana's premier urban research university. IUPUI is located on the banks of the White River, near downtown Indianapolis. Most of our meeting sessions will take place in Hine Hall which is adjacent to University Tower, our home for the duration of the conference. Known as the crossroads of America, Indy is a days drive from over half the population of America. The airport is only 15 minutes from campus.

Indy is home to the world's largest sporting event, the Indy 500, but is also famous for its "Hoosier Hospitality" which you can experience at its many restaurants and gastropubs. It is also home to an innovative greenway, one of the largest contemporary art parks in the country and the world's largest Children's Museum.

Join us this year to see old friends, make new ones, and get your intellectual and spiritual batteries recharged all in a place that's easy to get to!



### A Theory of Public Higher Education

Rather than our usual plenaries, our research group will present their vision for the future of public higher education in America. Calls for the radical transformation of higher education are mounting from several sectors – both within and outside of the system. Various stakeholders are asking questions which have the chance to radically reform the identity and construction of post-secondary education in America.

At last year's FM, a newly commissioned group of researchers met to begin to unpack the problems and move towards a new theory of public higher education. The research group, commissioned and funded by the Society for Values in Higher Education with substantial funding from Indiana University, is made up of scholars of varied backgrounds and disciplinary specialties. The research project is led by Eric Bain-Selbo (Indiana University – Kokomo) and Ryan Korstange (Middle Tennessee State University), both SVHE members, who are joined by Susan Blum (Notre Dame), Tom Nelson Laird (Indiana University – Bloomington), Kate Pantelides (Middle Tennessee State University), Oscar Fernandez (Wellesley College), and Mays Imad (Pima Community College). The goal for the two-year project is deceptively simple: to develop a thorough - if idealized - plan for the future of public higher education in America.

### Celebrating the Search in the Third Age of Life

Celebrating the Search: Third Age of Life has unanimously voted to meet again and invites anyone who has experienced a major transition and is willing to share how they dealt with it and what they have learned.

When we become adolescents there is so much dis-ease. Our bodies seem alien. We can't quite imagine what's ahead. Yet with all the discomfort there is also a sense of excitement: we know there is a great adventure ahead.

What people have forgotten to tell us is that the third age of life is a second adolescence. Again our bodies are surprising us. Again we are not sure what is ahead. But with patience and trust we discover that there is, indeed, a great adventure ahead.

We discover that the body's increasing frailty is conjoined with the mind's increasing strength. We have become more thoughtful. The sharp edge of judgment has softened. Our hearts have expanded--it is amazing how much in our world there is to love. In my own experience, this is, in fact, the happiest time in my life.

I invite the Society's elders to share their wisdom, to share how their age has given them a different perspective on the current chaos around us and to help us all to celebrate what the years have brought us.

Carol (my 42nd meeting) Please let me know if you would like to join this collective of wisdom.

[Presenter: cochs@earthlink.net](mailto:cochs@earthlink.net)

### Historical Fiction

The Historical and Novel Fiction Working Group will meet this summer to discuss four novels. David Dornan will start us off leading a discussion of Eleanor Catton's **The Luminaries**, a Man Booker Prize novel about 1860's New Zealand described by one critic as "at once a fiendishly clever ghost story, a gripping page-turner, and a reinvention of the lore and power of the zodiac." Mary Papke will follow as moderator for a discussion of **The Magnificent Ambersons** by Booth Tarkington, Indiana's famous son/author. Tarkington's book is considered one of the Modern Library's 100 Best Novels of the 20th Century and was awarded the 1918 Pulitzer Prize. Tom Stockdale will introduce our discussion of Jane Smiley's **Some Luck**, the first volume in a trilogy about growing up in Iowa. Finally, Nancy Cunningham will introduce us to another generational novel, Min Jin Lee's **Pachinko**, a National Book award finalist that focuses on Korean immigrants to Japan in the 20th century.

For information about the Working Group, contact Mary Papke at [papke@utk.edu](mailto:papke@utk.edu).

## Modes of Teaching

This year, the Modes of Teaching group will focus on the theme “Blow Up Your Course!” In addition to providing a safe, multi-disciplinary environment of fellow instructors who deeply value the art of teaching, this group will include lots of open work time in which participants will be encouraged to take the time to “blow up” a course by making the more radical course design and curriculum changes that sometimes prove impossible because of their scope. Each day will include an opportunity to state intentions for the day’s work, work time, and a chance to be held accountable by sharing with the group about work that was accomplished that day.



Presenters: [Melanie Howard](#) and [Amy Berger](#)

## Reclaiming your Writing Time and Space

Join us for four morning sessions dedicated to reclaiming your writing time and space. Each day, we will 1) convene to explore the daily topics, 2) adjourn for individual or interdisciplinary team writing; and 3) reconnect for support, accountability, sharing, and celebration. Participants are encouraged to bring works-in-progress. One-on-one consultations and peer feedback will be available. This year, the primary focus will be creative writing, but participants are welcome to bring other types of writing to the workshop, including scholarly writing and curriculum development.

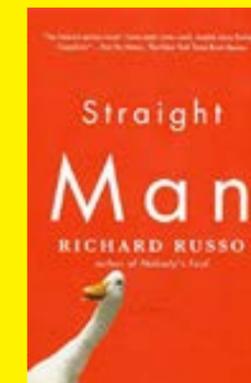
Discussion topics may include: understanding your own writing process; developing strategies to protect your writing time and space; writing without inhibition; sparking creativity during slow periods; exploring different short writing forms; autoethnography; and personal goal-setting and accountability. Participants will leave with a better sense of what works for them as writers, progress on their own writing projects, and new ideas to strengthen their writing habits.

Presenters: [Julie Phillips](#), MD, MPH, and [Christina Romero-Ivanova](#), PhD

## Pop Culture

The Pop Culture Morning Seminar examines the values that are presented, and received, through every imaginable form of popular culture, from broadcast television to video games, from pot boilers to heavy metal. This year, in keeping with the conference theme, we are thinking about the future, both in higher education and more generally, through the lens of pop culture. The areas we plan to explore include, but are not limited to:

- What, if any, insights can we draw regarding the future of higher education from the genre of academic satire?
- What role will higher education play in a world of increasing automation, income inequality, and other, potentially drastic, global changes?
- How can we, as educators, shape the future of higher education?



Our tentative schedule is as follows:

Thursday, July 23rd: Eric Ecklund (associate professor, Saint Francis University) will be leading the group in discussing Richard Russo’s novel, **Straight Man**.

Friday, July 24th: Eric Ecklund will be leading the group in discussing Kurt Vonnegut’s first novel, **Player Piano**. While **Player Piano** doesn’t quite fit the theme of the FM, it does tie in to one of our field trips!

Saturday, July 25th: The group will do a field trip to the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library (see <https://www.vonnegutlibrary.org/what-is-the-vonnegut-library/>) and, if time and interest permits, the American Pop exhibit at the Children’s Museum (see <https://www.childrensmuseum.org/exhibits/american-pop>)

Sunday, July 26th: Each participant will prepare a 10-minute presentation on the general theme\* as reflected in their pop culture genre of choice. \*Participants should feel free to focus on topics outside of the FM theme if they so desire.



Preparation – Attendees are asked to

1. Read and be ready to discuss Richard Russo’s Company
2. Read and be ready to discuss Kurt Vonnegut’s Player Piano.
3. Prepare a 10-minute presentation on the issues in the above bullet points (or related, or not, issues) drawing on the pop culture genre of your choice.

Presenter: [Eric Ecklund](#)

### Theorizing the Future: Past and Present

This year the group is taking a somewhat tangential approach to the meeting's theme, focusing on the very idea of "the future." In particular, we want to examine two representative texts that are about 100 years apart in order to think through similarities and differences in regard to ways of thinking about the future. We will spend the first two mornings focusing on Ernst Bloch's early 20th-century classic *The Principle of Hope* (specific sections TBD). The final two mornings we will focus on contemporary philosopher Susan Schneider's *Artificial You: AI and the Future of Your Mind*. Throughout our conversation, we also will consider the role of higher education in thinking about and preparing for whatever future is to come.

If you have any question, please contact [Eric Bain-Selbo](#) or [Allen Dunn](#).

### Dues and Annual Fund

Thanks to all who have contributed to our Annual Fund and paid their dues. Our last round of dues and Annual Fund letters are in the mail. We depend on your dues and contributions to keep our programs and operations running smoothly. Don't delay! Return the form or go here to:

[Pay Dues](#)

[Contribute](#)



Tax letters for 2019 have been mailed, please contact the office if you have not received one and think you should have.

### Thank you to all who contributed in 2019!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Barbara Babcock                                    | William Mowat  |
| Martha Bailey                                      | Harland Nelson - <i>in memory of Corrinne Nelson</i> |
| Eric and Laura Bain-Selbo                          | Sean O'Connell                                       |
| Lynore Banchoff                                    | Phil O'Mara  |
| Bennett and Cathy Bao Bean                         | Carol Ochs   |
| Thomas Bird - <i>in memory of John J McDermott</i> | Linda Olds   |
| Sidney Bremer                                      | Gottfried Paasche                                    |
| Howard and Nancy Corson Carter                     | Albert Rabil   |
| Gordon Clanton                                     | John Raby  |
| Joel and Trudy Cunningham                          | William Richter                                      |
| Bernard Dobroski                                   | Dan Sack   |
| Reade Dornan                                       | Stephen Sfekas <i>in memory of Cay Wiant</i>         |
| Eric Ecklund                                       | Robert Spivey  |
| Carl and Janet Edwards                             | Axel Steuer  |
| Marianne Gilbert Finnegan                          | David Stewart  |
| Dick and Gay Harter                                | Donald Stone   |
| Margaret Healy                                     | Teresa Sullivan                                      |
| David and Nancy Jones                              | Fiona Tolhurst                                       |
| Edward Kaplan                                      | Mary Treanor   |
| Terri LeClercq                                     | Kay Turner - <i>in honor of Christine Downing</i>    |
| Ellen Maher  | Robert Wenger  |
| Hillis Miller                                      | Jon Wiant  |
| Elizabeth Minnich                                  | Robert Woodworth                                     |
| James Longstreth and                               |  |
| Maria Viktoria Abricka                             |  |

Your generosity keeps the Society strong!

## Thomas Gaither

As part of our celebration of Black History Month, the Frederick Douglass Institute announces the newly created Dr. Thomas Gaither Award for Excellence to be given to a student who best exemplifies the qualities of activism and leadership in social justice.

Dr. Thomas Gaither is professor emeritus of Biology having taught at Slippery Rock University for 38 years. His work in the Civil Rights Movement as an original Freedom Rider and with the Friendship Nine has been honored globally and documented by the Smithsonian Institute.

Gaither was a Danforth Fellow in the sixties. He was arrested with the other members of the Friendship Nine ( pictured above) in 1961 at a lunch counter sit-in in Rock Hill North Carolina.



Gaither is on the right in the front row.

## Kay Turner

Kay will be presenting a lecture and performance titled "Persephone's Return/Persephone's Revenge" at the University of Toronto in April, 2020. Her band, "Girls in the Nose" will play for Gay Pride in San Francisco in June. I have 2 articles forthcoming and one just published in Marvels and Tales, Journal of Fairytale Studies.

Send any news you have to share to Sandy at [smcallister@svhe.org](mailto:smcallister@svhe.org)

## Joan McKee

**March 30, 1931 - October 31, 2019**

Joan Hollister McKee, 88, of St. Petersburg, Florida, passed away on October 31, 2019 surrounded by her family. Joan was born in Baldwin, Michigan on March 30, 1931 to Howard Hollister, co-founder of the bank that has become Lake-Osceola State Bank, and Elizabeth Kinney Hollister, home economics teacher. Joan graduated from Baldwin High School. Her interests included weaving, bowling, and pottery. The integrated nature of Baldwin and surrounding communities like Idlewild influenced her life perspective and laid the foundation for her lifelong commitment to diversity and civil rights.

Joan attended Fellows Meetings throughout the years with her husband and family. She became a Fellow of SVHE in 2009. Her daughter, Betsy Williams, continues to be active in the Society.

More of her obituary can be found [here](#).

## John J. McDermott

**January 5, 1932 - September 30-2018**

Dr. John J. McDermott, a Texas A&M University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy who passed away Sunday at age 86, was celebrated by school leaders and longtime colleagues this week as "the academic soul of the university" while being honored for his more than 60 years of teaching service, more than 40 of which were at Texas A&M.

McDermott became a member of the Society in 1964 as a Post Doctoral Fellow.

His obituary can be found [here](#).

## Harold "Hal" Jackson

**January 16, 1931 - January 27, 2020**

Reverend Harold Jackson, Jr. passed away on Monday, January 27, 2020.

Rev. Jackson worked at the Chino Men's Prison for 20 plus years. The NAACP PVB Charter Member served in many positions including service as the Branch's Chairperson for Prison Ministry, Second Vice President and Historian.

Hal was elected to membership in the Society in 2000. His wife, Agnes, came in to the Society as a Danforth Fellow. Condolences can be sent to Agnes at 6 Ridgewood Ct., Pomona, CA 91766