

Society for Values in Higher Education

Views and Values

Executive Director's Corner

The staff and volunteers of the Society for Values in Higher Education are busy planning for the 2017 annual meeting at Simmons College in Boston. The meeting is July 12-16, and we certainly hope to see you there. Registration is now open!

While the annual meeting certainly keeps us pre-occupied, there are many other exciting things happening with and around SVHE.

As many of you have noticed, the SVHE website has been updated and given a new look. There are significant improvements, and we thank SVHE member Ellen Marcus for her incredible web design work.

Cathy Bao Bean and her crew are preparing for another round of Summer Workshops for College Teachers in China. This ongoing initiative of SVHE has brought important pedagogical conversations and techniques to hundreds of Chinese faculty members.

We hope everyone has been enjoying their issues of *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. This year marks volume 100 of the journal, with special re-printing of important articles alongside thought-provoking new pieces that explore values questions from an impressive array of academic disciplines.

As part of our effort to secure fiscal sustainability for the Society, I am delighted to announce the signing of a new agreement between SVHE and Western Kentucky University. WKU has been a great host for SVHE and, more recently, the *Soundings* office, providing both infrastructure and financial support. The new agreement extends our relationship another five years (beginning January 1, 2018)—providing a secure home for SVHE and *Soundings* for several years to come. Many thanks to Dean Lawrence Snyder (Potter College of Arts and Letters at WKU) and Provost David Lee for their continued support.

Speaking of *Soundings*, last year I was invited by the editor of Penn State University Press (publisher of *Soundings*) to join a group participating in the Scholarly Communications Institute in North Carolina. A grant proposal came out of our work there, and I am happy to report that the Mellon Foundation has agreed to fund the group's work for the next year. Our focus is on small scholarly societies in the humanities—in particular, how to help them be more sustainable and thus more efficient and productive in their scholarly communications (journals, newsletters, etc.).

Certainly the annual meeting is the highlight of any year for the Society. At the same time, our staff and members are busy throughout the year working on activities and initiatives that sustain the organization and advance values critical to higher education.

See you in Boston!



Online Registration now open!

93rd Annual Fellows Meeting

July 12-16, 2017

Simmons College, Boston, MA

Sacrifice, Consumption, and the Public Good

Register before June 1st for Early Bird Rates!

FM 2017

In
Memory



Featured Speakers



Daniel McCarthy

Wednesday, July 12
7:00pm

Daniel McCarthy is editor at large of The American Conservative magazine. His journalism has appeared in a wide range of publications on both sides of the Atlantic, including The New York Times, USA Today, the National Interest, The Spectator, and the Daily Telegraph. Outside of journalism, he has worked as a senior editor of ISI Books and contributed to the volume *Dilemmas of American Conservatism* from the University Press of Kentucky. He is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, where he studied classics. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia

Lee Hull Moses

Thursday, July 13

"Enough for the Day, Enough to go Around"

7:00pm

A graduate from both Albion University and the University of Chicago's Divinity School, Lee Hull Moses is a writer and speaker. Her most recent publication *More Than Enough: Living Abundantly in a Culture of Excess* explores the effects that the consumer mindset has on not only the planet, but the people around us. Lee currently serves as pastor at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Greensboro, North Carolina.



Auction!

The wonderful Laura Bain-Selbo has agreed to organize the Auction again this year after a resounding success last year! Thanks to the generosity of Cathy Bao Bean and Bennett Bean, we will once again have the Pottery Lottery, with a prize of one of Bennett's famous pieces.

Can you offer up a vacation home for a weekend or a week? Let Laura know so she can start putting together a slide show. Vacation places make great live auction items! Bring items to donate, money to spend, and an extra bag for your haul.

Contact Laura at laura-bain-selbo@wku.edu.

Children's Program

There are so many opportunities in Boston, it's hard to decide what to do with our limited time! History, art, the great outdoors! We'll do as much as we can to have fun and maybe learn a little something! Participants should plan on bringing comfortable shoes because there might be a lot of walking. You'll be taking Boston's subway, known as the T, so it would be a great idea to bring a light bag, big enough to hold a drink and your T-pass. As always, we'll try to get some swimming in and of course, end the week with ice cream!



Friday Night in Boston

We don't schedule any programming on Friday nights so attendees have an opportunity to explore a bit on their own. For those wishing to explore outside the Fenway neighborhood, Simmons is close to two subway stops. The neighborhood itself is home to the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum and the Museum of Fine Arts as well as many restaurants and shops. To learn more about the Fenway neighborhood, click [here](#).

If you hope to grab dinner in one of the more popular areas of town, *the North End*, *Harvard Square*, I strongly recommend reservations.

Senior Fellows Lecture and Breakfast

Saturday, July 15, 8:00am

"Looking Back, Looking Ahead, Exploring other Dimensions"

All meeting attendees are welcome to join us at the Senior Fellows Breakfast and Lecture. This year, Howard Carter will be the featured speaker. Howard has been a Society member since 1973.

Morning Group Seminars

Academic Game Design

Are you interested in learning more about how to engage your students, enliven your teaching, and teach teamwork, strategy, and leadership along with concepts and content? Academic Game Design is for you!

This group is a working morning group. We will incorporate substantial independent time for participants to develop their own projects. Leaders from a variety of academic disciplines will describe use of their own games in the classroom. The group will provide feedback to anyone interested in creating or developing a "Reacting to the Past"-style academic role playing game. Participants will engage in their own scholarship and provide feedback for each other. We will play short games during the week – maybe yours!

All stages of game development are welcome. Conveners: [Julie Phillips](#), [Amy Berger](#), [David Stewart](#)

*****Academic Game Design was a late addition and therefore not on the registration form. Please let Sandy know if you've registered and would like to change to this seminar.*****

Historical Fiction

The Historical Fiction Work Group will discuss four novels this summer. Nancy Cunningham will lead off with the discussion of Yaa Gyasi's *Homecoming*, one of the 10 New York Times Best Books of 2016. Tom Stockdale will then moderate a discussion of Thomas Mann's *Buddenbrooks: The Decline of a Family* (preferred edition is John E. Woods' translation). Mary Papke will lead the discussion of Alice McDermott's *Someone*, and we will conclude the group with discussion of Joyce Carol Oates's *The Sacrifice* facilitated by David Dornan.

Convener - [Mary Papke](#)

Celebrating the Search

Celebrating the Search will continue its joyous convening and we have three spots already spoken for: John Raby, Nancy Corsan Carter and Allison Moore. But we also have a very welcome spot for YOU to share some of your experiences in a very welcome atmosphere.

Convener - [Carol Ochs](#)

Popular Culture Morning Group

I confess. I was obsessed with Donald Trump's Celebrity Apprentice. So much so that I held viewing parties in hopes that my friends and neighbors would catch the fever. Whether you were a fan of the show or not, it is hard to deny the influence of popular culture in shaping our values and world views.

This Morning Group provides an extraordinary opportunity to analyze the content, production, and distribution of all things popular culture.

In Boston, Batman will be on our radar. Kent Tonkin (St. Francis University) will facilitate a session on the ethics of the caped crusader. The Group will consider whether Batman is a hero or a villain. Like Batman, his foes, are also born of tragedy. What makes their choices different?

After discussing big brother Bruce Wayne, the Group will turn their attention to an Orwellian topic. Scott Berger, a long-time Popular Culture Group Member, will lead a discussion on alternative facts, fake news and more.

Finally, in our Group's newest tradition, we will take a field trip to explore a local cultural institution. Right now, Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art is on the agenda. We will see Academy Award Winner Steve McQueen's (12 Years a Slave) video project, entitled Ashes. This acclaimed work of art demonstrates that video has not lost its punch. We will need to catch our breath when it is over.

Convener - [Erika Goodman](#)

Morning Group Seminars

New this Year

American Freedom, Individualism, and the Common Good: Experiencing Public History in Boston

We will delve into the American roots of this year's conference theme of "sacrifice, consumption, and the public good" through tours of Boston's Freedom Trail and Black Heritage Trail. Primary and secondary source readings, together with small group discussion, will focus on questions of how Americans deploy our stories about ourselves and what those deployments tell us about the significance of individualism and the common good in contemporary American life. Who is included and excluded? How do ideologies of oppression, inferiority, and superiority shape conceptualizations of individualism and the common good?

Conveners - [Denise Holladay Damico](#), [William Strosnider](#), [Art Remillard](#)

Theorizing Culture

Most people agree that we are morally obligated to make some personal sacrifices in order to assure the wellbeing of those around us, but there is considerable disagreement about how much sacrifice a moral life requires. The philosopher Peter Singer has argued forcefully that a moral life requires much more sacrifice than most people are willing to give. Indeed, he argues that citizens who enjoy a middle-class standard of living should be willing to donate a substantial portion of their income to alleviate the suffering found in less developed parts of the world. Not surprisingly, these claims are highly controversial. In this Morning Group, we will read a selection of Singer's work, and then consider some of the objections raised by his critics.

Conveners: [Eric Bain-Selbo](#) and [Allen Dunn](#)

Interest Groups

Poetry Circle - All are welcome to participate in this group: writers, readers, listeners, singers. Humor and creativity are welcome. Come be with this circle that has been part of the meeting for twenty years.

Convener: [Lynore Banchoff](#)

God Wrestling -Godwrestling will continue and we will focus on why the Creation Story (Genesis 1 and 2) is so central to our self-understanding and why the earliest heresies (centuries before Darwin) focused on alternative ways of understanding Creation. All are welcome to join our discussion!

Convener - [Carol Ochs](#)

Women's Group - The Womens Group provides all women with a confidential space to share concerns an offer support. Practical advice is a frequent component.

For more info - [Nancy Jones](#)

LGBTQI - The LGBTQI group is self-directed and open to all, including allies, those questioning their own identities, or curious to know more about these lenses on life. The group that assembles will develop its own agenda.

Other Activities

Howard Carter will be offering two sessions of Qijong again this summer. Cathy Bao Bean will also lead an afternoon stretch class. Space for meditation is available in the dorm and, weather permitting, outside. The Town Hall meeting and Memorial Service are great opportunities to keep up with what is going on in the Society and honor Fellows who have died in the past year.

Anne Murphy

November 1, 1925 - March 11, 2017

Born Nov. 1, 1925 in Greenville, PA, Dr. Murphy was a professor of Political Science and taught at Eckerd College from 1966 to 1986. She graduated from the College of Wooster in 1948, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University in 1952 and a PhD in Political Science from the University of North Carolina in 1968. A member of Maximo Presbyterian Church since 1966, she was ordained as a ruling Elder in 1970. In 1977 she was elected a Commissioner from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay to the United Presbyterian Church USA General Assembly in Baltimore. Soon after, she was elected to the Advisory Council on Church and Society. From 1987 to 1990 she served as Stated Clerk for the Southwest Florida Presbytery, then chaired the Trustees of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay until 1996. She also served on the board of Directors of the Beth El Farmworker Ministry. Anne Murphy worked tirelessly her entire life for social justice and world peace.

Divorced in 1962, she raised three children on her own, during her long and productive life. She is predeceased by her daughter, Sarah Anne Murphy and survived by her son, Timothy Leigh Murphy and daughter, Esther Doe Murphy. A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 18, 11 am at the Maximo Presbyterian Church, 3200 58th Ave. S., St. Petersburg. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to either the American Friends Service Committee or the Beth El Farmworker Ministry, Anne Austin Murphy Scholarship Fund.

Anne entered the Society in 1963 as a Kent Fellow and was an active, dues paying member until her death.

Dan Via

1929 - 2014

Dan Otto Via Jr., son of late Dan Otto Via and Josephine Carter Via, died on October 12, 2014 at the age of 85. He is survived by Margaret, his beloved wife of 64 years; his son Dan, daughter-in-law Susan, grandsons Forrest and Nathan; his son Carter, daughter-in-law Amy, grandson Joseph and granddaughter Rebecca; his sister Mary Jo McCarrick and brother-in-law Tom; and cousins, nieces and nephews, who have been an important part of his life. Dan was born and reared in Charlottesville and attended public schools here. He is a summa cum laude graduate of Davidson College, and is a member of Phi Gamma Delta and Phi Beta Kappa. He received the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and his PhD in biblical studies from Duke University. He was awarded the honorary Doctor of Letters by Davidson College. Dan's primary field of teaching and research was the New Testament, especially its theology and ethics. He also had an interest in literary criticism and the religious significance of fiction. After serving on the faculties of Wake Forest University, the University of Virginia and The Divinity School of Duke University, he retired from the latter in 1991 as Emeritus Professor of New Testament. Over the course of his career, he taught as a visiting professor at Harvard Divinity School, the University of Zimbabwe, Acadia Divinity College in Canada, and the Iliff School of Theology. - See more [here](#).
Dan entered the Society as a Post Doctoral Fellow in 1970.

Please note, we were only recently made aware of Dan's death in 2014.