

Society for Values in Higher Education

Views and Values



Executive Director's Corner



The summer of 2020 will not soon be forgotten. It perhaps was one of the most historic summers in American history—especially in recent memory.

A worldwide pandemic has devastated the lives of millions of Americans (including more than 200,000 deaths) and brought widespread economic uncertainty. The police killing of George Floyd sparked renewed calls for racial justice, and the social unrest that has ensued has further divided an incredibly polarized citizenry. Fears over climate change seem completely justified in recent months as Western portions of the country literally are going up in flames while the Gulf coast is drenched and washed away by hurricanes and flooding. And, of course, all of this is happening in the midst of a presidential campaign—pitting the “back-to-normalcy” campaign of Joe Biden against the great disrupter Donald Trump.

Any of these stories alone have dominated the summer's news. All of them at once was overwhelming. Rarely has the our country needed more its institutions of higher education. We need their faculty for their expertise to guide us through these difficult times. We need them even more to educate our citizenry—to cultivate their curiosity and creativity, to develop their ability to think critically and constructively, and to understand their role in continuing to nurture and improve our democracy to make it more inclusive, just, and equitable.

Our Society is committed to the critical role that higher education plays in our country and especially at this time. We continue to develop programming that supports faculty and we continue to challenge higher education to move ever closer to its ethical and social ideal. In this regard, I am particularly excited about some of our newest efforts—a writers workshop retreat in October, the new Chats with Change Agents series, plans for a mid-year mini-conference, our Theory of Public Higher Education research team, and so much more.

So, thanks to all SVHE members for your continued support and good work. I am so proud of our organization for rising to our current challenges.

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97th Annual Conference

July 14-18, 2021

Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Can We Talk?

The University's Role in Public Discourse

We missed seeing everyone in person this year, but thanks to a quick pivot by your program committee and staff we had a very successful first ever virtual conference. Members who have not been able to attend the conference in some time joined us and all were able to reconnect and enjoy each other's company. Additionally, the virtual format allowed for the introduction of some new elements to the program that were very well-received.

Chats with Change Agents gave attendees the opportunity to engage with higher ed professionals changing the field. Tressie McMillan Cottom and Anthony Jack shared their research and experiences relating to key issues of diversity, inclusion, access, and justice in higher education. Viji Sathy and Kelly Hogan presented a session on inclusive education, specifically focusing on online learning. Our Theory of Public Higher Education team led a session designed to get feedback that will allow them to complete the two-year project. Look for a special issue of *Soundings* in the spring. Finally, the Gallery of Wicked Provocations project added a new twist to our traditional Call for Papers. Participants were asked to present their work, in any format in response to a self-selected challenge facing higher education.

Though we are planning to be in person next year, we intend to continue to offer virtual interactions as well! Thanks to all participants who joined us as we ventured into the unknown.

And the Rock went home with...

Jon Wiant!

While with Eric and Laura Bain-Selbo, the Rock travelled to the UK and Ireland, enjoying stops in pubs, an appearance at the British Open, and a visit with ancestors at Giant's Causeway. The Rock's usual activities were curtailed by COVID-19, but the time spent social distancing allowed for some much needed rest and relaxation!

The Rock travelled via USPS to spend this year with Jon Wiant. Though 2020 is still presenting unforeseen challenges, the Rock, along with the rest of us are hopeful 2021 will be better!



Thanks to all who helped make our Virtual Meeting a Success!

Our annual meetings would not be possible without the many people who generously contribute their time and talents as well as those who contribute items for the auction, to our special appeal, and by purchasing those one of a kind items that can only be found at the SVHE auction! A special thank you to the following for their willingness to serve in a variety of ways.

Judy Meschel	Laura Bain-Selbo	Eric Ecklund
Mary Papke	Melanie Howard	Kent Tonkin
Cathy Bao Bean	Eric Ecklund	Christina Romero-Ivanova
Bennett Bean	Fiona Tolhurst	Terry Shoemaker
Lynore Banchoff	Ryan Korstange	Phil O'Mara
Allen Dunn	Julie Phillips	
Howard Carter	Amy Berger	
Nancy Corson Carter	Carol Ochs	

FM 2021

Planning for the meeting next summer is already underway. Building on the Gallery of Wicked Provocations concept, the program committee has devised multiple ways to participate rather than just the paper presentations of previous years. Complete information about participation is available on our website; registration information will be available soon. In the meantime, see below for upcoming events that will allow you to stay connected to SVHE until July 2021.

Upcoming Events

Chats with Change Agents

On November 17, at 2:00pm Eastern time, Eric Bain-Selbo will be hosting a virtual chat with Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Director of Digital Humanities and Professor of English at Michigan State University. The chat will focus on her latest book, *Generous Thinking: A Radical Approach to Saving the University*. There is no cost, but you need to register through our to get the link.

We have a virtual writing retreat happening this weekend, and other activities are in the planning stages!

Executive Director Search

The search for a new Executive Director will begin soon. Please share information about the position with anyone you know who might be interested. Application materials are due to society@svhe.org by December 1st, 2021. The full position announcement can be found [here](#).

Society News

Board of Directors
2020-2021

		Term Ends
Melanie Howard	President	2023
Julie Phillips	Vice President	2021
Ryan Korstange	Treasurer	2022
Amy Berger	Secretary	2021(Sec)2023 (BOD)
Edward Carson		2021
Eric Ecklund		2021
Dorothy Hurlburt		2022
Judy Meschel		2022
Joel Cunningham		2022
Terry Shoemaker		2022
Greg Robbins		2023
Reade Dornan		2023
Cathy Bao Bean	Chair	
Bob Spivey	ex-officio	
Eric Bain-Selbo	Executive Director	
Sandy McAllister	Associate Director	

Thanks to Andy Sfekas and Fiona Tolhurst for their service to the Board and the Society.
We will be electing new Board members in the Spring, please let Eric or Sandy know if there is anyone you would like to nominate.

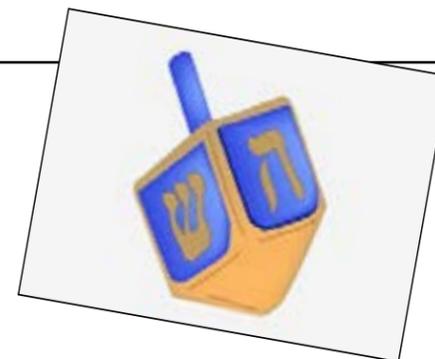
Mary Jo Small Fellow Nominations

If you know an early to mid-career colleague that you think might enjoy the benefits of being an SVHE member, nominate them for a Mary Jo Small Fellowship! Fellowships include free membership for one year, registration, room and board, and a travel stipend for the summer meeting. Several of our most active younger members were first introduced to the Society as Mary Jo Small Fellows.

Holiday Virtual Auction

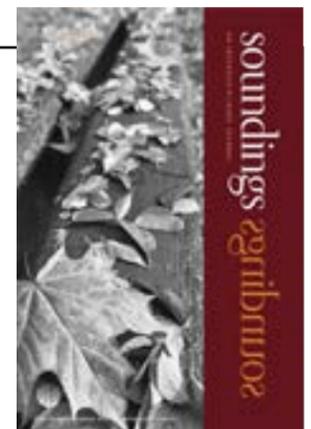
Here's an opportunity to think about something completely unrelated to the crazy world events we're experiencing! You know you want a distraction. Here's a great one. If you attended our July online conference, you saw our Auction-Virtual Version in action. Several of you were bummed you missed the submission deadline, and all of us have things at home that should have a new home. And what better time to acquire a new treasure than in time for the holiday gift-giving season?

Contact [Judy Meschel](#) or [Sandy](#) for more information.



Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal

In the next issue of *Soundings* our reviewers look at *The Wings of Atlanta: Essays Written along the Color Line*, by Mark Richardson and *Moving Up Without Losing Your Way: The Ethical Costs of Upward Mobility*, by Jennifer M. Morton. In his essay focusing on the Bosnian War and its lingering consequences, "Building Bridges Among Bridge-Destroyers: Post-Conflict Interfaith Dialogue After the Bosnian War," Peter Admirand uses witness testimonies to evaluate the place and value of interfaith dialogue and examines the goals and work of interfaith bodies seeking to establish some form of peace and intercultural/interfaith normalization. Hazel Frankel discusses R.B. Kitaj's painting *If Not, Not* in "Shards of the Shoah in R.B. Kitaj's *If Not, Not* (1976)" with references to aesthetic representation of the Holocaust. Finally, in "The Limits of the Ethnographic Turn," Barat Ranganthan challenges the recent reduction of comparative religious ethics to ethnography. Print copies will be mailed October 22nd; the journal will go live online around that time too. More information about *Soundings*, including how to submit, can be found [here](#).

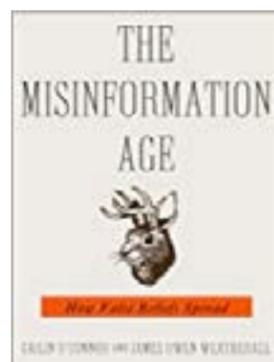
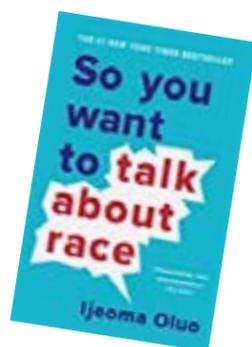


Fellows News

Reading for the Common Good

After seven years, our Reading for the Common Good program is going strong. We have six groups this year meeting virtually to discuss a book related to the theme of our summer conference “Can We Talk? The University’s Role in Public Discourse.” Given the widespread protests for racial justice and our country’s continuing struggles in talking about race, we have selected *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo as our selection for the fall. This New York Times bestseller is sure to lead to productive conversations.

Any SVHE Fellow can lead a group, just gather a group of 8-12 colleagues, committed to reading and discussing the book monthly. SVHE provides the books free of charge. The spring book choice is *The Misinformation Age: How False Beliefs Spread* by Caillin O’Connor and James Wetherly. We’ll put out a call for participation in early January.



Phil O’Mara had a review published in the 16th Century Journal. He also presented a paper at a Black Studies conference on *Omeros* by Derek Walcott. He intended to present his research on the concept and practice of friendship at the 2020 Medieval Congress. Unfortunately, that event was cancelled.

Marianne Novy received a special Lifetime Achievement Iris Marion Young Award for Social Justice from the University of Pittsburgh’s Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies program. Iris Young is her former colleague at Pitt, a feminist philosopher and activist, who died in 2006. She was honored especially for her work in adoption studies, including writing *Reading Adoption? Family and Difference in Fiction*, co-founding the Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture, and the Pittsburgh Consortium for Adoption Studies, all interdisciplinary organizations active in raising awareness about the rights of all parties involved in adoption and the political contexts that impact adoption.

Her latest book, *Shakespeare and Feminist Theory*, came out in paperback from Bloomsbury last year.

Dues/Annual Fund

It’s that time of year again!

Dues and Annual Fund have been mailed! New this year, you can sign up for auto-pay online! You’ll never have to worry about forgetting to pay your dues again! Sign up [here](#)! You can also set up a recurring contribution to the Annual Fund! SVHE depends on your dues and Annual Fund contributions to continue its good work!

Do you follow us on Facebook?

Another way to keep up with SVHE is to join our members only group or like our page on Facebook.



Forum

The Forum for Values in Higher Education is an online publication of the Society for Values in Higher Education that provides a public venue for the discussion of ethical and political issues that impact higher education in the United States.

Authors are invited to submit short position papers of about 750 words (500-1000), or a brief video, on a challenging issue within, and impinging upon, higher education

In our latest post, Mary Papke continues her series on teaching about women, gender, and sexuality with a discussion of the work of Kate Manne and Susan Glaspell’s 1917 short story, “A Jury of Her Peers.” Click [here](#) to read or comment, or follow.

For more information, or to submit an article for consideration, please contact us at forum@svhe.org.

A reflection on the March on Washington

Phil O'Mara

August 2020

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, August 28, 1963, took place at a time when the President, John F. Kennedy, was sincerely but, I think that it is fair to put it this way, somewhat timidly, favorable to the Civil Rights movement and accepting of the March; maybe even cordial to the participants. He had grown during his presidency to be more fully aware and understanding of the need of voting rights, for instance. That was a different time.

I was in graduate school at Notre Dame, but the summer session was over and I took a bus home to New York, then went over to The Catholic Worker on Chrystie Street, where I met a couple of friends, one of whom, Sheila, I had known at Notre Dame. She was working on a dissertation at the U. of Toronto, but took the summer off to volunteer at the Catholic Worker, and had agreed to go to the March along with me. Neither of us had a car. On August 27, we got together with a man from Massachusetts, Ray Leclair (in later years I stayed in touch with him for quite a while), who had a van, and early on the morning of the 28th we got on Ray's van and headed south.

The journey was pleasant, no traffic jams on the highway, and before long we were in the midst of a lot of buses, also heading to the March. Ray knew the highway well, we talked about his work and his family, our interests, plans, and involvement in the Movement, our attraction to The Catholic Worker, etc.

Then, in Maryland, not far from the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, we saw a middle-aged Black woman holding up a sign that read, March on Washington. We had room in the van, so we stopped for her. Her name was Gloria. Her husband was in the Navy and worked at the Proving Grounds.

We told her that we were glad that we would have her company to the March and she said that, in fact, she might not get to it at all. She was hoping to use the occasion to find someone in the government who could help their family. The three of us looked at one another, baffled.

She explained that they had a son in his teens, EMR as they said in those days, educable mentally retarded, but originally quite successful in a special program at the local school. Then, a year or so before, when he was supposed to be able to take the bus to school by himself, he was required to take the regular school bus, and when the others on the bus realized that he was EMR, some of the boys beat him up, so severely as to damage his brain and, of course, to destroy most of the progress that he had made.

We expressed our regret and anger at this turn of events but couldn't see how it connected with her plans for the day. She said that she thought, with so many people gathered from everywhere, she would be able to track down a government official who knew how they could find help for their boy.

Ray and I stared at one another; Sheila came near to crying. We said something about how hard it must be to find people who could help, that the day itself might be an obstacle, but she was confident.

We reached Washington in plenty of time and Ray, who knew the city, found a parking place not far from the Mall. As we walked toward it, we saw women wearing sashes, marshals giving people information about how to find the crowd, which was increasing by the minute, and telling us, of course, to be sure to obey any police requirements, etc.

Gloria, before we could stop her, rushed up to one of the women and poured out her story, which took no more than a few minutes but filled us with anxiety; suppose the woman took offense or said something harshly dismissive?

The woman listened patiently and then said, I am probably quoting verbatim or nearly so after all these years, "I believe the person whom you should see is my husband. He works for the agency in the Department of Education [she may have said Health, Education and Welfare, I think that it was then just one Cabinet position] that supervises programs such as the one your child will need." She then explained that the entire office had the morning off to attend part of the March, but that they had to be at their desks for the whole afternoon. She then wrote down her husband's name, the name of the building where he worked, and his office number, and gave her directions, saying, stay for the morning part of the March, get to his office not long after one p.m., and he will see you.

Sheila, Ray and I stood staring. We thanked the woman for helping Gloria, Gloria thanked her profusely, and we made our way to the Mall. At a few minutes before one p.m., Gloria thanked us for the help, assured us that she could get back to Aberdeen on her own, and headed off to whatever building it was.

I had pleasant conversations with several people we met that day, Dr. King's great speech made just as great an impression as you have been told, I had a very brief encounter with another old friend, Rich Giloth, who was there on assignment from a TV station and who has only recently died, the Freedom Singers led many of us in Movement songs as the March was ending, and Sheila, Ray and I got back to New York safely, although fairly late that night. A remarkable day, Gloria's adventure the most remarkable part of it for us.

As long as Black lives don't matter enough to enough people, especially armed men, especially the police, there will be need for a Black Lives Matter movement. In the 1960's we were worried about police brutality, of course, and about the Klan, but for the most part we thought that access to jobs, education, health care, the vote, and public accommodations would surely bring the nation all of the great changes that were most needed, so that civility and respect would grow naturally from all of the above. Perhaps such a good time is coming.

In Memory

Freeman Sleeper - July 1933 - September 2019

Dr. C. Freeman Sleeper, 86, of Roanoke, Va., passed away peacefully on September 28, 2019, after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Freeman was born on July 19, 1933, in New Haven, Conn. to Mr. and Mrs. L. Maxwell Sleeper and is survived by his wife of 32 years, Mamie Lewis Sleeper; his brother, David Sleeper and wife, Beverly; his daughter, Deborah Lannen and husband, John; his three sons, Paul Sleeper and his wife, Lisa, Jonathan Sleeper and his wife, Heidi Avery, and Mark Sleeper; his stepdaughter, Cheree' Shelton; two stepsons, Dale Shelton and James Shelton; 8 grandchildren, Lucretia Myers and husband, Matthew, David Sleeper, Brittany Layne and husband, Steven, Justin Sowers, Cara Estes and husband, Robert, Monica Lannen, Katherine Lannen, and Emily Lannen; and 6 great-grandchildren, Landon and Lillian Myers, Heidi and Jaxon Layne, and Victoria and Graham Estes; and his first wife and mother of his children, Susan S. Y. Johnson.

Freeman became a Society member as a Kent Fellow in 1956. The full obituary can be found [here](#).

Keith Kester - October, 1939 - July, 2020

Keith Bruce Kester, Em to his daughters, passed away on July 17, 2020. He was born and raised in the mid-west to parents Bruce and Hazel along with his two younger brothers. A long full life dedicated to education included his undergraduate years at Grinnell College and continued at Harvard University where he received his PhD in Chemistry in 1968. During his time at Harvard Keith had to decide on a career path between two lifelong passions, science and religion. Keith went on to an impressive career at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO as Professor of Chemistry from the time he graduated from Harvard in 1968 to his retirement in 2012. Fortunately as a professor at Colorado College he found a way to combine the two by collaborating with the religion department and was very active in the community with several organizations such as the New Earth Covenant Community, a Rocky Flats clean-up project, and the Society for Religion in Higher Education.

Keith came into the Society as a Kent Fellow in 1964. The full obituary can be found [here](#).

Greg Sapp March 1963 - September 2020

Greg Sapp, 57, died on September 19, 2020, in his home in DeLand, Florida. A small family service was held Friday, September 25, followed by a graveside service at noon at Oakdale Cemetery.

Dr. Sapp was born on March 15, 1963, and adopted by Orpha and Leonard Sapp. He received an AA from the University of Florida, and graduated from Stetson University with a BA in Religious Studies in 1988. He went on to earn his Master of Divinity from Princeton University, and Ph.D from the University of Virginia. Dr. Sapp taught at West Virginia University and Mercer University before returning to his alma mater. The family moved back to DeLand in 2006, when Dr. Sapp accepted a position as the Hal S. Marchman Chair of Civic and Social Responsibility at Stetson University.

Greg was nominated to be a Fellow in SVHE in 2009. His full obituary can be found [here](#).