

## SOAR Faculty Profiles 2017

**E. Lawrence Abel PhD** is Emeritus Professor at Wayne State University. He is past president of two international societies and was former Director of the Mott Center for Human Growth and Development. Professor Abel has published more than 40 books and 200 journal articles, as well as numerous articles in Civil War trade magazines. (Spring)

**Stephanie Allard PhD** is Director of Animal Welfare at the Detroit Zoological Society, and holds numerous leadership positions within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Her education spans human biology and anthropology, neuroscience, behavioral biology and experimental psychology. She has over 15 years of experience developing and managing research, conservation programs and animal care and welfare activities in zoos. (Spring)

**Barbara Altwerger** has degrees in art education and fashion, with a specialty in textiles. In the past 14 years she has taught fashion design at International Academy of Design and Technology, and fashion merchandising at the Art Institutes both in Novi and Troy. She was the inaugural winner of the wearable art contest at the Sewing Expo in Novi and she continues to study with top artists in the textile design field. (Spring)

**Eric Ash PhD** is Professor of British and European history at Wayne State University, where he has taught for fifteen years. He specializes in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English history, the history of science and technology, and environmental history. He is the author of two books and several articles. (Spring)

**Mike Beltzman** attended Detroit schools and graduated from Wayne State University. Since retiring, he has led film discussions in Michigan and Florida. He has also participated in film festivals for many years. Mike is well-known at SOAR for his ability to promote discussion and create an enjoyable classroom experience. (Spring)

**Jeffrey L Bernstein PhD** is Professor of Political Science, Interim Director of the Master of Public Administration Program, and Affiliated Faculty in Jewish Studies at Eastern Michigan University. He recently co-edited a text on collaborative learning and is currently working on a book on presidential nomination processes. (Spring)

**Jan Bills** owns and operates Two Women and a Hoe™, a boutique landscape company specializing in indoor/outdoor sustainable landscape design, consultation, installation, and garden maintenance. She is an Advanced Master Gardener, a Certified Landscape Designer, a contributing writer for *Michigan Gardening* magazine, and author of *Late Bloomer*, a book to be published November 2016. (Spring)

**Donald Borsand OD** is a military historian with a particular interest in WW II and related subjects. He has devoted over 50 years of research and study to the subject of war, both formally at university and informally during his professional and business careers. In 2003, Dr. Borsand retired after a 40-year career in eye care, first as a practicing doctor of optometry and second, as the CEO of a large eye care delivery system in Michigan. (Spring)

**Lynn Breuer LMSW** serves as Team Leader and Director of Marketing for ElderCare Solutions of Michigan, a program of Jewish Family Services. Formerly, she worked in the pharmaceutical industry, helping the sales force understand the importance of treating depression and anxiety. She earned her credentials at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. (Spring)

**Chuck Broh PhD** has taught at Case Western Reserve University, Oakland University and Wayne State University and has worked for the Young and Rubicam Advertising Agency. He has led several courses at SOAR and currently facilitates a film group at the Jewish Community Center. (Spring)

**Mel Chudnof PhD** retired after 43 years as a full-time professor of psychology and social work. During his career, he also maintained a private practice as a therapist, trainer, and consultant with businesses and community agencies. He is an avid world traveler, having visited over 80 countries. He most enjoys being an involved father and grandfather. (Spring)

**Daniel Clark PhD** is an Associate Professor of History at Oakland University specializing in labor history and the Cold War era. His first book explored the impact of unionization on a specific group of cotton mill workers and managers from 1945-60. His current book project examines autoworkers in metropolitan Detroit during the same era. (Winter)

**Arnold Collens** is a lifetime Detroiter and graduate of Wayne State University's School of Business and College of Education. In retirement, he has taken photography classes at CCS and OCC. For years, he's walked Detroit and photo-documented historic buildings, events, streets, and changes to the city's landscape. (Spring)

**Brian Conway**, trained as an architect, is the director of the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The SHPO works with organizations and individuals to preserve, rehabilitate, and reuse historic properties. (Spring)

**Harry T. Cook** is a retired Episcopal priest and a scholar of religious literature and history. An accomplished author and popular lecturer in the metropolitan Detroit area and elsewhere in the United States, he graduated from Albion College and earned his advanced degrees in biblical languages from Northwestern University's Graduate School of Theology. (Winter, Spring)

**Alfred J. Darold** retired from Ford Motor Company after a 38-year career in Engineering and Product Litigation. He has co-taught the *Great Decisions* class for SOAR for several years. (Spring)

**Wendy Evans** is an art historian with advanced degrees from Oxford University and Wayne State University. She has delivered highly-popular classes at SOAR since 2006, and also speaks to public and student audiences throughout metropolitan Detroit. She is the recipient of numerous volunteer, academic and community awards. (Spring)

**Carl Dibble PhD** is a graduate of Harvard College, the University of Chicago and Cornell University. His major field of interest is American political thought, including African-American thought and constitutional jurisprudence. (Spring)

**Jane Donahue Eberwein PhD** has been teaching SOAR classes on poetry since retiring as Distinguished Professor of English from Oakland University's English Department in 2007. She is a founding officer of the Emily Dickinson International Society, and Dickinson has been the topic of several books she has written and edited. (Spring)

**Paul N. Edwards PhD** is a professor in the School of Information and the Department of History at the University of Michigan where he teaches and writes extensively about the history, politics and cultural aspects of computers, information infrastructures and global climate science. (Winter)

**Berl Falbaum** is a former *Detroit News* political reporter and was administrative assistant to

Michigan's lieutenant governor. He also worked as a public relations professional for decades, taught journalism at Wayne State University for 45 years, and authored nine books. (Spring)

**Reynolds Farley PhD** is the Otis Dudley Duncan Professor Emeritus at the University of Michigan and a research scientist at the UM Population Studies Center. His research focuses upon current population trends in the United States with an emphasis upon racial differences. He has written extensively about racial and economic trends in the Detroit area and now maintains a website describing the history and future of the metropolis. (Spring)

**Dennis Fiems** was a founding faculty member of Oakland Community College who taught and participated in the academic governance of the college for 42 years. Three times he was selected by his peers as the campus outstanding faculty member. (Spring)

**Paula Finkelstein** has been teaching at SOAR since its inception. Her passion is rediscovering and discussing literature we have read in our "younger" years. (Spring)

**Howard Friedman JD** is Professor of Law Emeritus from the University of Toledo and is editor of the *Religion Clause* blog. He has published four books and over two dozen articles and book chapters. He speaks widely, bringing legal topics to interested adult audiences. (Spring)

**Richard Friedman JD** has been Professor at the University of Michigan Law School since 1988. He is an expert on evidence and Supreme Court history. Much of his work is related to the right of a criminal defendant to be confronted with the witnesses against him, and he has twice successfully argued cases involving that right in the Court. (Spring)

**Elana Goell-Varkovitzky PhD** has been a clinical psychologist in private practice in Franklin for the past 30 years. In addition to a general practice treating depression, anxiety, and personality disorders, Dr. Goell specializes in meaning-centered therapy and the neurobiological use of neurobiological therapies to facilitate the resolution of grief and trauma. She lectures extensively in the U.S. and Israel. (Spring)

**Andrew Gulli** has been publisher of *The Strand* for 17 years and has published works by authors Michael Connelly, R. L. Stine, Jeffery Deaver, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. (Spring)

**Daniel Harmon** completed a 25-year career at Ameritech and retired as Vice President before becoming Director of Strategic Business Services at Walsh College. He has co-taught the *Great Decisions* class for SOAR for several years. (Spring)

**Elizabeth I. Heath MD FACP** is Professor of Oncology and Medicine at Wayne State University's School of Medicine where she occupies the Hartman Endowed Chair for Prostate Cancer Research. She also serves as Chair of the Genito-Urinary Oncology Multidisciplinary Team at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. (Winter)

**Laura Hedgecock** is an author, speaker, blogger, and family history nut who is passionate about helping others preserve and share their personal and family stories. (Spring)

**Stan and Diane Henderson** are avid readers who have teamed up to share their respective passions for history and literature with the SOAR community. In their previous worlds, Stan was the Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Life at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and Diane was an educational program planner and consultant. (Spring)

**Martin Herman PhD**, Emeritus Professor of Humanities at Wayne State University, is a musicologist by training but has devoted much of his academic career to inter-disciplinary humanistic studies and comparative arts. He offers programs about music and music-related subjects to diverse audiences in the Detroit metropolitan area, with a particular love for opera. (Spring)

**Philip Hessburg MD** is an ophthalmologist in the Henry Ford Health System, and the Medical Director of the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology. (Spring)

**Hans Hummer PhD** teaches world and medieval history at Wayne State University. He is currently finishing a book on kinship in the early Middle Ages for Oxford University Press. (Spring)

**Fred L. Johnson III PhD** is Associate Professor of History at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. His primary field of study is 19<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. History, with an emphasis on the Civil War. His other areas of expertise include 20<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. history, U.S. Military history, and history of Africa. Prior to his career in higher education, Dr. Johnson served in the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Reserves. (Winter)

**Stuart Johnson** began lecturing on jazz-related topics in 2007 throughout the Detroit metro area and elsewhere at libraries, senior organizations, University of Detroit-Mercy, and at an international convention of jazz record collectors. He returns to SOAR for his fifteenth presentation. (Spring)

**Saeed Khan JD** is Lecturer of Near East & Asian Studies at Wayne State University as well as a Research Fellow at the university's Center for the Study of Citizenship. Saeed is also regular panelist on CBC's *The Turning Point* and a contributor to numerous other media outlets. His areas of focus include globalization, Middle East and Islamic studies, genomics and bioethics. (Spring)

**Jack Lessenberry**, head of the journalism faculty at Wayne State University, has covered elections and written about politics for nearly forty years. He is also Michigan Public Radio's senior political analyst. As an award-winning former foreign correspondent and executive editor for *The Detroit News*, he reported from nearly 40 countries. (Spring)

**Karen Lessenberry** recently retired after 44 years as a faculty member of Groves High School in Birmingham, MI, where she taught classes in Western civilization, global issues, Russian-Soviet history, and United States history. She is the recipient of numerous awards for outstanding teaching. (Spring)

**Elizabeth D. Lublin PhD** is Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of History at Wayne State University. She also chairs the Midwest Japan Seminar. Her courses and books address such topics as modern East Asia, pre-modern and modern Japan, gender in modern East Asia, Hiroshima and Nagasaki in history and memory, and Christian women's activism in late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Japan. (Spring)

**Patricia Majher** is an award-winning author who served as editor of *Michigan History Magazine* for seven years. Prior to that, she was Assistant Director/Curator at the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and Historical Center, and served in a variety of roles at the Friend-Hack House in Milan, Mackinac State Historic Parks, and The Henry Ford. Majher holds degrees in journalism and historic preservation. (Spring)

**Arthur Marotti PhD** retired in 2010 after teaching for 40 years in the English Department at Wayne State University. He now directs the university's new Emeritus Academy. Author and editor of numerous books, his major scholarly interests are early modern English literature, especially poetry,

and early modern English Catholic culture. (Spring)

**Annette and Jim McConnell** are retired educators who continue as volunteers for their churches, the Detroit Historical Society, the Historical Society of Michigan, the Michigan Council for History Education, and several other organizations in addition to SOAR. They have co-authored several publications on history topics. They received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Historical Society of Michigan in 2012. (Spring)

**Karen McDevitt PhD** teaches film and new media studies at Wayne State University. A frequent guest lecturer at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts, she serves on the DFT Executive Board of Directors. Karen also serves on the Editorial Board and on the Board of Visitors at Wayne State University Press. She is a "regular" at the Toronto International Film Festival and the New Directors Film Festival in New York. (Spring)

**George Milne PhD** is an educator and author whose book, *Natchez Country: Indians, Colonists, and Landscapes of Race in French Louisiana*, was published in 2015. He currently investigates questions of slavery, race, and national sovereignty in the Atlantic World circa 1600 to 1800. (Spring)

**Brian Murphy** had a 35-year career in the English Department of Oakland University, including a 17-year term as director of the university's Honors College. A former film critic, he taught many film courses and helped found the university's Cinema Concentration. He has also enjoyed success as a novelist, playwright and actor. (Spring)

**Geoff Nathan PhD** is currently Wayne State University's Chief Privacy Officer. Previously, he taught at Wayne as well as at University of Montana and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He is interested in the political and social issues involved in computing, particularly matters related to privacy and security. With a degree in linguistics, he is also interested in phonetics and phonology. (Winter)

**Sharon O'Brien** is the past chair of the SOAR Board of Directors and currently serves as Chair of the Special Events Committee. She taught English and General Studies at Siena Heights University for more than 20 years and held leadership positions at Wayne State University. (Spring)

**Frederic Pearson PhD** is Director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies and Professor of Political Science at Wayne State University. Through his teaching, research and writing, he has established his reputation as an authority on civil wars, international conflict management, military interventions, arms trade, and major power foreign policy. Twice a Fulbright senior lecturer, he is the recipient of WSU awards for graduate student mentoring and research excellence. (Winter, Spring)

**Elsie Holmes Peck** is former Curator of Near Eastern Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts. She teaches courses at Wayne State University including Introduction to the Arts of Islam, History of Islamic Art and Islamic Decorative Arts. (Spring)

**William H. Peck** is former Curator of Ancient Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts who currently teaches courses on Egyptian art at Wayne State University. His book, *The Material World of Ancient Egypt*, has recently been published by Cambridge University Press. (Spring)

**Michael Placco** came to Michigan from Queens, New York. Professor of History at Macomb Community College since 2000, he has taught in both the traditional and virtual classroom. His teaching specialties include early U.S. history, Michigan history and Latin American history. (Spring)

**Angela Popoff LMSW** has been a social worker for over sixteen years and has been working with older adults for the past seven. Currently employed by Jewish Family Services, she worked at the Alzheimer's Association-Greater Michigan Chapter where she provided education, counseling, and resources to persons with dementia and their caregivers. (Spring)

**Kami Pothukuchi PhD** chairs the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at Wayne State University, where she also teaches urban planning courses. Community food systems are among her areas of expertise. She is founding director of SEED Wayne, a campus-community collaborative dedicated to building sustainable food systems on the WSU campus and in Detroit area neighborhoods. (Spring)

**Crystal A. Proxmire** is the Editor and Publisher of *The Oakland County 115 News*, an online news site based in Ferndale, MI. She has won two Society of Professional Journalism Awards for Online Investigative Reporting. Her website provides daily news and commentary to an average audience of 54,000 readers per month. (Winter)

**Mike Ranville** grew up like many children of the 1950s: playing sports, attending school, and convinced he would someday stop the spread of Communism. While that call never came, the author/speechwriter/lobbyist has retained a life-long fascination with the staying power of Communism as a political issue with the American people. (Winter)

**Tami Remington PharmD** is a clinical pharmacist at the University of Michigan Turner Geriatrics Clinic and a professor at UM's College of Pharmacy. In her clinical role, she helps patients and their primary care providers make sure medication regimens are effective, safe, evidence-based and personalized. (Spring)

**Aaron Retish PhD** is Associate Professor of Modern Russian and Soviet History at Wayne State University. He has published widely on the Russian Revolution and co-edits the leading journal in the field. His current book project focuses on the local courts in early Soviet Russia and draws upon deep archival research of Russian court records. (Winter)

**Marsha L. Richmond PhD**, a professor in Wayne State University's History Department, is a historian of biology who regularly teaches a course entitled "American Medicine in the 20th Century." President-elect of the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, she will assume the position of CoEditor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the History of Biology* in 2018. (Winter)

**Alvin Saperstein PhD** is retired Professor of Physics at Wayne State University and longtime fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has been involved with international security research and publications in London, Oslo, Stockholm, and Washington, D.C. His lectures in energy, environment, and climate continue to be in demand in various university departments. (Spring)

**Robert A. Sedler JD** is Distinguished Professor of Law at Wayne State University where, since 1977, he has taught courses and produced publications in Constitutional Law and Conflict of Laws. In addition to his academic work, he has litigated numerous civil rights and civil liberties cases. Professor Sedler has been at WSU since 1977. Recipient of numerous awards, he was elected by his university colleagues to the prestigious Academy of Scholars. (Spring)

**Sr. Mary Ellen Sheehan** is a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Religious Congregation of Monroe, Michigan. In completing her education at the Catholic University of Louvain

in Belgium, she became one of only a few women in the world to hold a Doctor of Sacred Theology degree. For 35 years, she was a graduate professor of theology at the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. Currently, she offers lectures, workshops and retreats. (Spring)

**Francis Shor** is a Professor Emeritus of History at Wayne State University who has authored books and other publications covering a broad range of topics in 20<sup>th</sup> century U. S. and global history. In addition to his academic work, he is a long-time peace and justice activist, serving on the boards of Peace Action and the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights. (Winter)

**Stephen Steinhardt JD** has been an attorney for almost twenty years, conducting over one hundred jury trials. He serves as Adjunct Professor at Wayne State University Law School as well as an adjunct in history at Macomb Community College. On the faculty of both the Oakland and Macomb SOAR programs, he co-produced last year's popular mock trial of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. (Winter, Spring)

**Guy Stern PhD** was one of the Ritchie Boys who landed on Omaha Beach during WW II and interrogated enemy prisoners. He spent the last twenty-three years of his career at Wayne State University as Professor of German Literature and Culture. Since his retirement in 2002, he has held several positions at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus and now serves as director of center's Institute of the Righteous. (Spring)

**Greg Sumner JD PhD** has been Professor of American History at the University of Detroit Mercy since 1993. His publications include books about the life and works of Kurt Vonnegut, and about Detroit in World War II. He is currently working on a new book on the story of Michigan's P.O.W. camps during the Second World War. (Spring)

**Sandra Sutherland** taught classes in literature and speech at Bentley High School for four years and then went to Oakland Community College to teach children's literature, women's literature, American literature, and English literature until she retired. Now, she leads literature discussions for two libraries. (Spring)

**Peggi Tabor** is a certified Integrative Wellness and Life Coach. After a corporate career as a management trainer with Xerox, she spent two years in sub-Saharan Africa as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer. Among her learning experiences was working with traditional African healers. She holds an MBA in marketing and communications and was named Smart Woman of the Year by the National Association of Smart Women's Coaching. (Spring)

**Helen Taylor** has spent more than 27 years working on Great Lakes protection, policy, and conservation. She joined the Nature Conservancy in 1996 to lead its Great Lakes Program and, since 1999, has served as State Director of its Michigan office. She serves on numerous boards including that of the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise at University of Michigan. (Spring)

**Lisa Tehlirian JD** is an immigration attorney with Ellis Porter, PLC, where she specializes in family-based immigration law, inadmissibility and removability issues, and employment-based immigration law. (Spring)

**Carlene VanVoorhies** has been an Interpretive Program Volunteer with the Detroit Institute of Arts for six years. During that time, she has conducted tours in the museum and presented programs at community venues over 1,000 times. (Spring)

**Stephen Vogel, FAIA** was Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Detroit Mercy for

18 years and continues to serve on the faculty there. Among his accomplishments as dean, he co-founded the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, a university-based center providing professional design services to non-profit civic and community organizations, and established the Master of Community Development degree. (Spring)

**Renata Wasserman PhD** served as Professor of Comparative Literature at Wayne State University, where she taught from 1974 to 2011 with a focus on the literature of Brazil, England, France and the U.S. She is interested in how literature records and shapes the development of national, ethnic and gender identity. (Spring)

**Roger Weber** spent 46 years in television, covering politics, crime, and business in addition to memorable human interest stories. He received an Emmy Award, an Edward R. Murrow Award, and a newly established Roger Weber Award, given to journalists who “guide us toward the good, the truth and fairness.” (Spring)

**Mark M. Weglarski** is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Macomb Community College. Educated on three continents, he has attended four universities, including Wayne State. His nearly four decades of teaching assignments include positions at two universities, two business schools, and two junior colleges. For the past dozen years, he has been designing and compiling puzzles, especially Sudoku—or MarkSuDoku—puzzles. (Spring)

**Jerrold Weinberg MD** has been practicing medicine in the Detroit suburban area for over 40 years. He has developed an abiding interest in Jewish medical ethics and has given several lectures on the subject for SOAR. (Spring)

**Mark Wenzel** has served as a philosophy professor at Wayne State University since 1998 with specialties in aesthetics and the philosophy of art, feminist interventions in philosophy, and global ethics. Through Eastern Michigan University’s “College in Prison Project” he has worked with women in prison twice over the past five years and is now working to develop a similar program at WSU. (Spring)

**Ralph Williams PhD** is the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of English at University of Michigan. He has served in many administrative capacities at UM, including his recent work on a collaboration between the university and the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has received numerous awards for teaching, including the Carnegie Professor of the Year for Michigan. (Spring)

**Margaret E. Winters PhD**, Professor of French and Linguistics, is Wayne State University’s Provost Emerita. During her distinguished academic career, she has published widely in the areas of historical semantics and the history of Romance languages. (Winter)

**Mary Wischusen PhD** is an Associate Professor of Music at Wayne State University, where she also directs the Music History Division and the Graduate Program in Music. Her main field of research is opera from the late 18th through the 19th centuries, especially the stage works of Franz Schubert. Her articles have appeared in numerous publications, and she has presented papers at numerous national and international musicological conferences. (Spring)

**Cameron Wood** is the Curator of Collections and Anthropology Educator at the Cranbrook Institute of Science. He holds degrees in anthropology and history. His academic focus is Great Lakes Native American history and culture as well as the arms, armor, and martial art forms of cultures worldwide. (Spring)



**John Zawiskie**, a field geologist/paleontologist for over 30 years, is currently the Earth and Life Science Curator in Residence at Cranbrook Institute of Science. He has also taught geology at Wayne State University since 1983. With a specialty in Quaternary geology, he has an abiding interest in translating science to university students, school groups and the public through museum programs, films, and exhibits. (Spring)

**Bruce Zellers** teaches at Greenhills School in Ann Arbor and at Oakland University. He lectures frequently on modern American history, especially military history, and has published book reviews in numerous journals. (Winter, Spring)

**Msgr. John Zenz** was ordained in 1978 as a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit and was head of Archdiocesan Offices and Programs for two decades. Since 2008, he has been pastor of Holy Name Parish, Birmingham, and has had many regional responsibilities for the Archdiocese in Oakland County. He serves as a professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. He studied for six years in Rome and earned a Doctorate in Spiritual Theology. He edits *Human Development Magazine*. (Spring)