

BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIOS

Rick Ardinger joined the staff of the Idaho Humanities Council in 1991 as Assistant Director, and became Executive Director in 1996. Soon after he became director, the Idaho Humanities Council was the recipient in 1997 of a \$1 million grant from the Albertson Foundation to support humanities education in Idaho schools. In 2006 the council completed the establishment of a \$1 million Endowment for Humanities Education to provide a sustainable source of funding for annual, intensive, weeklong, residential summer institutes for K-12 teachers, supported in part by an NEH Challenge Grant. Over the years, he's served on NEH grants panels, and on various Federation committees, including Strategic Planning, Federation Conference Planning, and the Board Nominating committees.

Prior to joining the IHC, he worked as a magazine editor and later as the Public Information Officer for the Idaho Centennial Commission. He has compiled and edited several anthologies of essays and fiction, and published several books of poetry.

As an avocation, for more than three decades he has been the editor/publisher of Limberlost Press, a small literary press devoted to "the black art" of letterpress printing, using lead type and a century-old printing press in his garage-turned-print-shop to produce more than 60 limited editions of poetry by such noted writers as John Updike, Sherman Alexie, Margaret Aho, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Hayden Carruth, Allen Ginsberg, Jennifer Dorn, Gary Snyder, Judith Root, Ed Sanders, and Jim Harrison, as well as many poets from Idaho and the West.

A collector of old books and artwork, he lives in a log home in the mountains north of Boise out of cell phone range with his wife Rosemary, and plays the button accordion with his accordion-tolerant folk music friends.

Christina Barr has served as the Executive Director of Nevada Humanities since 2009. Previously she worked as Program Outreach Coordinator for the Western Folklife Center, Folklife Program Associate for the Nevada Arts Council, and as Archivist/Folklorist for the Vermont Folklife Center. In 2006 she joined with folklorist Craig Miller to found the Salt Lake City-based nonprofit Culture Conservation Corps.

Barr has documented traditional art forms, communities, and cultural issues around North America and abroad, and has shared this work through the production of public programs, festivals, exhibitions, presentations, scholarly and media projects, and community-based cultural work. In 2007 she received an Electronic Media Award for Best Documentary by Las Vegas Women in Communications for *The 24 Hour Show* radio series, which featured the stories and experiences of Las Vegas' casino and entertainment industry workers.

She is an active participant in national and regional cultural organizations, and has served as a panelist and consultant for numerous organizations and agencies around the U.S. including the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, the American Folklore Society, the Western States Arts Federation, and the National Council for Traditional Arts. She currently serves on the Nominating Committee for the American Folklore Society's executive board, as a co-convenor of the Preserving America's Cultural Traditions national consortium of Folklife nonprofits, and as a convenor of the American Folklore Society's Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice special interest section.

Roger Blumberg is the former chair of the board of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH) and a faculty member in the Department of Computer Science at Brown University and the History, Philosophy and Social Science Department at the Rhode Island School of Design. Blumberg has more than 25 years of experience in higher education, teaching courses that range from freshman humanities seminars to history of science, mathematics, computer science, and philosophy of technology courses. Blumberg served on the editorial board of the journal *Computers and the Humanities*, is the co-author of *World Wide Dubliners*, an annotated and hypertext version of James Joyce's *Dubliners*, and the author of *MendelWeb* and numerous scholarly articles. Blumberg is the Director of Evaluation at Mendele Education LLC, a company specializing in the evaluation of educational technology programs, educational computing programs, and professional development activities for teachers and administrators.

During his tenure on the RICH board, Blumberg chaired a Task Force on technology whose work led to the council's website redesign, and currently chairs the Evaluation Committee while serving on the Grants and Executive Committees.

Robert Brink is the past chairman of the Board of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH). He is also a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, serving on the Appropriations and Transportation Committees. His legislative study group appointments include the Joint Commission on Health Care, Commission on Youth, and the Governor's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring.

Brink previously served as Legislative Counsel to Lieutenant Governor Beyer during the 1997 session of the Virginia General Assembly; Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs in the U.S. Department of Justice (1993-97); Deputy General Counsel for the Committee on the Judiciary in the U.S. House of Representatives (1989-93); and Counsel for the Committee on Government Operations in the U.S. House of Representatives (1978-89).

Brink is Chair of the Model General Assembly Committee of the Virginia YMCA, and is a board member of the Northern Virginia Regional Health Information Organization.

He has received numerous awards, including Legislative Hero (2010) and Legislative Leader (2003-09) from the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, Legislator of the Year from the Virginia Treasurers Association (2007), Public Service Award from the Virginia Partisans Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club (2002), and Service to Youth Award from the Virginia State YMCA (2001), to name a few.

Judy Burke Bynum is the Associate Director at the ETV Endowment of South Carolina, Inc., the 32,000 member public charity that supports the work of public media in South Carolina. In concert with the executive director, she is currently staffing a \$1.5 million campaign for a new ETV radio facility and was a key staff person in a four-year effort to persuade the South Carolina state legislature to appropriate \$18.5 million for digital conversion of the network.

Bynum is a consummate advocate for the humanities, serving on the Humanities Council^{SC} Board of Directors for six years, including two years as the chair. She has been involved in strategic planning for the council and has been asked to participate in a site visit by another state council. During her recent term as board chair, private donations increased both to the Friends group and for the council's annual signature event, the ^{SC}Book Festival.

Prior to joining ETV Endowment in 1997, Bynum served in executive positions with the Palmetto Council Boy Scouts of America and Piedmont Area Girl Scouts Council, and was the Director of Development for six years for the Arts Council of Spartanburg. She is the recipient of an editorial writing award from the Georgia Press Association and is a former newspaper reporter, magazine editor, and public relations practitioner.

Bynum's current volunteer service includes the UGA Alumni Association Board of Directors, the Spartanburg Little Theatre executive committee, Spartanburg Women Giving and the Rotary Club of Spartanburg. She is a past president of the Junior League of Spartanburg and the Upstate Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) and is a graduate of both Leadership Spartanburg and Leadership South Carolina.

Bynum was born in California and grew up in rural Georgia, where she developed her life-long appreciation of the public library. She is the long-suffering owner of a Jack Russell terrier and enjoys travel, theatre, art exhibits, reading and cooking. Her husband, Brant, is Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Converse College in Spartanburg.

David Colburn served as Provost of the University of Florida from 1999 until 2005 and has been a member of the University of Florida faculty since 1972. A native of Rhode Island, Colburn entered the U.S. Army in 1965, and served one year in Vietnam before returning to the United States to study for his Ph.D. at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, which he received in 1971.

Colburn's teaching and research have focused on politics, race, and ethnicity in 20th century America. He was named teacher-of-the-year on three occasions and has edited or authored 14 books and more than 25 articles and chapters in books. His most recent books include: *From Yellow Dog Democrats to Red State Republicans: Florida and Its Politics Since 1940* (2007) and *Florida's Megatrends: Critical Issues in Florida, 2nd edition* (2010) with Lance deHaven-Smith. Colburn has been a regular contributor to Florida newspapers since 1990, writing on state and national politics. In 1993, he served as one of the authors of the Rosewood Report, which was part of the inquiry of the State of Florida into the destruction of the town of Rosewood in 1923. He served as a Fellow in the United States Senate from 1993 to 1997. Colburn currently directs the Reubin O'D. Askew Institute on Politics and Society at the University of Florida, which provides public programs to civic leaders and citizens of Florida on critical issues confronting the state. He is the former chair of the Florida Humanities Council.

Margaret (Maggie) Coval has been Executive Director of Colorado Humanities since 1997. She joined the Colorado Humanities staff in 1982 and has served as Program Officer, Assistant Director, and Associate Director. Prior to moving to Colorado, she was employed by Binghamton University. At the Colorado Humanities, Coval has developed and directed dozens of public humanities programs. She is co-founder of the High Plains Chautauqua, executive producer of the NEH-funded Conversations 2000 public radio programs and the Five States of Colorado documentary film, and has developed several institutes for K-12 teachers. In 2004, Coval facilitated the merger of the Colorado Center for the Book with Colorado Humanities, securing the Center's future and doubling the number of CH programs. She has served on the Federation's Legislative, Conference Planning, Nominations, and Bylaws committees. Recently Coval served on the Colorado Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and has served on advisory boards of the Center for Colorado's Economic Future and the El Pomar Foundation.

Erik C. Jorgensen became the Maine Humanities Council's third executive director in January 2007. He has been engaged with the Maine cultural sector and with the Maine Council in particular, for two decades. Jorgensen became involved with the council first as an amateur truck driver hauling a council-funded exhibit across Maine and then as a photographer making enlargements and mounting several council-funded museum projects, then as a grantee, and then as a board member, before joining the staff in 1999 as a program officer, later becoming the assistant director before assuming his current position.

Prior to joining the council, he served for nearly 10 years as Executive Director of the Pejepscot Historical Society in Brunswick, a regional historical society with three historic house museums and an archives.

A graduate of Bowdoin College and Harvard University, he lives in Portland with his wife Tamara Risser, and their son, Will, a fourth grader. Passionate sailors, Erik and Tamara ply the waters of Maine in their 1960's era sloop, *Aurelia*. For many years, during a more agrarian phase of their lives, he and Tamara kept bees.

Wanda Mills-Bocachica is currently Managing Director of Synthesis Development Consultants, LLC, an architecture and urban design firm specializing in heritage and sustainable development initiatives in the Caribbean region. Living and practicing in notable urban environments in the mainland United States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico has inspired her appreciation for the humanities and the role of the humanities councils. As a professional, Mills-Bocachica is motivated by positive actions that show understanding and care for cultural and natural resources, the built environment, and an improved and enduring quality of life for community residents. She has also been involved in numerous initiatives and projects to build the Territory's humanities' knowledge base and infrastructure.

She served as board member with the Virgin Islands Humanities Council and as Chair of the Program Planning and Evaluation Committee. She previously served as Planning Director with the Government of the Virgin Islands and Historic Preservation Architect/Planner with the Virgin Islands Humanities Council.

Mills-Bocachica's volumes of poetry have inspired public awareness on humanistic, social awareness, historical and environmental themes. She currently serves as Vice-President of the Federation of Caribbean Architects and is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the American Planning Association and the Society of Virgin Islands Historians.

She is the mother of one son, Alain Kennard Odjougbele Kouchica.

Julie Mulvihill is the Executive Director for the Kansas Humanities Council, where she joined the staff in 2001 as the Director of Programs. Prior to joining the council, she served as the Education Coordinator for the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka and the Curator of Education for the Johnson County Museums, located in the greater metropolitan Kansas City area. She taught American history and English for seventh and eighth graders on the Wind River Reservation in Ethete, Wyoming, as well as in Lawrence, Kansas.

Mulvihill is currently on the board for Kansas State University's Center for Engagement and Community Development, is part of the Governor's Cultural Affairs Committee, has taught at the University of Kansas, and is often asked to take a leadership role in the state's cultural and arts initiatives and anniversaries, including the sesquicentennial of statehood, the creation of the state's book festival, and the appointment of the state's first poet laureate. Mulvihill has been active on the federal funding committee for the American

Association of State and Local History, the Kansas Museums Association, the Kansas Center for the Book, Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, and was asked to be part of Museum on Main Street's advisory committee.

Mulvihill also serves on several local kitchen table committees, including the Buck Creek one-room schoolhouse and the funeral dinner committee for St. Theresa's. She is regularly asked to bake pies for local fundraisers, including events for the volunteer fire department. Otherwise, you'll usually find her reading or daydreaming about writing or farming.

Mulvihill is a native Kansan and lives with her husband in rural Jefferson County, not too far from the roots of two other dreamers — noted regionalist painter John Steuart Curry and Samuel Peppard, who mounted a mast and sail to his farm wagon in 1860 in an attempt to ride the wind to the gold fields of Colorado. He nearly made it.

John Roth is a former chair of the board of the California Council for the Humanities and Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California, where he founded the Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights. Roth's expertise in Holocaust and genocide studies, as well as in philosophy, ethics, American studies, and religious studies, has been advanced by post-doctoral appointments as a Graves Fellow in the Humanities, a Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, and a Fellow of the National Humanities Institute, Yale University.

He used a Demonstration Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to develop two model interdisciplinary courses: "Perspectives on the American Dream" and "The Holocaust." In addition to lecturing widely throughout the United States and around the world, Roth has authored, coauthored, or edited more than 40 books, and he has published hundreds of articles and reviews. His recent books include: *Holocaust Politics*; a revised edition of *Approaches to Auschwitz: The Holocaust and Its Legacy*; *Genocide and Human Rights: A Philosophical Guide*; *Anguished Hope: Holocaust Scholars Confront the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*; and *The Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies*.

Roth has been a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, Washington, D.C. He currently serves on the board of Humanities Washington, the church relations committee at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the selection committee for the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics, and on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy*, and *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*.

Kate Stephenson is the Assistant General Counsel for Labor and Employment with Corrections Corporation of America. Prior to joining CCA, she was in private practice in Nashville for 20 years, most recently as Managing Partner at Trauger & Tuke. Before law school, she taught history at Webb School of Knoxville. In her early working life she was Public Relations Director at Kenyon Festival Theater and a production assistant at WQED in Pittsburgh.

Stephenson is a Fellow of the American and Nashville Bar Foundations. She has been active in the local bar associations, serving as an officer and a director, and chairing numerous committees. Her other civic activities include chairing the Metropolitan Council Board of Ethical Conduct, serving as Founder and President of The Breakfast Club of Nashville, serving on the Board for Monroe Harding, and serving on the

Personnel Committee of Second Presbyterian Church. She is the Immediate Past Chair of Humanities Tennessee. She has a daughter at Notre Dame and a son at University of Virginia.

Ann Thompson has served as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Humanities Council since 2006. Before joining the council, Thompson was Director of the Museum at Southwestern Michigan College and Executive Director of the Southeastern Colorado Heritage Center in Pueblo, Colorado

In Bismarck, North Dakota, Thompson taught U.S. History, North Dakota Studies, World Geography, and French, and was a Fulbright Memorial Teacher's Fund recipient. Thompson previously served as Curator of Education for the State Historical Society of North Dakota in Bismarck. She earlier served as Archivist of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, D.C. Her prior position was Director of the Batavia Depot Museum in Batavia, Illinois.

Thompson has served on the Dues Restructuring Task Force of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. She is currently on the board of directors of Preservation Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, as well as on the advisory boards of Oklahoma Literary Landmarks and Petree College of Art and Sciences at the University of Oklahoma City. She is a founding member and former Board Secretary of Historic Pueblo, Inc. Thompson has served as Commissioner for the Oklahoma Centennial Commemoration Commission, as well as on the boards of directors of Dowagiac Dogwood Fine Arts Festival in Dowagiac, Michigan; Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council in Benton Harbor, Michigan; and Frontier Pathways, Scenic Byways.

Peter G. Torkildsen is a Government Affairs Consultant and former member of the House of Representatives (1993-1997) from Massachusetts, where as a Republican member of the House, he spoke out in favor of the NEH and spearheaded an effort, primarily by sponsoring the state humanities councils' first "Dear Colleague" letter, to gather support among House Republicans. It was a risky move at the time to stand against the tide of opinion to eliminate funding for NEH, but as a history-lover, he knew the value of the humanities and braved the storm.

Since then Torkildsen has worked closely with the Mass Humanities to persuade Massachusetts Republicans to be advocates of the NEH. His expertise and knowledge of Congress, coupled with his passion for history, literature, philosophy and other humanities disciplines will make him a strong ally in the advocacy work of the Federation. He believes that federal support for the arts and humanities is an appropriate, indeed a necessary, function of our government.

Prior to starting his own business, Torkildsen was the Director of Business Development and Government Affairs for Ora Inc., an ophthalmology drug research and development firm. He has worked in several positions with the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development and was chairman of the Massachusetts Republican Party where he oversaw all aspects of candidate recruitment, training, and targeting, party fundraising, and message development.

Since 2003 Torkildsen has participated in the Congress to Campus Program, where former members visit colleges and universities to meet with students and faculty during a three-day intensive series of lectures and meetings to discuss how Congress functions. He has been a Massachusetts delegate to the Republican National Convention three times. Torkildsen is also a volunteer with Community Action

Partners, organized by the Harvard Business School Alumni of Boston, to assist nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts.

Torkildsen lives in North Chelmsford with his wife and daughter. He enjoys reading history and other subjects, and painting watercolors.

Kristina Valaitis joined the staff of the Illinois Humanities Council in 1979 and held positions as Associate Director, Director of Publications, and Program Officer before becoming Executive Director in 1993. Prior to her work at the IHC, Kristina was an assistant professor of English at Arizona State University and also developed humanities courses for the extension and correspondence schools. Kristina currently serves on the boards of the Donors Forum and the Chicago Metro History Education Center and is a member of The Chicago Network. She has received the Volunteer Service Award from the Northern Illinois University Foundation, a Golden Anniversary Alumni Award from the NIU College of Liberal Arts, and the 2010 Outstanding Alumni Award for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from the NIU Alumni Association. She has served on a variety of Federation committees, including the nominating, legislative and conference program committees, and a strategic planning task force. She is the author of essays that accompany Gary Irving's *Illinois: A Photographic Portrait of the Prairie State* and Peter Wexler's *Reflections/Riflessioni*, a book of photographs of Venice.

Willis P. Whichard has served in both houses of the North Carolina state legislature and on both of the state's appellate courts – the only person to have ever done so. After his judiciary and legislative terms ended, Whichard was named Dean of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University in 1999, a position he held until 2006 when he left to join the law firm of Moore and Van Allen.

Prior to joining Campbell University, Whichard was an instructor of Business Law at Duke University and adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law. Whichard has received numerous awards recognizing his commitment to public service including the distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill; Distinguished Service Medal, University of North Carolina General Alumni Association; and most recently, the Durham County Government Commissioners Community Circle Award in 2011. Whichard also served in the North Carolina Army National Guard in Raleigh from 1966-72.

In 2002, Whichard was appointed to the North Carolina Humanities Council by the governor and served for six years, including two years as the chair. He has authored numerous books and articles and resides in Chatham County, North Carolina, and Hayesville, North Carolina. He and his wife Leona have two daughters and six grandchildren.