

INSTRUCTORS' BIOGRAPHY**Aiello, Carmen**

Carmen is the Vice President of Marketing at Visit Mercer County PA

Altomare, Emily

Emily is the Communications & Tourism Manager for the Oil Region Alliance, Venango County. PA

Andes, Cynthia

Cindy lives in Titusville, Pennsylvania and retired from the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville as an Assistant Professor of Humanities and English. Among the courses she taught, were "Words & Images", "Women & Literature," and later during the spring term, "Art & Architecture in Germany & the Czech Republic." Cindy has been a traditional watercolor painter for over 50 years, and in more recent years, a mixed media artist in many mediums. She grew up spending summers at the Jersey shore, where she continues to connect with the community.

Anna, Henry

Hank is Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Public Administration at SRU, having retired in 1998. A native of Cambria County, PA, Hank has traveled extensively and has so far visited 47 US states and more than 25 countries on 5 continents. He enjoys reading and volunteer work, including Rotary.

Atteberry, Phillip

Phil has taught English and popular music for over thirty years at PITT and the Chautauqua Institute. He has a Ph.D. from Washington University. His passion for music and show business was passed down to him from his grandparents and great-grandparents who were singers and vaudevillians.

Bell, Debbie

Debbie and her family moved to Slippery Rock in 1983. Debbie is a retired elementary teacher from Slippery Rock Area School District. The ILR has provided her with opportunity to forge new friendships, to explore new areas of interest, and to participate in trips and other experiences. Some of her interests include reading, knitting, boating, biking, and traveling.

Caesar Fred

Mr. Caesar is a "staple" of the Saxonburg museum and has been the volunteer curator for many years. He will explain everything during the tour!

Call, Tom

Tom has a MA in History from Notre Dame of Maryland University. As a boy, he spent summers at Lake Winnepesaukee, N.H. and has loved lakes ever since.

Call, Verna

Verna is a retired ordained minister in the United Church of Christ with a Doctorate of Ministry from Lancaster Theological Seminary. She is an avid reader of European and religious history. She is also an avid photographer and traveler, having toured almost 50 countries on all 7 continents. Verna has created photo album diaries and shares her trip experiences with organizations throughout this area.

Carnes, James

James holds a BA in History and an MS in Political Science from Edinboro College. He taught high school history for 35 years and was an adjunct professor at Grove City College for 16 years. He has been presenting History programs for the past 15 years.

Cicero, Steve

Steve is a former history instructor in Butler Area School District. He is active with a number of historical organizations in Western PA as a part-time teacher or volunteer, as well as with several retired educator groups. In addition, he is always looking for ways to promote local history and historical sites through presentations and tours.

Cole, Ruth

With her bachelor's and master's degrees from the College of Wooster plus three years of graduate work, Ruth is a Shakespearean from master's thesis through publishing through years of teaching the Bard, including a high school senior elective for twenty-five years. She has taught and lectured at Chautauqua, New York; Road Scholars; and ILR.

De Luca, Margaret

Margaret had a wonderful childhood in a small town in Michigan and she was taught that she could do anything. Not an academic but a great worker Bee, she thought that she would take her act to Atlanta in her 20s to see what life had for her. She worked in all aspects of the restaurant business then moved on to Travel Agency Accounting for 19 years. Margaret played for years in theater, off and on stage, and make recycled yard art and several other crafts.

Dickensheets, Sara

Sara serves as the Library Technician for Archives at the Bailey Library of Slippery Rock University.

Doran, Dale

Dale worked in her hometown of Philadelphia for private industry, then as a civil servant for ATF and the U.S. Air Force before moving to complete her degree at SRU. This was followed by 39 years teaching students with autism, learning and behavior challenges.

Flood, Kathy

Kathy retired after 30 years of practice as a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician, primarily at the Veterans Health Administration. Kathy now fills her time with volunteer work at the Medi Home Hospice office in Butler, BC3 Literacy Program as a GED tutor, and some travel.

Fodor, Ronald

Ron worked 35 years as Butler County Conservation manager. His duties included providing state permits for land use such as business, housing, and development. He enforced state laws for water pollution and provided environmental education, farmland preservation, forestry, deep mine and pollution prevention, and stormwater management was a top priority. He also volunteered for about 25 organizations.

Golden, John

Dr. Golden teaches law and finance at Slippery Rock University where he also serves as the university's Entrepreneur-in-Residence. He is the Managing Director of the Sustainable Enterprise Accelerator (SEA) at Slippery Rock, which assists new start-ups and existing businesses with sustainable growth opportunities. Dr. Golden serves on several boards of directors, profit and non-profit. He is the owner of Golden Intergroup, Inc. a private sustainable business consulting firm. He also practices law in the USA and internationally, specializing in commercial law.

Green, Curtis

Curtis has been a massage therapist for 22 years and he is also a physical therapist assistant. He has been an EMT in Butler and Las Vegas and has taught emergency first responder training since 2001. He and his wife own The Green Center for Massage and Wellness. Also they own a family farm in Butler and have 3 young children.

Gropp, Bob

Bob holds a BS in Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and MA from Slippery Rock State College. He taught high school English for five years in Maryland and Pennsylvania. More than 20 years' experience presenting corporate presentations to the public and First Aid instructor for corporation employees. He retired in 2019 and volunteered as teacher assistant for non-profit organizations. That includes ILR experience assisting in Computer Basics course.

Holland, Carol

Carol retired after 21 years from SRU as the Director of the Student Counseling Center. She is a licensed psychologist, certified yoga instructor, and certified meditation teacher. Retirement provides her with more time to be the lifelong learner she has always been.

Isacco, Sharon

Sharon is retired from Slippery Rock University after 37.5 years. She has been quilting since 2004. She has made many quilts. Sharon is also a member of the North Pittsburgh Quilts of Valor.

Johnson, Andy

Andy has a BA in Philosophy and English, a Master's in Counseling Psychology, and graduate work in World Religions. He misses teaching Intro to Philosophy and Ethics at BC3, enjoys publishing his poetry, and is Executive Director of 'Spoken Word Projects.' Andy is currently finishing his third children's book and continues to work on publishing his poetry while helping others to do the same.

Johnstone, Jeffrey

Jeffrey is Chief Executive Officer / Agency Principal at Senior Healthcare Specialists, L.L.C. Partner with Insurance Agencies and Professionals to educate their clients to understand Medicare programs.

Jones, Jamie

Jamie is a double graduate of Clarion University of Pennsylvania, with her Bachelor's degree in History and her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. She began studying the Black Hand during an internship with the Lawrence County Historical Society, and has been actively studying the Black Hand and other organized crime histories since.

Kochems, Robert

Bob is the retired DA of Mercer County with 38 years' experience in the criminal justice system as a prosecutor and defense attorney. He also has 30 years' experience doing general 'people' law (family, elder, estate, and real estate). Bob's passion is seeking ways to improve the justice system for the average person.

Kwasnick, Dave

Dave is the owner of The Birdwatcher's Store in Slippery Rock, PA. A life-long nature enthusiast, his many interests include birding (of course!), kayaking, backpacking, paddle-boarding, and skiing. He is a firm believer that the outdoors are the grounding antidote to today's increasingly frenetic world.

Leise, Janet

Janet is a graduate of Slippery Rock High School. She completed her BS and MEd from SRU. She taught students with special needs in Pennsylvania and Ohio. She retired after 33 years of teaching in 2017. Janet loves to travel, and has visited 6 continents and many islands. She enjoys photography, dance and reading. She plays several instruments, including flute, guitar, autoharp and percussion. She volunteers at her church and Community Care Connections, an agency which helps people who have special needs. Janet is a certified Drum Circle Facilitator.

Leo, Richard (Dick)

Richard retired in 2004 after teaching physics at Grove City College for 37 years. Prior to that, he was a Captain in the U.S. Army.

Leo, Ruth

Ruth is a professor emerita at SRU where she taught in the Department of Nursing for 24 years. Ruth has worked as a registered nurse, a pediatric nurse practitioner, nursing faculty member, and parish nurse. She enjoys family activities, travel, health-care-related community service, serving as a deacon at church, and learning new things.

Lumley, Susan

Sue taught middle school and high school Family and Consumer Science (Home Economics). She was the food service director at GCC and SRU. She received a BS in Home Economics from IUP and MS in Health Science from SRU.

Marini, Kelcy

Kelcy joined the Mercer County Conservation District in October 2021 as their Environmental Education Coordinator. She got her BA in environmental studies from Allegheny College and her master's in sustainability from Chatham University. She enjoys camping, kayaking, and educating others about the environment.

May, Bill

Bill is a retired teacher from Lakeview SD. He is the founder of the Butler County Civil War Roundtable and is an avid historian of the Civil War and local history topics. Bill is a speaker and tour guide of the popular 'Butler Ghost Walks' and 'Historic Mansions of Butler' walking tours.

McGary, Jared

Jared is the Environmental Educator at Pymatuning State Park. This is his eleven season as an Environmental Educator and he loves doing what he does. He graduated from Slippery Rock with a Park and Recreation degree in 2010.

McMenamin, Jessie

Jessie served as ILR Curriculum Committee chair for three years and has been an active member of the ILR. A retired teacher and guidance counselor, she has also taught ILR classes, including: 'Women's Roles in the Civil War,' 'Tips for Economic Travel,' 'One-Room Schools of the Slippery Rock Area', 'Origami,' and 'Apollo 11.'

Miller-Parrish, Brandi

Brandi is a 2005 graduate of the Parks and Resource Management Program at Slippery Rock University. She began her career with the National Park Service working at several parks as an Interpreter and Law Enforcement Ranger before starting with Pennsylvania State Parks. She has worked at Jennings Environmental Education Center since 2007. In her free time, she loves crocheting, gardening, spending time outdoors, and spending time with her husband and two dogs.

O'Malley, Teresa

Teresa is the mother of two and grandmother of seven. She is employed at the Seneca Valley SD as a substitute for paraprofessionals working with children with special needs and children with autism. She is a life member of the Evans City Ladies' Fireman's Auxiliary and member of the Rubber Dolls Stamping Club.

Patterson, Laurel

As a retiree, Laurel enjoys spending some of her time writing and speaking, especially on topics related to ecopsychology, which is the study of the relationship between human beings and nature. She is an alumna of Slippery Rock University, with a Bachelor's degree in Professional Studies, focusing on communication and the environment. She is a lifetime member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Laurel strives to connect nature and research to living well.

Roberts, Michele

Michele was an attorney in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and closed her law practice to move back to the area in 2011. She has a law degree from the University of Minnesota and a BS degree in Criminal Justice from Pennsylvania State University.

Scuoteguazza, Eric

Eric is a Registered Professional Archaeologist at SEARCH with 30+ years of experience adventuring throughout the US and Canadian Arctic to manage archaeological resources. He has also earned Master's degrees in Anthropology and Business Administration. During his career, Eric's focus has often been on regulatory aspects of historic preservation.

Shaw, Polly

Polly is retired from the Seneca Valley School District. A local state park volunteer for more than 25 years, Polly is the author of "Moraine State Park" and is currently writing "McConnells Mill State Park" for Arcadia Publishing. She has presented many programs on local topics of historical interest.

Dr. Silva, Judy

Dr. Silva is Slippery Rock University's Fine & Performing Arts Librarian, University Archivist, and Special Collections Librarian.

Simon, Natalie

Natalie is an Environmental Education Specialist at Moraine SP Complex, which includes McConnell's Mill and Moraine SP. She has a biology degree from GCC and an education degree from SRU.

Simon, William

As an apprentice to his father Edwin, Bill was ushered into the family business of hand lettering granite and other stones. By the middle 1980s Bill transitioned his skill and knowledge into creating carved and sandblasted signs, embellished with gold leaf and pictorial painting. Sensing the ever-encroaching technology taking away his livelihood, he leaved the applied arts and graduated in 2014 from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Currently he works in and out of his studio creating portraits, still-lives, and landscapes, all from direct observation.

Smith, Kellar

Kellar has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Grove City College. An avid gardener, he has been in awe of the beauty of wildflowers since childhood where he and his mother would take field and woodland walks collecting plant specimens to identify and study.

Stevenson, Sandy

Sandy has a BA in Psychology from Carlow College and an MS in Counseling Psychology from SRU. She retired from SRU as Director of Training and Employee Services where she focused on diversity-related work.

Sweeny, Shawn

Shawn has have been a professional photographer for 30 years. He has taught at Penn State, Cal. State and the Art Institute. He is a certified professional photographer. He has taught numerous seminars to professional photographers in NY PA and OH. He has also taught young kids.

Terman, Philip

Philip is a retired faculty member from Clarion University, where he taught creative writing and literature for 30 years. He is the author of 10 books of poetry, and direct The Bridge Literary Arts Center that focuses on community writers. He live with his wife in a converted one-room schoolhouse outside Barkeyville, PA. www.philipterman.com
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/philip-terman>.

Thornhill, Rich

Rich worked for the USPS for 40 years before retiring. He enjoys biking, kayaking, and hiking, and spending time at his cabin in the National Forest. He is active in the ILR, taking classes and formerly served as vice president. Rich also leads trips for the Butler Outdoor Club. He has one daughter, one son, one granddaughter, and two great-grandsons.

Zona, Jerry

Jerry started his recycling career in 1992. He's the Director of the Lawrence-Mercer Recycling/Solid Waste Dept. and Executive Director of Tri-County CleanWays and serves on the PA Solid Waste Advisory Committee and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful board. He holds a BS in Biology from Penn State Behrend.