

**Advisory Board Member Biographies**

**Harry J. Weitzel** serves as Chair of the Center for the Study of Democracy’s Advisory Board. He is a Managing Principal at Cedar Cove Advisors, where he provides advisory financial services to individuals, corporations and venture capital funds. He retired from Cherry Cove Companies as Chief Financial Officer, responsible for all of the company’s financial, administrative and legal affairs. Before that, Mr. Weitzel was the Chief Executive Officer at Pacific Consumer Funding in Dallas, Texas. Prior to that, he had a decades long career directing all retail lending activities with total profit and loss responsibility for MNC Financial in Baltimore, where he ultimately retired after reaching the position of President of MNC Retail Services, Inc. Weitzel has served St. Mary’s College of Maryland (SMCM) in various capacities since 1988: President of SMCM’s Foundation; Chair of the Joint Investment Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation; Member of the Academic Affairs Committee; and Trustee Emeritus and former Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

**The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin** has represented the people from Maryland in the U.S. Senate since 2007. He currently serves as Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is a senior member of the Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW) and Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee. He also serves on the Senate Finance Committee (SFC). These assignments have allowed Senator Cardin to promote policies, legislation and programs that help grow Maryland and national economies and create job opportunities, support small businesses, protect the middle class, and vulnerable citizens; maintain clean air and clean water; expand opportunities for public transit and energy independence; protect civil rights; and promote transparency, good governance and the protection of universal human rights. Senator Cardin is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law (1st in his class). He earned his B.A. degree in 1964 from the University of Pittsburgh (cum laude). Along with his service on boards at St. Mary’s College of Maryland and its Center for the Study of Democracy, he is a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors and the Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies’ National Advisory Board.

**The Honorable Steny Hoyer** is a U.S. Representative in the 5th Congressional District of Maryland. He has helped create jobs by supporting federal facilities and associated businesses located in and around the Fifth District, including NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Patuxent River Naval Air Station. He has co-sponsored numerous bills to protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, including the "Chesapeake Bay Restoration Act.” In 2008, Congressman Hoyer helped secure more than $400 million in theFarm Bill to enable farmers to implement environmental best practices and reduce runoff into the Chesapeake Bay and he also championed the efforts to replenish the declining oyster population of the Bay and to restore the Potomac, Patuxent and St. Mary's rivers. Congressman Hoyer works to meet the transportation needs of his constituents by securing funding to maintain and improve local roads, commuter bus systems, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). He has worked throughout his career to eradicate poverty in America. In 2013, he set up Democratic Whip Task Force on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Opportunity to raise the awareness of Members of Congress and the American people about the ongoing crisis of poverty and to work on reducing poverty, growing economy, and expanding opportunity for all.

**Jon Armajani,** Ph.D., is Professor in the Department of Theology at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University in Minnesota, U.S.A. His scholarship focuses primarily on the relationships between Islam and politics in the Middle East and North Africa, and secondarily in South Asia, which frequently involves analyses of the various relationships between Islam and democracy. He is the author of Dynamic Islam: Liberal Muslim Perspectives in a Transnational Age (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group/University Press of America, 2004) and Modern Islamist Movements: History, Religion, and Politics (Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012). He also co-edited, with James E. Lindsay, Historical Dimensions of Islam: Pre-Modern and Modern Periods; Essays in Honor of R. Stephen Humphreys (Princeton, New Jersey: Darwin Press, 2009). He is currently working on a book, which is tentatively entitled Iran, Islam, and Modern Middle East Politics. Dr. Armajani earned his Ph.D. in Religious Studies with a focus in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara; his Master of Divinity with a focus in History of Religions and Ecumenics at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.

**Diana Boros** is Assistant Professor of political theory in the SMCM Department of Political Science. Her research interests include the Critical Theory and Frankfurt School of social theory and philosophy; the many intersections of art and politics; and American political thought. She is particularly interested in examining the use of power in connection with creation and utilization of physical and metaphorical public spaces. Dr. Boros has studied the relationship between art and public space and social justice and art as social justice in public space. She has published two books: Creative Rebellion for the Twenty-First Century: The Importance of Public and Interactive Art to Political Life in America (2012), and with James Glass, Re-Imagining Public Space: The Frankfurt School in the 21st Century (2014). The course s she has taught include: Democratic Political Thought; Democracy & Inequality; and Feminist Political Theory.

**Chris Burch** is the Assistant Vice President of Information Technology at SMCM who joined the college after working for nearly twelve years developing flight simulators for the Navy at Patuxent River Naval Air Station (PAX). During his tenure at PAX, he built and oversaw network infrastructure and managed engineering and information technology teams. In 2014, Chris redesigned SMCM’s public web site transforming it into a modern, mobile friendly, cloud-hosted platform. As a seasoned IT professional, Chris is in charge of the design, development and implementation of organizational information systems at SMCM. He also leads the design and implementation of policies and programs for SMCM’s data processing. Chris’ vast knowledge of emerging information technologies, his ability to anticipate new technology trends, and his experience in developing best practices will help the Center in numerous ways. Among CSD’s goals is to master the use of digital platforms to reach diverse audiences and provide opportunities for the campus community to learn about the history and philosophy of digital culture and its impact on society.

**Michael J.G. Cain** is a professor of political science and former director of the Center for the Study of Democracy. He has also served as chair of the Political Science Department for five years. Prior to joining the faculty at St. Mary’s College, Dr. Cain taught at the University of Mississippi, the University of Warsaw and the University of Maryland. Since 2002, he has been a senior technical adviser to the U.S. government on energy development issues working in Bulgaria, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Romania, Tajikistan and Ukraine. In 2007, he published an edited volume entitled *Fighting Poverty and Reforming Social Security: What Can Post-Soviet States Learn from New Democracies of Central Europe?* His work has appeared in national and international academic journals, covering a wide range of topics in domestic and international politics. In 2011, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Macau, China. He has received post-doctorate fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Kennan Institute and IREX, the International Research and Exchanges Board. His most recent work “Linking the Caspian to Europe: Repercussions of the Trans-Anatolian Pipeline,” was published by the Rethink Institute (2012) in Washington D.C., where he also serves as a visiting fellow.

**Major General John P. Casciano** retired in May 1999 from his position as Director of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, deputy chief of staff, air and space operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. He was the headquarters proponent and functional manager for all Air Force reconnaissance, surveillance, intelligence and information warfare capabilities and served as the Air Force's Senior Official of the Intelligence Community (SOIC) in accordance with director of central intelligence directives. In addition, he provided headquarters oversight for the Air Intelligence Agency, an Air Force field operating agency. The general entered the Air Force in 1967 as a graduate of the Georgetown University Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He has served in senior staff officer positions in the Pentagon; Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.; Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va.; and Headquarters U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, West Germany. He earned his B.S. (cum laude) in languages and his M.A. in political sciences from Georgetown University.

**Jennifer Cognard-Black**, Professor of English, received her B.A. in English and music from Nebraska Wesleyan University, her M.A. in creative writing from Iowa State University, and her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in nineteenth-century literature and feminist literary theory. Cognard-Black’s specialties are the novel, Victorian literature and culture, fiction writing, and the literatures of food. A Fulbright scholar to Slovenia as well as the recipient of a Norton T. Dodge Award for Creative and Scholarly Achievement, Cognard-Black’s books include Narrative in the Professional Age (Routledge 2004); Kindred Hands (Iowa UP 2006); Advancing Rhetoric (Kendall/Hunt 2006); Books that Cook: The Making of Literary Meal (NYUP 2014); and From Curlers to Chainsaws: Women and Their Machines (MSUP 2016). Cognard-Black also publishes short fiction under the pseudonym J. Annie MacLeod; her stories have appeared in a number of journals, including Another Chicago Magazine, The Cream City Review, So To Speak, Roanoke Review, and The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, among others. For this work, she received a Maryland State Arts Council grant for fiction. Her newest project is a novel based on the life of Edith Wharton, under the working title "Making Up."

**Helen Ginn Daugherty** is a Professor of Sociology and the G. Thomas and Martha Meyers Chair in the Liberal Arts at St Mary’s College of Maryland. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Maryland, her M.A. from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, and her B.A. from the University of South Carolina. Her area of teaching expertise is demography, race and ethnic relations, the sociology of gender, and research methods. She has focused on issues of welfare reform, women’s employment and childbearing, teenage pregnancy, and the role of grandparents. Her current research efforts include a study on social policy and the demography of prisons, and the application of the United Nations Millennium Goals. In addition to a textbook in Demography, she has numerous publications and presentations on her research. Dr. Daugherty has been active in the International Congress of Women, attending and presenting papers in Ireland, Costa Rica, Australia, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Canada, and the United States. Professor Daugherty believes that it is important to share expertise with others. She is active in the community as past Director for the Board of Social Services, Co-Chair for the campaign to build the Hospice House, and a member of the Local Management Board. She served as co-chair of the Center for the Study of Democracy’s two day forum, *United Not Divided: Economic Inequality and the Opportunity Gap*, in Baltimore in March of 2016.

**Vice Admiral (ret) Joseph W. Dyer** is currently a consultant in the tech, aerospace and defense markets. He operates at the intersection of technology, finance, and risk mitigation. From 2003 through late 2012, he was an executive at iRobot Corporation serving consecutively as the President of the Government and Industrial Division, Chief Operating Officer, and as Chief Strategy Officer. He served as Commander of the Naval Air Systems Command from June 2000 until his military retirement in July 2003. He was previously assigned as Commander of the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division at Patuxent River in July 1997 and a month later assumed additional responsibilities as the Assistant Commander for Research and Engineering of the Naval Air Systems Command. Vice Admiral Dyer is a graduate of North Carolina State University with a B.S. in chemical engineering and the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California with a degree in financial management. He is an elected Fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration and the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. He was awarded the James H. Doolittle award in recognition of outstanding engineering achievement in aerospace.

**Regina Faden** joined Historic St. Mary’s City (HSMC) as Executive Director in October of 2008. Since her arrival, the museum has expanded it programmatic offering, (eliminate the strategic plan mention), realigned its marketing, secured funding for numerous capital maintenance and building projects, and supporting new exhibits and programs interpreting the development of slavery in the seventeenth century. HSMC is affiliated with St. Mary’s College of Maryland and is a partner in the College’s Museum Studies program and a frequent collaborator with the Center for the Study of Democracy. Previously, Regina served as Executive Director of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Hannibal, Missouri from 2004-2008. For the past twenty years, Faden has taught American Literature and History at such schools as Boston College, St. Louis University, and St. Mary’s College of Maryland. She received a Master’s in History with a certificate in Museum Studies from University of Missouri-St. Louis and her Ph.D. in American Studies from Saint Louis University.

**Bonnie Green** is the Executive Director of The Patuxent Partnership (TPP), an organization that works with government, industry and academia on initiatives in science and technology, hosts programs of interest to NAVAIR and the broader DoD community, supports workforce development including education initiatives and professional development. Prior to joining TPP, she worked as a Senior Advisor for Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore and traveled extensively in support of their programs. Ms. Green served as the Deputy Maritime Administrator at the U.S. Department of Transportation from 1999-2001. She started her career at the Maritime Administration and served in various positions there from 1974-1984. Ms. Green received her B.A. from St. Mary’s College of Maryland, and in 1981, The George Washington University conferred the degree of master of business administration on her. She served in various capacities on the St. Mary’s College Board of Trustees from 1993-2006, including Vice Chair and Treasurer. In addition to serving on the Center for the Study of Democracy’s advisory board, she currently serves as Secretary for St. Mary’s College of Maryland’s Foundation and Board President for the Historic St. Mary’s City Foundation. Ms. Green also serves on the boards of Historic Sotterley, Inc., and the St. Mary’s County Public Schools STEM Advisory Committee. She is a 2007 graduate of Leadership Maryland.

**Susan Grogan** has taught political science at St. Mary’s College of Maryland since 1983. Her teaching interests include most aspects of American Politics, in particular those areas related to law and courts as well as elections and public participation, including political polls. She has written on American and Canadian Indian justice systems, the United States Supreme Court, and – most recently – on the use of web-writing in the political science classroom. At St. Mary’s College Professor Grogan has served in a variety of administrative positions. She has been Department Chair and a member of the Faculty Senate. She was also the first Associate Provost (now Dean) for Faculty Affairs. Currently, Professor Grogan focuses her non-teaching activities on those related to student needs. She is the advisor of St. Mary’s chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. She is also the chief faculty pre-law advisor and sponsors the student organization PLAN, the Pre-Law Advisory Network. She serves as the advisor of *St. Mary’s Votes!*, a student-led organization that receives support from The Center for the Study of Democracy.

**Charles Holden** is a professor of history at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, where he has taught since 1999. His areas of expertise include 19th and 20th Century U.S. History, History of American South, History of Academic Freedom, The Great Depression and New Deal, and the Civil War era. He has published two books: *In the Great Maelstrom: Conservatives in Post-Civil War South Carolina* (2002) and *The New Southern University: Academic Freedom and Liberalism at UNC* (2011). Dr. Holden received his B.A. in Business Administration from St. John's University (MN), his M.A. in History from Creighton University, and his Ph.D. in United States History from Penn State University. He is currently working on a book project with Advisory Board member Zach Messitte and Jerald Podair on former Vice President Spiro Agnew and the Republican Party.

**William Kane**, J.D. is a partner at the law firm of Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP and a former Illinois assistant attorney general. He focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation and government controversy. Bill provides advice regarding regulatory, corporate governance and media/entertainment issues. He has significant experience representing clients in need of emergency injunctive relief for trade secret theft and unfair business competition. Bill's commercial litigation experience is as noteworthy as it is varied. Among his notable cases was a settlement of a legal question that had lingered for 50 years over who owned the James Bond movie character. As a result of an undisclosed settlement, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc. (MGM) and the producer of the James Bond movies, Danjaq, LLC, acquired “all of the rights and interests” to James Bond held by the family and estate of the late Kevin McClory, who had worked to adapt Ian Fleming's James Bond character for the screen. Attorney Kane earned his B.S. in Business Administration and Finance from Miami University and his J.D. from John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

**Steve McMahon** is an attorney and co-founder of Purple Strategies, LLC. He got his start in politics on the Senate and political staff of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and has worked on dozens of Senate, Gubernatorial and Mayoral campaigns across the country. Steve has served in senior roles in three presidential campaigns, and produced the advertising in support of then Senator Barack Obama for the Democratic National Committee in the 2008 presidential campaign. For the past twelve years, Steve’s principal focus has been on providing comprehensive brand, reputation, crisis management and issue advocacy campaigns for companies, industries and trade associations. His current and past clients include some of the world's best-known brands, including BP, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Caterpillar, Kellogg's, and Astra-Zeneca. He and his colleagues have also handled numerous initiative and referendum campaigns on a wide range of subjects, and helped develop litigation communication strategies for major companies facing significant litigation threats. Steve appears regularly as a political commentator on MSNBC programs and over the past five election cycles he has also been a frequent political commentator on CNN, CNBC, FOX News, CSPAN, and Bloomberg.

**Zach P. Messitte** is the president of Ripon College and a professor in the Politics and Government Department. Messitte came to Ripon in 2012 and helped lead the Imagine Tomorrow campaign that raised $67 million, the most successful fundraising campaign in College history. While at Ripon, Messitte’s opinion editorials have been published in several of the nation’s top 20 newspapers and have covered topics pertaining to the cost of higher education, NCAA Division III student-athletes, Spiro Agnew, the CIA and Redskins football. Prior to joining Ripon, he served as the dean of the College of International Studies at the University of Oklahoma. From 2002 to 2007, he served as the Director of the Center for the Study of Democracy and a member of the political science faculty at St. Mary’s College of Maryland. Prior to entering academia, Messitte worked for the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the United Nations and the Cable News Network (CNN). He received a bachelor’s degree in American history and Italian language from Bowdoin College, a master’s degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins University, and a doctorate in politics from New York University.

**Barry Muchnick** is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, where he helped launch the school’s new Environmental Studies major and serves as Director of the Environmental Citizenship Speaker Series. His teaching and scholarship are concerned with how natural and cultural forces interact to form our ecosystems, experiences, imaginations, and institutions. His areas of expertise as an environmental humanist include applied sustainability and community sustainable design, political ecology of conservation and development, environmental justice, and environmental history. Following a joint undergraduate degree from Emory University in Psychology and Philosophy and a certificate in Wilderness Management from University of Montana, he earned a M.E.Sc. in Conservation Ecology from Yale’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Environmental History from Yale University. He teaches a range of introductory and upper level courses that examine the complex interactions of people and their environments across time as well as an Applied Sustainability Practicum aimed at creative, environmental problem-solving.

**Michael Steele** is an MSNBC political analyst and the former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, the first African American elected to statewide office in that state. During his time as Lieutenant Governor, he chaired the Minority Business Enterprise taskforce, actively promoting an expansion of affirmative action in the corporate world. He served as the first African-American chairperson of the Republican National Committee and co-founded the Republican Leadership Council, a "fiscally conservative and socially inclusive" political action committee. In addition to being a partner at the law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf, Steele was chairman of GOPAC, the political training organization of the Republican party, and a political commentator for Fox News. His book, *Right Now: A 12-Step Program for Defeating the Obama Agenda*, was released in January 2010. He received his bachelor’s degree from Johns Hopkins University and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

**Roxanne Summers** began her career as a journalist, taking assignments abroad in Saigon, South Vietnam, and Vientiane, Laos. She spent several years working for the U.S. Government in Geneva, Switzerland, and for The Associated Press in Algiers, Algeria. While living in Paris, Roxanne was Assistant to the President of a nuclear engineering firm and General Manager of the French affiliate of a U.S. law firm. Now officially retired, she continues to work as an editor of technical documents on various subjects, including nuclear power regulation and the design of new reactors, as well as applications to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Roxanne earned her B.A. in French at MacMurray College (Jacksonville, IL) and her M.S. from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.