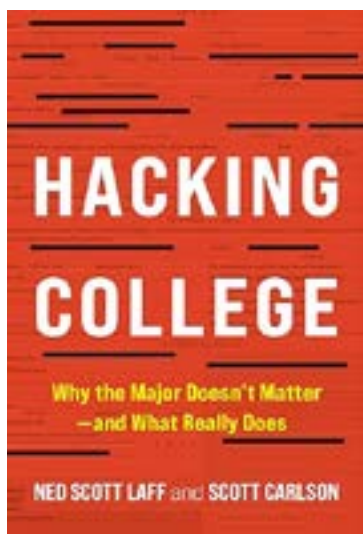


Society for the Future of Higher Education

November 2025

News and Views



Reading for the Common Good

Ready to unwind and dive into a great read with colleagues? Reading for the Common Good is a common reading – aka book club – experience for all SFHE members and friends. Starting in January 2026, we will read “Hacking College: Why the Major Doesn't Matter and What Really Does” by Ned Scott Laff and Scott Carlson. Organized in seven chapters, Laff and Carlson leverage their experiences working in higher education to offer a framework for student success. They also probe the idea of a “wicked problem.” Want to know what that wicked problem is? Get together a group of your colleagues and read this book together. The Reading for the Common Good offers you a chance to build professional connections and engage in meaningful conversations.

Interested, let us know by January 15. Questions? Please

email smcallister@sfhe.org.



SFHE Volunteers Needed

SFHE offers numerous opportunities for members to get involved more deeply in the work of the Society through our committees. Committees include:

- Conference Planning Committee
- Facilitator, Reading for the Common Good
- Membership Recruitment & Engagement

Interested in learning more about a committee or joining? Email vfelix@sfhe.org.



The Faculty Advocate
2026 Summer Conference
July 16-19, 2026
La Roche University, Pittsburgh, PA
Registration opens soon at www.sfhe.org!

2025 Conference

What a joy to gather with fellow SFHE-ers in Pittsburgh in July! Following the good feedback that we received about La Roche University as a destination for the conference, we returned for a second year to enjoy the campus's hospitality. This year was also marked by participation from the La Roche community as we had the opportunity to learn from a group comprised of a faculty member, staff member, and student at La Roche.

A hallmark of the summer conference has been the presence of Morning Groups, dedicated groups that spend every morning learning, discussing, and working together. This year marked the first year that we had a Morning Group devoted to exploring the effects and impacts of artificial intelligence on higher education.

This conference was also enhanced by the presence of several new Mary Jo Small Fellows. Following the Board's vision for a revitalized MJS program, potential Fellows were invited to a more robust MJS experience that was coupled with intentional mentoring meetings both before and after the conference between the Fellows and a designated SFHE member.

Finally, the conference supported robust intellectual inquiry as we had the opportunity to learn together from Dr. Timothy San Pedro who challenged us to consider how educators might incorporate culturally sustaining pedagogy into their teaching practices.

All told, the 2025 SFHE Summer Conference was yet another memorable and intellectually rich time together. We look forward to doing it again in 2026!



Mary Jo Small Fellows

At the 2025 SFHE conference, we will pioneer a revised version of our long-running Mary Jo Small Fellowship program. Mary Jo Small, a long time SFHE member, endowed a fund for new scholars with a focus on mentorship programming. This fellowship provides this support while also encouraging new scholars to learn more about the SFHE. The MJS fellowship is part of SFHE's broader mission of being an incubator and advocate for ideas, strategies, and pedagogies to lead higher education to a more inclusive, just, and equitable future.

In addition to providing selected MJS Fellows with the usual benefits of the Fellowship (e.g. all-expense-paid participation in the annual conference), we would also like to offer a more robust opportunity for MJS Fellows to receive personalized mentorship from existing SFHE members in the months leading up to the conference. These mentorship relationships would provide MJS Fellows with an opportunity to make an early connection to someone within the organization and to learn from the vast wisdom that our members have accrued from decades of experience within higher education and/or as an advocate of postsecondary education.

Great feedback from our Mary Jo Small Fellows!

I enjoyed every minute of my time participating in the Mary Jo Small Fellowship conference. We learned valuable insider information about the world of higher education including practicing critical thinking, considering how we "show up" as an educator, having genuine care and concern for students, recognizing that "every class is a rough draft," considering who we are as academic writers, and so much more! What I enjoyed the most about the conference is the family-oriented atmosphere. This organization is steeped in history and togetherness and it showed through the kindness and down-to-earth nature of everyone I came in contact with. I'm so grateful to have had this opportunity!

I'd like to highlight the supportive environment, especially the student-facing skills I polished while working together with my cohort. I'd also like to emphasize the importance of the mentorship program, although not necessarily limited to the conference, I find that ongoing relationship quite helpful. I also had a chance to get constructive feedback on my writing during the conference from my peers, and I think the multidisciplinary nature of the cohort helped immensely to make my writing more accessible to different disciplines.

As a Mary Jo Small Fellow and attendee at the SFHE annual meeting, I was grateful for the opportunity to convene with scholars and intellectuals who center equity in learning communities. The experience was refreshing, it reignited my curiosity and provided valuable tools that continue to shape my evolving professional identity. I look forward to the next opportunity to connect with other fellows and scholars.



We’re accepting nominations for the 2027 cohort of Mary Jo Small Fellows

The Society for the Future of Higher Education (SFHE) seeks early career scholar applications for a year-long career mentoring program. Through the competitive Mary Jo Small (MJS) Fellowship program, participants are paired with SFHE members who can provide guidance regarding higher education, professional life, and tenure and promotion. Those selected will be provided with full funding to attend a three day summer meeting with focused mentorship in teaching, technical writing, and professionalism, and an opportunity to present research. Funding may be extended for a second year.

SFHE defines “early career scholars” as anyone enrolled in graduate or post-graduate work (regardless of intended post-graduate career path), or newly hired academic faculty in their first three years. Contingent faculty are encouraged to apply.

More information and application can be found [here](#).

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- Commit to attending a virtual Mary Jo Small Fellowship Program Orientation
- Commit to connecting with their assigned MJS Fellow once per month between March and June 2026
- Commit to attending the 2026 SFHE Conference at La Roche University (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Commit to sharing at least one meal with the MJS Fellow at the conference

So, here’s where you come in!
Would you be willing to serve as a mentor for one of our MJS Fellows this year?
If so, complete the form found [here](#).

Dues/Annual Fund

We rely on member dues and annual fund contributions to continue our good work. You can renew your membership, join SFHE, or contribute to the Annual Fund at <https://sfhe.networkforgood.com/projects/90341-membership-renewal>

Board of Directors

2025 - 2026

		Term Ends
Melanie Howard	President	2026
Rebekah Adderley	Vice-President	2026
Shondra	Treasurer	2028
Amy Berger	Secretary	2026
Kiera Waren		2026
Amy Lampazzi		2027
Julie Phillips		2027
Blayne Harcey		2027
Stephen Baker		2027
Christina Romero		2027
Dorothy Hurlburt		2028
Vivienne Felix	Executive Director	
Sandy McAllister	Assistant Director	

Thank you to Joel Cunningham, Terry Shoemaker, and Alex Santrac for their service to the Board and the Society.
We’d like to welcome Dorothy Hurlburt back to the Board as she begins a new term.

SFHE Board Nominations

We're looking for a few good Board members AND a new President! After two terms as President and an additional one as a Board member, Melanie Howard will be rolling off the Board thissummer. We are looking for someone to succeed her. The president can come from current Board members or the general membership. To nominate someone, or yourself for the Board, or for President, email Sandy.

In Memory

James Longstreth

December, 1945 - July, 2025

James A. Longstreth was born in Iowa City, IA to Mary and Alvan Longstreth on December 3, 1945. He died at home in Mundelein IL. on July 15, 2025. His remains will be interred in the Ivanhoe Cemetery in Mundelein. He is survived by his wife, Maria-Viktoria Abricka Longstreth, his son and daughter in law, Nicholas and Jessica Babbitz Longstreth and their daughter Athena Longstreth. He is survived as well by his sisters, Marcia Kearney and Alvina Johnson and his brother, Dennis Longstreth. That is the bare bones genealogical information. It does not tell you that between those two dates, he lived a life rich in friendship and filled with variety, accomplishment and personal satisfaction.

James was an active and supportive member of the Society; a regular at Fellows Meetings and a great recruiter of new members.

His complete obituary can be found [here](#).

Johanna Macy

May, 1929 - July, 2025

The American environmentalist writer and teacher Joanna Macy, who has died aged 96, pioneered workshops that helped people deal with anxiety over the future of the planet, and develop a fresh way of experiencing the world.

Her teaching and 12 books drew on Buddhism, systems thinking – which looks at the world as an interconnected whole rather than separate parts – and deep ecology – the understanding that humans are simply one part of our living planet.

Macy's most distinctive gift, however, was her ability to translate a theoretical understanding of the world and its challenges into what the Buddhist teacher David Loy called an "embodied understanding" – something people could feel and experience directly.

From Fellow Helena Meyer-Knapp

At that earlier meeting at St. Mary's in 1976, Rob was in a workshop run by Joanna Macy in the morning group on Planetary Survival. She took them through an encounter with their Despair in the face of the Cold War and the nuclear threat. That workshop changed our lives, mine in particular. Despair work turned into Deep Ecology and Joanna spent all those years from 1978 to yesterday, teaching how to do good work for the sake of planetary survival for all beings

Joanna needed a "Morning Group" to lay the first few stones of the foundations for her life's work. I did too. Planetary Survival for all came to be woven into how many talk about what matters now, in part thanks to an organization whose name back then was "The Society for Religion in Higher Education."

Full obituary from The Guardian can be found [here](#).

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