



## SPRING 2025 Descriptions and Presenter Bios

**February 20, 2025 - 1:30 pm**

### **From Shanghai to Ohio: Art, Research, and a Family of Artists**

***Otterbein & The Arts: Opening Doors to the World*** (ODW) - Spring 2025 turns to China and themes related to migration, identity, and the creative responses of artists in the Chinese diaspora. Glowski will discuss the following exhibitions:

- **The Frank Museum of Art**
  - *From Shanghai to Ohio: Woo Chong Yung (1898–1989)*, curated by Dr. Hou-mei Sung of the Cincinnati Art Museum.
  
- **Fisher Gallery** (Lower level)
  - *Counterpanes*
  - Featuring the **art quilts of Anne Wu**, C.Y. Woo's granddaughter
  
- **Fisher Gallery** (Upper level)
  - *Art & Research of the C.Y. Woo Collection: 2018 - present*
  - An historical review of the art history, chemistry, and social science research and findings on Otterbein's C.Y. Woo Collection.



**Dr. Janice Glowski** is the director of The Frank Museum of Art and Galleries at Otterbein, where she also teaches art history and visual culture and museum and curatorial studies. She co-founded *Otterbein and the Arts: Opening Doors to the World* (ODW), a contemporary arts program and publication series, which has received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEH), the Ohio Arts Council (OAC), University sources, and private donors. She curates contemporary art exhibitions across disciplines and has contributed scholarship to several international exhibition catalogs. In addition to museum-related work, Glowski researches, presents, and publishes on South Asian and Himalayan art.

**February 27, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.**

## **Becoming a Mathemagician**

Many believe that mathematics is done with much hand-waving and magic. We are out to prove just that. During our time together, we will examine how mentalists use mathematics to make probabilistic predictions, how geometers can make matter disappear, and how numerologists determine digits of prestidigitations. In addition to learning how to perform these feats of legerdemain, you will gain an understanding of the mathematics behind the trickery. Amaze your friends and family; become a mathemagician.



**Dr. Jeff Smith** is the Patton Endowed Chair for Educational Mathematics and the Director of Mathematics Education in the Department of Mathematics & Actuarial Science at Otterbein University. He earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics Education at The Ohio State University, 1995; his M.A., Mathematics at The Ohio State University, 1989; and his B.S., Mathematics Education at The Ohio State University, 1986.

Currently, he is principal investigator for a 1.2 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation, looking at how to improve mathematics instruction in high needs school districts. His research interests include discourse in the mathematics classroom and cognitively-guided instruction. Most recently, he has published articles on new approaches to teaching mathematical proof in *Mathematics Teaching and Learning*, the premier journal for mathematics educators (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics)

**March 6, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.**

## **The marvelous Microbiome**

What is a microbiome? This is all of the microbes in and on a particular sample or in a particular environment. Microbiomes are found just about everywhere! They are strong indicators of human, animal and environmental health. Microbes help us digest our food, provide important chemicals, and are part of our immune system. The microbiome is needed for our survival and shapes the world we live in. However, humans can unknowingly compromise this integral part of our immune system in various ways, including poor diet, lack of sleep, and antibiotic or drug use. Participants will learn about the microbiome and how it relates to human health. They will learn what can be done to protect their microbiome and even increase its fitness to optimize health. We will discuss impacts of the microbiome and view the results of an environmental and wildlife microbiome study performed by research students in my lab.



**Dr. Jennifer Bennett** graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry from La Roche College, a Master of Science in Biological Sciences and a Doctorate in Biological Sciences (concentration in Microbial Genetics/Cell and Molecular Biology) from Duquesne University. She then performed a teaching post-doctoral fellowship at Juniata College where she was the von Liebig Scholar of Biology. She is currently a Professor in the Department of Biology & Earth Science at Otterbein University where she maintains an interest in innovative teaching strategies, especially in the area of integrating scientific research into the undergraduate curriculum. Her research focuses on the identification and characterization of new genes involved in bacterial development and antibiotic production.

**March 13, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.**

## **The Lives of Paul and Erika Bourguignon**

Join us for a captivating presentation showcasing the lives of Paul and Erika Bourguignon, a groundbreaking couple. Paul was a talented visual artist, a prolific writer and journalist, a skillful photographer and an avid observer of the human condition. His paintings are in museums and collections throughout the world. Erika was an Anthropology professor and department chair at The Ohio State University. She was considered to be the foremost anthropological authority on trance, possession and altered states of consciousness. Come be inspired! Jane Hoffelt, Trustee of the Bourguignon Charitable Trust, will answer questions after the video presentation.



**Jane Hoffelt** worked with Dr. Erika Bourguignon for 14 years, organizing and marketing artwork of the late artist Paul-Henri Bourguignon. Her career is wide ranging; she was *Columbus Monthly Magazine* art director, creative director for several ad agencies, and manager at three publishing companies. She has curated or co-curated more than 50 solo Bourguignon exhibitions in more than a dozen galleries and museums, including Columbus Museum of Art, Schumacher Gallery, Artists Archive of the Western Reserve, Springfield Museum of Art, and the Richard M. Ross Museum of Art. After Dr. Bourguignon's death in 2015, Hoffelt became Trustee of the Erika Bourguignon Charitable Trust which

supports the Columbus Foundation's Paul-Henri Bourguignon and Erika Bourguignon Fund for the Visual Arts.

**March 20 & 27, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.**

## **Putin and Xi in Historical Perspective**

In February 2022, when President Vladimir Putin threw the armed might of the Russian Federation against his southern neighbor, Ukraine, the relationship between Putin and fellow autocrat, Xi Jinping, Paramount Leader of the People's Republic of China, became of critical concern to foreign-policy officials in the United States and Western Europe. The high-tech military aid that China could provide Russia might prove the determining factor in the outcome of the war and with it not only Ukraine's status as an independent nation, but that of Taiwan as well. Indeed, the outcome might ultimately affect the balance of power worldwide.

Not surprisingly, therefore, much attention has focused on the strategic partnership of Putin and Xi Jinping. Obtaining a true understanding of that unusually close relationship, however, has been limited by the authoritarian nature of both regimes. Nevertheless, we can find clues to the partnership if we turn to the *history* of Sino-Russian relations, especially since World War II. Focusing on those 75 years, we discover, for instance, periods of Sino-Russian consensus (often determined by relations with the United States), cut short by intervals of conflict. Though on the verge of Armageddon at times, those conflicts, significantly, never lead to all-out war. The circumstances that produced those eras of conflict or consensus provide clues critical to our understanding of Putin's relationship with Xi Jinping today.

We also learn much about today's Putin-Xi partnership by examining the evolving *power dynamic* between Russia and China since World War II. For the majority of those years, for instance, Russia dominated the relationship, but today, China has the upper hand. Examining the causes and consequences of that dynamic provides clues to the partnership today.

As historians analyze the evolution of such bilateral relationships, finally, they debate what might be termed *the universal causes* of change. Should we assign to *individuals*, Putin or Xi, for example, the principal responsibility for historical change, or should we investigate larger *social, economic, political* (i.e., the role of the United States), and/or *ideological* forces (such as communism or authoritarianism) as the key instruments of change? Analysis of the Putin-Xi relationship, therefore, contributes to our understanding of these broader questions of history.



**Betsy MacLean** is a Professor Emerita of History. For 23 years at Otterbein she taught late 19th and 20th century American political and cultural history, as well as Western Civilization and a History of the Soviet Union. In 2000-2001, she also served as President of the Ohio Academy of History, an organization representing historians throughout Ohio. Betsy has presented several talks for the Lifelong Learning Program, the majority of which focused originally on topics in American history, including, "James Madison and the Constitution," "The Sixties Rebellion," and "The Seventies." More recently, she has given talks on the Soviet Union and China. The first, titled "Putin in the Context of Russian and Soviet History," grew out of her research on the origins of the Cold War during the era of FDR and Stalin. That also was the focus of her book, *Joseph E. Davies and Soviet American Relations*, which investigated the role of the American ambassador to the USSR at that critical time. Most recently, Betsy presented two sessions on "Sun, Chiang, Mao, and Xi, and the Personality Cult in China.

**April 3, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.**

### **Coltan: Blood Minerals from the Congo**

Developed nations worldwide have an insatiable appetite for and a deep reliance upon electronic devices. Modern electronics use a wide variety of exotic metals to function properly and few substitutes are possible -- a fact not fully appreciated by many people. All too often, these metals are sourced from third-world nations with little regard for the impact on local peoples, their quality of life, and their environment. This presentation focuses on the atrocities associated with mining coltan in central Africa. Coltan is a dull metallic ore from which the elements niobium and tantalum are refined. This notorious pair of metals lies at the heart of much human rights suffering: abject poverty, smuggling, racism, human trafficking, corruption, militant dictatorships, anarchy, and even genocide. The western world hears little about these matters, especially in Africa, except for occasional nature shows about the demise of mountain gorillas. Come listen to a history of central Africa and how colonialism and a lust for mineral wealth: ivory, rubber, diamonds, gold, uranium, copper, tin, and the latest duo -- niobium and tantalum has led to these problems. We'll learn why coltan is so vital, and discuss what technical alternatives and political interventions might be possible.



**Rich Tenaglia** is a retired metallurgist whose career at Battelle focused on the development and processing of many lesser-known metals. Rich is passionate about the intersection of technology with history and the impact on humans and the environment. LLC members may remember Rich's presentations about China's near monopoly of vital rare earth materials and the history of humanity's lust for gold.

**April 10 & 17, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.**

## **Getting the Best from Your Healthcare**

Our health is determined by a variety of factors, among these where we were born, grew up and lived, the extent of our education, where we currently live and work and, of course, our age. These are frequently referred to as the *social determinants of health*. In aggregate, these factors are estimated to constitute about 80-90% of the health-related factors that determine the health of the population. Medical care, broadly speaking, accounts for the other 10 to 20%. Most important, it's the 10-20% over which we as individuals have some control. How to take maximum advantage of the health care available to us will be the focus of our two sessions.

We'll begin by looking at the underappreciated role that public health plays, using the activities of the Ohio Department of Health as an example. This will involve a quick look at the current data on health and well-being in Ohio, such as demographic trends, leading causes of death and premature death in adults, and access to healthcare and healthcare spending. It will provide a sense of the current state of health in our communities and the programs underway that are not directly healthcare related.

The remainder of the two sessions will focus on you and me. We and our doctors are deluged with medical and health information on new pharmaceuticals (had your TV on lately?), public health recommendations, "important clinical studies," and screening for diseases. How do we keep from drowning in this information while, with the help of our healthcare professionals, taking advantage of what is valuable for us?

The medical community developed an approach to this problem in the early 1980s, the end result being "evidence-based medicine" (EBM). EBM has been defined as the "integration of the best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values." It relies heavily on the results of randomized controlled trials (RCT). It is the results of these trials that comprise the majority of information to which both patients and doctors are regularly exposed. We will look at how RCT are designed, conducted, and analyzed, giving special emphasis to the difference between statistically and clinically significant outcomes. Among the questions to be answered – does *newer* always mean *better*? Finally, we'll discuss meta-analysis, the method experts in a field use to aggregate the results of multiple studies to reach recommendations for public health measures and clinical care.

In the US, primary care office visits (about 320/1,000 persons/yr.) represent about 90% of healthcare visits. How do we maximize the benefit from these visits and the referral visits that may follow? I believe it's valuable to gain some insight into how doctors think about medical information and use it – their biases, limitations, good intentions, and goals for the health of their patients. With that in mind, how do you as a patient prepare for the visit, including the following: having a specific goal for the visit, updating your history and medications, new signs or symptoms, etc. Finally, and where appropriate, I plan to discuss topics such as the following: the

value of screening tests and what they mean for the individual patient; whether early detection/diagnosis of disease is always helpful; the risks of over-diagnosis and over-treatment; when second opinions should be considered.



After undergraduate years at Princeton, **William C. MacLean** completed his MD, CM degrees at McGill University in Montreal and his training in pediatrics and nutrition at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, followed by a decade on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine and Public Health. Moving to Columbus with his wife Betsy (Prof. Emerita, Otterbein) and their children in 1982, he spent 21 years with Abbott Laboratories, retiring as vice president of medical and regulatory affairs in its nutrition division in 2003. Throughout those years and continuing, he has been part of the G.I.-

Nutrition group at Children's Hospital and an adjunct professor of pediatrics at OSU.

Bill's primary interests are infant nutrition and malnutrition. He had a long-lasting relationship with the Nutrition Research Institute in Lima, Peru, where he carried out research over many years. He has been a member of the editorial board of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* and has published extensively in both peer-reviewed medical journals and books.

**April 24, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.**

### **The History of the Uptown Westerville History Plaques. Plus, Side Stories Discovered!**

In the summer of 2019, twenty buildings in the Uptown Westerville area received bronze plaques mounted on their exterior fronts. Each plaque contains historical highlights including one or more historic pictures. In the summer of 2023, the plaques program was expanded to include seventeen more. The area extends from Joe's Auto Service on the north to the repurposed Westerville Armory on the south. The east extends to Emerson School and the Frank Museum on Vine Street with the west extending to Church of the Master, Towers Hall and Howard House on Grove Street. This LLC session of pictures and comments will further enlighten you, but we'll also sidetrack to some surprises that hopefully expand your appreciation of local history when you walk and drive around Westerville.



**Don Foster** worked in several capacities over his career of thirty-one years at Otterbein University. Upon retiring as Registrar at the end of 2015, he took a year's vacation and then decided "I need a project!" Undertakings since that decision have included scanning historical material for Otterbein's Digital Commons, facilitating placement of the Uptown Westerville Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, placing Clippinger Hall on the National Register of Historic Places, securing an Ohio Historical Marker for Olde Methodist Cemetery on West Lincoln Street, and researching/writing narratives for the history plaques previously mentioned. The Columbus architectural firm of Yost & Packard (1880's – 1920's) continues to be a main

research focus. All of this work is published as blogs.

**May 1, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.**

## **The Origins of U.S. Involvement in Vietnam**

An examination of the origins of American involvement in Vietnam that begins with the development of the Cold War after World War II. I will first chart the growing tension with the Soviet Union and how the Truman administration sought to deal with the Soviets' perceived goal of spreading communism in Europe. The second part of this presentation examines events in 1949 and 1950 that led the Truman administration to apply the containment policy to the entire globe.



**Anthony DeStefanis** specializes in modern U.S. history with an emphasis on labor and the working class and immigration, race, and ethnicity. His current research uses the Colorado National Guard and the 1913-14 southern Colorado coal strike to examine military strikebreaking. He charts the development of both Colorado's mining industry and the Colorado National Guard to understand how the confluence of capital's growing power, cultural politics, and the imperatives of state building created a state with a formidable National Guard that was willing to break strikes, as well as state officials who continually used the Guard as a club against striking workers. He is currently working on a book manuscript titled, "Guarding the Empire: Soldier Strikebreakers on the Long Road to the Ludlow Massacre."

Dr. DeStefanis earned his PhD in history at the College of William and Mary. At Otterbein, he teaches courses on U.S. labor and working-class history, immigration, the African American civil rights movement, the history of sexuality, and the Cold

War. He also offers a team-taught course on the history and literature of the Vietnam War.

DeStefanis grew up in Providence, Rhode Island, in a working-class family with his grandparents and great-grandparents all immigrating to the United States from Italy. This family history helps to explain his interest in labor and working-class history and immigration, race and ethnicity.

DeStefanis went to college in Rhode Island, moved to Virginia for graduate school, and his first teaching jobs were in Florida. He came to Columbus in 2008 when he was hired at Otterbein and has enjoyed exploring Ohio and the mid-west. In his free time, he likes to cook, run, read, practice yoga, go to live concerts, and work on his house in Old Town East, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Columbus.