

## Schedule and Participant Biographies



**Overseas Marylanders Association**  
**24th Worldwide Gathering**  
*University of Maryland Global Campus, Adelphi, Maryland*  
*November 14-15, 2025*

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## Joe Arden

I worked with the Maryland Overseas Programs from 1967-2007. From 1967-1971, I taught government/history with the then-Far East Division and the European Division. In those 20 teaching terms, I made 19 geographic moves.

From 1971--2007, I was an administrator with UMUC, serving as an Area Director, an Academic Coordinator, and for more than 30 of those years as Director of Asia or Europe. Except for the last couple of those 40 years, I loved working with Maryland. Indeed, often thought I should have been paying Maryland rather than the other way around.

For the last several years, I have been based in Bangkok—where, nostalgically, I had my initial interaction with Maryland, a 1967 interview for an adjunct faculty position. Indeed, at least once a week, I walk past the hotel where the breakfast interview was held.

My passion, which formerly WAS the Maryland Overseas Programs, is now given first to travelling around the world—to visit friends, often stemming from Maryland days. And, second, travelling to attend international basketball tournaments and to continue my losing battle with the Argentine Tango.

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## Paul Brewer

I began with UMUC Asia in 1977 as a Lecturer in HIST & GVPT, transferred to UMUC Europe in 1979-80. Taught in Okinawa, Misawa, Seoul, Oson, Tegu, Ansback, Neunberg, Incirlik, Athens, Crete, Lakenheath, and Mildenhall. I was with the first Maryland group to tour the PRC. Administrative positions beginning in 1983 included Area Director, Director of Student Services, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Director of Administration. I retired from UMUC Asia in 2007 to Wimberley, TX. Spouse Ruby Kelly-King/Kelly-Brewer held a variety of administrative positions in Europe and Asia, including Registrar, Director of Student Services, and Director of PeopleSoft Implementation. Ruby died in 2015. I currently reside in the Boston area (Watertown), from which I try to travel as often as I can.



*Heidelberg, 2016*



*Adelphi, 2019*



*Naples, FL, 2014*

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## Barbara Crain

My first encounter with the University of Maryland was in the mid-70s while a student at the University of Heidelberg. Several “annuals” were my neighbors in Heidelberg’s Old Town, inspiring me to strive for a job similar to theirs. In 1983, while I was living in Nürnberg, my friend Linda Kraus Worley introduced me to Wally Knoche, who brought me on as a “local hire” to teach German. Subsequently I taught German, geography, and geology at a number of Education Centers in Germany. In 1987 I moved back to Heidelberg, where I met my husband, Tom, at a UMED graduation ceremony, and we were married three years later.

We decided it made sense to move to the States, as the U.S. presence in Europe was declining, and in 1991 I landed in the Washington, DC area with baby Vanessa on board. In 1997 I joined Rosemary Hoffmann in the Overseas Office in College Park and for several years worked as a faculty recruiter, taking groups of annuals to Asia and Europe. Nine years later, I joined the faculty of Northern Virginia Community College (our First Lady is teaching on NOVA’s Alexandria campus) and am now Associate Professor for geography. I continue to love my teaching job; however, in the spring I will begin a stint as the newly appointed part-time coordinator of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) in addition to a reduced course load. Tom and I live in Kensington, Maryland.

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## Tom Crain

For seven glorious years, 1983-1990 I taught writing and literature courses for the University of Maryland European Division as a term-appointed faculty member. At first I was based in Kaiserslautern, rejoining my college roommate and close friend Richard Schnieder. I subsequently taught in Baumholder, Heidelberg, Frankfurt (Abrams), Naples, Sinop Turkey, and elsewhere. After the stint in Turkey, in 1987 David Glaser asked me to join him as Assistant to the Director of the Mediterranean. From our offices on Im Bosseldorn, I worked with field reps in Italy, Spain, Turkey, and Greece—and of course Heidelberg staff, with many of whom I established lasting friendships. While there, I launched and edited *Gathering*, a magazine of literature and the arts, publishing works by both students and faculty/staff. I also enjoyed playing (not very well) on our basketball team with Joe Arden and Doug Lemmon, among others. In 1987, I met my wife, Barbara (Rips) Crain, at a graduation ceremony in Patrick Henry Village, and we married in 1990.

Shortly after our wedding, Barbara and I thought it prudent to return to the United States, as UMED was beginning to downsize. I landed in College Park, MD, working with Ralph Millis and Susan Nickens as a faculty recruiter. In 1991, I was offered a position at the Smithsonian Institution as a program director, and in 1993 joined Johns Hopkins University as Director of the Odyssey program. I have been there ever since—serving as both administrator and faculty member, moving to part-time status this year.

## Steve Crouch

Steve and his family returned to the USA in mid-2020 after 24 years abroad in Japan, Germany, and the UAE. Steve currently works as Controller for Lehigh University in Bethlehem PA.

Steve has been married to Conny since 2001. They have two children, Linnea, 16 and Mateo, 14.

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## Ed Davis

## Bob DeGross

Bob DeGross has had a dual career. First as an academic and then as a Senior Executive with the Intelligence Community. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at UMGC, where he has taught History and Intelligence Studies since 1972. He also has taught for over 50 years at the university level at such institutions at Miami University, Ohio; University of Maryland University College (Asian, European, and Stateside campuses); Montgomery College; American Military University; and Mercyhurst College. His PHD is in Modern European History.

Within the Intelligence Community, he has served in senior positions for over 45 years. He has worked in three different national intelligence agencies. His last position was as a Human Capital consultant on Training and Workforce Modernization, supporting the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. He also was an instructor at the Sherman Kent School at CIA. He served as the Executive Secretary for the Intelligence Community Analysis Training and Education Council and taught courses on Intelligence Collaboration and Analytic Ombudsmen. He developed and managed the Intelligence Community Advanced Analysis Program from 2009-2015. Past key positions in the Intelligence Community were at DIA as the DOD Collection Manager, Vice Deputy Director for Administration, Director of the Joint Military Intelligence Training Center, and the Provost and Deputy of the Joint Military Intelligence College (renamed the National Intelligence University). At JMITC, he worked with the military commands to establish regional joint intelligence training centers. At the NIU he was responsible for the development and accreditation of the Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence degree program.

His awards include Defense Intelligence Agency Directors Awards, 2002, and 2005; The National Intelligence University Faculty Emeritus Award, 2013; and The Torch Bearer Award, Defense Intelligence Agency, 2013.

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## Nancy Derr

I arrived in Heidelberg in 1971 -- first full-time post-grad job, working in Izmir, Turkey, teaching in my two fields, English and American history. Then I taught at two tiny bases in southern Spain, followed by Holy Loch, Scotland -- and Zweibrucken and Pirmasens; Athens; Izmir again; Zaragosa; and Torrejon, leaving in 1977 for UMUC stateside. There never was a job to match that! I was the director of a small private high school for a while, but that didn't fit well with single parenthood -- mostly did a patchwork of jobs, including adjunct teaching, painting portraits, and running a church school. My research interests shifted toward European history, 19th century, and I'll let you know when my book comes out on Tsar Alexander I and his wife Elisabeth. My daughter Veronica and I often travel together, and I still entertain myself with my research and writing.

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## Marilynn Draxl

I was with the European Division from 1971 -1974, teaching psychology and education in Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, England, Spain, Italy, and Turkey. After returning to College Park to teach in 1975, I later spent additional semesters in England, the Atlantic Division (Iceland, Bermuda), and Japan. Between 1978 and 1987, I was a UMUC administrator. In 1987 I joined the corporate world as an organizational psychologist, a role in which I continued working globally until March 2020, when I was grounded by the pandemic.

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## Ray Fox

In the late 1970s, I worked at the Haunted Mansion, Walt Disney World. To exit that ride, guests step out of their Doom Buggy cars and onto a moving conveyer belt. An employee is always on the belt to ensure guest safety. So many times during those years, I'd walk the unload belt worrying about my future (I had no aspirations with Disney), but also entertaining myself by imagining what it might be like to land in a foreign country. To my immense good fortune, UMUC, over a course of 26 years, provided me with more landings in more foreign countries than I can count!

Although I wanted a Europe placement, I was assigned to the Asian Division in August 1988, and that was a blessing. It was the beginning of my charmed existence, as proved by my first assignment . . . Australia! Actually, I was supposed to go to Misawa in Japan first. That was changed to Tokyo. When I read "Australia" on my nametag the first day of orientation, I was near swooning with fear that it was a mistake. I'm still in touch with my very first field rep; she was my introduction to all things Aussie. The Asian Division years established the pattern of two-term assignments for me. Moving frequently, and good-byes, can be hard; however, I knew that something exciting would be waiting at my next "home." I was never lonely because our fine field reps and excellent students kept me entertained and challenged. And how satisfying it was to live in Australia, Japan, South Korea (for an unusual six terms at Osan AB), the Philippines, and Kwajalein.

After five years in Asia, I transferred to the European Division in 1993. My 21 years in that Division could be seen as the climax of my life. I was usually found at various sites in Germany or Italy – but the Netherlands, Iceland, and Hungary must also be added. Being the University's first instructor in Afghanistan was a treat: it provided me with 15 minutes of in-house celebrity! I would have been the first, and not the second, Marylander in Iraq if I'd been quicker onto the tarmac in 2008. Back in Europe, dear to my heart were Vicenza and Aviano, Italy, and Katzweiler in Germany. The pull of many friends in Europe continues strong: I've been back four times to visit since removing to the States in 2014.

My overseas "Life of continu'd Variety" was so full of incidents that too many crowd my memory. I do like to remember a snowfall at Camp McGovern in Bosnia because it was the most beautiful I've ever seen. My apartment in Bahrain was so large I joked about having to leave little caches of hallway food for the long journey between the living room and my bedroom. Some memories have taken on the golden patina of nostalgia, while the events, themselves, weren't as pleasant at the time . . . why, oh, why did I believe that punching a red button (covered by a plastic dome, no less) would open the door between wagons on my Japanese train? My blunder produced both The Alarm That Wouldn't Stop and nasty glares from the other passengers.

At last calculation, I moved something like 55 times courtesy of UMUC. Preparing for the next relocation became an art form. People have asked if I ever became irritated with the University for "yanking" me around from site to site. Not one bit! Any institution that allowed me to live in fascinating places, meet interesting people, and teach compelling subjects has my complete loyalty. My dreams at the Haunted Mansion did not rival the reality I lived. Thank you UMUC!

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## David Glaser

I taught my first class with the University of Maryland in 1968 in Thailand and my last class in Souda Bay, Crete, in the summer of 2006. There were many exotic assignments, including Phu Cat, Vietnam (1968), Singapore (2004), and Tulsa, Bosnia (1997). The logistics were formidable, the resources often minimal. But the classroom experiences were almost always remarkably rewarding. These were first generation learners, often coming to class after demanding military duties, keen to learn and very aware of the value of a college education. I found them, on the whole, superior to my normal undergraduate students in the United States.

In 1981, with many reservations, I accepted a position as Mediterranean Director with the University, working with Joe Arden out of Heidelberg, Germany. It involved staffing, scheduling classes, and maintaining programs at all military installation and some embassies between Lisbon and Sinop, Turkey, on an 8-week basis. Despite my intentions, I remained for 16 years. Among the positions I held, in addition to Mediterranean Director, were United Kingdom Director, History Coordinator, Faculty Development Coordinator, director of the Bosnian program, and director of the Uruguayan program

The teaching and administrative experiences, the wonderful people I met and worked with, the many adventures and misadventures have certainly been the true high points of my life.

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## John Golembe

I am a retired university administrator who earned an A.B. at Columbia College in government, an M.A. at Columbia University Teachers College, and a Ph.D. in U.S. history at University of Maryland, College Park. I taught history and government at the U.S. Naval Academy, American University, and the University of Maryland. Most of my career, however, has been involved with providing university programs for U.S. military members and their families, especially in the European theater.

My association with the military dates to 1965 when I became an officer in the U.S. Navy. Assignments included Vietnam service as Deck and Weapons Officer aboard the USS Coconino County (LST 603), instructor in the Department of English, History, and Government at the Naval Academy, and Reserve Training Analyst in the Pentagon.

I worked with the University of Maryland Global Campus as a faculty member and administrator from 1970 to 2007. Prior to joining the European Division in 1978, I was Faculty Liaison and then Assistant to the Dean at the home campus. In Europe, I held a variety of positions before appointment as Director from 2004 to 2006, when I returned to full-time teaching. In August 2007, I retired from Maryland and joined the staff of Central Texas College Europe until final retirement in 2012

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## Thomas Hale

I taught economics in Germany, Belgium, Spain, and Italy from 1984-1987. I continued to teach for UMUC---in the greater Adelphi area and online until about 2001. Teaching in Europe gave me a wonderful lifetime experience and intellectual furniture. Also, since 1988, with but a brief hiatus, I worked for EPA, Department of Energy, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Social Security Administration.

I was the Chair of OMA from April 2017 until October 2019, having the distinct honor and pleasure of working with Joe, Julian, Rosemary, Doug, Paula, Bill, and John. I envy my replacements.

My wife, Ann, and I retired in the fall of 2020 and moved to Tucson, AZ.

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## Julie Porosky Hamlin

I was with the European Division from 1971-1978, teaching English in central Germany and later joining the administrative staff in Heidelberg. From 1978-1984 and 1987-2001 I was an administrator with UMUC at Adelphi, with positions including VP, Statewide Programs; VP, Continuing Education Services and University Outreach; and Senior Vice President. The years

1984-1987 I spent at the University System of Maryland, serving as Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for General Administration.

One of my most enjoyable assignments with UMUC was helping to administer the university's Improving University Teaching (IUT) Conference, held each year in a different country. Between 1976 and 1998 I circled the world with IUT, often having an opportunity to spend time with UMUC overseas faculty and staff if the conference was in a country with UMUC teaching sites.

Since 2001 I have been Executive Director and Director of MarylandOnline (MOL), a consortium of colleges and universities. My husband, Paul Hamlin, and I live in Ellicott City, MD, and are honored to have served as 2019-2021 Co-Chairs of OMA. Through both MOL and OMA, I'm happy to be able to stay connected with UMGC, my "forever home."

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## Paul Hamlin

I began with UMUC as a full-time faculty member in psychology for the European Division in 1975. My wife and I had already spent time in Europe and were excited to return. In 1977, I became the Area Director for North Germany and the Benelux, working with the military bases in those areas to offer our programs. In 1981, we returned to Maryland, now with two kids (both born in Heidelberg), for me to take the job in Adelphi recruiting faculty to teach for UMUC in Asia and Europe. In that position, I had the opportunity to visit the Asian Division and see the wide reach of UMUC.

My next job was the head of UMUC's Undergraduate Programs which from the mid-80s through the 90s underwent a total transformation. We developed online degree programs and formed alliances with universities throughout the country and with Maryland community colleges so that their online students could complete a degree with UMUC. By the mid-90s, we had students in all 50 states and the largest number of online students of any university in America. We also expanded our undergraduate academic disciplines, which have evolved into the current undergraduate majors of communication studies, gerontology, management information systems, legal studies, et al. In 1998, I took advantage of an early retirement program and left UMUC. Not being able to continue with the University of Maryland due to the retirement rules, I joined the University of Phoenix, becoming the Vice President for the Northeast Region. In retirement of a sort, I owned a women's tackle football team that won three national championships.

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## Paula Harbecke

Working with Maryland overseas was my first and best career. During my 20 years overseas I taught as an accounting faculty member (Berlin, Augsburg, Munich Campus), and then served in a variety of administrative positions (Business and Management Coordinator, Area Director, Director of Finance and Administration, Director of the Asian and European Divisions). Transitioning back to the U.S. in 2001, I have since been fortunate to utilize the expertise gained

and contacts made while with Maryland to create a second career in higher education in New England: World Learning/School for International Training (Provost from 2001-2005), an organization that provides study abroad and international exchange programs primarily in developing countries; Regis College (Vice President of Academic Affairs from 2005-2010), an institution at the time transitioning from being a women's college to a co-educational institution; and, for the past 15 years, the national accreditor, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) (Vice President).

Now living in downtown Boston, I enjoy tapping my accounting background to work with financially struggling schools and using my background in preparing proposals in response to government RFPs when dealing with the Department of Education and writing letters to institutions throughout the region.



*San Diego, 2024*



*Heidelberg, 2023*

## **Stephen Holowenzak**

A Professional UMGC – OMA Journey (1984-2022)

Thank you, UMGC President Gregory Fowler, Joe, Paula, and Doug for the honor of being invited to this, our 75th Anniversary of the University of Maryland Global Campus and 2022 OMA memorable gathering.

I also want to thank all of my UMGC (OMA) friends and colleagues for completing our shared mission and our "occupational passion" to "go the distance worldwide to teach and be where our USA military forces were/are at their time in history in the world. Yes, we were and still are Professors Without Borders."

Background: My career started with the Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America and an invitation to teach for UMGC. I gave it one year, which leaped into a lifelong journey with UMGC service to students and communities, and meeting and working with so many you in 15 countries and at 125 military installations lasting 38 years.

To many of you I was a friend and colleague as a Lecturer, Colligate Professor, Academic Director of Education and later the First UMGC Professor Emeritus (2010) in UMGC adult (military–civilian) education.

Update: During my time with UMGC and OMA, my work was featured in UMGC Achiever magazines and the PBS broadcast "A Maryland State of Mind: Bullets, Books and Bosnia." With OMA (2010-present) came the Gatherings of gypsy scholars (2010–present) and the media presentations of "32 years – Overseas – Holowenzak," "Professors without Borders," three Memoirs of my European, Middle East, and Asian experiences and "The Adventures of Maryland's Traveling Faculty," celebrating the European Division's 70th anniversary.

More recent: My biographic information for my educational and other major endeavors was published in Albert Nelson Marquis Who's Who records (2012 -2021) for a Lifetime Achievement Award (2019–2020), was published in the Wall Street Journal (April 10, 2019), and was selected for inclusion in both Who's Who in America (2019-2020) and Who's in the World (2020-2021).

On this momentous occasion, let us salute all veterans, our UMGC stature, and all who gather together to honor our students we helped prepare in the past and in now in present and their awesome future ahead based on all our working together as UMGC. What a Journey!!!

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## Julian Jones

Planning a European discharge from U.S. Army service in Germany, I hoped to see more of Europe. A term appointment from Heidelberg offered a perfect way both to travel and gain teaching experience. I expected to stay one year, through 1969, before returning to a tenure-track position in the U.S., but the year became two, then a 30-year career. Those years included teaching in Germany, Italy, Turkey, Ethiopia, Japan, Thailand, and Taiwan, hiring faculty to labor overseas, and administering in Asia and College Park.

On the teaching side, I developed a special-topics course in my academic area called Human Aggression and War and taught it on many military bases overseas and at the Pentagon. It impressed me that no authorities on the bases, including those in Asia close to the Vietnam fighting, ever questioned or hindered my teaching. I often learned more than I taught from my engaged students.

Thinking of the Maryland mission to military students and my colleagues and friends in Europe, Asia, and College Park, this turned out to be an interesting and fulfilling career.

Retiring from Maryland in 1998, I took a position at the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) at Johns Hopkins University. This organization provided college-level courses in summer and online and advising to very bright children, ones who could take the SATs in 7th or 8th grade and score better than the average entering first-year student at Hopkins. Students this bright, the top 2%, Hopkins researchers found, often do poorly in school, frustrated and bored. My role from 1998-2014 was twofold: first to help open the CTY program to students from low-income

families who could not afford the testing and tuition and later to build a worldwide network of nationally operated CTYs on the Hopkins model. My Maryland experience helped in the latter task, and by 2014 the network extended from Dublin to Hong Kong. Leaders in many countries sought the source of American innovation, and with students like Mark Zuckerberg (as a middle schooler), CTY showed the way.

Following re-retirement, I've enjoyed volunteering with OMA, writing memoirs in an (unrelated) Johns Hopkins course, and consulting on international programs. Since 2017, my wife and I have loved being first-time grandparents.

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## Catherine Kannenberg

My first job out of graduate school was teaching with Maryland in Europe, having learned about the program from Sally Johnstone, a fellow student and Overseas Marylander. What a perfect job if one liked to teach AND travel! I taught for three years in Germany, Italy, Turkey (1985-87), Spain, and Korea (1992-93), and served another three years as Area Director for North Central Germany and later the Mediterranean (1989-1992).

Back in the U.S., I joined the faculty at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, and was tenured eight years later. I left to lead an undergraduate psychology program at Argosy University in Washington, DC. My personal and professional life took a turn when I met and married a U.S. diplomat and followed him to Africa. While posted in Ghana, Uganda, and Sudan, I enjoyed a steady stream of freelance editing jobs for USAID contractors. I later trained and was certified as a massage therapist and practiced regularly until the pandemic hit.

I'm now settled in Charleston, SC, where I manage the communications and website for a nonprofit that's part of a national network, the World Affairs Council of Charleston. That keeps me pretty busy, along with tennis, pet sitting, and as much travel as I can organize.



*Portland  
2017*



*Nashville  
2018*

## Hugo Keesing

On May 8, 1970, I was hired by the University of Maryland and Maryland State Board of Agriculture to become a full-time lecturer with clearances in psychology and education in UMUC's Far East Division, effective August 15. I joined my new faculty colleagues on a flight to Japan in September and spent the school year teaching on Okinawa and in Vietnam, Taiwan, and Thailand.

In August 1971 I transferred to the European Division, where over the next two years I would teach in Germany, Greece, Turkey, and Spain. In Summer 1973 I was appointed Area Director, UK, while also teaching classes in England.

I returned to the U.S. in 1974 for a re-entry year in the Stateside Division, teaching at various locations in Maryland through 1976. For the Summer Term V, 1976, I returned to Germany for two classes. Back in College Park I was asked to start and direct a new "faculty development" program while adding an American Studies [AMST] clearance to my credentials.

I served as UMUC's Assistant Dean for Faculty and Staff Development until 1980 and continued to teach both AMST and PSYC courses until 1992. Between 1976-1986 I conducted workshops in England, Germany, and the Netherlands in conjunction with Improving University Teaching conferences. I also returned to the Far East Division three more times to both teach one-credit mini-classes in Japan and to conduct workshops on Guam and in Korea.

My Overseas and Stateside experience with UMUC prepared me for a subsequent 26- year career at the Defense Intelligence Agency, where my initial job was to gain Middle States accreditation for a new master's degree. Working primarily in graduate education and training areas, I was given emeritus faculty status after retiring in 2006.

Since retiring I have focused on documenting music's role during wartime. In 2010 my "Next Stop is Vietnam – the War in Record: 1961-2008," a 300-page book/13-CD anthology, received international critical acclaim. As the Producer/Author of "Battleground Korea – Songs and Sounds of America's Forgotten War," a 160-page book/4-CD anthology, I received a 2018 Grammy nomination for "Best Historical Album."

My wife Marilyn [Draxl] and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this year. We also passed 150 countries visited in our quest to see as much of the world as we can while still in good health. We think of it as continuing education.

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## Bill Keller

Bill worked in the European Division as a traveling faculty member from 1989 to 2014. He spent 2014 to 2018 at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio, teaching accounting, finance, and economics. He is now mostly retired in DeLand Florida and teaching part-time at Daytona State College. Bill is the volunteer treasurer of the Overseas Maryland Association.

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## **Anand Krishna**

Anand Krishna worked for UMGC (then UMUC) from 2000-2009. He taught undergraduate courses in Psychology and Statistics across Japan, South Korea, and online from 2000-2002. He served in a variety of administrative positions in both Japan and Germany from 2002-2009, including Director of Distance Education in Asia and Service Program Director (nee Area Director) for Army Programs in Europe.

Anand joined the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer in 2010, and has served in India, Mexico, Kazakhstan, and Washington, DC. Anand has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Neurobiology from UC Berkeley, a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from Duke University, and is currently completing a one-year master's program at the National Defense University (Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy). He is married with two sons.

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## **Larry Leak**

Lawrence "Larry" Leak, Ph.D. - I am an administrator emeritus at the University of Maryland Global Campus. I served as interim president of the University of Maryland Global Campus in September 2020, following President Javier Miyares's retirement, until Dr. Gregory Fowler began his appointment as UMGC's seventh president in January 2021. I first came to UMGC (then University of Maryland University College) in 2003 as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor, later serving as interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer. While in the Office of the Provost, I worked closely with Nick Allen, Joe Arden, John Golembe, the late Lorraine Suzuki, Alan Berg, and Greg Von Lehmen. I formally retired from MD State service in December 2007 after a 31-year career in education.

I remain professionally active, serving on the governing boards of St. Mary's College of Maryland, UMGC\Ventures, and HelioCampus.


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## **Greg von Lehmen**

Greg von Lehmen was Japan Area Director from 2001 - 2005. He joined the Asian Division after serving as Pacific Regional Director for Troy University on Okinawa from 1996 - 2001. He came stateside in 2005, working in a variety of roles on the Adelphi campus, where he continues to serve.

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## Doug Lemmon

In early spring 1984, while in the Denver library, I saw the magical "Teach and Travel in Europe" job ad that drastically altered the course of my life. That August I was at BWI airport with one of the largest new annual faculty groups heading to Germany, and expecting (like many of us) to stay "only a year." My career with UMUC spanned 10 years in the European Division over two tours (1984-1989 and 1994-1999) and included positions as Annual Lecturer, Assistant Computer Studies Coordinator, Information Systems Graduate Programs Coordinator, and my last position with UMUC as Director of European Division Administrative IT systems.

I feel very, very fortunate to have had the opportunity to live and work overseas and to have contributed to UMUC's mission of providing quality education to adult non-traditional students around the world. I have worked with many wonderful people at UMUC, some of whom have become life-long friends.

In 1999 I left UMUC and returned to the USA. I then worked 16 years as the IT Director for a corporation in Arlington, Virginia, and retired in 2017. For the previous 12 years I have been an OMA volunteer maintaining the OMA website. I live in Alexandria, Virginia, with my wife Teresa, and I can be found logging thousands of miles on my road bicycle around the greater DC area.

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## Ken Levitt

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## Jim Moss

My first knowledge of UMGC (which was known more as Maryland in Europe—or Asia—in those days) came as an Army brat living with my family in Ankara, Turkey in the mid-fifties, when several of my older sister's classmates went to the fairly new Munich campus after graduation. So, when I arrived in Stuttgart in 1969 as a young Army officer with my English teacher wife (Susan Howard Moss), it was our hope that she would be hired by Maryland, which she was, making me a UMUC spouse. Joe Arden sent us to Greece and Turkey in 1973-74, which was like going home for me. I then returned to the USA, where I spent several years coaching men's and women's tennis and teaching in the education and humanities departments at the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico. In 1987 I was hired to teach English and philosophy and was sent to Italy and soon back "home" to Turkey. Since that summer until I retired in July 2014, I had taught at 75 sites in 23 countries on 4 continents--an informal record I think.

I was a resident of Germany (and still am), where I spent lots of time with my dual-citizen son, Raphael, until I returned home to Santa Fe on July 1st of 2021. After gaining a new hip from the VA and surviving 2 strokes and loss of vision in my right eye, I have mended enough to attend this Veterans' Day gathering of OMA and at the same time visit my parents who lie side-by-side in Arlington National. Wow! What a journey!

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## Barbara Nucci

In 1978 I found myself working at the Army Education Center in Naples, Italy. One of my tasks was to evaluate the students' previous college coursework and military training in terms of a University of Maryland degree program and then to plan a course of study for them.

My good fortune was to meet one of the top administrators of the Maryland program in Europe. Lynne Whitaker had come to Naples in the spring of 1978 to teach a weekend seminar called *The American Woman: Who Is She?* and I enrolled as a student. Our connection that weekend led Lynne to propose me to the director of the European Division in Heidelberg, and three months later I began a job that would gradually evolve into my career with the University of Maryland in Europe. In addition, Lynne's Women's Studies program sparked my interest in the Italian women's movement, and I embarked on long years of research and teaching in that field.

In addition to my duties as Field Rep and Student Advisor, I continued to take Maryland courses, tuition-free, in subjects that interested me and eventually earned a second B. A. in Italian in 1983. Maryland asked me to teach a beginning Italian course, which gradually expanded into various courses such as *Italian Life and Culture*, *The World That Was Rome*, and *The History and Culture of Naples*, which I also taught as a field study course. Eventually, I gave up my administrative responsibilities to teach full-time.

During this same period, I began teaching a four-part course called *Contemporary Italian Society for Elderhostel*, now known as *Road Scholar*, in their Sorrento Program. That collaboration continued for 20 years and expanded to include lectures such as *Famous Italian Women*, *Eduardo DeFilippo*, and *The Medical School of Salerno*.

I retired from the University in 2007, grateful to have had a lengthy career teaching subjects that fascinate me still. I remember warmly the pleasure of researching a new subject for a class lecture and marveling that I was getting paid to read books I loved! I very much enjoyed working with all the faculty and administrators who found their way to Naples, and I look forward to renewing connections at this upcoming gathering.

My husband Giovanni died eight years ago. I now live much of the year in South Portland, Maine, in a small and very social condominium community, not unlike a college dorm! I am still travelling to Italy, Switzerland, and England to spend several months of the year with my three sons, granddaughters, and old friends. When in Maine, I am busy writing flash memoirs, taking senior college courses, teaching Italian, volunteering for the Portland Hour Exchange and for the Legacy Scholar Program of the University of New England, cooking (usually Italian), reading, doing yoga and Nordic pole walking. The way life should be!

## Cheryl Powell

My ongoing interest in international travel and education culminated when I was accepted as a Lecturer for University of Maryland University College and began the journey of a lifetime in August 1991. I started teaching Speech and Sociology courses on the northern army bases in South Korea near the DMZ, where I was generally the only American female to be found. This was considered the “most tensioned” area of the world at that time, and female soldiers were not placed in such “war-related” military occupation specialties. The highlight of my year was when my father, a Korean War Veteran, and mother joined me for the South Korean government-sponsored, all-expenses-paid “Reunion in Korea” tour. This amazing program was available to U.S. military-related personal in Korea and their families. South Korea is the only country in the world that provided this type of recognition of Americans stationed on military installations in their country.

The following year I finished my tour of Asia by working both in Woomera, Australia and Iwakuni, Japan; then transferred to the European division in 1993. During two of the next three years, I taught for Area Director John Floyd in various locations in southern Germany. At that time, John was spearheading the new distance education initiative of online teaching, and I remember him fondly whenever I hear how that program has expanded so dramatically today. The remainder of my time in the European Division was spent teaching in Incirlik, Turkey; Naples, Italy; and Mildenhall/Lakenheath, England. Sadly, I missed my next placement in Bosnia when I returned to the States in 1996 to get married and work at a career college in Pittsburgh.

Eventually I made my way home to Iowa and began teaching for Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) in 2010. Although I lamented that I would never again enjoy the diversity I did overseas, DMACC surprised me. About half of each of my classes on the DMACC-Urban campus were filled with immigrants from around the world. At that time Des Moines had more Bosnians per capita than any other city in the nation, so I did get my Bosnian teaching fix after all! I retired from DMACC in 2024 and continue to live in Des Moines. My heartfelt appreciation goes to the Maryland Overseas Program for the exciting international adventures it provided, the long-time friends I met while teaching abroad, and the wonderful memories that are vivid in my mind today, even after 35 years.

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## Alex Randall

Alex Randall left University of Maryland Overseas Division in 1981 and promptly perished academically.

He bought an early personal computer and dove in. He and Cameron Hall (Maryland Adjunct) created the world’s first online e-commerce business, the Boston Computer Exchange, and grew it up to a significant enterprise. Alex wrote the book on how to run a computerized brokerage enterprise. When the Berlin Wall was coming down in the late 80s, Alex started a non-profit to use recycled computers to support democracy and civil society in the former

Soviet Union. That sent him to all the countries he missed doing Maryland teaching. Alex and Cameron had three children.

In 1995, he sold everything and moved to the U.S. Virgin Islands, where Alex was the “Good News Guy” on radio station WSTA in St. Thomas and Professor of Communication at the University of the Virgin Islands. Later he was Chairman of Communication, Theater, Art, and Music. Cameron Hall passed in 1999, and a year later Alex married Beverly Banks M.D., a neonatologist. They had two more children... (5 kids!)

In 2019, they left the islands for Princeton, NJ, where Alex audits classes, mentors students, and hangs out listening to smart people talk about arcane things. Alex wrote and published three books for young readers in the “Dream Wizard” series. [www.dream-wizard.com/](http://www.dream-wizard.com/), [www.AlexRandall.com/](http://www.AlexRandall.com/), and [www.Alex5.com/](http://www.Alex5.com/). Maryland was the highlight of his life. It has been all downhill ever since.

The new Dream Wizard Pirate Gold book has been published. Buy it on Amazon - Mind-at-Large [Alexrandall5.com](http://Alexrandall5.com) (audio), [Alex5.com](http://Alex5.com) (words)

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## Rod Romig

Rodney Romig has a B.A. in English and a Ph.D. in Economics from the U. of Nebraska. He lived and worked in Asia for two years and Europe for 10 years; two with the U. of Maryland’s undergraduate program, five with Troy University, and three with Boston U. in MBA programs. For 19 years, he lived and worked in Hawaii, where he served for 12 years as the Dean of the College of Business Administration and Professor of Economics at Hawaii Pacific University. He was a regular columnist for Pacific Business News for several years and served on numerous local not-for-profit boards, including the Hawaii International Film Festival. He still travels extensively from his home in Sarasota, FL, to South America, the Middle East, the Near East, and Europe.

His 13 entertaining Dr. Dan Trix travel-mystery novels are available as both Kindle ebooks and in paperback on Amazon (also see [rodneyromig.com](http://rodneyromig.com)), most recently Last Nightlight, where Dr. Dan Trix stumbles across a complex scheme to erode American democracy and replace it with repressive autocracy.

Bad Ground (Trix # 12) is available as an audiobook on Kobo. It was the first audiobook created with AI tools that has individual characters, with foreign accents as required, in contrast with the conventional one-reader audiobook.

Lakeside, a noir suspense novel, was awarded the 2013 Royal Palm Award for best published literary novel. One A Day: Bites to Better Business, columns from Pacific Business News, a compilation of mostly wry observations on business and the people that inhabit contemporary organizations, is also available.

Rodney was recently honored with selection to the Wall of Fame by the Alliance (NE) Public Schools Foundation.

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## **Richard Schneider**

Richard Schneider Jr. is the founder and longtime editor of The G&LR – The Gay & Lesbian Review / worldwide – a national magazine of history, culture, and politics that he launched in 1994.

Completing his doctorate in sociology at Harvard in the early 1980s, he started as an annual lecturer for UMUC in 1982 and continued until 1987, teaching sociology and later organizational behavior in the MBA program, mostly in Germany, but also in Greece, Spain, and Portugal (the Azores). After teaching for two years at Alfred U. in upstate New York, he was hired as the director of research for a Boston consulting firm called the Center for Strategy Research. There he remained for 10 years, founding The G&LR along the way. He continues to edit the magazine but is planning to retire soon.

Richard and his husband Stephen Hemrick work together on the magazine from their home office in Boston. They also own a home and spend a lot of time in Provincetown, MA.

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## **Ken Shapiro**

I taught management and law-related courses in Europe and Asia from 1976-1981, including courses in labor law and collective bargaining. Certainly some of the most adventuresome and best years of my life. I currently reside in Washington, DC., having recently retired after 30+ years as a U.S. Government attorney with the NLRB. I am now actively involved with, and serve on the Board of Directors of, a volunteer organization that supports the largest nature preserve controlled by the State of Florida, where I spend considerable time hiking, fishing and exploring in the Everglades and surrounding areas.

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## **Steven Sharoff**

I worked for the UMUC European Division from 1981 until 1986. I first became aware of the program in the late 60's as my good friend and mentor David Glaser was taking sabbaticals and teaching for the European Division in the 60s. In 1978 I applied for a position in Asia and successfully went through the interview process. Unfortunately, or perhaps not as things turned out, the person whom I was to replace stayed on. In 1981 David let me know he was going to Europe to be the Mediterranean Director and told me the program was hiring historians. I applied and was accepted, and because Rosemary needed me early, I left on July 4th for a position in Wiesbaden.

I stayed with Maryland for five years until the summer of 1986. I taught History and Political Science (Government), but mostly History. I also taught a seminar on Vietnam. I taught in Germany five times, The Netherlands twice, Italy four times, Greece (both in Athens and Crete) three times, Spain three times, and Sardinia.

When I returned to the United States, I went to work for a consortium of school districts in New York State called a BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) and founded and ran an adult education program for 22 years. I also taught a few semesters at a local community college. At some point in the 1990's UMUC began an online program, and I began teaching for UMUC again until about two years ago.

The European Division was the best work experience I ever had and left an indelible mark on me. The ability to teach a subject I love while at the same time being able to explore Europe was certainly the highlight of what was an otherwise exciting life. Taken together with the people I met both in and out of the military, including a couple who I am still friends with, it was truly an incredible experience.

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## Vernon Taylor

Founder & Principal, Vernon Taylor Enterprise Alliance (VTEA) | Consultant, Total Cyber Solutions | Partner, National Veterans Transition Services, Inc. (NVTSI) | Author, Bridge the Gap Newsletter

I arrived in Germany in the Army in 1972, and my first introduction to UMUC was through the Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP). Nearly three years later, when my time in the Army ended, I didn't want to leave Germany after all; I had found a very special "souvenir" (my wife).

My journey with UMUC began in 1976 in Heidelberg, where I worked as an administrative assistant to the Registrar and as a Veterans Administration/Postal Clerk. Although I was on staff for only four years, UMUC and its mission became part of my lifelong professional DNA. Over the next four decades, I continued to serve in education leadership roles with the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps, including as Director of the Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Program, always guided by the same purpose: helping service members and families transition successfully to civilian life.

Today, I continue that mission through Vernon Taylor Enterprise Alliance (VTEA), a collaborative initiative dedicated to "Bridging the Gap" between education, workforce development, and community-based reintegration. VTEA has partnered with the National Veterans Transition Services, Inc. (NVTSI), creators of the acclaimed REBOOT Workshop to expand veteran transition and resilience programs across Virginia and beyond.

I also serve as a consultant for Total Cyber Solutions, supporting cybersecurity workforce development and certification-to-career pathways for transitioning service members. In

addition, I write Bridge the Gap, a newsletter focused on connecting people, programs, and possibilities across the veteran and workforce ecosystems.

Retirement for me still means serving because when you love what you do, it's not a job. I live in Stanardsville, Virginia, surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains, and yes, I still play golf on every trip I can. And after more than 50 years, I still have that same German souvenir by my side.

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## **Dan Vogel**

Dan Vogel My life with UMUC began in 1987 at UMUC Adelphi as a Systems Programmer. My introduction to the overseas divisions came as I worked to upgrade the dial-up phone connections that sent HPDesk emails to Asia and Europe, one time each night. Dr. Pat Wallace, UMUC's new CIO, inspired me to travel to Asia and accept a position as Assistant Director for Computer Services. I flew to Yokota Airbase in May 1993, missing my MBA graduation ceremony, and spent 17 fun years with UMUC Asia.

I returned to the USA in 2015 with my Japanese wife and our young daughter. UMUC Asia and Japan are forever a part of me. Now we have 14- and 9-year-old girls. We make annual trips to Japan each summer to visit grandma and grandpa.

I am currently employed as the High-Performance Computing Manager for a lab in Fort Detrick, Maryland. I went back to school and earned a M.S. in Bioinformatics, in 2022. This is a new, interesting field but the computers feel the same as they did in the 80's.



***San Antonio  
2015***



***Heidelberg  
2019***