



## Board of Directors

**Gail Humphries,** Dean  
**Sandra Shannon,** Dean elect  
**Bonnie Nelson Schwartz,** Secretary  
**Brant Pope,** Treasurer  
**Randy Reinholz,** Corporate Secretary  
**Cheryl Black,** Editor, The Gazette  
**Henry Bial**  
**Kathryn Ervin**  
**Michael Dinwiddie**  
**Michael Hood**  
**David Leong**

## Deans Emeriti

F. Loren Winship  
Monroe Lippman  
Charlotte K. Motter  
Burnet M. Hobgood  
Ann Stahlman Hill  
Paul A. Distler  
William R. McGraw  
Jed H. Davis  
Jean P. Korf  
Orlin Corey  
Don B. Wilmeth  
Carole Brandt  
Jerry L. Crawford  
Oscar G. Brockett  
Gresdna A. Doty  
Gil Lazier  
Scott J. Parker  
Milly S. Barranger  
Felicia Hardison Londré  
Robert A. Schanke  
Karen Berman  
Dan Carter

[www.thecollegeoffellows.org](http://www.thecollegeoffellows.org)

March 15, 2022

As we go about our daily professional and personal obligations, there is much to ponder about the place of the arts in this complicated and complex world. We, as the Board, would ask that you consider this email as we reflect upon the power of the arts at this trying time.

On February 24, Russia invaded its neighboring nation, Ukraine, launching a war that has injured or killed thousands of Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, cost the lives of hundreds of civilians, and displaced nearly two million Ukrainian refugees, mostly women and children, who are fleeing to bordering countries. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens who remain are without electricity, water, or basic supplies. It is, according to UN reports, the worst humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II. The economic devastation of billions of dollars in property damage will of course also take its toll on human welfare and well-being. The College of Fellows of the American Theatre would like to express our support for the besieged citizens of Ukraine and our hope for a swift end to the war. For those who would like more information regarding how we can help in tangible and immediate ways, the following sites may be useful:

<https://playbill.com/article/broadway-cares-distributes-300-000-in-grants-to-humanitarian-groups-working-in-ukraine>

<https://theatrewithoutborders.com/theatre-peacebuilding/>

<https://wck.org/relief/activation-chefs-for-ukraine>

<https://razomforukraine.org/>

<https://novaukraine.org/>

<https://unitedhelpukraine.org/>

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/ukraine-crisis-relief-fund/>

<https://www.unicefusa.org>

<https://www.redcross.org/>

<https://circle.tcg.org/blogs/teresa-eyring/2022/02/25/support-for-ukraine?ssopc=1>

<https://www.timeout.com/news/8-ways-you-can-help-the-people-of-ukraine-right-now-022422%C2%A0>

<https://boston.cbslocal.com/how-to-help-people-of-ukraine/>

But the war in Ukraine is also a vivid reminder of the ongoing, perpetual role that theatre artists can and do play as peacemakers and better-world-builders. All art, arguably, has this power, but live theatrical performance, with its ability to illuminate the human condition within a specifically human, interactive context, can and must serve a particularly crucial role in that mission. As we envision our future, we pledge our best efforts to help create, through this art form to which we are devoted, a more just, humane, and peaceful world, a world in which, as Gandhi once proposed, the power of love overcomes the love of power.

Gail Humphries, Dean