

# Humanities Faculty



**Elliot D. Cohen, Ph.D.**

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(Ph.D. Brown University) is Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Humanities Department. His areas of specialization are professional ethics (counseling, legal, medical, and journalism ethics), applied logic and critical thinking, and [philosophical counseling](#). He is author of many books and articles in these areas including *The Dutiful Worrier: How to Stop Compulsive Worry without Feeling Guilty*, *The New Rational Therapy: Thinking Your Way to Serenity, Success, and Profound Happiness*, *What Would Aristotle Do? Self-Control through the Power of Reason*, *Critical Thinking Unleashed*, *Ethics and the Legal Profession* (co-ed. Michael Davis), and *Philosophical Issues in Journalism*. He enjoys playing [guitar](#), banjo, and harmonica, writing songs, and bike riding.



**Robert Farley**

Associate Professor of History

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Robert Farley survived his youth being born in the sunrise shadows of the Empire State Building. Having the good sense to escape Hudson County, N.J. at age 18, he then proceeded to get a B.A. from Villanova, an M.A. from Georgetown and another M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania (throw in summer schools at the Sorbonne and Oxford) --- all before his 23rd birthday. After retreating from a year at IBM in Boston, he then served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines. Please do not confuse the Peace Corps with the Marine Corps. He was **NOT** sent there with an M-16 in “search + destroy” operations. After teaching four years at Tunghai (“East Sea”) University (in the Republic of China), he returned stateside to teach History here in 1988. Given the best non-fiction script ever written, he is still passionate about the world’s greatest tragedies, high drama, theater of the absurd and comedies. He is a longtime N.Y. Mets spring training season ticket holder and proud master of two Coton de Tulears. Oh yes, his daughter is on a full scholarship to New College in Sarasota and his son is a highly-prized left-handed pitcher in Martin County’s Little League. Je suis heureux non mariées!

Professor Farley’s [favorite quote](#) is “There are those who look at things the way they are and ask WHY? I dream of things that never were and ask WHY NOT?” --Robert F. Kennedy



**Barbara Fuller, Ph.D.**

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Barbara Fuller, originally from London, England, earned her Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in History from the Florida State University. She enjoys lecturing on the Colonial period and the Civil Rights Movement. She has taught at IRSC since 1999 and her favorite Course is AMH 2010. She is a member College Awards Ceremony Committee and is sponsor of the IRSC International Club. The purpose of the International Club is to share cultural differences here at IRSC and in community and to help people in our local and international communities. All IRSC students are welcome to join the club. Dr. Fuller enjoys travelling, watching movies and volunteering on the Treasure Coast especially at the Mustard Seed and reading to students at the George W. Truitt Head Start Center.



**Jared Kinggard, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

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Jared Kinggard earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of South Florida, where he concentrated on philosophy of science (particularly philosophy of biology) and [metaethics](#). His current scholarly interests include process [metaphysics](#), developmental systems theory, autonomy, responsibility, logical interpretations of natural language, and epistemological interpretations of belief establishment. Dr. Kinggard teaches Logic, Philosophy of Science, Epistemology, Critical thinking, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Acquisition of Knowledge, and Introduction to Philosophy. He enjoys [brewing beer](#), [playing chess](#), camping, cooking, fishing, stand-up comedy, and the serial comma. In addition, he agrees with Alex Levine that writing about himself in the third person is awkward.



**Michelle Carrigan, Ph.D.**  
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Dr. Carrigan earned her Doctor of Philosophy from the State University of New York at Albany in 2011. She began her teaching career at Siena College in 2006, and has since taught United States, Western, and World history courses. Her current research investigates early New York State divorce policy within the Atlantic World context. She has presented her teaching methods and scholarly research at conferences including those held by the Mid-Atlantic World History Association, the Society of Early Americanists, and the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. Dr. Carrigan is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta, the Society of Early Americanists, the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, and the American Historical Association. She enjoys traveling, and was fortunate to be part of a scholars' trip to Cuba while Assistant Professor at Beacon College in Leesburg, FL.



**Daniel Wigley, Ph.D.**  
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Daniel Wigley has a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of South Florida Specializing in ethical theory, and has several publications in environmental justice. He also holds an MFA in painting and enjoys entering juried art shows. His academic interests include aesthetics, environmental ethics, logic, political philosophy, and the history of philosophy. In his leisure time, he travels, does astronomy, plays bass, and records music.



**Brian Siegle**  
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Brian Siegle is an Assistant Professor of History at Indian River State College. He began teaching full-time at IRSC in the fall of 2003. He teaches American History classes on Main, Mueller, and St. Lucie West campuses and the online versions of the Western Civilizations classes. Prior to his current position he was

an adjunct instructor at IRSC and a Social Studies teacher at Lincoln Park Academy in Ft. Pierce, Florida. While teaching Geography, American History, and World History classes there, he coached the Boys Cross Country team for five years. This was an enjoyable experience for him as he was also a runner at UNC-Charlotte.

Professor Siegle has also had the good fortune of living in several areas of the country with great beaches and sylvan mountains. His early schooling was spent in Florida, Illinois, and North Carolina. After graduating high school in Winston-Salem, NC, he attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Having been blessed with enthusiastic and knowledgeable instructors, he has continued to enjoy the unfolding stories of history and liberal arts classes. While attending graduate school at Western Carolina University, he was mentored by professors that had a profound influence on him and served as inspiration to become a teacher. While at WCU he was able to take a close look at the economy of the Blue Ridge Mountains and specifically at the influence of the textile industry within the region. In his spare time he played drums in a local band with his college roommates.

Upon graduation, he enjoyed various work experiences as a bookstore manager, sales opportunities, restaurant positions, and professional musician. While visiting his grandparents in Jensen Beach, Florida, he was taken in by the Treasure coast weather and lifestyle and began a teaching career in Florida as a substitutive teacher for the St. Lucie County School Board and hasn't looked back since. "Teaching," he says, "is perhaps the best career path anyone could choose. I look forward to many more years in the classroom along with the daily interactions among students and employees at Indian River State College."



**Joseph Palencik, Ph.D.**

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Joseph Palencik earned his doctorate from The State University of New York at Buffalo. Prior to joining IRSC, he was a faculty member at Muskingum University. His work focuses on the philosophy of mind, the history of philosophy, and applied philosophy. He has taught numerous courses on ethics, as well as courses on American philosophy, philosophical psychology, and metaphysics. Dr. Palencik has published on Nietzsche, William James, and Kant among others.



**Alexander Shelby, Ph.D.**

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Alex Shelby is Assistant Professor of History in the Humanities Department. He holds an MA in American Diplomatic History from the University of New Orleans and a Ph.D. in Middle East History from Florida State University (FSU), and he is fluent in Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, and he has research knowledge in Hebrew and Persian. He specializes in Middle East and Islamic Studies and is currently working on his manuscript, which deals with American-Egyptian relations during the Yemeni Civil War in the 1960s. While at FSU, Alex worked for the Fulbright - Institute of International Education and the U.S. State Department to promote international education and cultural understanding.



**John B. Freeman, Ph.D.**

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Dr. Freeman is a historian of modern Mexico with a particular interest in issues of nation-state formation, the history of technology, and the history of mobility (including transportation, infrastructure, logistics, and tourism). He is currently writing a book in the history of automobility in Mexico from its birth in late 1890s to the end of the twentieth century.

Additionally, he is working on a second project on rural politics and social movements in the Mexican state of Morelos from the 1960s through 1980s. He enjoys long walks on the beach, salsa dancing, and knitting.

## Emeritus Faculty



**Richard B. Mulanax, Ph.D.**

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I am Dr. Richard Mulanax, Professor of History and Political Science at Indian River State College. I have taught at the College since 1995. Before that, I had a twenty year career as an Air Force Officer, serving as a Commander, as an Assistant Professor at the United States Air Force Academy, and as Chief of the Africa Branch of the United States Air Force Academy.

I Have a Ph.D. in American History from Florida State University, Masters in Public Administration and in International Relations from Troy State University in Alabama, M.A. in African Area Studies from UCLA, and B.A. with Honors from the University of California. I also attended Riverside Community College in California and The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

As an adjunct Professor, I taught History for Troy State University, Northwest Florida State University, the University of West Florida, and Florida State University. While serving in the Air Force, I was stationed in Turkey and Germany. I also worked temporarily at US Embassies in Liberia, Kenya, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa. I have taught African History, African-American History, Terrorism in Africa, Counter-Insurgency in Africa, and African Culture and Politics. My dissertation was published by University Press of America as *The Boer War in American Politics and Diplomacy*.