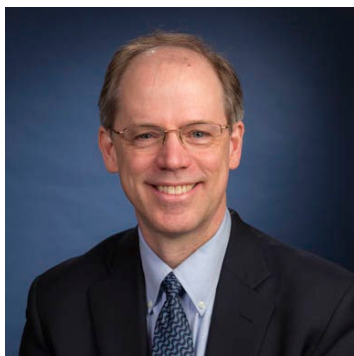


Worcester World Affairs Council

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I. Board of Directors.

1. Peter Hansen. President.



Peter H. Hansen is professor of history and director of International and Global Studies at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. At WPI, he advises interdisciplinary projects around the world and directs a program in Copenhagen. He is writing about Mount Everest and his research on mountaineering and modernity has appeared in *The Summits of Modern Man* (2013), articles and television programs. He is a Past President of the Northeast Conference on British Studies and has been a Fulbright Scholar in France and visiting fellow at Durham, Cambridge, Harvard, and the Australian National University. He lives in Worcester with his wife, Allison Chisolm, and they have two grown children. He is active at Wesley Church in Worcester and other civic organizations.

2. Carolyn Erskine. Vice President. Chair, Nominating Committee



Carolyn Erskine is a Reiki practitioner, teacher and owner of CaroReiki. She's served on numerous local and state non-profit boards, most recently as President of the League of Women Voters, Worcester Area and past co-chair of the YWCA Domestic Violence Advisory Committee. Carolyn joined the board of the WWAC in 2019. She is married to Matthew Erskine and lives in Paxton.

3. Eric Brose.
Director. Treasurer



I am currently a financial advisor with Infinex located at Fidelity Bank in Worcester, helping clients primarily in central Massachusetts. Jan Seymour and I live in Boylston, and are the proud parents of our son Ned who is at NYU Law. Prior to our move to Boylston, we lived in NYC for 16 years, where I enjoyed a 10-year career in advertising in a variety of Madison Avenue agencies. I now enjoy volunteering my time at All Saints Church as the chair of the investment committee and on Vestry, as a director on a family foundation, as head of governance on the Music Worcester board, and as chairman of the Finance committee in Boylston. In my free time I enjoy spending time with Jan and Ned and family and friends, playing tennis, skiing, running, hiking and keeping up our 230-year-old home.

4. Carol Crowley.
Director. Clerk



Carol Crowley is a native of Grafton Hill in Worcester and graduated from Worcester State University with a BS in Business and Finance. She spent many hours volunteering at Girls Inc. and St. Vincent Hospital. During her career, she worked as a corporate controller in technology and insurance. Then, out of her love of golf, she became the Director of Human Resources for the very first country club in the United States, established in 1882. In that role, she frequently saw people retire without clear plans. This inspired a career change to Edward Jones, where she has been a financial advisor for 8 years. She feels her purpose is to serve others in finding financial security and living their best lives. She devotes time to the Northborough Food Pantry, Beaumont Nursing Home and the CASA Project, advocating for children who are victims of abuse and neglect.

5. Karen Chaparian.
Director. Chair, Speaker's Committee.



I am a graduate of Clark University with a degree in International Relations, married for 48 years with 2 children. My husband and I owned and operated 2 retail establishments for 22 years. Following that, I was an adjunct professor in the English Department at Quinsigamond Community College, later taking a position as Director of the Adult Basic Education Program in Marlborough. I served as co-chair of the MA ABE Directors' Council for 3 years. I retired in 2017. I was also an elected town meeting member in Shrewsbury for 6 years, where we have resided since 1988. I helped coach the Shrewsbury High School Speech and Debate Team and judged many statewide tournaments. Along with chairing the Speaker Committee of the WWAC, I am an active volunteer at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. I am also active in the Armenian church community serving as Recording Secretary of the Ladies Guild. My husband and I enjoy travel and have visited most of the United States, much of Canada and parts of Europe.

6. Elisabet Mandon.
Director.



Elisabet Mandon was born in Argentina and did her studies in Germany. After her post-doctoral training, she began work at the UMass Chan School of Medicine where she has been for more than 25 years. She is currently a professor and runs a research laboratory at the Gene Therapy Center. She has been a board member of the Worcester Chamber Music Society for 5 years. She is a biochemist with a broad range of interests, including foreign affairs and policy. She is delighted to join the board of the Worcester World Affairs Council.

7. Philomena Feighan.
Director. Chair, Membership Committee.



Philomena Feighan was relocated from Ireland to the US in 1995 and has lived in Westborough, Mass. ever since. A teacher for much of her life, she is now self-employed as an innkeeper at her 1857 home. She is also an instructor at the Worcester Institute for Senior Education and serves on several boards.

8. James Welu.
Director. Student Coordinator



James Welu joined the staff of the Worcester Art Museum in 1974 as Assistant Curator and went on to serve as Curator of European Art, Chief Curator and for 25 years as Director. He was named Director Emeritus in 2011. Welu holds a BA from Loras College, an MA and MFA in studio art from the University of Notre Dame, and a PhD in art history from Boston University. A specialist in 17th-century Dutch and Flemish art, he has published and lectured widely and organized a variety of exhibitions. Welu served as President of the Association of Art Museum Directors and Chair of the Accreditation Commission of the American Alliance of Museums. He remains active in numerous Worcester organizations and continues to lecture at the Worcester Art Museum, College of the Holy Cross, Clark University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

III. Members, Speakers Committee

Sawkat Anwer



Richard Avis



Matthew Erskine



Darvin Kapitz

