

Steve Smith (2011)

{TBA}

Vice President – 2013-2014

President – 2014-2015

Oct 12, 2011: Traditional Farming in Latin America

Oct 8, 2014: Traditional Agriculture in Tropical Latin America

June 8, 2016: Capitalism & Inequality

June 12, 2019: The Columbian Connection: What Columbus Started

Feb 14, 2024: Traditional Farming in Latin America

Steve was born and raised in Seattle. After high school he received a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in International Relations and was on the cross country, track and lightweight football (weight limit of 154 lbs.) teams. In the summer before his senior year, he was in a Peace Corps training program at Notre Dame University, where he met his wife, Michelle. They married the following summer, 1967, and went to Bolivia for two years, living in a small village at about 10,000 ft elevation in the Andes. Steve's work was with the small farmers, where he learned a deep appreciation for their methods and skills. After Bolivia, they went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where Steve earned a MA and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics. After a two-year post-doc and a year with Wisconsin state government, they moved to Moscow, ID, where Steve was on the faculty of the University of Idaho. In 1986 they came to Penn State, where Steve joined the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, and Michelle was a Spanish teacher at State High. He taught international agriculture and rural and regional economics, and spent his last six years as department head, retiring in 2010. In his nonprofessional life, Steve was one of the founders of the local youth soccer club, Centre Soccer Association, which started with two under 11 boys teams and now numbers 1,000 boys and girls. Steve served on the board, as president, and coach. He also refereed club and high school soccer for several years.

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