

## Word of Welcome from the President

Dear colleagues,

This newsletter finds all of us in strange times. The COVID-19 pandemic is still growing worldwide and even growing again in countries that seemed to have it under control.

The reactions to the pandemic are in need of good stories. Clearly, there are many stories about chaos and recession as well as stories about control and victory over the virus with a restitution of the old ways. A variety of stories of denial and conspiracy also pop up. My personal hope is that these stories will, in the end, help us to learn and change from the pandemic.

The current times are also times for reflection: where do we come from, where are we, and where do we want to go? They challenge our flexibility and resilience. One of the main changes in our work is that teaching, research, and life story work have to go (partly) online. I am sure you have also worked hard to find good solutions and I have seen many good practices popping up. New possibilities arise that will not only bring lasting change, but also new challenges, as much of our work asks for direct human contact and not everyone feels digitally competent.

In the meantime, ICLIP continues to invest much in our future. I hope you enjoy reading about our members and their activities in this newsletter.

Gerben Westerhof, Ph.D.

President, ICLIP Advisory Board

## International Reminiscence and Life Review Conference 2021

Our next in-person International Reminiscence and Life Review Conference will be held in November 2021 in Phoenix, Arizona.

We are looking for volunteers for our Conference Committee to begin planning the conference. If you have an interest in joining the committee, please contact [juliette.shellman@uconn.edu](mailto:juliette.shellman@uconn.edu).

# UConn

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LIFE STORY INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICE

Fall 2020 Newsletter

## Meet Your Advisory Board

An international Advisory Board was elected and installed at the last meeting of the International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review in November 2018, for a two-year term. However, due to the transition of the IIRLR to ICLIP and COVID-19, the Board has agreed to remain installed until our 2021 International Reminiscence and Life Review Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Board serves in an advisory capacity to assist in guiding the Center's goals and objectives, programs, financial sustainability, and annual evaluations. The Board consists of a president, president-elect, past president, secretary, and five members who act as liaisons to the field (such as the editor of the *International Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review*).

The Board meets at the biennial conference as well as through Skype/Zoom about every two to three months.

- President: Gerben Westerhof, Professor of Narrative Psychology, Universite of Twente, Netherlands
- President-elect: to be elected at our biennial meeting in 2021.
- Past President: Juliette Shellman, Associate Professor, University of Connecticut
- Secretary: Lori Yancura, Professor, University of Hawaii
- Journal Editor: Thomas Pierce, Professor of Psychology, Radford University
- Allison Kris: Associate Professor of Nursing, Fairfield University
- Britta Nielson: Personal Historian, Nielson Memoirs, Bingham, MA.
- Myra Sabir: Associate Professor, Associate Dean, Binghamton University
- Cheryl Brohard: Assistant Professor of Nursing, University of Houston
- Bill Randall: Professor of Gerontology, St. Thomas University, Canada

## Director's Corner

Dear ICLIP members,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members representing different life story methods and various countries from around the world. We look forward to your participation and especially look forward to meeting you at our next in-person conference in 2021 at our International Reminiscence and Life Review Conference in Phoenix, Arizona!

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, you can see by the description of activities since our last publication that we continue to move forward. However, there is still much work to do. In order to accomplish all of our goals we need your participation in committees and recruiting of new members. Particularly, we are interested in student members as they represent the future growth of the Center and the field. Please encourage your students' participation and feel free to have them contact me personally at [juliette.shellman@uconn.edu](mailto:juliette.shellman@uconn.edu).

I am sure that we are all under a great deal of stress during these difficult times, but we also have many opportunities as life story professionals to document the stories of those who have contracted COVID-19, their families, and the professionals that cared for them. Our work has never been more important.

Juliette Shellman, Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor

## Life Story Innovations and Practice Graduate Certificate Program Approved!

We are happy to report that our 12-credit online graduate certificate program has been approved by the University Senate and the Board of Trustees. The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is working with us to develop the courses, create a website, and publicize the program. We are aiming for starting the first course during the summer of 2021!

The purpose of this online certificate program is to prepare graduate students and professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to conduct life story interventions and/or programs with individuals, families, and groups. If you're interested in the program, contact [juliette.shellman@uconn.edu](mailto:juliette.shellman@uconn.edu).

ICLIP  
News!

## Become an ICLIP Member!

Move forward in your career by becoming an ICLIP member!

### Membership benefits:

- Attend ICLIP biennial meetings at a discount after two consecutive years of membership.
- Attend and/or participate in the University of Connecticut's annual ICLIP symposiums.
- Serve on one of our committees.
- Opportunity to list one's contact information and areas of interest and expertise on the Center's Registry, which is accessible by anyone who visits the ICLIP website.
- Exclusive access to educational webinars.
- Provide your expertise through consultation and participation in student dissertation committees and faculty research.
- Receive advance announcement of the publication of our quarterly online newsletter, which furthers networking opportunities and reviews the latest research, books, and other developments in the field.
- Participate in the election of Advisory Board members and officers and take part in the General Assembly meeting at the biennial conference.
- Take a leadership role in the administration of the Center's mission and goals through participation in the Advisory Board.
- Participate in the nomination of candidates for ICLIP Awards.
- Receive advance announcement of the publication of the most recent issue of the online *International Journal for Reminiscence and Life Review*, containing peer-reviewed articles related to all aspects of reminiscence and life review.
- Identify oneself as a leader in the field who is dedicated to the Center's mission.

### Membership annual dues:

Professional: \$50  
Student: \$25

Sign up today at [iclip.nursing.uconn.edu/membership-information/](http://iclip.nursing.uconn.edu/membership-information/)

## Mission

The International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice (ICLIP) brings together researchers, educators, practitioners, students, historians, and artists from around the world to promote the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities through written and oral narratives, personal histories, reminiscence, life review, and guided autobiographies. With the overarching goal of generating new knowledge in this emerging field, ICLIP provides a collaborative infrastructure to establish programs of research, implement educational programs, develop innovative applications in practice, and disseminate life story best practices.

## Goals

1. Develop a platform to facilitate interdisciplinary life story research programs and methods.
2. Implement educational programs for faculty, researchers, students, and practitioners in the field.
3. Develop curricular models that include life story content and practice.
4. Disseminate life story research findings, innovations, and best practices.
5. Create links with community agencies and points of care around the world to promote the use of life story approaches in the care of individuals, families, and communities.
6. Recognize outstanding contributions to the field.

## Time to Reminisce!

What memories come to your mind when you see this picture?

Where were we?



## Student Corner

This section focuses on student projects and progress. Please feel free to send us updates about your students at [iclip@uconn.edu](mailto:iclip@uconn.edu).



### Congratulations to ...

Lindy Hughes Pfeil for completing her thesis, [\*The Effect of Guided Autobiography on Life Satisfaction and Meaning\*](#) and earning her Master of Science in psychology from the University of Roehampton, London.

Abdallah Abu Khait for defending his dissertation study, [\*Translation, Cross-Cultural Adaptation, and Testing of the Psychometric Properties of the Arabic Version of the Reminiscence Functions Scale \(RFS\)\*](#) and earning his Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Connecticut.

Caitlyn Vellios for completing her honors thesis, [\*Investigating the Benefits and Perceptions of Reminiscence in a Residential Home Sample: A Feasibility Study\*](#) and earning her Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of Connecticut.

### Updates:

Our **ST**udents **A**dvancing **R**eminiscence **R**esearch (STARR) group continues to meet virtually and work on reminiscence projects, such as conducting a scoping review to examine the literature describing the use of reminiscence in nursing homes. In addition, we are waiting for IRB approval to assist with data collection and facilitate reminiscence using iPads in the study, *Surviving COVID-19: Older Adults' Experiences and Resilience*.

Welcome to Anne Reeder, a second-year Ph.D. student in the UConn School of Nursing. She will be assisting us in the Center as part of her Graduate Assistant work. Anne is currently working on creating a Facebook group specifically for our members!

We encourage students from around the world to join us! We meet virtually every couple of weeks and would love to hear about your work!