

Word of Welcome from the President



This is the first Life Story Newsletter that you receive from the International Center for Life Story Innovation and Practice (ICLIP), hosted by the University of Connecticut. I am really excited about the transition that the former International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review (IIRLR) has gone through during the past year. This newsletter shows some of the initiatives that ICLIP has already been taking up and we are working on more to come!

As we all know from our personal and professional lives, changes involve choices. With the change in name, we broadened the mission from reminiscence and life review to life story. This allows us to tie in to recent developments in the field such as the increasing interest in life story work and hopefully attract new members and make an impact on the field. At the same time, we intended to keep the best from IIRLR, like the biannual conference, awards, online journal, advisory board, and – as you see – the newsletter. The vivid exchange between research and practice is also something we intend to keep alive!

Unfortunately, changes are not always easy as they also involve goodbyes. Here, I would like to commemorate the inspiring work of John Kunz, who founded the IIRLR at the University of Wisconsin Superior and thereby made a major contribution to the field. Esther Gieschen has taken over the lead after John passed away and served efficiently as the linking pin to the University of Wisconsin Superior. We were lucky that she arranged good support from the university during the transition. Donna Sislo has been remarkable in running the Institute over the past years in her own very kind and amiable way. Thanks a lot, Donna!

A third aspect of change is that we feel empowered by the social convoy that accompanies us during the change. First of all, I would like to thank you as members of IIRLR as you provided the necessary support and enthusiasm about the transition. The ‘transition board’, consisting of Juliette Shellman, Philippe Cappeliez, Carol Keegan, Mary O’Brien Tyrell, Tom Pierce, Paulette Stevens, Cheryl Svensson, Brian de Vries, and Sarah White, envisaged the direction for the new Center that was further consolidated by the current Advisory Board, consisting of Cheryl Brohard, Alison Kris, Britta Nielsen, Tom Pierce, Bill Randall, Myra Sabir, and Lori Yancura. Thanks to all for the good and pleasant cooperation in brainstorming about the Center, finding its new home, writing the application, giving feedback, and being virtually present during Zoom meetings!

UConn

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LIFE STORY INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICE

Life Story Newsletter- Issue 1

Juliette Shellman clearly played the most important role as she was the President of the IIRLR advisory board during the transition as well as the one who initiated and realized the move to the University of Connecticut. Juliette, thanks for all the work, time, and energy that you have contributed to this endeavor. It is a pleasure to work together and see all your initiatives come to life!

Besides goodbyes, changes also bring welcome, so I would like to welcome you all to ICLIP. If you have any ideas or want to contribute to the Center, please let me know!

Gerben Westerhof, PhD

President, ICLIP Advisory Board

Welcome from the Dean



On behalf of the UConn School of Nursing, I would like to welcome the local, national and international members of the International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review. We are excited to host the International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice (ICLIP) and look forward to the many activities that are in the planning process. Our long-term goal is to engage as many interested individuals as possible in meetings, conferences, webinars, and research projects. I stand ready to support the work of the Center and applaud your efforts to expand the field of life story innovations and practice.

Sincerely

Deborah Chyun, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN
Dean and Professor



Director's Corner



We have been busy transferring materials from the University of Wisconsin to ICLIP at UConn. Thanks to Esther Gieschen and Donna Sislo for their collaboration in this transition. I am reassured in the process of the transition that I can always communicate with them for advice and counsel.

This column will provide me with the opportunity to keep our members informed of ICLIP activities as we progress to an exciting and productive future. I look forward to working with all of you and to continuing the work of the IIRLR.

I hope you enjoy our website. Feel free to send us an email: iclip@uconn.edu with your feedback and ideas!

Juliette Shellman, PhD, RN - Associate Professor

Life Story Innovations and Practice Graduate Certificate Program Coming to UConn!

ICLIP
News!

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.

This program requires the completion of two, 3-credit didactic courses including: Foundations of Life Story Innovation and Practice, and Life Story Methods. The didactic courses will be followed by three, 2 credit courses including Seminar in Life Story Innovations and Practice, Fieldwork I in Life Story Innovations and Practice, and Fieldwork II in Life Story Innovations and Practice.

The SON Curriculum and Courses Committee and Faculty have reviewed and approved the course descriptions and objectives. The next step requires approval from the University Senate. We will keep you posted!

Upcoming Events

**Meet us at GSA in Austin, Texas!
ICLIP interest group, Reminiscence, Life Story and
Narrative: Research and Practice will be meeting on Friday,
November 15th from 7:00-8:30 pm | 5A, Level 3 (CC).**

**[Narrative Matters Conference 2020](#)
Atlanta, Georgia May 11-14
Abstracts Due: November 30, 2019**

Membership: Become an ICLIP Member Today!

Move Forward in your Career by Becoming an ICLIP member!
iclip.nursing.uconn.edu/membership-information/

Membership benefits:

- Profit by attending 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 publication of our online quarterly newsletter that 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 publication of the most recent issue of on-line 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 dues:

Professional: \$50
Student: \$25



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.

Scenes from the 2018 IIRLR Conference in Boston, MA!



Student Corner

This section will focus on student projects and progress. Please feel free to send us updates about your students!
iclip@uconn.edu

Student Projects

Abdallah. Abu Khait, UConn PhD student
Translation, Cross-Cultural Adaptation, and Testing of Psychometric Properties of the Arabic Version of the Reminiscence Functions Scale (RFS)

Teuntje Elfrink University of Twente
Online Life Story Books

Taryn Nguyen UConn Undergraduate student
The Forgotten Experience: Recounting the Lives of Vietnamese Immigrants

Deniece Nazareth University of Twente
Emotion Recognition in Dementia: Advancing Technology for Multimodal Analysis of Emotional Expression in Everyday Life

Monique Engelbertink University of Twente
Developing a Professional Identity through Autobiographical Reflection with the Use of Persuasive Technology

Theresa Chrisman University of Houston
The Effectiveness of Life Story Book on Depression and Meaning in Life for Mentally Alert Residents in a Nursing Home

Jacky van de Goor
Wonderful Life: A Novel, Appreciative Intervention to Elicit Meaning in Life

Caitlyn Vellios UConn Honors Student
The Effects of a Group Reminiscence Intervention in a Sample of Nursing Home Residents: A Feasibility Study.

