

President's Message



Welcome new and existing members of the International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice at the University of Connecticut. Over the last four years, the "Center" was transitioned from the International Institute of Reminiscence and Life Review at the University of Wisconsin-Superior to its new home in Connecticut, under the leadership of the Advisory Board, the Center for Continuing

Education at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, and the School of Nursing at the UConn. As a member of the Advisory Board during those years, I would like to recognize the outstanding leadership and dedication of Gerben Westerhof and Juliette Shellman, Director of the Center. Without their commitment, this transition would never have happened.

Since becoming a center in our new home in the northeast United States, we have accomplished many goals. Our website can be found at iclip.nursing.uconn.edu, the certificate program was rejuvenated with UConn faculty, and we held two virtual conferences: "Making Connections: Virtual Opening of ICLIP" an inaugural virtual conference in 2021 and "The Healing Power of Storytelling." A new Advisory Board was elected in 2022.

With a passion for preserving the past, living in the present, and looking toward the future, I accepted the role of President for 2022-2023. The Advisory Board and I welcome feedback on our existing benefits and services such as the newsletter, journal, website, and certificate program. We encourage you to renew your dues and complete the member surveys. We have expanded the number of members on the Advisory Board to serve membership needs. A conference planning committee was formed and will be meeting soon. An exciting new project for the Center is to capture and preserve the past. Cheryl Svensson has graciously accepted to lead this project. The idea is to capture the video and writings of the past, record the history of the organization from our seasoned scholars and clinicians, and preserve the material in a library for the future.

In 2006, my research in autobiographical memory and life review with people with terminal cancer and dementia led me to this outstanding organization. I have found mentors to help guide my research as a storyteller and from the community of story reporters.

The mission of this organization aims to bring 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, autobiographical memory, and guided autobiographies.

— Cheryl Brohard, Ph.D. RN, Associate Professor,
College of Nursing, University of Houston

UConn

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LIFE STORY INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICE

Summer 2022 Newsletter

Meet Your Advisory Board

An international Advisory Board was elected and installed at the last meeting of the International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice in March 2022. We are pleased to see many new members serving on the board from different areas in the U.S. and abroad. Thank you to Lori Yancura, Britta Nielson, and Myra Sabir for your service as members of the 2018-2022 Board.

The Board serves in an advisory capacity to assist in guiding the Center's goals and objectives, financial sustainability, and annual evaluations. The Executive Board consists of a president, president-elect, past-president, secretary, and nine to eleven general members who serve as liaisons to the field. The Board meets at the biennial conference as well as every two to three months.

Executive Board:

- **President:** Cheryl Brohard, Associate Professor College of Nursing, University of Houston
- **President-elect:** Allison Kris, Professor of Nursing, Fairfield University
- **Past President:** Gerben Westerhof, Professor of Narrative Psychology, Universite of Twente, Netherlands
- **Secretary:** Theresa Chrisman, Story Catchers® Pro, Missouri City, Missouri
- **Journal Editor:** Thomas Pierce, Professor of Psychology, Radford University

General Board Members:

- Abdallah Abu Khait, Assistant Professor, The Hashemite University, Jordan
- Rick Kral, President, 2nomi
- Robin Mintzer, Clinical Psychologist, California
- Deniz Pamuk, Akdeniz University, Turkey
- Bill Randall, St. Thomas University, Canada
- Deena Stewart-Hitzke, Director, The Administration of Resources and Choices, Arizona
- Diana Taylor, Clinical Psychologist, California
- Galen Tinder, Independent practitioner and writer, New Jersey

Director's Corner

Dear ICLIP members,

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter. As you read through this newsletter, you can see we have been busy with many activities. The highlight of the spring was the virtual conference. It was wonderful to see old friends and create connections with new members. The variety of poster and paper presentations and workshops demonstrated the depth and breadth of Life Story work conducted by our attendees. We are already beginning to think about and plan for our next conference!

I would like to take this opportunity welcome our new members representing different life story methods and various countries from around the world. I am pleased with the number of new members who have joined ICLIP. We look forward to working with you to promote the mission of the center and advance life story research and practice.

We are excited about upcoming projects such as documenting our history and creating virtual workshops and webinars. If any of you are interested in developing a webinar about your work, please let me know.

Feel free to contact me at any time: juliette.shellman@uconn.edu as I welcome any suggestions and ideas. Thank you for your support and enjoy the rest of the summer!

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



Our History Project

We are currently writing the history of the International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review (IIRLR), the founding organization for the International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice (ICLIP). The IIRLR was established by John Kunz at the University of Wisconsin-Superior in 1997. This was one of the first organizations dedicated to life review, reminiscence, and narrative psychology. We feel that knowing the history will help build our credibility in the academic and practical field of life story and life review. The IIRLR has a long and rich history of biennial conferences, cutting-edge research presentations, well-known keynote conference speakers, our own journal, awards and more. We invite you to send us any information you might have about the early days of IIRLR. The complete history will be posted on the ICLIP website; we feel this will help us to attract more members. Please send your information or questions to Cheryl Svensson at cheryl.svensson@gmail.com.

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/

ICLIP 2022 Conference Highlights

The International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice hosted its first online international conference, "The Healing Power of Storytelling," with over 80 participants representing the United States and other countries such as Turkey, Jordan, Australia, Canada, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The program included presentations from leaders in the field of life story work such as Dr. Annie Brewster from Harvard Medical School and Dr. Jonathan Adler from Olin College. Their presentation about Health Story Collaborative was well-received by our attendees. Highlights from the presentations included innovative approaches that have a positive impact on depression, cognitive functioning, and social engagement to name a few health outcomes.

In 2015 the organization established awards to recognize outstanding leaders in the field. Nominated by peers, the following awards were presented at the reception:

- Robert Butler and Myrna Lewis Exemplar Research Award
Alison Kris, PhD, RN, Fairfield University, Connecticut
- James and Betty Birren Exemplar Practice Award
Wendy Bancroft, MA, Simon Fraser University, Canada
- Florence Gray-Soltys Graduate Student Award for Exemplary Research or Practice in the Field of Reminiscence and Life Review
Deniz Pamuk, MSc Ph.D. candidate, Akdeniz University, Dept of Gerontology, Turkey
- The John A. Kunz Award for Distinguished Service to the International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice
Juliette Shellman, PhD, RN, University of Connecticut

There will be a special issue of the *International Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review*, published by the Center in the fall. The issue will focus on the ICLIP 2022 conference presentations and theme. Thank you to all who were actively involved as presenters, moderators, and attendees.



"The Healing Power of Storytelling" Conference Speakers
Dr. Annie Brewster, Dr. Jonathan Adler, & Dr. Gerben Westerhof

ICLIP News

Gerben Westerhof shared a link to an article that may be of interest to our members: "[Looking Back Doesn't Mean I'm Old.](#)"

ICLIP was well represented at the Narrative Matters Conference in Atlanta, GA. Members Bill Randall, Gerben Westerhof, Theresa Chrisman, Deena Stewart-Hitzke, Tom Pierce, and Galen Tinder presented at the conference. [The next Narrative Matters Conference will be held June 15-17, 2023, in Finland.](#) Start working on your abstracts!

The latest edition of the [International Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review](#) is available. Thank you to Tom Pierce for all of his work on the journal!

ICLIP
News!

Student Corner

Our **ST**udents **A**dvancing **R**eminiscence **R**esearch (STARR) group continues to meet virtually and work on their reminiscence projects. Please feel free to send updates about your students to juliette.shellman@uconn.edu. All students are welcome to join us!

Updates:

We welcome new UConn members, Britney Toussaint (CLAS), Emily Finland (NURS), and Eliana Likorama (NURS). Britney is a McNair Scholar majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology and minoring in Psychological Sciences. Emily and Eliana are Honors students in the prelicensure program at the School of Nursing.

The group members are currently working together on a manuscript describing results from the study entitled, "Surviving COVID-19: Older Adults' Experiences and Resilience." Madisyn Longdin and Leah Graf delivered the virtual intervention and Yuxuan Yang analyzed the data.

Congratulations!

Led by Ph.D. student Yuxuan Yang, Madisyn Longdyn, Leah Graf, and Abdallah Abu Khait published [an article in Geriatric Nursing!](#) The team presented this work at the 2022 ICLIP conference in March 2022.

Leah Graf was selected for the University Scholar Program, the highest academic honor bestowed to an undergraduate student by UConn. She is currently collecting data for her study, "A Structured Life Review Intervention to Improve Life Satisfaction in Home Health Service Patients." Leah was awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Funding grant to support her work.