

President's Message



Dear ICLIP Members and Friends,

As we look forward to a new academic year at the International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice (ICLIP), we have important projects on the horizon. Our organization stands at the forefront of exploring and promoting the power of life stories, and together, we can make a significant impact on individuals and communities worldwide.

Expanding Membership

One of our primary goals for the upcoming year is to expand our membership. We believe that by welcoming more individuals into our community, we can enhance our collective knowledge, creativity, and reach. Whether you are a researcher, practitioner, or simply passionate about the transformative potential of life stories, ICLIP offers a unique platform for collaboration, growth, and innovation. I encourage each of you to invite colleagues and friends who share our vision to join ICLIP and contribute to our mission.

Supporting Collaborative Activity

Collaboration lies at the heart of our work. This year, we aim to support and facilitate more collaborative activities among our members. By fostering an environment where ideas and expertise can be freely exchanged; we can help each other move forward with important projects and initiatives. Our Board is reflecting on the best paths to provide resources, networking opportunities, and platforms for members to connect, share insights, disseminate findings, and embark on joint ventures. Together, we can achieve more than we ever could alone.

Upcoming In-Person Events

We are excited to announce two opportunities for in-person engagement this year. Firstly, we are planning an in-person meeting in March on UCONN's beautiful campus. This gathering will be an excellent chance to reconnect, share ideas and highlight the latest innovations in life story. Additionally, we have the pleasure of inviting you to our interest group meeting at the Gerontological Society of America Conference in Seattle on November 15th, at 6:15 pm in room 615 of Seattle Convention Center. This event will provide a fantastic opportunity to meet fellow members, discuss ongoing projects, and explore new avenues for collaboration.

Looking Forward

As we look forward to the coming year, I'm confident our collective efforts will continue to advance the field of life story innovation and practice. Your dedication, passion, and expertise are what make ICLIP a vibrant and impactful organization. Let us embrace the opportunities ahead, support one another, and work together to make a lasting difference. Thank you for being a part of ICLIP. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and working alongside you to achieve our shared goals.

Alison Kris, PhD, RN, Professor
Fairfield University School of Nursing

UCONN

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LIFE STORY INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICE Summer 2024 Newsletter

Meet Your 2024-2026 Advisory Board!

Our international Advisory Board was elected and installed at the last meeting of the International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice in March 2024, for a two-year term. We are pleased to see many new members serving on the board from different areas in the U.S. and abroad. Thank you to Bill Randall for your service as a member of the 2018-2024 Board.

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

Executive Board:

President: Alison Kris, Professor, Fairfield University

President-elect: Deena Stewart-Hitzke,

Past President: Cheryl Brohard, Associate Professor of Nursing, University of Houston

Secretary: Theresa Chrisman, Story Catchers® Pro, Missouri City, Missouri

Journal Editor: Thomas Pierce, Professor of Psychology, Radford University

General Board Members

Abdallah Abu Khait, The Hashemite University, Jordan
Rick Kral, 2nomi

Robin Mintzer, Clinical Psychologist, California

Deniz Pamuk, Akdeniz University, Turkey

Deena Stewart-Hitzke, The Administration of Resources and Choices, Arizona

Diana Taylor, Clinical Psychologist, California

Galen Tinder, Independent practitioner and writer, NJ

Gerben Westerhof, Professor of Narrative Psychology
Twente, Netherlands

Director's Corner

Dear ICLIP members,



Welcome to the fall edition of our ICLIP newsletter! As you read through this newsletter, you can see we've 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. Thank you to our presenters and moderators!

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 to welcome our new members representing different life story methods and various countries from around the world. 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 our upcoming projects outlined by Dr. Kris in her message to you. I encourage you to join us as we work to increase our membership. Thank you to Rick Kral for chairing our new membership committee. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a member of the committee.

Feel free to contact me 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, FGSA, Associate Professor

Students' Corner

Our STudents Advancing Reminiscence Research (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, Rosemarie Valenzuela (NURS) and Candice Betances (NURS) Rosemarie and Candice are Honors students in the prelicensure program at the School of Nursing.

Congratulations!

Yuxuan Yang successfully defended her dissertation, "Analysis of a Telephone Reminiscence Program on Mental Health Outcomes in Community-dwelling Older Adults."

Eliana Likamora, (UCONN '24) for completing her Honors thesis, "A Contextual Analysis of Life Stories from Older Adults Participating in a Telephone Reminiscence Program."

Shivanie Harbaran, (UCONN '24) for completing her Honors thesis, "The Relationship Between the Number of Telephone Reminiscence Phone Calls and Mental Health Outcomes in Community-dwelling

2024 Conference Highlights

ICLIP hosted its second conference, "Keeping our Legacy Alive; Honoring the Past and Embracing the Future" with participants from around the globe including Canada, Jordan, Turkey, and the Netherlands. The program included presentations from leaders in the field of life story work representing a wide variety of life story approaches used across the lifespan.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Keating an anthropologist from the University of Texas at Austin described her life story work about uncovering stories to create connections. Her presentation was enlightening and well-received by attendees! Please be sure to take a look at our [2024 Conference Brochure](#) to review the variety of projects presented by our members.

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**

Gerben Westerhof, PhD, Professor of Narrative Psychology, University of Twente, Netherlands

- **James and Betty Birren Exemplar Practice Award**

Sarah White, The Birren Center

- **Florence Gray-Soltys Graduate Student Award for Exemplary Research or Practice**

Yuxuan Yang, PhD, RN, University of Connecticut

- **The John A. Kunz Award for Distinguished Service to the International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice**

Cheryl Svensson, PhD, The Birren Center



Honoring our Past

One of the highlights of our 2024 conference was gathering of our past-presidents on Thursday, March 7th, 2024. Thanks to Cheryl Brohard and Cheryl Svensson for organizing the session and collecting documents. Each past president reflected on their tenure noting successes and challenges.

Please click on the link to hear the session!

Recording link: <https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/jdr.php?RCID=201f52c3de5be69600f6d58ec3f6d245>

The legacy project also included creating a website to display our history from the beginning in 1995 to the present. The site includes pictures, conference summaries and contributions from our members. Be sure to visit the site!

[Our History -IIRLR and Development of Reminiscence Scholarship | International Center for Life Story Innovations and Practice \(uconn.edu\)](#)



Going to GSA?

Our reminiscence interest groups will be meeting at the Gerontological Society of America in Seattle on November 15th at 1:15 pm in Room 615 of the Seattle Convention Center.

We hope to see you there!

Life Review in the Spotlight

The New York Times

We're thrilled to share that *The New York Times* featured **Life Review** in a recent article, with several of our members contributing their insights.

Read the full story [here](#).

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.

Become an ICLIP Member!

Move forward in your career by becoming an ICLIP member!

Membership annual dues:

Professional: \$50
Student: \$25

Sign up today at <https://iclip.nursing.uconn.edu/membership-information/>