

## President's Message



Dear ICLIP Members and Friends,

As we welcome in a new 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, land 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. encourage each of you to invite colleagues, friends, and acquaintances who share our vision to join ICLIP and contribute to our mission. Seek each other out on ResearchGate, LinkedIn and other professional social media outlets.

### 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. As you begin to think about new research or practice opportunities, think about how to work together to spread your work to others. Consider sending your work to our journal, The International Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review (IJRLR).

### Upcoming In-Person Event November 12-15 2025

We are excited to announce that the 2025 GSA conference will be in Boston, MA. The conference gives us an opportunity for in-person engagement and will be an excellent chance to reconnect, share ideas and highlight the latest innovations in life story. See [Call for Abstracts](#)

### 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.

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

# UConn

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LIFE STORY INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICE

### Winter 2025 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  
Brian Chapman, Associate Professor, University of Connecticut

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 winter edition of our ICLIP newsletter! As you read through this newsletter, you can see we've been busy with

many activities. The highlight of 2024 was the virtual biennial conference. It was wonderful to see old friends and create connections with new members. Thank you to our presenters and moderators! Be sure to check out the conference highlights on page 2 of this newsletter.

Our conference committee will be meeting soon to begin planning our 2026 conference. Let us know if you would like to join the committee or if you have any suggestions for the virtual conference.

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.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity 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. Feel free to contact me any time: [juliette.shellman@uconn.edu](mailto:juliette.shellman@uconn.edu) as I welcome any suggestions and ideas. Thank you for your continued support!

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

## Student 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](mailto: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 Older Adults."

## 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!

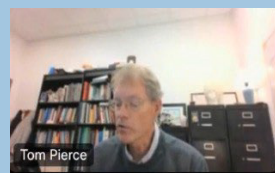
<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/ldr.php?RCID=201f52c3de5be69600f6d58ec3f6d245>

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 by clicking on the link below.

### Legacy Project



Jeff Webster



Tom Pierce



Gerben Westerhof



Cheryl Brohard

## ICLIP UPDATES

### Be on the lookout for upcoming announcements!

Virtual meetups for our reminiscence interest group!

Summer training program.

## 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](#)

## ICLIP 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/>