I take the opportunity of this newsletter to invite you to join us at our upcoming conference in November 2015 in Orlando.

Those of you who have participated in previous meetings know that the atmosphere of our conference is particularly supportive and friendly. This is a quality we value highly and the 2015 program will foster this easy-going ambiance favorable to fruitful exchanges and fun activities. It is a unique opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends, meet experts on one-on-one basis, orient and encourage newcomers in the field, and initiate durable collaborations.

The planning committee has taken due consideration of the comments and suggestions from members to propose an exciting program, with several innovations, that should attract the interest of the varied components of our Institute. Allow me describe the highlights of the program.

First we are thrilled to tell you that Dr. Rick Moody will be our keynote speaker. Rick is well known as a dynamic and cheerful speaker. He will address us on dreams and life review. His valued contribution to our conference will also include a workshop on how to make a living with life history.

An innovative component of the 2015 program will be a panel on a “hot topic” in reminiscence and autobiographical memory.

We have set up a series of workshops corresponding to the variety of interests in the fields of reminiscence and life review. Some address particularly the needs of newcomers. Some workshops will appeal to researchers who wish to develop their skills further and exchange with colleagues having similar interests, and others to practitioners who want to improve their practice or extend their work into new areas.

Thank you to Tom Pierce

Esther Gieschen, UW-Superior, Program Manager, Health & Human Interests, IIRLR

Tom Pierce has graciously and expertly served as editor of the IIRLR newsletter since 2007 and as founder and editor of the online peer-reviewed International Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review since its inception in 2013. He has asked to step down as editor for the newsletter after this issue. We appreciate all he has done and we are very pleased he has agreed to continue compiling the New Publications column.

We are looking for someone who would like to become the new editor. This is a volunteer position. If you are interested in the position, please email a letter of application to Esther Gieschen, Program Manager, egiesche@uwsuper.edu. We are looking for someone who has excellent editing skills, has been a member of the Institute for at least three years, has attended at least one conference, is dedicated to the mission and goals of the Institute, is knowledgeable about the field of reminiscence and life review, and can commit the time needed to edit at least two issues of the newsletter per year.
New Publications


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**IIRLR**

**International Institute For Reminiscence and Life Review**

**MISSION**

To further define and develop the interdisciplinary field of reminiscence and life review through discussion and collaboration in practice, research, education, volunteer and individual applications across the lifespan.

**GOALS**

- Promote increased awareness, knowledge, and skill development in direct practice of reminiscence and life review.
- Further reminiscence and life review research activity, providing a venue for discussion of results as well as guidance for future research.
- Establish a working definition of reminiscence and life review.
- Further integrate research and practice.
- Educate others about reminiscence and life review practice, research, and ways to integrate the material in formal education, staff training, and volunteer organizations.

**HISTORY**

The International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review is a program in the Health and Human Interest division of the Center for Continuing Education at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. The Center sponsored the premiere National Reminiscence and Life Review Conference in 1995.

We have invited three distinguished scholars to debate on the topic of the value of personal memories with the candidly phrased question: What is better? Try steadfastly to make sense of the past, or rather let go and, simply said, "forget it"?

The work of many researchers and practitioners in the fields of reminiscence and life review is anchored on the idea that reactivating and reinterpreting personal memories is a worthwhile endeavor, leading to psychological adaptation and well-being. A radically different approach of personal memories is fostered by recent developments in neurosciences and cognitive psychology on manipulation and even eradication of memories. These divergent views set up an interesting debate, on conceptual and ethical grounds, on the value of personal memories and on their role in psychological functioning. The purpose of the panel is to stimulate thinking and discussion on an issue that has profound philosophical ramifications and that is clearly at the core of the Institute. This should be a dynamic event.

Comments frequently received were about the lack of time for questions and exchanges after presentations and poster communications. In response the planning committee has adjusted the format of the conference to provide several periods for discussion, including a lunch period entirely devoted to exchanges on poster presentations. We are anticipating many communications representing the intellectually stimulating diversity of our membership.

For those interested in publishing their work in the International Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review there will be a session scheduled for a meeting with the Editorial Board to be informed about the Journal and the procedures.

Last, but by no means least, I encourage all members to attend the Institute Meeting, open to all. This meeting is often bypassed by members who believe that it concerns only the individuals with administrative responsibilities in the Institute. But that is not the case, certainly not this time. Indeed the Institute is going through a major reorganization with the introduction of new guidelines for operations of the Institute. The official adoption of these guidelines, developed by the executive committee, will take place at the Conference. This will represent a unique opportunity for members to know more about the operations and activities of the Institute and contribute to its growth.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Orlando!

Online Peer-Review Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review

Institute Journal Publishes Second Issue

The International Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review published its second issue in January. The contents include four fascinating Shared Reminiscences and two Research Articles – one by Gary Reker, James Birren, and Cheryl Svensson and the other by Myra Sabir. The IJRLR publishes scholarly work exploring the nature, function, and application of remembering the personal past within a wide range of research contexts and practice settings. The journal welcomes submissions from authors in all fields incorporating memory for personal history as central to their focus, including reminiscence, life review, autobiographical memory, narrative studies, and oral history. Article formats include reports of original research, descriptions of practice activities and programs, literature reviews, theoretical articles, and reviews of books and other materials. The journal also publishes reminiscences of people from all backgrounds about events and experiences in their lives.

Articles are available for free download at the journal’s website: http://www.ijirlr.org/ojs/index.php/URLR. I'd be happy to answer any questions newsletter readers might have about the journal (tpierce@radford.edu).
Conference Location and Accommodations

All conference activities will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Lake Buena Vista/Orlando, 11400 Marbella Palm Ct, Orlando, FL, USA.

Hotel reservations can be made directly by calling 407.239.9550 to receive our rate of $109/night + tax. These rates are available from Sunday, November 15th until Saturday, November 21st, and must be received on or before Thursday, October 15, 2015. You may also register online by copying/pasting the following link:


Group Name: University of Wisconsin-Superior
Group Code: UWS
Check-in: 12-NOV-2015
Check-out: 21-NOV-2015

New Award honors the work of IIRLR Founder John A. Kunz

Esther Gieschen, UW-Superior, Program Manager, Health & Human Interests, IIRLR

The Executive Committee of the Institute approved a new award to be granted for the first time at the 2015 conference. This award honors the work of the International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review (IIRLR) founder John A. Kunz and encourages others to demonstrate his commitment to the field and to the Institute. John organized the first Reminiscence and Life Review Conference in 1995 which ultimately led to the formation of the IIRLR, as outlined in the Guidelines article [page 5]. John was a psychotherapist, educator, author and film writer and producer. He authored numerous articles, book chapters, a children’s book, over a dozen professional training videos (including the Joys and Surprises of Telling Your Life Story and The Reminiscence Engagement Process) and co-authored the book Transformational Reminiscence: Life Story Work. John was a champion of interdisciplinary approaches to reminiscence and life story work and worked effectively to build interdisciplinary connections to strengthen the Institute.

The John A. Kunz Award for Distinguished Service to the International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review will be awarded for service to the Institute, promotion of Reminiscence and Life Review and/or contribution to interdisciplinary work in the field of Reminiscence and Life Review. The nomination process and eligibility requirements are posted on www.ReminiscenceAndLifeReview.org.

2015 Conference Support

Both sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available.

Anyone interested is asked to contact Esther Gieschen by email at egiesche@uwsuper.edu or by phone at either 715.394.8529 or 800.370.9882.

Subscribe Today and Receive These Participant Benefits

- Support the mission
- Identify yourself as a leader in the field
- Your listing on the Institute’s official website
- Online Peer-Reviewed Journal
- Advance notice of our IIRLR newsletter
- Attend the biennial conference at a discount after second year as a member
- Global Repository

Annual fee: $48 US dollars
$24 US dollars for full time students

http://ReminiscenceAndLifeReview.org
Guidelines for Operation of the IIRLR

Esther Gieschen, UW-Superior, Program Manager, Health & Human Interests, IIRLR

One of the events during the 2015 International Conference will be a meeting of the full advisory board for the IIRLR. One of their tasks will be to review proposed Guidelines for Operation of the Institute.

A bit of history for those who are not long-time members of the Institute may be helpful to put the proposed Guidelines in perspective.

The International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review (IIRLR) started as a freestanding organization, founded by John Kunz when he was Program Manager for the Health and Human Interests Program Area (HHI) of the Center for Continuing Education (CCE), of the University of Wisconsin – Superior (UWS). The CCE sponsored the premiere National Reminiscence and Life Review conference in 1995. Major leaders in the field formed the International Society for Reminiscence and Life Review as a follow-up to that conference. Following the 1999 conference, the name was changed to The International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review. The organization became a program of UW-Superior in 1997, meaning that the CCE has fiduciary and legal authority and responsibility for the Institute. However, the Institute kept operating more or less as a freestanding society, under the leadership of John Kunz.

When John was diagnosed with a terminal condition, the Advisory Board realized how much the IIRLR had been relying on him for its operation and identified a need for policies and procedures for the Organization. Under the leadership of Mary O’Brien Tyrrell, President 2011-2013, an Executive Committee was formed composed of a subset of the Advisory Board. An initial policies and procedures document was drafted by Mary and discussed by the Executive Committee in 2012.

After Philippe Cappeliez became President in 2013, he worked with staff at UWS and members of the Executive Committee to “fine tune” the initial document to give more structure to the organization. Structure such as (but not limited to) roles and responsibilities of officers and other members of the Advisory Board and of UWS staff, and terms of service for board members. The proposed Guidelines for Operation are much like the bylaws required of a non-profit corporation in the United States except as a program of the University of Wisconsin-Superior, the board is not a legal governing board; fiduciary and legal authority remain with the University.

The proposed Guidelines will be emailed to all current members of the Full Advisory Board approximately a month prior to the conference to give them time to review the Guidelines in advance. These members are:

Past Presidents: Barbara Haight, USA; Peter Coleman, UK; Jeffrey Webster, Canada; Brian de Vries, USA; Thomas Pierce, USA and Mary O’Brien Tyrrell, USA
President: Philippe Cappeliez, Canada
President Elect: Juliette Shellman, USA
Secretary: Takeo Nagasaka, Japan
Members: Toyoko Nomura, Japan; Diana Taylor, Brazil; Robin Mintzer, USA; Gay Hanna, USA; Bob Woods, Great Britain; Pam Schweitzer, England; Sharon McKenzie, USA; Nobutake Nomura, Japan and Cheryl Svensson, USA
Liaison: Juan Pedro Serrano Selva, Spain and Theresa Mason, Australia

The actions of the Advisory Board will be reported by President Cappeliez at the Institute Meeting during the conference.

We are now accepting nominations for the Robert Butler and Myrna Lewis Exemplar Research award, James and Betty Birren Exemplar Practice award, and the Florence Gray Soltys award for a student who has done exemplary work in research and practice in the field. All nominations should be sent to Donna Sislo (dsislo@uwsuper.edu) at UW-Superior.

NEW this year is the John A Kunz award for Distinguished Service to the IIRLR. Nominations for this award should be sent to Philippe Cappeliez (philippe.cappeliez@uottawa.ca)

Visit our website for criteria requirements. All nominations need to be submitted by August 1, 2015

http://ReminiscenceAndLifeReview.org
Pre-Conference Sessions (11/16/15)

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Life History Work and Livelihood - How to earn a living and make money by reminiscence work
Harry “Rick” Moody, PhD

10:30 AM - 12:30 AM: Integrative Reminiscence and trauma
Robin Mintzer, PhD and Diana Taylor, PhD

9:00 AM - Noon: Applied Autobiographical Methods with Diverse Cultures
Tsuann Kuo, PhD, Sharon McKenzie, PhD, Juliette Shellman, PhD and Cheryl Svensson, PhD, as Facilitator

Post Conference Sessions (11/18/15)

9:00 AM - Noon: Reminiscence, Life Review, and Dementia: Challenges and Rewards.
Nicole Caza, PhD and Barbara Haight, PhD

9:00 AM - Noon: Research in Life Review, Reminiscence, and Autobiographical Memory
Thomas Pierce, PhD

Descriptions of these workshops will be posted soon on our website at: www.ReminiscenceAndLifeReview.org.

Certificate in Reminiscence and Life Review

The pilot cohort for the Certificate in Reminiscence and Life Story Work began March 30 with 14 students from across the US and one from the UK. The majority of the students are members of the Association of Personal Historians (APH); others found the certificate through a search that took them to the IIRLR website. The content of the Certificate was developed with a great deal of input from leaders in the APH and the IIRLR.

This program is designed for people who want to record the life stories of others as a business and to also provide a foundation for those who work with older adults and want to facilitate life story telling to enhance the quality of life of those older adults. The pilot will run through the first week in November, with participants providing in-depth feedback throughout the program and especially during the review weeks following each of the four modules. Revisions to the program will be made as needed and the first “regular” cohort will start in 2016.

A detailed program description is available at www.ReminiscenceAndLifeReview.org or by contacting Esther Gieschen, Program Manager at egieschen@uwsuper.edu.

Membership and the Registry

Esther Gieschen, UW-Superior

If you are not already a member of the Institute, we urge you to join now. If you are reading this newsletter, you are obviously interested in reminiscence and life review. Your membership dues support the mission and goals [page 2] of the Institute. Your membership dues help make this newsletter, the website and the conference possible. In addition, as a member you have the opportunity to market your related services to visitors of the website under Member Services and to connect with other professionals in the field by participating in the Registry.

If you are already a member and you are not participating in the Registry, we urge you to do so. While many website visitors no doubt use the Registry on their own, others contact UW-Superior staff when they are looking for someone with particular expertise in the area of reminiscence and life review and the staff use the Registry to make appropriate referrals. If you are a member and have a listing in the Registry, please remember to update it as you attain more credentials, publish new works, accept new positions in your field, etc.

To join the Institute just select “Become A Member” on our website. To join the Registry, just click on “Registry.”