

INSTITUTE FOR RETIRED PROFESSIONALS

**OBSERVER
AUGUST 3, 2020**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear members,

I, for one, am finding it hard to believe that it is already August. You all have been part of The Graduate Center for over two months now! This month, The Graduate Center begins another partnership in welcoming a new president, [Dr. Robin Garrell](#), who joins us from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Garrell will head The Graduate Center after nine years as vice provost of the Graduate Division of UCLA, where she has had campus-wide responsibility for nearly 12,000 academic and professional graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Garrell earned her Ph.D. in macromolecular science and engineering from the University of Michigan and, in addition to her leadership post at UCLA, she has been a professor of chemistry since 2003 and professor of bioengineering since 2013. She previously taught at the University of Pittsburgh.

Garrell has been noted throughout her career for advancing diversity, and since her appointment as vice provost and dean, enrollment in UCLA's graduate and professional degree programs by members of historically underrepresented groups have increased 40 percent. This year, 26 percent of new UCLA graduate students are first in their families to attend graduate school. Garrell serves as principal investigator on NSF Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate projects and grants from the Andrew G. Mellon Foundation to implement holistic graduate admissions practices. **You can [read more about Dr. Garrell here](#).**

I have enjoyed meeting members through my Office Hours. Please join me tomorrow, Tuesday, August 4 from 12:00-1:00PM in my [virtual office](#)

A few reminders:

- **DEADLINE TOMORROW! Please complete the member survey found [here](#). Your answers are important for The Graduate Center IT department and University program reporting.** We appreciate and value your participation by **Tuesday, August 4, 2020.**
- As noted in past Observers, all official correspondence from The Graduate Center (and CUNY) will be directed to your Graduate Center email address. If you have not yet, please **[become familiar with your GC email account](#)**. Thank you for your patience as our small team responds to your individual queries and redirects those, we are not able to solve to the IT team at The Graduate Center.
- Please look out for email messages from “Engagement” in your inbox, these are from our office address: engagement@gc.cuny.edu
- If you would like to **add or drop a study group** for Fall, please email all requests to engagement@gc.cuny.edu so that we can keep rosters up to date and notify study group coordinators accordingly.

Thank you,

Marisel

Tech Talk

Need a Break? Time to Travel on Google Earth!

We can't hop on a plane these days. But at your computer you can travel to virtually any place on Earth, the Moon and Mars. You can even explore the night sky.

On Earth you can drop yourself on the streets of any city, wander through the town, and turn around to see the full view from any spot.

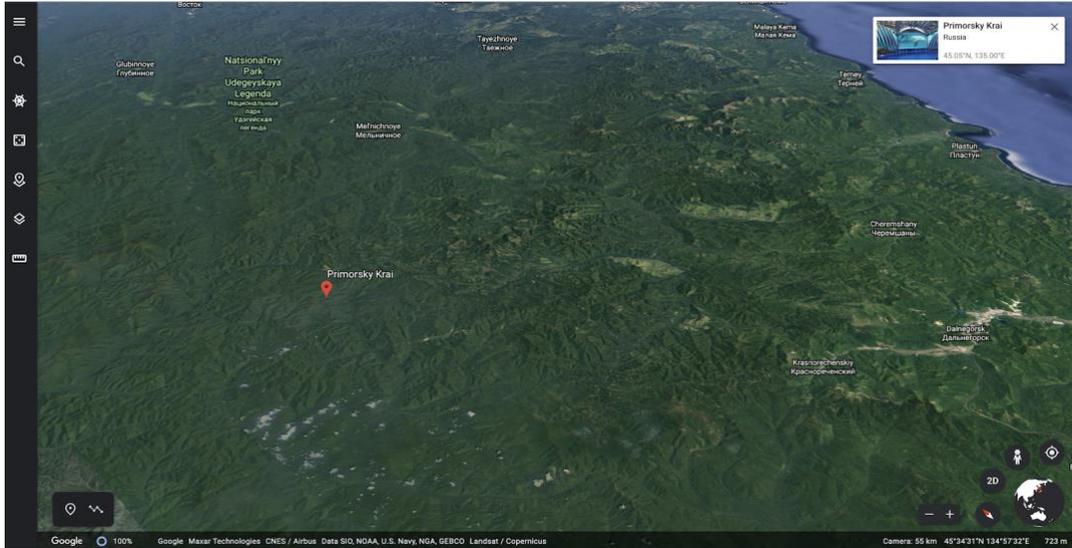
I visited the street I lived on in my old college town.



Then I walked down a random street in Bali



You can view the vast landscape of the Alps, the Nile, or the ocean floor. During Ted Dreyfus' great discussion of *The Tiger* in the Narrative Non-Fiction Study Group I visited the Primorye Region of Far Eastern Russian to get a better sense of the place.



Try it yourself. Plunge in here. Visit Google Earth and fly across the globe to anywhere you desire: https://www.google.com/intl/en_us/earth/ [google.com]

Or learn your way around first.

Watch this 15-minute intro Google Earth Basics Tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIK27I3unng> [youtube.com]

To do more (create a tour, mark your favorite places, see photos taken on the spot, or go back in time) try this 15-minute Google Earth Advanced Tools Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fa7c4SVzo0I> [youtube.com]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE: SPREAD THE WORD

The Admissions Committee is gearing up to identify the new members who will become part of the IRP in the Spring of 2021. The first step in the process is the Information Session, which provides basic facts about the IRP and our application procedures to those who may be interested in joining us.

Recruitment, which is such a crucial aspect of our commitment to create and maintain a more diverse community, is particularly challenging in our remote environment. So if you know of people who would be good candidates for the IRP, please refer them to: <http://gc.cuny.edu/IRP> where they can click "Join Us" and find the calendar of information sessions and application deadlines.

Prospective members can enter their contact information to register and receive details about the sessions. The upcoming Information sessions are:

- Wednesday, September, 16 from 4:00 to 5:30PM
- Wednesday, October 28, from 4:00 to 5:30PM

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: CALL FOR STUDY GROUPS

The Curriculum Committee is working to field its usual 34-36 study groups each semester, relying on the many regular and first-time coordinators who respond to its calls. Since it will be difficult in the Zoom environment for committee members to visit all classes at the start of the fall semester, they are reaching out to you through this notice.

If you are thinking about coordinating a study group and have an idea you want to develop, the committee will assign a member to help you throughout the process from idea to actual proposal. Also watch for the *Observer* announcements in the fall for the committee's 'Let's Get Started' and 'Developing a Proposal' workshops. For information and help, contact committee chair, [Jonathan Gaines](#). Inquiries from members new to coordinating are especially welcome!

Study Group Diversity

The IRP is committed to creating and maintaining educational curricula that incorporate the values of a multicultural and diverse community and reflect the pluralism of the United States and world society. Some of our study groups have focused specifically on the subjects of diversity and inclusion: The Warmth of Other Suns, James Baldwin, North American Indians, Hinduism, Japanese Literature, Latin American Literature, Latin American Film, and Films by African American Directors. Other study groups, such as Caro's Robert Moses and the Myth of the Frontier, have included diversity and inclusion issues. We would like to offer more such study groups. We encourage you to send us your ideas, whether or not you would be interested in coordinating the study groups. Contact [Jonathan Gaines](#).

BETWEEN-TERM EVENTS

Special Lecture: A Walk Through the Met
With Carolyn Grossner
Tuesday, September 1, 1:00 PM

We spend just over an hour looking at important works from the Met's 17 curatorial departments. This tour is new; it will not repeat the summer session guided tour. [Register Here](#)

Discussion/ Q&A: Waiting for the Vaccine: Until Then?
Thursday, September 10, 4:00PM

Barry Levine and Steve Kalinsky will lead this discussion, addressing some of their questions and as many of yours as possible. Please send your questions to [Steve Kalinsky](#) by August 20 to Steve and ask for a Zoom invitation.

NEED TECH HELP?

From IRP: Direct your browser to the IRP tech stuff webpage for advice on setting up emails and Zoom accounts, among other things. If you want additional help, send an email to tech@iernyc.org.

From GC: Send email to engagement@gc.cuny.edu.

Accessing GC Email: Direct your browser to <https://wa.gc.cuny.edu/owa>.

ART SHOW

Gerald Reisner, Gallery Hopping



From Gerald: A collage of photos of artwork captured during a decade of visiting art venues.

OTHER REMINDERS

Special IRP Author Interview with Lucy Kirk and Susanne Yellin
Monday, August 24, 1:00PM

Susanne will interview former CIA professional Lucy Kirk about her new suspense spy thriller, *The Poison Factory—Operation Kamera*. Q&A will follow. To sign up, email Lucy Kirk at llk214@aol.com.

Book Discussion: The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary
Monday, August 31, 1:00PM

Join a lively discussion of the national bestseller. Email Jane Case Einbender; limited to the first 25 who sign up.

Encore: China & the U.S.
With Tom Hardy
Thursday, September 3, 1:00PM

Discuss the challenge the U.S. faces in “getting its act together”—both domestically and internationally. If new to the group, email Tom Hardy.

Book Discussion: White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
With Joy Schulman Wednesday, September 9, 1:00PM

Join this timely discussion of the groundbreaking bestseller by a prominent antiracist educator, email Joy Schulman.

**Short Stories Aloud
With Sharon Girard and Helene
Schiffman Tuesdays, 4:00PM**

No preparation, no homework, no books to buy; leaders will email the stories to you, email [Sharon Girard](mailto:Sharon.Girard).

**Men's Group, Wednesdays, at
12:15PM**, email [Jay Fleishman](mailto:Jay.Fleishman).

**Women's Group, Thursdays, at
3:00PM**, email [Arlyne LeSchack](mailto:Arlyne.LeSchack).

Pour at Four, Fridays, at 4:00PM,
hosted by Susan Rubens in the 24-hour
chat room at
<https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff>

CUNY EVENTS THIS WEEK

Thursday, August 6th, 1:00 PM
The Mina Rees Conversation Series
presents [Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis](#) in
conversation with **Mike Handis** about
her forthcoming book, "Antiquity in
Gotham: Ancient Architecture in New
York" (Fordham University Press, 2021),
and the reception of the classical world
in the United States. [Sign up here for
the Zoom link!](#)

Thursday, August 6th: 6:00 PM-6:30 PM

The Leon Levy Center for Biography
presents **Nancy Thorndike Greenspan**
on Atomic Spy: The Dark Lives of Klaus
Fuchs, in conversation with **Kai
Bird** The gripping biography of a
notorious Cold War villain--the German-
born British scientist who handed the
Soviets top-secret American plans for
the plutonium bomb--showing a man
torn between conventional loyalties and
a sense of obligation to a greater good.
German by birth, British by
naturalization, Communist by conviction,
Klaus Fuchs was a fearless Nazi
resister, a brilliant scientist, and a highly
effective spy.

He was convicted of espionage by
Britain in 1950 for handing over the
designs of the plutonium bomb to the
Russians, and has gone down in history
as one of the most dangerous
espionage agents in American and
British history. He put an end to
America's nuclear hegemony and
single-handedly heated up the Cold
War. But, was Klaus Fuchs really evil?
[Register here.](#)

ONGOING CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

See the [GC CUNY Calendar](#) for the
most centralized GC events calendar.
Center for Humanities and Segal
Theatre Center events are listed; you
can also subscribe to newsletter. The
Graduate Center News