

**INSTITUTE FOR RETIRED PROFESSIONALS**  
The Observer, October 19, 2020

**OUR NEW NAME**

**LP<sup>2</sup>: Lifelong Peer Learning Program at CUNY Graduate Center**

The name reflects our commitment to peer learning and our reputation as the first and most highly regarded peer learning program in the country. It sums up our story—and with imagination and flair.

LP<sup>2</sup> (LP squared) was approved unanimously by the Advisory Board and both President Robin L. Garrell and Dean Brian A. Peterson applauded the choice. Many thanks to the Transition Board of IRP and GC members and to our Marketing Committee.

We now look forward to continuing our 57-year history as we develop as an integral program of the Graduate Center and ... Take Learning to a Higher Power.

**NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Dear members,

I speak on behalf of Dean Peterson, Provost Wrigley, President Garrell and the team when I say we are excited to mark the next chapter of the program's long history with a new name that aligns with the Graduate Center structure and describes the essence of this program. Thank you to all involved and congratulations to members! I will continue work with the Marketing Committee in the next steps of incorporating the new name into the brand identity as part of the Graduate Center and digital and print materials moving forward. We have a lot of energy around sharing the story of this program with a wider public through many means and intend to secure press coverage in print, television, and radio.

Working with the admissions and diversity committees as well as the transition board, I am reaching out to CUNY alumni and retirees via University initiatives and campus clubs as part of our efforts to recruit new members, especially from currently underrepresented groups. Please read on for more good news about how members and the IER are contributing to The Graduate Center community in meaningful ways – we thank you for your generosity! In addition to over 50% of the current members having previous affiliation with CUNY, I see so many opportunities for a rich and interwoven relationship with the University.

As you know well, at the core of this peer learning program is its study groups. If you are interested in making a new proposal as a coordinator, please consider attending the Curriculum Committee's workshop on **Completing a Proposal** this afternoon at 3:45 or Wednesday afternoon at 3:45 – see more details inside this issue.

Lastly, please note that the academic calendar tailored to LP<sup>2</sup> can be found on the Graduate Center website under [\[“About Us”\]](#) for Fall 2021-Spring 2022 will be included on this page once the University posts its academic calendar for next year.

Yours,  
Mariel

## **NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY BOARD**

Hello Folks,

At the invitation of Dean Brian A. Peterson, Interim Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, I attended a meeting of the Graduate Center's Reactivation Committee on October 15. Thirty-nine senior level people, including the President, representing offices, academic programs and services within the Graduate Center attended and many of them provided updates on reactivation measures they had taken. I urge all of you to visit the [Reactivation Plan](#) Website.

After the updates which were comprehensive, thorough and detailed, committee attendees were asked to address the following three questions in two minutes or less:

- 1. When thinking about the possibility that CUNY may maintain remote options for instruction and academic support services through the 2021 Fall term, what considerations should be made to strengthen online instruction?*
- 2. How should the needs of faculty and students who need to be on campus to research or teach be met with the priority of maintaining health and safety?*
- 3. How can communications to the GC community regarding reopening progress and updates be improved?*

While the emphasis on concerns differed depending on the needs of particular academic programs and students (e.g. access to laboratories is vital for certain fields of study), there was common emphasis on communication, community, and safety. As the new kid on the block, I said that our members need to maintain community through zoomed study groups and social events and that constant technical training is necessary especially for coordinators. Like other students, we have organized informal meet-ups to maintain community and morale. I also said that having a physical presence on campus is very important to us but safety comes first.

With respect to a physical opening it seems that the earliest we may return to campus will be Fall 2021. That is a year away and we can't say anything truly definite at this time given all the variables involved. We should all continue to plan and attend study groups and other activities, and use Zoom and the telephone to keep in touch with one another.

The next meeting is in four weeks. If you have any questions please feel free to email me at [hberkowitz@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:hberkowitz@gc.cuny.edu).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Institute for Education in Retirement (IER) Fellowship**

With contributions from the Lifelong Peer Learning Program (LP<sup>2</sup>) members, the IER introduces the Fellowship for Racial and Social Justice to support a CUNY Graduate Center doctoral student of high academic merit who shows exceptional promise in any field and is completing a dissertation that addresses race relations, human rights, and social justice; or that treats some significant aspect of the African Diaspora, including the culture and history of African Americans.

The fellowship is for \$5,000. Its purpose is to help a deserving student and to foster our relationship with the CUNY GC. Fellows will be invited to deliver a talk to LP<sup>2</sup> members on their research and to participate in a reception. Applications from GC doctoral students who are members of any underrepresented groups are encouraged. Dean Peterson writes to LP<sup>2</sup> members: “We look forward to acknowledging and celebrating our first fellows shortly. Thank you for your generosity and support of our students.”

### **Advisory Board Election: Call for Nominations**

As we announced last week, the Elections Committee is soliciting nominations for 12 seats on the AB and will be accepting nominations through October 23. All who have been members for one year are eligible to run; they can be nominated by themselves or by fellow members.

This is an important time for us; we have a new home and a new name, but the same crucial mission, now all the more important as we face social and political upheaval—to provide a rich intellectual and social life to older residents of the metropolitan area.

The AB will work with the director to set and implement policy goals for LP<sup>2</sup>; goals such as increasing the diversity of our members, maintaining our vibrant social life in a remote environment, and enhancing the quality and variety of our study groups and special activities.

We need you—both veteran and newer members (in fact, one seat on the board is set aside for those in their second and third year of membership).

Please nominate yourself if you are interested in governance, have ideas about improving LP<sup>2</sup>, and want to experience this other side of our important organization. And try to convince others with these qualities to run also. For the first time, in this election, you can choose a one, two or three-year term. The nomination form can be accessed on the Zine or by clicking this [link](#). Forms can be returned to Michelle Harris, [mharris@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mharris@gc.cuny.edu)

The election will be held from November 9 to 13 and all members can vote. The Elections Committee has prepared this [FAQ](#) page to inform both potential candidates and voters.

### **Curriculum Committee: Workshop on Completing a Proposal**

When: TODAY, 3:45-5PM, and  
Wednesday, October 21, 3:45-  
5PM

If you are thinking about submitting a study group proposal for next semester or for the future, join us to learn more about:

- Developing a successful proposal
- Finding appropriate resources on your topic

- Organizing a working syllabus
- Completing the Proposal Form

Experienced coordinators will be there to answer your questions and to share their techniques. We encourage those of you who are at a later stage of proposal development to attend this workshop. RSVP to Linda Anstendig and the Zoom invitation will follow. [lanstendig@gmail.com](mailto:lanstendig@gmail.com)

### **Fridays@3: Professor Kathleen Hall Jamieson**

When: October 30 at 3PM

The distinguished scholar and well-known commentator Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center and co-founder of FactCheck.org, will discuss her latest book, *Cyberwar: How Russian Hackers and Trolls Helped Elect a President*. The Zoom talk will be open to an unlimited audience, so feel free to invite others.

Dr. Jamieson's presentation will be followed by comments and questions from the audience. To register please click here

## **Advances in Civilization**

When: Thursday, October 29 at 4PM

Reuven Opher will lead a discussion on Isaac Newton. If you would like to attend, please email Steve Kalinsky for a Zoom invite at [skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu)

## **Attention: All Current and Future Coordinators: Question About Library Resources**

Have you been able to access the books and articles you require to prepare your study groups from the resources available to us remotely through CUNY and the New York Public Libraries? If not, please let Eileen Sullivan know by sending her an email listing the books and journals that you have not been able to get. We will submit the list to the librarians at CUNY to see if they can do something to remedy the situation. Email Eileen at [esullivan@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:esullivan@gc.cuny.edu).

## **Changes to Zine**

Please note there is a new User ID and Password for the secured portions of the Zine, starting Tuesday, **October 20**.

User ID: LPsquared  
PW: Fall2020

The secured portions are Members, Faces, and Calendar. The Zine address is still IRPZine.org.

## **New York State Voting Tips from the Voter Registration Project**

New York is unique in that you can submit an Absentee Ballot and also vote in person though, of course, your vote will only be counted once. This gives you some leeway in making your plans. It means that you can vote by mail and then decide to vote during early voting or on Election Day. See New York State Board of Elections for details [here](#).

Vote Early in Person Starting October 24. You no longer have to wait until Election Day, November 3, to vote. In order to avoid the long lines, it's probably best to vote early.

Early voting is not necessarily at your regular polling location, so it is important to look up your Early Voting Location and times here: <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov>

A good general voting guide from The Gothamist can be found [here](#).

## TECH ADVICE

**Entering a superscript:** Here's how to make a number an exponent. When you open Word, look to the top left for the symbols  $X_2$  and  $X^2$ . If you want to type  $LP^2$ , type the number 2, highlight it, click on the  $X^2$ , and voila: your 2 becomes <sup>2</sup>. Very easy.

## ONLINE ART SHOW

Richard Herrmann



I really like the ocean,  
But it's all God's fault.  
He should have put in sugar,  
But he went and put in salt.

- Lisbeth Boyd Borie

## ArtSig Recommends Virtual Tours

Take a walk through the galleries of the landmark exhibition in Rome commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of Raphael's death. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s58gYvvNrKQ> [youtube.com]

See the Outside Art Show online in Paris Oct. 21-30.

<https://www.outsiderartfair.com/paris> [outsiderartfair.com]. Email address required for admission.

Still buzzing about the fly on Pence's head? Nancy Small recommends a review of the fly's role in art history.

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/flies-in-art-history-1914157> [news.artnet.com]

## ONGOING EVENTS

**Pour at Four** hosted by Susan Rubens meets from 4 to 5PM Fridays for an end-of-the-week gathering in the 24-hour chat room at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/irpte/chstuff> Want to co-host? Contact Susan at [srubens@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:srubens@gc.cuny.edu)

**The Women's Group** meets at 3:45PM on Thursdays. Email Arlyne LeSchack at [aleschack@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:aleschack@gc.cuny.edu).

**The Men's Group** meets every Wednesday at 3:30PM. Email Jay Fleishman at [efleishman@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:efleishman@gc.cuny.edu).

## MEMBER FORUM

### From Steve August: Almost Cousins

Jerry Chamlin and I regarded ourselves as "cousins," because Jerry's uncle owned a butcher shop, and my uncle owned a fish market across from each other on Burnside Avenue in the Bronx. Construction of the Cross-Bronx Expressway, forced them to leave The Bronx, and become partners in a fish and meat market in Queens for the next 20 years.

We discovered our relationship when we met for the first time, at the IRP at The New School, which I joined shortly after Jerry and Carole. But our relationship goes further back than that. When Jerry was a senior at William Howard Taft High School, I was a sophomore. We didn't know each other, but we shared a friend, who was a star on the basketball team, and also on the track team with me.

That's why we figured, we were not only almost friends because of our shared friend, but almost cousins because of our uncles.

### From Carol Borelli: Parli italiano?

Perhaps you would like to enjoy an aperitivo and conversation together, once every month on a designated day at aperitivo time? (Parliamo solo in italiano, per favore!) If you are interested, be in touch with your ideas at: [cborelli@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:cborelli@gc.cuny.edu).

## CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES: UPCOMING & ONGOING

**Environmental Sciences Seminar: Alan Titus, U.S. Bureau of Land Management**  
Recent dinosaur findings (tentative title)

October 20, 4:15PM - 5:15PM.

See here to register

<https://asrc.gc.cuny.edu/events/>

**Seminar in Biochemistry, Biophysics & Biodesign: Frans Mulder, Aarhus University**  
Probing and predicting the behavior of intrinsically disordered proteins by integrating NMR spectroscopy and computation  
October 21, 12:00PM - 1:00PM.

See here to register

<https://asrc.gc.cuny.edu/events/>

**The Graduate Center Presents:  
UNDERSCORED – Copland**

**Piano Quartet.** Monday, October

26, 1:00 - 2:00PM Register here:

<https://underscored1026.eventbrite.com/?aff=IRPObserver>

**Seminar in Biochemistry,  
Biophysics & Biodesign:**

**Nobuhiko Tokuriki, University of**

**British Columbia** Dynamics and

constraints in enzyme evolution

October 28, 12:00PM - 1:00PM.

See here to register

<https://asrc.gc.cuny.edu/events/>

**NON-CUNY EVENTS AND  
RESOURCES**

**El Museo del Barrio** has published numerous [exhibition catalogues and brochures](#) to enjoy from home.

**Jazz at Lincoln Center** offering [free weekly online programs](#).

**The Jewish Museum** has made their [audio tours](#) available online.

**MoMA** is offering free online [courses and specializations](#).

**The Whitney Museum of American Art** is offering from artist talks to art history courses, webinars and creative projects for everyone, see what's coming up [here](#). Explore exhibitions online [here](#).

**BRIC Rotunda Gallery** is offering free Media Education Courses. More information [here](#)