NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello all,

The Fridays@3 series is off to a fabulous start with last week’s talk by Christian Davenport, who broke down and tied together the complexities of contemporary space exploration with new players. Thank you to the committee for organizing and to those who contributed questions to the Q&A, which I was happy to lead from the CUNY TV Studios on campus. Next week we will have Clint Smith and I hope you will join us. Please find the registration link within this issue to hold your spot on November 12.

The Admissions Committee recommended eight applicants this semester for our program and I am happy to report that all eight have accepted our offer. We are also welcoming two applicants from last spring who had deferred admission until January 2022. The Mentor Committee has begun matchmaking for these ten new members.

It’s hard to believe but we are preparing steadily for spring semester. Thank you for your input at the town hall meetings and in office hours about modality (Zoom, in-person, or HyFlex) for the spring. Coordinators are being asked to express their preference for the spring, and the options will be made clear in the Grid and registration information issued in mid- to late-November. We will be training coordinators in the HyFlex technology in advance of the semester’s start. I want to thank the intrepid few who have been coming in-person to the Graduate Center this term and given feedback on their experience in the new HyFlex format, all of which has informed our guidebook and our plans for the spring.

My best,
Mariel

Did you miss Unmasking Bias talk with Michelle Fine? See it here.
Our office contact information:
engagement@gc.cuny.edu
212-817-2474

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Member Connect Town Hall meetings: members discuss concerns

The second round of Member Connect Town Hall meetings held on Friday, October 15, brought together 167 members to discuss the issues and concerns facing us this year, including return to in-person study groups at the Graduate Center, encouraging and increasing the number of study group coordinators, evaluating the impact and future of Zoom and Hyflex on our peer learning model, improving communication within the organization and increasing participation at our special events and speakers programs.

At almost every meeting, groups were eager to return to in-person sessions at the GC. Many members said that there should be a transition between remote and in-person classes this spring and some consideration of a Zoom presence beyond that for those members unable to attend for health or other significant reasons. There were several good suggestions on how to increase the ranks of coordinators, including technology support, increased person-to-person recruitment and training and emphasizing the obligation and importance for all members to contribute to peer learning. Zoom generally got good reviews while HyFlex is still an unknown to most. Multiple modes of communication and variations in event scheduling were also suggested.

Overall, there was positive feedback to the Town Halls from those who participated, with the hope that we can get even more members to join future meetings.

Call for Break Activities between Winter and Spring Semesters

The Community Building Initiative seeks volunteers to lead activities during the break from January 3rd to January 28th. Just as with our earlier break activities, yours can meet once, twice or multiple times. Whether it’s a book or movie discussion, a current events discussion, a travel adventure or art presentation or something else, your colleagues will appreciate your efforts.
We also invite all current and past coordinators to offer a one session encore presentation selected from a prior study group. Tech help is available to set up and assist you in running the Zoom session. You'll receive a Zoom link to send to participants.

Contact Jane Case Einbender at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu to propose your activity.

UPCOMING CURRICULUM COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

Want To Learn Strategies for Enhancing Your Study Group Discussions?
Wednesday, Nov 17, 3:45-5PM

New AND experienced coordinators are invited to attend The Art and Science Of Leading A Discussion on Zoom. For a Zoom invitation, RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstending@gc.cuny.edu by Mon, Nov 16;

ONLINE ART SHOW

From: Tom Ashley
Title: Venus in Anticipation
Tom says: This photo of Venus was taken at the 2019 Open as her career was winding down ... as it does with all the greatest of the greats.
Calling All Painters, Sculptors, Photographers, Block Printers, Ceramicists and Textile Artists!

Display the creative work you have been doing this summer in the Online Art Show. Send a photograph of your work with a title and a brief statement about it to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu. Art works appear in The Observer in the order in which they are received.

MEMBER FORUM

Ethnic Dining Might Attempt A Comeback

Are you ready to eat inside a restaurant again? How about a late lunch - “Una comida” - at an Argentinian restaurant called BUENOS AIRES on Friday November 12th at 2:30PM? This restaurant is located at 513 East 6th St.

We would like to know if there are at least 18 members interested to meet, mingle, and eat together. Of course, all health regulations will be followed.

Last of the Fall Fest Fotos

Central Park
Upper West Side

Madison Square Park
ONGOING LP² EVENTS

_The Women’s Group_ meets at 3:45PM on Thursdays. Contact Arlyne LeSchack at aleschack@gc.cuny.edu.

_The Men’s Group_ meets at 3:45PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jay Fleishman at efleishman@gc.cuny.edu.

_Stitch Away Stress_ meets at 4PM Tuesdays. Members share skills and enjoy the meditative benefits of handwork. Contact Michelle Harris at mharris@gc.cuny.edu.
Observer Submissions Send items for the next week’s Observer to Micky Josephs at mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu by 5PM on Friday. Send Online Art Show entries and suggestions for virtual tours to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu.

Member Forum If you have something to share with the LP² community, e.g., a photo, an article, a book or a web site that you’ve discovered and think would be interesting to members, send it to Micky at mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.