

# INSTITUTE FOR RETIRED PROFESSIONALS

OBSERVER JULY13, 2020

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear members,

Happy first day of summer session II.

Over the past week, we have continued conversations to shape a diversity, equity, and inclusion plan for the IRP; which the Diversity Committee reports on in more detail in this issue. We are making connections with Graduate Center administrators, staff, and faculty to support these efforts and reinforce the connections for this unique program within The Graduate Center and its members as part of the University community.

To that end, we have had rich and productive conversations with the IRP Marketing Committee and The Graduate Center Communications and Marketing team to generate ideas for a new program name, to be presented to and ultimately determined by the Transition Board later this summer. The Marketing Committee has also introduced me to additional IRP publications and we are outlining plans to continue Outlook as well as the other literary and visual arts activities of this multi-dimensional community! Over the past week I also met with the Fridays@One and OSOL committees to discuss exciting plans for upcoming speaker and workshop events to be presented virtually. We have a lot to look forward to!

A few important reminders below:

- [This evolving document](#) includes information about the Graduate Center's IT Resources, affiliate benefits, and virtual events and programs. Click through to find out how to set up your **free New York Times account** and **your Wall Street Journal account**, made possible with your Graduate Center email address.
- Remember to [set up your GC email account](#), as all official correspondence from The Graduate Center (and CUNY) will be directed to that email address.
- You should have received an email last week from our office address ([engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu)) to your personal email account with your unique CUNY ID number, also known as an **EMPLID**, which should be kept private and secure. You may be asked for this number to verify your identity, for example when working with the IT department. You can also use the EMPLID to reset your password using the new self-service password reset tool should you forget your email password. No action is needed at this time – please just make a note of your EMPLID and keep in a safe place.
- In the coming week, you will receive an email with a link to a secure form through which our team is requesting information to build our member directory and to better understand the composition of IRP membership.
- Please look out for email messages from “Engagement” in your inbox, these are from our office address: [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu)

- If you would like to **add or drop a study group** in summer session II or for fall, please email all requests to [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu) so that we can notify coordinators accordingly and keep rosters up to date.

Have a great week,

Marisel

## **NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A Message from the Diversity-Outreach Committee**

Many of you have asked what the Diversity-Outreach Committee does. We were formed five years ago with these general objectives:

One of our goals is to explore our own attitudes and behaviors with an eye to recognizing and confronting our biases. We similarly seek to expand the IRP membership's self-awareness with the aim of making us a welcoming place for people from all backgrounds.

At the same time, we work to develop a more racially and ethnically diverse IRP that better reflects the population of the city. We reach out to various communities to attract new members.

Our new relationship with the CUNY Graduate Center offers more opportunities to accomplish our objectives. **Last Monday**, we welcomed Marisel Villere, the Graduate Center IRP Director, to our meeting. Together we identified concrete steps on how to make the IRP more diverse and inclusive. Among the action plans discussed are the following.

#### **Recruitment**

Create bridges to CUNY's vast resources, starting with an introduction to its Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity and Inclusion. Our plan is to learn how to tap into CUNY's diverse alumni/ae and retired faculty and staff, and welcome them to our community. We agreed that we will strive for the IRP to attain the diversity for which CUNY is recognized.

#### **Program Development**

Create at least one event with a Graduate Center faculty member whose scholarship focuses on racial and social justice.

Develop anti-bias and anti-racism training for all of our members.

#### **Community Agreement**

Create an agreement among our membership to treat each other with respect and sensitivity.

Finally, we committed to our shared vision - that the IRP be known not only as an exemplary peer-learning program, but also as a pluralistic program that is accessible to and inclusive of people of all backgrounds.

The Diversity-Outreach Committee plans to keep you abreast of its progress, so stay tuned.

## From IRP Tech Committee: Tech Talk

### Bookmarking

#### An IRP Tech Limerick

A luddite of terrific foresight,  
Who was also a bit erudite,  
    Didn't like wasting time,  
    Took to heart this quick rhyme,  
And bookmarked a favorite website.

**Save yourself from typing in a URL or a search to get where you are going online. Bookmark It Instead** so you can get to them with a single click from your browser window.

**Watch the video below to learn all about bookmarking** from a master, Steve Dotto, who is also, I think, good company. The video focuses on the Google Chrome browser but you can do the same thing using **Favorites** in Safari, and all Internet Browsers have the same capability and work in a similar way.

**Click the video to watch and get a transcript!**



I suggest watching the first 10 minutes. The first 6 minutes are a basic overview of the main tools and areas within the Google Chrome browser.

Minute 6 -10 focuses on bookmarks, the bookmarks bar and how to organize them to have easy access to all the content you want. Then the video goes on to the more advanced topic of extensions and web apps and how to add functionality to the browser.

Once you have figured out how to **Bookmark** or **Favorite** a website, why not make [Dottotech](#) one of your first ones. He has hundreds of videos on a wide range of tech subjects. Search and learn what YOU are interested in!

### Quick HOW TO: Study This Graphic!

1. Go to a site you want to save.

2. Click the star in the address bar so it turns blue.

3. In the dropdown menu that will pop up change the name if you want to something more memorable.

4. Select the folder you want to save it in. To start just choose the Bookmarks Bar.

5. Then the site will be saved here in the Bookmarks Bar. Click on the icon/name to go directly to that site!

Chrome File Edit View History Bookmarks People Tab Window Help

sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff/home?authuser=0

IRP Tech Stuff Home Zoom Stuff for Coordinators

ADVENTURE PIER Home

Click to enter: [IRP 24 Hour Chat Room](#)  
[GC-CUNY Solutions](#)  
[Zoom Stuff for All](#)  
[Zoom Stuff for Coordinators](#)  
[Coordinator Solutions](#) - working w  
[Member Directory](#) - link to irpzine

Edit bookmark

Name IRP Tech Stuff

Folder Bookmarks Bar

Scrabble  
IRP Tech Support  
Genealogy  
Planters  
Buddyboss  
✓ Bookmarks Bar  
Other Bookmarks  
Mobile Bookmarks  
Choose Another Folder...

## NEW EVENTS

### China & the U.S. - Encore Session

Thursday, September 3, 1PM

This follow-up to the summer session I study group coordinated by Tom Hardy is an addition to our between term activities. Participants will expand on the discussion of the last class regarding the challenge for the U.S. to “get its act together”— both domestically, in terms of foreign policy, and internationally with its allies—in an integrated manner. Former class members will automatically be signed up to receive a Zoom invite. Others who wish to participate should email Tom Hardy at [thardy@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:thardy@gc.cuny.edu).

## ONLINE ART SHOW



Phyllis Kriegel, Title: Red Peter, the Character in Kafka's "A Report to an Academy."

According to Phyllis: "Red Peter reports to a learned society about his transition from animal to human existence."

## REMINDERS: ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Payment Summer School

Because of a glitch in the directions for paying summer school tuition, some members have overpaid. The Graduate Center has clarified the instructions and is processing refunds for anyone so affected. The correct tuition is \$125 for one study group and \$200 for two OR MORE study groups OVER THE TWO SESSIONS. You should not pay more than \$200, no matter how many study groups you are taking.

If you enrolled in summer study groups, you should have received a link to an Eventbrite page to submit payment by credit card for summer sessions one and two (combined). Payment is due August 28. Please be in touch with [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu) should you have any questions about your payment. The link was sent to your Graduate Center email address.

### Questions/Requests about GC Email and Other Admin Issues

Speaking of your GC email, if you have not activated this account, you should do so now. First, find the email you received from Ariana Durando on **May 20th** entitled "Welcome Graduate Center Email Account Information." That email includes your CUNY email address and password, as well as instructions on accessing your CUNY email via the webmail portal: <https://wa.gc.cuny.edu/owa/>.

If you are successfully accessing your email using that portal, but prefer to read it on your phone, iPad, or in the Mail program on your computer, please see the article called "Access e-mail" on the [IRP Techstuff](#) site.

If you are completely unable to access your CUNY email, please send a message to [tech@iernyc.org](mailto:tech@iernyc.org). Include your phone number and describe the problem you are having, and the kind of computer or tablet you are using.

For other admin issues, such as Add/Drops for Study Groups, Leaves of Absence, and payments, direct questions to our team at The Graduate Center: Mariel, Ariana and Olena. You can reach the team by sending an email to: [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu).

### **Observer Schedule and Distribution**

Please submit your items to Leslie Davis at [ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu) or [ldavis7104@yahoo.com](mailto:ldavis7104@yahoo.com) by the end of the day on Friday for inclusion in Monday's issue. Items submitted after Friday will be saved for the following week.

Starting with today's issue, the Observer will be sent to your GC email address. Through a separate email from the GC team to your personal account, we will try to identify those who have not received today's issue and IRP's tech team will be in touch with them.

### **Call for Volunteers**

**Between Term.** The Community Project is still seeking volunteers to lead activities during the break from August 24th to September 10th. Just as in our

earlier break, your activity can meet one, two, or three times and be an encore presentation from one of your study groups. Please contact Jan Adler at: [jadler@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jadler@gc.cuny.edu).

**Advances in Civilization** The organizers of this series seek volunteers to present on any relevant topic during the fall semester. Contact Steve Kalinsky at [stephenkalinsky@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkalinsky@gmail.com) or [skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu).

### **REMINDERS: EVENTS**

#### **Book Discussion Group**

*White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo  
Wednesday, September 9, 1PM

This groundbreaking bestseller by a prominent antiracist educator will be the subject of a timely discussion. To sign up, email Joy Schulman at [joyschulman@gmail.com](mailto:joyschulman@gmail.com) or [jschulman1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jschulman1@gc.cuny.edu) and she will send you a Zoom invite. Order the book soon—it sells out fast. There is also a Kindle edition.

#### **Ongoing Activities**

**Federalists Forever**, Thursday, July 16 4PM. Contact Howard Miller at [howard3915@outlook.com](mailto:howard3915@outlook.com) or [hmliller4@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:hmliller4@gc.cuny.edu).

**Short Stories Aloud**, Tuesdays, 4PM Resumes July 21. Contact Sharon Girard at [sgirard@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:sgirard@gc.cuny.edu).

**Men's Group**, Every Wednesday, 12:15PM, Contact Jay Fleishman at [ejayfleish@aol.com](mailto:ejayfleish@aol.com) or [efleishman@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:efleishman@gc.cuny.edu).

**Women's Group**, Every Thursday, 3PM, Contact Arlyne LeSchack at [aleschack@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:aleschack@gc.cuny.edu).

**Pour at Four**, Every Friday, 4PM. Hosted by Susan Rubens in the 24-hour chat room at: <https://sites.google.com/view/irpotechstuff>.

## MEMBER FORUM

\* From Adam Blaton. As we all know, June 30 was Adam's last day at the IRP. The Advisory Board sent him a farewell gift in the name of a grateful and admiring membership. Here is a portion of Adam's thank you letter, in which he describes his response over the years to those who asked him about his job with TNS/IRP.

*I'm working in a peer-learning program for retired professionals—and before you ask, no, I don't work with “a bunch of old people!” It's a program with 300+ active members who come from a fascinating range of personal and professional backgrounds. I'm not joking when I say that these are some of the most intellectual, highly educated, ambitious and generous people I've ever met, let alone had the chance to work with or get to know. Age is irrelevant, I'm serious when I say that their social lives and calendars are often busier than my own and getting to absorb a fraction of their collective wealth of knowledge is more than I could have ever asked for with any job.*

If you would like to contact Adam to send him a farewell message/gift or just to keep in touch email Barbara Marwell at [bmarwell@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:bmarwell@gc.cuny.edu).

\*Jan Adler sends: “From Greenwood Cemetery”



## CUNY EVENTS THIS WEEK

**Mina Rees Conversation Series | Christopher Wilde**

Thursday July 16, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Christopher Wilde**, co-founder of the [Queer Zine Archive Project \(QZAP\)](#), will discuss his extensive work developing a collection of zines and creative work by LGBTQ zinesters. The mission of QZAP is “*is to establish a “living history” archive of past and present queer zines and to encourage current and emerging zine publishers to continue to create. By providing access to the historical canon of queer zines we hope to make them more accessible to diverse communities and reach wider audiences.*” Wilde will be in conversation with **Kate Angell** (Adjunct Reference Librarian) and **Elvis Bakaitis** (Interim Head of Reference), co-founders of the NYC Feminist Zinefest.

**\*[RSVP HERE!](#) Zoom link will be emailed the day before the event.\***

### **ONGOING CUNY EVENTS**

See the GC [CUNY Calendar](#) for the most centralized GC events calendar.

[Newmark J School Let's Talk News Business Series](#)

[The Advanced Science Research Center's upcoming webinars explore CUNY's interdisciplinary excellence and opportunities](#)

[Center for Humanities](#) and [Segal Theatre Center](#) events are listed; you can also subscribe to newsletter.

### **CUNY RESOURCES**

[The Graduate Center News](#)

