

EmeritXpress

Welcome to the second edition of this newsletter for the EmeritX community. ***EmeritXpress*** is sent out periodically to share news about cluster activities, announce upcoming gatherings and events, catch you up on opportunities as they unfold, share news from community members, and offer random but compelling tips from “beyond the podium.” All are welcome to contribute material by contacting louellet. . . , lhill. . . , or mcright . . . @bates.edu. We are working to activate links on the Programs for Emeritx Faculty page where you will be able to access *EmeritX* news, contribute items, and add or respond to conversations. From the DoF page, follow the link to Faculty Commons for Learning and Teaching; then use the Faculty Development drop-down tab to find and click on the Programs for EmeritX Faculty.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The next *EmeritX* gathering will take place on March 16th and focus on "the financial transition". Come to Commons #211 to hear stories from colleagues who have navigated decision-making challenges as they share their "anxieties, confusion, continuing uncertainties" and auspicious choices. Bring your questions, anecdotes, and perspectives to animate a robust discussion.

RSVP by Wed March 11th to [Lori Ouellette](#) if you plan to attend. Plenty of refreshments will be available.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cluster News	2
Community Research and Engagement.....	2
Public Writing.....	2
Studio Arts	3
Reading & Discussion	4
Creative Writing.....	4
Political /Climate Action	5

Tips from Beyond the Podium	3
Question from the Community.....	3
Mark Your Calendars.....	4

CLUSTER NEWS—COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

Community-Engaged Work

A small group of Bates retired and retiring is working with Brunswick-based College Guild to examine research that evaluates the impact of prison education programs on learners. Providing nontraditional correspondence courses to prisoners across the U.S., College Guild seeks to assess the broad impact of its work as it designs future programming. The Bates group is investigating questions about how learning affects neuroplasticity, psychosocial health, and social interactions of

folks incarcerated.

-- **Georgia, Leslie, Nancy**

• **Opportunities** Georgia Nigro and Sam Boss at the Harvard Center offer this list of [CER projects](#) for community-engaged research, where the skills and wisdom of retired faculty members would be useful. Both are eager to discuss possibilities with you.

• **Community engagement** – Use this [link](#) to see a listing of opportunities for community engagement for Emeritx in L/A.

Cluster contact: **Darby Ray** dray@bates.edu

WANT TO START SOMETHING?

Find other Bates retirees who share your interest. Send your idea to one of the newsletter editors and we'll post it in the next edition.

Margaret Creighton:
mcreight@bates.edu
Leslie Hill: lhill@bates.edu
Lori Ouellette:
louellet@bates.edu

Or, send idea via email to the EmeritX community.

STAY TUNED

We hope to share news soon about teaching possibilities for short term 2021.

PUBLIC WRITING

Cluster participants learn strategies for using our research expertise to construct new narratives on public platforms. We are reading the highly praised, *Going Public*, addressed to faculty wanting to “translate” academic-speak into prose for broad public audiences.

We meet next on Wednesday, March 5th at the Writing Center where we work with Stephanie Wade to explore various formats, build our “translation” skills, and get support. Faculty from Bates and around Maine will share their ventures in future sessions. To join a session or the PW cluster, get a copy of the book, or for more information, contact Leslie Hill at lhill@bates.edu.

— **Leslie**



STUDIO ARTS



The Studio Arts gathering at Portland Pottery in January for lunch and creativity was a great success. We look forward to another session in March. There is room for one more participant! — **Margaret**

Cluster contact: Margaret mcreight@bates.edu.

Tip from Beyond the Podium

Ken Emerson and Brenda Sawyer in Human Resources are happy to help you consider options in your final year of benefit elections. They may offer a timeline for transitioning from Bates benefits to Medicare, etc. We look forward to talking with them about the “big picture” of transitioning off of the payroll.

Got advice or a question to share?

Everyone is invited to add (retirement) advice, pose questions, drop tips, links, readings, etc. for this group. Use the blog link above or here for general conversation or to reach Emeriti/ae/X and the Retirement Curious.

EMERITX WEB PAGE

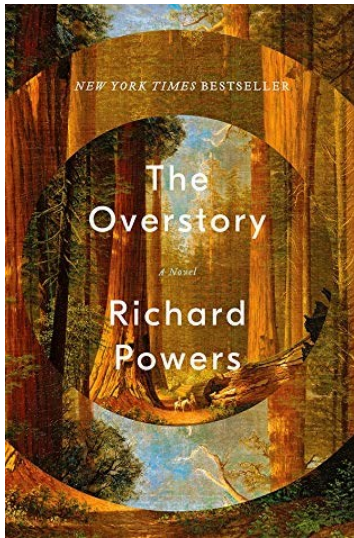
From the [Dean of Faculty](#) web page, find the right side-bar and click on Faculty Commons for Learning and Teaching. Under the tab, “Faculty Development Programs at Bates” scroll to the bottom of the page to find the link, [“Programs for EmeritX Faculty”](#). There you will find:

- the [blog for general conversation amongst EmeritX](#)
- *Google Group – Emeritus* to reach the [google group for Bates EmeritX faculty](#)
- *Programs for EmeritX Faculty from the Harvard Center* - see a listing of [opportunities for community engagement for EmeritX in L/A](#)

QUESTION FROM THE COMMUNITY

Can IT help us with our computers if we are not doing Bates-related work?

It would be helpful to have, at the very least, the rules for emeriti/ae re: Bates facilities and opportunities -- in writing.



READING AND DISCUSSION

Our group is reading *The Overstory*, by Richard Powell, for our first gathering on February 24th.

Additional books of interest include:

A Brief History of Everybody Who Lived by Rutherford and Mukherjee

Becoming, by Michelle Obama

Tell Me How it Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions, by Valeria Luiselli

Supreme Ambition: Brett Kavanaugh and the Conservative Takeover, by Ruth Marcus . . .

Email **Nancy Kleckner** (nkleckne@bates.edu) for info on the current reading, to join other sessions, and/or receive our emails.

Cluster contact: Nancy Kleckner

+ OPPORTUNITIES

Peggy Rotundo notes that the [Maine Humanities Council](#) would be delighted to have (retired) faculty lead a book-discussion group.

A QUICK READ

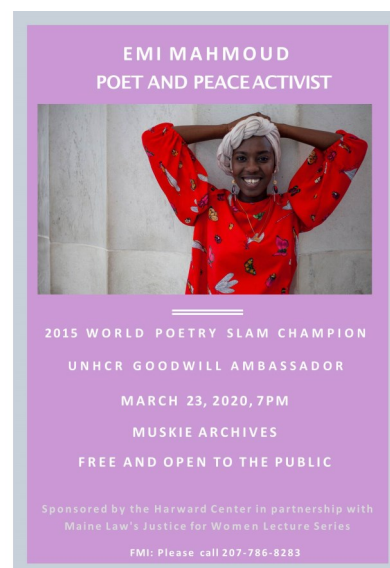
Susie Allen, “When what you do is no longer who you are. Retirement doesn’t always live up to the blissful media image.” *U of Chicago Magazine* Fall/19 .

<https://mag.uchicago.edu/law-policy-society/when-what-you-do-no-longer-who-you-are>

CREATIVE WRITING

Looking forward to hearing news, ideas, or suggestions from EmeritX creative Writing Cluster participants.

Mark your calendars for World Poetry Slam Champion and international peace activist Emi Mahmoud on March 23rd at 7:00pm in Muskie Archives.



POLITICAL ACTION/CLIMATE ACTION

We're entering the season of maximum need for political action from us tireless climate and sanity warriors. How might we best put our political passions to use in this electoral season and, specifically, create a strategy for using our knowledge and energies to ensure that the voters of Lewiston-Auburn (and beyond?) think of climate change as a ruling issue in their political choices this year? To that end, we are contacting some environmental action groups in Maine as well as allies and structures in state government that can be important in this work in order to think about how we might be effective in joining our efforts to theirs. If any of you have good contacts in those or other such groups, please let the rest of us know. We can all write letters to the editor asking voters to make the climate crisis central in their thoughts as they decide on candidates for federal office: House, Senate, and President. Join us to share ideas and consider options for how to get involved individually and collaboratively. — **Jim**

Cluster contact: Jim Parakilas jparakil@bates.edu

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EmeritX Community News

Do you have something to celebrate or announce? Let one of the Newsletter editors know, or use the Google Group – Emeritus to reach the [google group for Bates Emeritx faculty](#) by email.

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Leslie Hill: lhill@bates.edu

Lori Ouellette: louellet@bates.edu

