



EmeritXpress

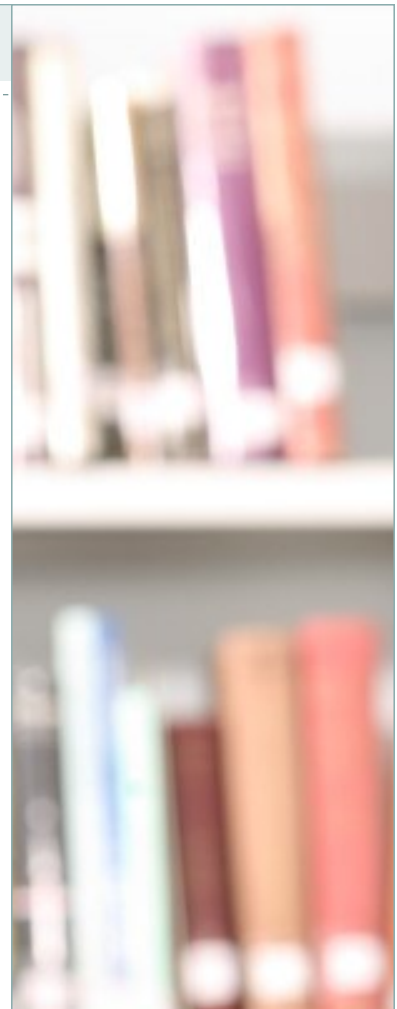
Welcome to the third edition of this newsletter for the EmeritX community. ***EmeritXpress*** is produced periodically to foster connection, share news, announce upcoming gatherings and events, and offer random but compelling tips from “beyond the podium.” Since our first gathering last August, retired and soon-to-be retiring colleagues have come together to learn, read and discuss books, create art, and launch research for a community partner.

In March we were poised to gather for a focus on "the financial transition" when the College shut down. The world has since changed – a lot! Interest in money persists, perhaps more so as our economic context shifts. So, we will use it to come together again, to hear stories from colleagues who have navigated decision-making challenges as they share their "anxieties, confusion, continuing uncertainties" and, of course, auspicious choices.

Read on to find out what our EmeritX cluster groups have been up to. See emerging ideas for new gatherings. Given the health crisis, economic upheaval, and calls to dismantle racial injustice, many people are now wondering how they want to respond to these crises. Share your thoughts, experiences, ideas, and hear about suggestions for new ways to engage on campus and off.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

EmeritX will gather next on Monday, July 13th via Zoom to discuss "the financial transition" at <https://bates.zoom.us/j/95492086828>. We hope you will animate the discussion with your questions, anecdotes, and perspectives. Bring your own snacks!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cluster News	2
Community Research and Engagement.....	2
Public Writing.....	2
<i>What is EmeritX?</i>	2
Studio Arts	3
<i>New Possibilities</i>	3
Reading & Discussion	4
Political /Climate Action	4
Creative Writing.....	4
Tips from Beyond the Podium 3	
Change Benefit Elections	
Q&A from the Community	3
The Tech Transition	

CLUSTER NEWS

Community-Engaged Work

Three EmeritX faculty are using their research skills to address questions that may help advance work of the College Guild, which offers noncredit-bearing educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals across the country. Nancy (K), Leslie, and Georgia met with ED, Mary Malia and later reported back some preliminary findings on a couple of questions about the impact of learning via CG courses. Plans for further

collaboration are on hold because face-to-face encounters seem critical for achieving synergy across professional boundaries and focus on issues of interest to the College Guild. Contact Georgia at gnigro@bates.edu.

-- Georgia, Leslie, Nancy

• **Opportunity** 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.

What is EMERITX?

This platform will be what we make it. Other colleges are building theirs. And, like ours, those created by the faculty (and staff) community appear to be more “successful” -- in retirees’ terms -- than those assigned by administrators. So, it’s up to us to build a platform that responds to our various interests, serves us, and allows us to make and keep the kinds of connections with the College community – students, alums, and staff – that we want.

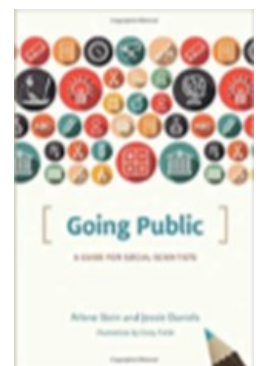
Public Writing

We are convening via Zoom, where we talk about our various “projects” and the challenges of writing for non-academic audiences. We discuss our wish lists for scribing - at any stage of formation (musings, outlines, drafts, etc.); audience and platform options; and, the very intriguing challenge of translating academic-speak into prose for broad public audiences. Feedback on our Op-Eds, bibliography-style annotations, and research-based opinion essays is frank, generous, and generative. Retired and “Rising” EmeritX faculty are welcome to join as we read selections by “academics gone public”, discuss “good” and “bad” samples of research-based writing, learn and gain insight with the input of the ARC’s Stephanie Wade.

Got something you want to put into public conversation? Join us at 4pm on July 13th. Email Cluster contact, Leslie at

lhill@bates.edu.

— Georgia, Stephanie, Elizabeth, and Leslie



Studio Arts Work



The Studio Arts Collaborative had a wonderful session (and equally nice lunch) at Portland Pottery in the winter, and then Covid closed in. We hope to share work virtually at some point and perhaps do *plein air* work (painting outdoors) in the late summer. Eager to put your creative side to work? There is room for more participants! Email Cluster contact, Margaret at mcreight@bates.edu.

— Nancy, Margaret, Melinda, Arlene

Tip from Beyond the Podium

Looking to step into your “next chapter”? Ken Emerson and Brenda Sawyer in Human Resources will help you consider options in your final year of payroll benefit elections. They also offer a timeline for transitioning from Bates benefits to Medicare, etc. as well as resources for learning more about income, health care, and life insurance options—and deadlines. Contact them to get a view of the “big picture” of leaving the “bubble”.

New-ish

Possibilities

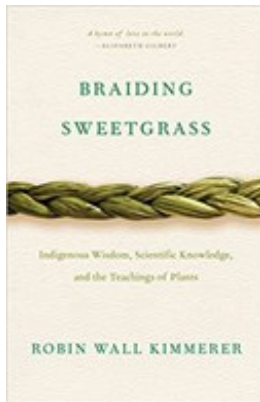
Want To Start Something?

Today’s riveting context we’re living in exposes layers of reality which inspire curiosity and a great many generative questions. A handful of people have suggested getting together to discuss anti-racism readings and activism. We could combine this initiative with other groups or start a new cohort. Let us know if there’s something you would like to think about, read, or discuss.

Interested in gathering around topics or activities brainstormed earlier?

- *Continuing Education* (for alums, locals, us)
- *Ongoing College Engagement* (Alumni Affairs, Admissions, etc.)
- *Faculty Support* (informal thesis support, faculty mentoring, programming)
- *Instructional Assistance*
- *Scholarly Research*

If you want to join, start, or re-invigorate a group, we encourage you to let Margaret C, Darby, or Leslie know of your interest. They can help you find other Bates retirees who share your interest, point you to possible resources, and think with you about how to get going.



More Opportunities

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

Community Engagement

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

A Good Read

The Third Chapter: Passion, Risk, and Adventure in the 25 Years After 50
by Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot

Reading and Discussion

The Reading Discussion Group has held three lively meetings, including discussions of *The Overstory*, *The Soul of an Octopus*, and selections from Robin Wall Kimmerer's, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*. On July 27 at 9:30 am the group will continue the discussion of *Braiding Sweetgrass* with (readers' choice of) either Hope Jahren's *The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here* or *The Uninhabitable Earth* by David Wallace-Wells, both on climate change. New participants welcome! Email Nancy Kleckner (nkleckne@bates.edu), the Cluster contact for info on the current reading, to join other sessions, and/or receive our emails.

Political Action/Climate Action

We're entering the season of maximum need for political action. Our group had a couple of meetings, with different attendees each time. Since the lockdown, however, the Political Action/Climate Action group hasn't met. We're hoping we'll get going again soon, and look forward to hearing ideas and options at the next *EmeritX* gathering. Join us to share ideas and consider options for how to get involved individually and collaboratively. — **Jim**

Cluster contact: Jim Parakilas jparakil@bates.edu

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing group needs a jump start. Willing to share a draft of your novel, short story, memoir, or poetry? Got a screenplay up your sleeve? Want some feedback on a book proposal? If you want to remain in your garret, feel free; but, if you'd like occasional feedback or company, let Margaret Creighton know (mcreight@bates.edu) and we will kick this group into gear.

Q & A from the Community

Routinely, we ask if you have advice or a question to share. Not long ago, we got a question about retirees' access to Microsoft products through the College. Here's what we learned from Information & Library Services about the *Tech Transition*. Pat Schoknecht announced that

[Bates'] 'agreement with Microsoft has renewed and **the new contract no longer allows us to provide MS Office and Office 365 to retired faculty and staff**. These changes will impact you at some point during the next 30 days (and likely much sooner). Sometime soon, your Microsoft license will automatically check on your status, discover you are no longer eligible and your applications will stop working. No notice and no grace period. In fact, this has already started happening to some of you.'

If you wish to continue to use Microsoft products, you will need to purchase a personal license. There are a variety of offerings and the Help Desk would be happy to provide advice, if you give them a call (207-786-8222).

Additionally, Scott Tiner offers this heads-up for prospective EmeritX.

The College will collect your Bates-supplied equipment. Some things to prepare for.

- You will want to move your data off your Bates computer, and onto a personal computer, or back it up to Google. After retirement you will continue to have access to your Google Drive and files, including email and calendar.
- ILS will remove the requirement of two-factor authentication from your account.
- Software provided by Bates is not permitted to be installed on a personal computer, but we can give you some guidance on where you can acquire some software at a discounted price.
- Additionally, you will have access to all public computers at Bates.

ILS staff can offer technology assistance to you as you make this big transition.

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EmeritX Community News

Contribute to the next newsletter. Share news, identify opportunities, offer tips for living in retirement (or "lockdown"), questions, or ideas by contacting one of the editors.

Leslie: lhill@bates.edu

Margaret: mcreight@bates.edu

Darby: dray3@bates.edu

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