



COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON

SCHOOL OF  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

## CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT

WINTER/SPRING 2020

### BEFORE WE WERE SO RUDELY INTERRUPTED

The Year 2020 brings a trio of milestones. Charleston's first settlers landed on the Ashley River 350 years ago. Two hundred and fifty years ago, The College of Charleston was incorporated. Twenty-five years ago, The Center for Creative Retirement was formed to provide education and social opportunities for retirees. The City and the College planned a multitude of events and we, at CCR, planned a wonderful celebration of our formation. Instead, the world faces a pandemic and our lives and plans have been rudely interrupted. Nonetheless, CCR is planning for the future and will continue, one way or another, with great programs for our 26th year.



On January 6, CCR marked the beginning of 2020 with a presentation by Dr. Andrew Hsu, new president of The College of Charleston. Dr. Hsu was born in Beijing, but raised in a rural, mountainous area of China. He taught himself English, borrowing books of increasing difficulty. In China, he earned a degree in hydraulic engineering, a subject chosen for him. Then, with the help of an aunt in Atlanta and an uncle in New York, he came to study at Georgia Tech, earning a masters and a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering. He worked in the field of jet propulsion before his love of teaching sent him back to the classroom, serving at various institutions as professor, then dean. He was the provost and executive vice president of academic affairs at the University of Toledo before joining the College of Charleston in 2019.

After talking about his early years, Dr. Hsu discussed his plans to keep the College of Charleston high on national and international academic rankings. The Center for Creative Retirement also has great plans for its future. The Curriculum Committee has its Fall 2020 Program in place. We may meet virtually for a while, but we are optimistic that we will soon see each other face-to-face, probably at a new location, but with enthusiasm and improvements from the results of our recent survey, a synopsis of which is included.

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT FRED ROSENBERG

I really looked forward to this year. CCR was celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our lectures were as good or better than ever. The new location for our social break was working so well that members were disappointed to have to return for our second lecture. Our lifelong-learning institute was growing. Our budget was solid. Our membership continued to grow as the word spread throughout the region by word of mouth.

In fact, my biggest concern was our growing enrollment. At the rate it was growing we would outgrow our meeting room within a year or two. To address that concern I resurrected our Long-Range Planning Committee to make recommendations to the CCR board on how to address this problem.

Little did I know that events would overtake us. First, the College informed us that they were looking for a new location for September 2021, giving us a year to find new quarters large enough for all of us to meet. Then the College moved the date up to January 2021. Then, they informed us that it would be September 2020, just a few months away! We have been scrambling to find a suitable location and attempting to engage our members as much as possible in the search. We have identified several dozen potential locations, but unfortunately have not yet found any that would suit all our requirements.

**THEN, the coronavirus hit us. In mid-March we had to cancel all CCR activities for the rest of the semester, including our Monday lectures, CALL classes and field trips. I tried to continue my CALL class online, but it was too soon for everyone to become comfortable with Zoom.**

My biggest concern turned to our upcoming annual meeting and election on May 18. If we did not have an election, we would not have new officers and I would still be president. After five years as president, I was anxious to pass the position on to wonderful new talent. I thought that we would just have a big Zoom meeting, very similar to our in-person annual meeting and election. Unfortunately, nothing is as easy as it first appears. Fortunately, with the combined help of our board, nominating committee, and college staff, we have worked out a virtual meeting we believe will be easy and transparent to our members.

We have decided to postpone our regular large meetings in the Fall, and to live-stream our presentations instead, with the possibility of allowing a small, in-person audience, as circumstances allow. This will be a challenge to our curriculum committee, speakers, and members, but with help from College staff we are confident that it will work, even as we work through the details. In the meantime, we will have an additional six months to find a facility for our meetings.

It has been a pleasure and honor to be your president for the last five years. I am proud of the continued improvements we have been able to make along the way. I now look forward to becoming your past-president.

*-Fred Rosenberg*  
CCR President 2015-2020

## A LOOK AT CCR'S PROPOSED NEW LEADERSHIP

Elections will be held in conjunction with a virtual meeting to be held on May 18, 2020. Watch your email for details.

<p><b>President:</b> Catherine Langlois, and her husband Tom Wylonis, retired to Kiawah Island in 2009. She joined CCR in 2015 and has served on the Curriculum Committee and the Long- Range Planning Committee.</p>		<p><b>First VP of Curriculum:</b> Sherry and Ray Stewart, CCR members for 3 years, served on the Curriculum Committee for 2 years. Ray served a year on the board. Retired chemists who relocated to Mt. Pleasant in 2017, they would serve jointly.</p>	
	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP for Membership:</b> James Andressa has been a member of CCR for just over a year. He grew up in Massapequa, NY, and worked as a chemist in Columbus, GA, until his retirement in 2014.</p>		<p><b>Treasurer:</b> Wendy Fuhrmanek is a retired MBA/CPA/CIA/CFE who relocated from Baltimore to Mt. Pleasant 8 years ago with her husband, Joseph. She was on the Curriculum Committee for 2 years and has been CCR's Treasurer for the past 5 years.</p>
<p><b>Secretary:</b> Cathy Walker retired to Charleston in 2015 after a career at the National Institutes of Health in the DC area. Cathy worked as a grants administrator, requirements analyst and customer relationship manager.</p>		<p><b>ON MAY 18, WE WILL VOTE FOR 8 OF THE 8 CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD. THERE WILL BE A WRITE-IN OPTION FOR ALL POSITIONS.</b></p>	
	<p><b>Executive Board:</b> Diana Barth is a retired attorney and former teacher and newspaperwoman. She chairs CCR's CALL Committee.</p>		<p><b>Executive Board:</b> Margaret Dobson has lived in the Charleston area since 1976. She retired in 2011 as the Guidance Director of the Academic Magnet High School.</p>
<p><b>Executive Board</b> Boston native Irma Resnic, graduate of Simmons University, retired to Cape Cod and the Charleston area 9 years ago after a career as District Manager for health care. A CCR member for 5 years, on the Board &amp; Curriculum Committee for 2 years.</p>		<p><b>Executive Board:</b> Norm Resnic is a retired business owner, graduate of Northeastern University and served 20 years as President of his condo association. He welcomes the opportunity to continue to serve on the CCR Board.</p>	
	<p><b>Executive Board:</b> Bill Schwartz served as chair of this year's Tours and Trips Committee. A retired business school professor who served as both a department chair and as dean before moving to SC in 2011. Bill hopes to use his experience to help CCR.</p>		<p><b>Executive Board:</b> Eric Strauss earned a degree in Marketing with minors in Sociology and Economics. He was the COO in a large wholesale plumbing supply firm in CT and NY. Eric and Marty have lived in S.C for 6 years.</p>
<p><b>Executive Board:</b> In 2014, Marty Strauss retired from Westchester, NY, to Mt. Pleasant. She grew up in Bridgeport, CT, where she started a career that culminated in a position of VP of System Technology.</p>		<p><b>Executive Board:</b> Eileen (Ijo) Toporek is a social worker who has three sons and seven grandchildren. She is from Virginia but has lived in Charleston for more than 50 years. This is her first year with CCR. Ijo has been very impressed with CCR's programs and hopes that they can continue with the same high quality.</p>	

# COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

THE CENTER FOR CREATIVE  
RETIREMENT

College of Charleston  
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and  
Professional Education

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For information on the web:  
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or

Visit our blog at:  
<http://blogs.cofc.edu/ccr/>

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## CCR

Meetings held from  
September to May

Monday presentations  
at 1 and 2:30 PM

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Visit free for two meetings

\$50 for two semesters  
(September to May)

\$30 for one semester (Jan. to  
May or Sept. to Dec.)

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Charleston Academy for  
Lifelong Learning  
Fall, Winter & Summer Terms

Visit

<http://sps.cofc.edu/call/>

Guest Newsletter Editor:  
Diana Barth

## LONG-TERM PLANNING SURVEY RESULTS

By Catherine Langlois



On April 6, 2020, The Board of CCR sent The Report of the Long-Term Planning Committee to all members via email. The report and recommendations derived from the responses to the membership survey sent out in February. The survey response was highly successful, both in number of responses (167) and in the quality of information that members shared.

The essential conclusion is that CCR is fulfilling its mission to sponsor and support programs for the creative retirement of its members through continuing education and social opportunities. **THANK YOU** to everyone who took the time to respond and provide your comments.

The results of our membership survey support a continuation of this basic mission of education and social opportunity. Our members want to remain an organization where we are comfortable to learn, socialize, and participate.

**Our members commented favorably - over and over - on the quality of the presentations, on the variety of topics selected, on the welcoming atmosphere, and on the opportunities to socialize.**

The results of the survey provide, as well, ideas, goals, and visions for change. Our members want to continue to address topics that affect our lives daily, such as climate change, population growth, infrastructure demands, access to healthcare, and inequities within our community.

There are suggestions that our program format include break-out sessions, discussions groups, debates, or panel presentations. Our members are looking for ways to stay connected between meetings and during our summer break. We have had a growing membership and are therefore challenged to keep a welcoming atmosphere and to find location(s) that are convenient to a changing demographic.

At the same time, and because of the impact, both short and long term, of the coronavirus pandemic, we must enhance our online presence to allow for distance learning and assure a healthy and safe environment when we do relocate.

The Long-Term Planning Committee is looking for your comments and help in planning the future for CCR. Please join our leadership - participate in our committees - share your ideas - stay active online - be part of Creative Retirement.

# IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD JOIN CCR'S VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

**WE NEED YOU** to help keep CCR moving forward. We will be electing officers, making changes to next year's dues, and keeping members informed at

## **THE CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020, at 1 PM**

Prior to that meeting, you will receive several pieces of information via email:

\***an agenda and committee reports.**

\***a ballot prepared by our nominating committee.**

The ballot sets out our slate of candidates (with a place for write-ins). It can be filled out electronically (just as we filled out our recent long-range planning survey). Paper ballots will be sent to those without email.

\***a special question will be on the ballot that would allow members to vote 'yes' or 'no' on a board recommendation.**

The CCR Board recommends that dues for next year (September to May) be \$30 for CCR members who paid for this year's suspended spring term. New members will pay for the full year (or per semester).

\***a link to the virtual meeting, which will be held with the assistance of College of Charleston staff. Please join in.**

Any member can participate if they have a computer, tablet or smart phone. The virtual meeting program the College has chosen will allow participants to both watch and ask written questions in real time. Members will be asked to RSVP to the meeting so we know in advance if a quorum will be present.

\***and, IMPORTANTLY, a link to a proxy form for those who cannot attend virtually. We hope you can join the meeting but, if you won't be attending online, please help by completing the PROXY Form as soon as you receive it. This is because the CCR Bylaws require a Quorum of no fewer than 65 members to be present to legally conduct business.**

That proxy form will include checkoffs that allow CCR members to give permission for a person virtually attending the meeting to count them

- As present for purposes of a quorum only.
- OR, the right to count them toward the quorum AND to vote on their behalf according to the ballots they sent in via email.
- OR, LASTLY, to count them toward the quorum but ALSO give the member present the right to vote on their behalf in whatever manner the attending person deems fit.

You will receive the ballot and proxy form at least 10 days prior to the meeting. If you still have questions after receiving all of the information set out above, you can contact Fred Rosenberg at [fredondi@gmail.com](mailto:fredondi@gmail.com) (about meeting procedure); Bronwyn Barron [barronb@cofc.edu](mailto:barronb@cofc.edu) (as to linking to the online meeting) or Waltraud Bastia [w.bastia@yahoo.com](mailto:w.bastia@yahoo.com) (about the ballot or elections).

**It's a Brave New World, but its challenges are far easier to meet than they are to describe. Join us!!**



## OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Our Scholarship Committee, Sylvia Gamboa, Bob Stancik, Bob Williams, and Chairman Jean Marterre, announced this year's scholarship recipients virtually, something usually done face-to-face at our May luncheon:**

**Avery Wallace** is a student in the Honors College, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a Sociology minor. Avery hails from Buffalo, New York. She has worked with older adults since she was 16 years old at the continuum care retirement community where her father is the CEO. Avery has also worked as an intern at the Charleston Area Senior Center in downtown Charleston and has spent two years with a local geriatric care management company, Aging Life Care Charleston LLC. Avery has a special heart for older adults with dementia, and after graduation hopes to work in improving the overall well-being and quality of care for those experiencing cognitive decline diseases.

**Aitana Rizzo**, from Fayetteville, NC, is in the Honors College and is a Biology major with Chemistry and Psychology minors. Since her freshman year, Aitana has done volunteer work with older adults, finding that she has a passion for serving the older population. She participated in research at MUSC, studying Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia. Aitana has been accepted to medical school and plans to attend the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Medicine where she will study to ultimately become a geriatrician. Aitana is from Fayetteville, North Carolina

## CALL CORNER

**CALL classes will resume virtually in the fall, without a doubt, and face-to-face as soon as it is deemed safe to return (with personal protection and social distancing, as required). We are still, as always, looking for facilitators. If you have a passion to share or a recommendation as to a presenter who would interest you, email us at [CAforLifelongLearning@gmail.com](mailto:CAforLifelongLearning@gmail.com).**

**In the meantime, here are a few virtual online learning sites you might like to explore, if you have not already done so:**

**\* Just click on the site below and then go to the museum of your choice. With this link, you can take a virtual tour of the world's best museums:**

<https://www.sortiraparis.com/arts-culture/exposure/articles/211750-coronavirus-museums-digital-collections-to-enjoy-during-lockdown/lang/en>

**\*This site links you to a number of free online courses on numerous topics:**

<https://www.mooc-list.com/>

**\*How about taking a crash course to introduce you to subjects that interests you:**

<https://thecrashcourse.com/>

**\*You must sign up (to pick a difficulty level), but these Khan Academy courses are free. <https://www.khanacademy.org/>**

**TED Talks, the Great Courses, Babbel language learning and much more are all available online, some free, some with a cost. Happy lifelong learning.**