



THE NEWSLETTER

INTEGRATIVE PATHWAYS

OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Vol. 41, No. 2

ISBN 1081 647X

James Welch IV, Editor

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Testimonials to Bill Newell
pp. 2-5
- AIS Creates Award to Honor Newell
p. 6
- AIS Board Reports
p. 7
- OERs Help Interdisciplinary Studies
p. 8
- Poetry by John DeCarlo
p. 8
- Conference Set For Amsterdam
p. 9



Integrative Pathways is published quarterly by The Association for Interdisciplinary Studies, Oakland University – Macomb, 44575 Garfield Road (Bldg. UC2, Suite 103), Clinton Township, MI 48038.
Phone: 586-263-6098
FAX: 586-263-6261
E-mail James Welch IV: jlfwiv@mac.com

Find Integrative Pathways at www.oakland.edu/ais/

Members may e-mail AISorg@oakland.edu for password information.

In Memoriam

Bill Newell

November 27, 1943 - April 27, 2019

Dear friends and colleagues:

Our cherished friend, colleague, and mentor, founder of AIS and its Executive Director for almost four decades, brilliant teacher and scholar, William H. Newell, died after battling a long illness.

Beginning with the founding of AIS in 1979 and continuing for decades, Bill was the central driving force for AIS and, by extension, interdisciplinary studies in the United States.

His exemplary record includes organizational and leadership accomplishments, grant seeking and acquisition to benefit interdisciplinary studies, workshops on the teaching of interdisciplinary studies, mentoring colleagues in the areas of teaching, research and scholarship, and service, encouraging and authoring scholarship on interdisciplinary studies, and serving as a consultant and external evaluator on interdisciplinary higher education.

For more than three decades, he edited the *Integrative Pathways* newsletter, bringing the latest information about new books, interdisciplinary conferences, and new perspectives on interdisciplinary studies to members on a regular basis.

Bill's role within AIS helped to broaden the scope and applicability of interdisciplinary studies worldwide and deepen the understanding of interdisciplinary



Bill Newell

studies among colleagues, colleges, and universities, here and abroad.

He exhibited visionary leadership for the Board of Directors and cultivation of new members for the Board to bring in fresh ideas. He provided AIS an institutional home at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, for decades, where he was a Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies.

May we all be inspired by Bill's legacy to AIS and grateful for all that he meant to us individually and collectively. He will live on in our hearts and minds forever.

An AIS scholarship fund is being planned in Bill's memory. Details are on page 6.

Sincerely,
AIS Board of Directors

Testimonials to Bill Newell, p. 2

www.oakland.edu/ais

Testimonials to Bill Newell

From Bill's daughter Silvia, April 28, 2019:

The light in our life has gone dim. Last night, we lost our beloved husband, father, and brother. Bill passed away last night—his long battle with prostate cancer ended in a rapid, downward spiral culminating in a stroke on Thursday. He is survived by his wife Susan, sister Carole, daughter Silvia (Mark McCarthy), son William, stepdaughter Megan (William), and four grandchildren.

He was an intellectual pioneer, co-founding the field of interdisciplinary studies and consulting for countless institutions as they set up interdisciplinary programs. He attended Amherst College and University of Pennsylvania, taught at the paracollege at St. Olaf for 4 years, then found his intellectual footing at Miami University, where he taught for 40 years. He believed in the power of critical thinking and human ingenuity to draw on the fundamentals of many disciplines to create new approaches to solving the complex problems we face today. He painstakingly corrected thousands of senior theses and lectured tirelessly to undergraduates (and his children...and his friends...and complete strangers) to pass along these ideals. His intellectual legacy is long and ripples in a series of concentric circles (see recent *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies* dedicated to his influence: (<https://oakland.edu/.../Issues-in-I.../volume-36-no.-2/Cover.pdf>). His intellectual curiosity reveled in the exchange of ideas with anyone he could engage, and his approach might be best summed up in his own words: "There is an element of troublemaker, then, in every interdisciplinaryian."

Bill's greatest legacy, however, lies in his family, friends, and students, who will remember his infectious zest for life. He loved good company, good conversation, good food, and good wine (colleagues will remember his dedication to well-catered AIS meetings, and friends will remember his and Susan's wine tasting evenings and his propensity to drop in unannounced for a visit). He was utterly devoted to Susan, and just the sound of her voice made him smile, even at the end. His unflagging energy for everything he pursued was only reduced to the level of mortals with the

... he was a fundamentally good human, who also believed in the inherent goodness of humanity. He was much beloved, and the world is much dimmer without him.

onset of prostate cancer, which he felt keenly (much like the disappointment of joining the rest of the human race with mere 20/20 vision in his 50s). His lifelong joy in learning was augmented by travel, which he pursued to experience other cultures and perspectives, and was recently reflected in his insightful book reviews (<https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/81225964-bill-newell>). He could connect with any person willing to engage, from world-renowned colleagues, to children at the grocery store, to his nurses in the ER, to strangers in a National Park, and even to customer service people on the phone.

He and Susan were fortunate to travel widely to exotic locales (including the Galapagos, Peru, China, and Costa Rica) and on wine-inspired adventures (including two cross-country trips on a private train car and a river cruise in France with friends). They took annual trips east to visit his sister Carole, enjoying the

New England coast. He was the king of wordplay and terrible jokes/puns, disliked reading fiction, and only discovered any interest in watching sports in his 40s (possibly driven by his athletic son). He loved to eat but hated to cook, relishing Susan's cooking, and encouraging her every culinary exploration. He loved classical music, and he and Susan created a program to bring local students and their families to the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

His proudest role was that of a father and grandfather. He would gladly tell total strangers about his children's accomplishments (much to their embarrassment as children). He reveled in every good grade, well-played soccer game, award, diploma, job,

promotion, publication, etc. His generous joy and praise at any benchmark was the best reward for any job well done. While young, his children often resisted his efforts to introduce them to new things (a month-long car trip of every national park west of the Mississippi wore thin and gave him nightmares for years, his disappointment at their groans at being dragged to every new ethnic restaurant that opened in Cincinnati in the 1990s when they preferred plain pizza, yet another hike in the woods). Despite this, food, wine, and travel adventures became the things they loved to share as adults, and he and his son had a long-standing tradition of meeting at New Krishna for Indian food. His company, encouragement, wit, and unflagging love will be sorely missed.

While he certainly had his quirks and flaws (painstaking persistence

Continued on page 3

Testimonials to Bill Newell

Continued from page 2

Remembrance from Bill's daughter, Silvia, continued from page 2:

can look a lot like stubbornness, immediate cheerfulness in the morning rubs on non-morning people, his tenacious even-temperedness was frustrating to argue with, and his complete and utter lack of patience for shopping malls, standing in line, and pop music), he was a fundamentally good human, who also believed in the inherent goodness of humanity. He was much beloved, and the world is much dimmer without him.



“Here is a picture that Jen took of me and Bill in Utrecht in 2011. We were attending a meeting organized by Ria van der Lecq to forge an international alliance of organizations interested in interdisciplinarity.” – RS.

Remembrance from Rick Szostak:

“Bill is memorable for many things: intellectual contribution, organizational contribution, and networking excellence among them. But I will speak here to his remarkable generosity of spirit. Bill was generous with his time: He was always willing in particular to give constructive advice on the written work of both newcomers to the field and aging veterans. Bill was always ready to buy dinner for grad students at conferences. Bill always brought several bottles of very nice wine to AIS board meetings. Bill had a big heart and a kind spirit. I benefited on many occasions from his friendly advice and affirmation (regarding matters both academic and personal). He was a friend and mentor and inspiration. I miss him. But his spirit still suffuses AIS through the many AIS members he touched.”



These testimonials are but a small sample of the fond memories and appreciation from Bill Newell's friends, family, and colleagues. Many more can be found on Bill's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bill.new-ell.3133>.

– The Editors.

Remembrance from Cynthia Kimball Davis:

I met Dr. Bill Newell at the AIS Conference in Detroit in October 2019. I told him that we were studying his work in our interdisciplinary studies degrees at Southern Utah University. I asked him if he minded saying something to my students. He said, “sure.” So, I recorded him, and this is what he said, “Okay, I want to say hi to your classes and let them know that there’s a real human being that lies behind the words on those pages and I hope they get something out of them. Thanks.” Dr. Newell was so loving and gracious. So grateful to have met and learned from him.

Continued on page 4

Testimonials to Bill Newell

Continued from page 3

Remembrance from Roz Schindler:

I began my association with AIS--and Bill Newell--in 1984 when I attended the first AIS conference. Bill was one of the external reviewers of ISP at Wayne State (when our program was still alive and thriving), he was a mentor and role model to me and countless others in the profession, and he was "Mr. AIS": its founder, its greatest champion, and its heart and soul.

Through the years, Bill became my cherished colleague and friend, and a confidante I could always rely on. It is so, so difficult to put into words how much Bill meant to AIS and to me personally. We already have testimony upon testimony, and yet words do not fully suffice. There is a hole in my heart knowing that he is no longer among us in life. I am grateful to him beyond measure for all that he gifted to AIS--his brilliant mind, his lifetime dedication to teaching, scholarship, and service, and above all, his presence among us as a real "Mensch."

I hope that, from his special eternal place in the Universe, Bill knows that we are continuing to shower him with love and respect, just as we did numerous times during his life, but most especially at the 2016 AIS



Conference in Ottawa, after Bill had resigned as Executive Director, and as we did at the 2018 AIS Conference in Detroit, when the Festschrift in his honor was presented to him. It is a very special memory for me as I coordinated that conference--the fourth in Detroit hosted by Wayne State--and it was the last one that Bill

attended.

In the words of my culture, may Bill's memory be for a blessing to all who knew and loved him, and may he rest in peace: Olev ha'shalom. Bill's work, legacy, and Menschheit will live on forever in all our hearts and minds.

Remembrance from Angus McMurtry:

Bill Newell was the reason I joined the AIS, attended so many conferences, and even hosted an AIS conference 2016. As a PhD student many years ago, I sought out innovative writing on interdisciplinarity and the (then) relatively new field of complexity science. He answered my email thoughtfully and provided feedback on my PhD thesis and subsequent work. I know that he did the same for hundreds of students over the years. The scale of his contribution to our field and our people is enormous. He was a great person.

Remembrance from May Maalouf:

It is indeed with a heavy heart that I received this sad news. It was just last October that I met Prof. Newell, a scholar that I have read and read and read so much. It was one of the main objectives of joining the conference to meet him in person. And my expectations of meeting such a humble scholar were so much higher than I had ever thought.

He will be dearly missed.

Continued on page 5

Testimonials to Bill Newell

Continued from page 4



Photo boards were on view at a recent celebration of Bill Newell's life. Newell was the founder and longtime executive director of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies.



Recognizing student scholars

AIS Creates Memorial Award for Emerging Scholars in Honor of Newell

*In memory of the late Bill Newell, the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies has created a \$2,000 award to help a student-scholar pay for expenses to the annual AIS Conference and develop a presentation that will be considered for publication in *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*.*

Dr. William H. Newell was the founder of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS) as well as its greatest champion and its heart and soul. Very sadly, he died in late April 2019 after struggling with a serious illness. This memorial award for emerging student scholars presenting at an AIS conference is a loving tribute to our dear friend and cherished colleague.

We are grateful to Bill beyond measure for all that he gifted to AIS—his brilliant mind, his lifetime dedication to teaching, scholarship, and service, his humanity, and, above all, his presence among us as friend, role model, and mentor.

Through the decades as Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Miami University of Ohio and as Executive Director of AIS, Bill was especially mindful of and grateful for the students attending the annual AIS conference, going out of his way to make them feel welcome. Therefore, this memorial award is an especially appropriate way to carry on his legacy. Its recipient shall have expenses (travel, lodging, registration, meals) for attendance at



Bill Newell

the AIS Conference paid up to a total of \$2,000.

A committee of two AIS Board members and the coordinator(s) of the annual conference shall serve as the selection committee for the award.

The committee will review all proposals for presentations at the conference submitted by students, deliberate with each other, and select the student whose proposal best meets or exceeds the following criteria as the recipient of the award:

1. The award recipient must be

a current undergraduate or graduate student at the time of the proposal submission and at the conference.

2. The proposed conference presentation must address the AIS conference theme or one or more of its sub-themes.

3. The proposed conference presentation must exemplify insightful, creative, and innovative understanding of interdisciplinarity and the integrative process at its heart, referencing interdisciplinary (ID) literature most relevant to its purposes.

4. The award recipient must agree to develop the proposed conference presentation into a full-fledged article demonstrating excellent writing and research skills by December 31 of the year of the conference and submit it to *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies* for consideration for publication in the following year.

The final criterion will allow us to further honor Bill Newell's legacy in that no one was more supportive than he was of publishing the best student work by the new generation of interdisciplinarians in *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*.



AIS board members met in April for the Mid-Year Meeting, at which they discussed changes to the AIS constitution, upgrades to membership perks, and plans for the upcoming conference in Amsterdam. Clockwise from front are Jennifer Dellner, Machiel Keesstra, Marcus Tanner, Merel Van Goch, James Welch, Roz Schindler, Khadijah Miller, Sven Arvidson, and Allison Upshaw.

AIS Board Reports on April Mid-Year Meeting

Your friendly, neighborhood AIS board met in Chicago April 5-6 at the Four Points Mount Prospect Hotel. Our Business Manager, Scott Crabill, discussed the migration of our accounts to Bank of America. The transition entailed a great deal of work, but is now operational and 21st century compatible.

It has become apparent that the financial management duties have expanded beyond those traditionally associated with the position of business manager, and the board is considering change in the title and job description as part of the revision of our constitution. Part of this revision is a reconsideration of the roles and responsibilities of the growing number of ex officio members on the board.

This was followed by a discussion of our current membership perks and how they might be revised to be attractive to the current national and international academic climate.

The report from our Vice President for Development, Khadijah Miller, sparked discussion on ways to engage our membership and to encourage more diversity within the

association. New at-large member Merel Van Goch, and past president Machiel Keesstra presented a proposal for an award for conference presentations.

Our Vice President of Development and Director of Digital Initiatives, Jennifer Dellner, initiated discussions over the development of grant writing teams from AIS membership who could assist others with efforts in this area and encourage partnerships with other organizations.

Co-editor Sven Arvidson began discussion over AIS publications. We have finalized our contracts with Texas Tech University Press to publish *Issues in Integrative Studies*, and with EBSCO to index it. The editors are also in the process of establishing a new editorial board for IIS.

Our first day's deliberations ended with Marcus Tanner's report on the AIS Honor Society and adaptations that may need to be made for our European charters. We also continued our discussions on facilitating the establishment of AIS sections.

On Saturday, the board composed a membership survey in a fit of productive collaboration. It should be

coming to your inboxes soon. Our conference liaison, Roz Schindler, opened our conference reports. We discussed the technicalities of collecting registration fees, and ways it could be centralized and streamlined. We visited the possibility of supplying an institutional certificate for conference attendance. The board then discussed reports from the coordinators of the previous Wayne State conference, and upcoming conferences in Amsterdam, Sonoma State, and Southern Utah University.

In the afternoon, the board continued work on revising the AIS constitution and by-laws. We hope to have these revisions in a polished state by the time of the next board meeting this fall.

And with that, we adjourned and enjoyed some nice Thai cuisine nearby. I invite any of our readers to contact me if you have questions or comments about the Board's activities. And please let me know if you'd like to help out with any AIS projects!

Hope to see you all in Amsterdam!

James Welch
President, AIS

Open Educational Resources (OER) Useful for Interdisciplinary Instruction

By S. Andrew Stowe, PhD

Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Writing and Multimedia Center • Anderson University (South Carolina)

As Liberal Studies are often seen as a path toward helping students complete a degree, accessibility is an important tenet to Interdisciplinary Studies. By removing financial barriers to education and by engaging students in knowledge creation, Open Educational Resources (OER) and the value practices that surround them become a useful idea for inclusion in Interdisciplinary Studies programs and Liberal Studies programs. By quickly reviewing basic principles of open education, and considering constructivism, this article argues that the values that open pedagogy advances are advantageous to interdisciplinary instruction.

Unlike for-profit academic publications, OER materials are purposefully authored and published under creative commons licenses to “build

a more equitable, accessible, and innovative world” (Creative Commons). Regardless of epistemologies, creative commons provides a means of archiving information and transmitting it with as few copyright restrictions as possible. The lack of restrictions allows for a text to be used and remixed with and with (or without) attribution by others.

The educational principal of constructivism highlights, among other ideas, the notion that “learners construct knowledge for themselves” individual and socially as they learn. In this viewpoint “constructing meaning is learning” (Hein). The epistemic quality of constructivism, coupled with the accessibility of OER provide foundation for what is sometimes called “open education”. The Open Pedagogy Notebook highlights the



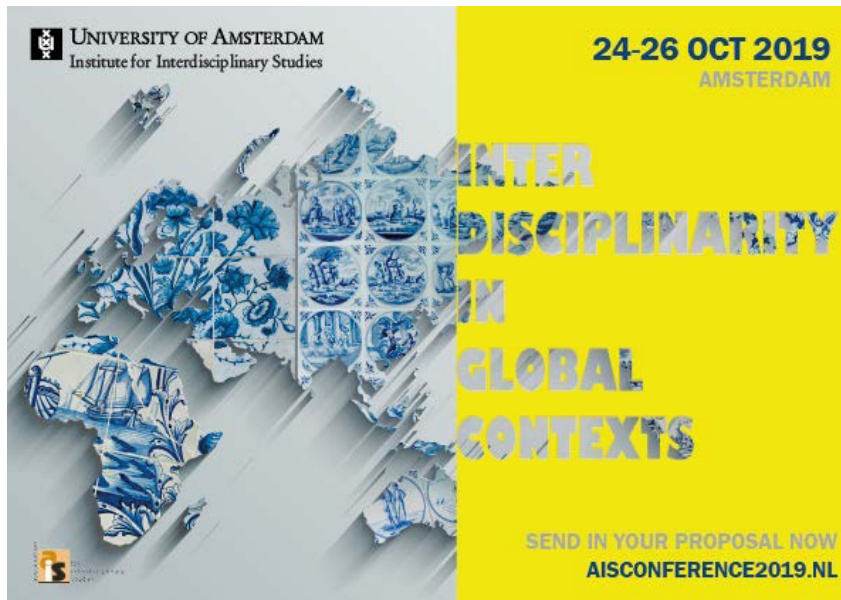
Dr. S. Andrew Stowe

fact that open pedagogy isn’t new but that it is “energized by it’s relationship to OERs and the broader ecosystem of open (Open Education, yes, but also Open Access, Open Science” and others (DeRosa and Jhangiani). These principles celebrate the idea of using and purposefully creating information for the purpose of sharing it with others. While it’s appreciable some contexts benefit from stricter copyright laws for the purpose of monetization, OER materials affords the creator’s ideas fewer hurdles to being shared and used by future creators.

One of the challenges of Interdisciplinary Studies is challenging students to synthesize multiple perspectives and to generate interdisciplinary insights. Thus, interdisciplinary scholarship can gain insight by considering open educational practices (OEP). A guiding practice that I value is to purposefully engage students to learn by using and making durable open educational resources. Students can meaningfully add insight and perspective by adding to various Wiki-pages, creating course content in the form of blogs/vlogs/podcasts, and by helping to curate materials and resources regarding different topics. This kind of active

By John DeCarlo

Continued on page 10



2019 Conference Set for University of Amsterdam

For the first time, the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies is broadening its network by setting foot in Europe. The University of Amsterdam's Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies is a pioneer by hosting an AIS Conference outside of the USA and Canada. The AIS Board hopes this will culminate in fruitful new cooperation of interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Each year since 1979, the AIS has attracted scholars and administrators from across the USA, and more recently from around the world as well, with a keen interest in developing and promoting research, pedagogy, and programs in integrative and interdisciplinary studies.

In recent years, 150-250 participants from more than 35 states and 10 countries, representing colleges, universities, community colleges, professional associations, and graduate schools have gathered annually to present the products of their research and practice, to network with others about recent developments in integrative studies, and to draw upon the resources of the AIS.

Conference coordinators Machiel Keestra and Linda de Greef have posted information about the program on the AIS website (<http://www.aisconference2019.nl>). This year's focus will be on global and local contexts of interdisciplinary education and research.

Four subthemes have been planned, including "Addressing Local and Global Contexts in Research and Education," "People Concepts, and Methods Crossing Borders," "Methodologies of Interdisciplinary Education and Research," and "Adjusting Interdisciplinarity Towards Future Challenges."

As noted on the AIS website, the Annual Conference plays a pivotal role in bringing forward the Association's goals, particularly in creating a broad-based professional home for committed interdisciplinarians and a national clearinghouse of information on integrative and interdisciplinary approaches to the discovery, transmission, and application of knowledge.

AIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-20

President

James Welch IV

Past President

Machiel Keestra

Vice-President, Relations

Khadijah Miller

*Vice-President, Development and
Director of Information Technology*

Jennifer Dellner

Business Manager

Scott L. Crabill

At-Large Members

Merel Van Goch

Allison Upshaw

Heidi Upton

Evan Widders

Executive Director Emeritus

William H. Newell

Conference Liaison

Roslyn Schindler

Honor Society Executive Director

Marcus Tanner

International Liaison

Brian McCormack

*Editors, Issues in Interdisciplinary
Studies*

Gretchen Schulz

P. Sven Arvidson

INTEGRATIVE PATHWAYS STAFF

Editor

James Welch IV

Contributing Editors

Gretchen Schulz

Heidi Upton

Bianca Vienni Baptista

Production Editor

J. C. Casey

SUBMISSIONS

Authors who wish to submit their proposals for articles or reviews should e-mail queries to Editor James Welch IV, jlfwiv@mac.com. More information on submitting material to Integrative Pathways can be found on the AIS Website, www.oakland.edu/ais, under Publications>Integrative Pathways.



Association for Interdisciplinary Studies

Oakland University – Macomb
44575 Garfield Road (Bldg UC2, Suite 103)
Clinton Township, MI 48038
Oxford, OH 45056-3653
USA

INTEGRATIVE PATHWAYS

OERs Offer Accessibility

Continued from page 8

engagement finds students working productively toward “durable” final goals that give them portfolio material that can be relevant outside of the classroom.

Having students create OER work helps to introduce diversity into knowledge creation and it helps students to consider themselves seriously as creators and not just consumers of knowledge.

Engaging in practices like OER and considering open pedagogy practices are within the realm of work that is already discussed but I think emphasizing open content creation by generating durable materials stu-

dents have the potential to engage very meaningfully in interdisciplinary research and in the knowledge economy.

Works Cited

DeRosa, Robin, and Rajiv Jhangiani. “Open Pedagogy.” Open Pedagogy Notebook, openpedagogy.org/open-pedagogy/.

Hein, George E. “Constructivist Learning Theory.” Exploratorium, 7 Oct. 2016, www.exploratorium.edu/education/ifi/constructivist-learning.

“OER Commons & Open Education.” OER Commons, www.oercommons.org/about.

“What We Do.” Creative Commons, creativecommons.org/about/.

Special Thanks to Dr. Yang Wu, Open Educational Resources Librarian at Clemson University for introducing me to the concept of Open Education.

About AIS

The Association for Interdisciplinary Studies is the U.S.-based international professional association devoted to interdisciplinary teaching (including service learning), research, program administration, and public policy. Interdisciplinarity integrates the insights of knowledge domains to produce a more comprehensive understanding of complex problems, issues, or questions. AIS serves as an organized professional voice and source of information on interdisciplinary approaches and the integration of insights from diverse communities to address complex problems in education and research. Founded in 1979, it is incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)3 educational association in the state of Ohio.

ON THE WEB:

www.oakland.edu/ais

• WHAT'S NEW

Find the latest news about the Association and interdisciplinary studies.

• CONFERENCES

The 41st annual AIS Conference will be held at University of Amsterdam Oct. 24-26.

• PUBLICATIONS

Find current and past editions of *Integrative Pathways*, *Issues in Interdisciplinary Studies*, and other publications

• RESOURCES

Resources include the 2nd edition of *Intentionally Interdisciplinary: Master's Interdisciplinary Program Directory*, SOITL section, peer-reviewed syllabi, and more.

• MEMBERSHIPS

It's time to renew your membership for 2019-20.