Hi Memoir Writers,

I’m excited about giving this workshop. We are dividing it into two sessions: morning and afternoon. First-time participants come in the morning and we’ll start by thinking of times in which your life connected with your work. At lunch and for a session right after lunch, we will be joined by participants from the spring session.

FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS

Because we will be working with memory, you might want to start thinking about some significant events that occurred in your lives and influenced your careers.

In writing a memoir or trajectory, you can connect life events with your work. To start the process, please think about a few (one or two or three) of the following and jot them down to bring to the workshop:

- childhood or early adult interests, aptitudes, or incidents that stimulated you to think about a particular field(s) of study
- people or events that influenced your career choices
- your triumphs, especially at Rice
- working with memorable students
- an epiphany leading to a new idea
- moment(s) of struggle in your career
- choices you made to stay on your career path

To stimulate memories, you could look at some old photographs. You could even bring a photograph or an object to the workshop, one you might like to write about.

If you don’t have time to do any of this, don’t worry. You’ll have some time to think about such incidents in the workshop.

I’m also attaching an example of an intellectual trajectory by David Brion Davis that I thought you might want to glance through. If you can print it, please bring it to class.

SPRING PARTICIPANTS

Continue to think of memories you want to include in your memoir.

BOTH GROUPS

After lunch, we will work on writing “beginnings” and adding detail. If you have any questions, you can email me at juneff@rice.edu

See you in September, as the song says,
June Ferrill, Ph.D.