



EDITOR'S NOTE

# REIMAGINING EDUCATION

## BECOMING A LIFELONG LEARNER

**D**uring college, in my first of many art history classes, I sat next to an older (to my 18-year-old self) woman. She was taking advantage of a program run by my university that made courses available for a small fee to individuals over the age of 65. I remember thinking that this was what I wanted to do, to be the “older” woman taking classes in retirement for sheer curiosity’s sake. It must have been the first time that I consciously thought about lifelong learning.

I thought of that woman again after one of my recent classes. As I have mentioned in a prior column, I’m co-teaching a new class this semester on law practice technology. I have the good fortune to be co-teaching with someone from the State Bar of Georgia who is an expert in legal technology. Leading up to the first class, I was experiencing strong feelings of impostor syndrome and wondering why on earth I thought I should be teaching this class. Now, however, after having taught several classes, I am starting to feel like how I imagine my fellow art history student from years ago must have been feeling; I leave each class thinking about how much fun it has been. I’m learning so much from my co-teacher, guest speakers, and students, and hopefully I am able to offer some valuable insights in return. I love teaching and I love my legal research classes, but this has been engaging in a completely different way. Learning and thinking about something new that fascinates me with a community of people who are equally intrigued is invigorating.

Not everything we do can always be so exciting, but it does make me think about how I teach legal research and how I approach my

own professional development. For my research students, am I teaching them in such a way that interests them beyond what grade they might earn in class? Not everyone will be interested in learning the same things, but what can I do to ignite the spark of curiosity that leads to engaged learning?

Similarly, how can I be more intentional about my own continuing education and find those learning opportunities and experiences that excite me? We all have to keep learning and growing as our profession changes. Clearly, not everything we do will be deeply fascinating every day, but it’s good to have a reminder that we should seek out development opportunities that inspire passion and reinvigorate our professional lives. When I retire, I’ll be the “old” lady taking art history classes, but for now, I’ll be learning all I can about robots and artificial intelligence.

**Kristina L. Niedringhaus**  
krisn@gsu.edu