President’s Message

By David Zarefsky

It is sometimes said that alumni are the stewards of a college or university. Faculty and administrators come and go, but alumni are tied for life to their alma mater—out of both a sentimental feeling and a desire to maintain and enhance the value of their degrees.

This idea is somewhat romanticized. But even more than alumni, it seems appropriate to think of emeriti as the stewards of the university. They have been in its employ for at least ten consecutive years, often thirty or more. Most care about the health of their departments and programs. After retirement, while some wish to avoid any further involvement, many stay in touch with former colleagues, want to stay abreast of university news and events, remain active in their discipline, advise students, take non-credit courses, or teach occasionally. A survey of emeriti a few years ago identified these and other ways in which emeriti remain, or would like to remain, active in the life of the university and members of the university community.

For many emeriti, it is simply not true to say that they ceased to be members of the university community on the day they retired. But beyond that, there is much that they can contribute to the university, drawing on their years of experience: mentoring to junior faculty, sharing experience with faculty who are contemplating retirement, working with students to identify a research problem and devise a research strategy, serving as resource persons for undergraduates, or continuing their own research, just to name a few activities that can add to the university’s distinction. All these activities constitute stewardship because they take care for the strength and reputation of the university. This is not purely altruistic. Building on the university’s strength also helps to justify the time and energy emeriti gave to it over the years.

When I presided at retirement celebrations, I always described this transition as “promotion to professor emeritus (or emerita).” It represents a new chapter in life, not the end. That’s the way many of us think of it, and we are pleased when we see that the university thinks of us that way, as well.
Welcome to my first issue as editor of *The Emeriti News*. My goals for this publication parallel very closely—as they should—the mission of NEO, the Northwestern Emeriti Organization, as recently revised:

- to advocate for the interests and the continuing role of Northwestern emeritus faculty in university life;
- to provide emeriti with information relevant to their role as stewards of the university and useful to them in retirement;
- to share news about social and cultural events enriching our lives and sustaining our sense of community;
- finally, to document the continuing contributions of emeritus faculty to our university, our community, and (without hyperbole) to the accretion of knowledge, *quaecumque sunt vera*.

There is no need to introduce myself specially for this occasion. Instead, I refer you to my bio on our new and very glorious NEO website—thank you, NEO VP Michal Ginsburg!—and encourage each of you to contribute your own bio to this site reflecting your new (or not so new) life as a Northwestern emerita or emeritus.

In addition to reports on recent and future events of interest to emeriti, this issue features a Q&A with Provost Jonathan Holloway on the University budget crisis; a report from Camille Li cklider on the implications of the new tax law for this year’s taxes; and the second iteration of our new column, the Emeriti Bookshelf, which draws attention to recent books of (mostly) general interest written and published by NEO members. We inaugurated this column in our Winter issue. This time, we feature new books by NU emeriti Richard D. Chessick, Joseph Epstein, and Lawrence Michaelis—along with a new book about the history of Chicago with articles penned by three current members of Northwestern’s faculty along with no fewer than three NU emeriti. For this column to be a success, we need your submissions—either news of a book you’ve written or one penned by a fellow emeritus/emerita from the last year or two. We can do the research to find complete bibliographic information—I am a librarian, after all.

We don’t have a Letters to the Editor column—not yet at least—but you can always reach me either directly or through NEO’s administrative assistant Kari Roever, whose email and phone number are at the top of this issue. I look forward to hearing from you with your ideas, suggestions, and comments.

**PROVOST’S CORNER**

*A Conversation with Jonathan Holloway, Provost, Northwestern University*

On January 16, 2019, University Provost Jonathan Holloway and Senior Vice President for Business and Finance Craig Johnson appeared before the Faculty Senate to report on measures being undertaken by
the administration to address a much-reported sudden and sizeable deficit in the university’s budget. Our reporter was there. Provost Holloway graciously agreed to take our questions.

*The Emeriti News:* What was the magnitude of the budget deficit at its peak? What is its magnitude now?

**Provost Jonathan Holloway:** The most effective way to answer this question is to reference the university’s finances at the close of the year. (This makes the most sense as there are seasonal fluctuations every year that, without proper context, could make the budget look particularly out of whack at any given moment.) At the end of the last fiscal year we had to draw an extra $100M from the endowment in order to cover the end-of-year deficit. When all was said and done, this pushed our avail rate to roughly 5.6%. We are budgeting an extra draw of $50M at the end of this fiscal year, and $25M at the end of the following fiscal year.

**TEN:** Given the University’s reputation for outstanding fiscal management over the past three decades, how could this deficit seemingly have taken us by surprise? Or did it?

**JH:** After thirty years of very tight fiscal management (some argue that the fiscal management was far too conservative in that same window) NU encountered a perfect storm of events—some of our own making, some unforeseen—that led to the deficit. Several factors were undoubtedly at play: a major investment in the university’s physical plant in a very small window put strain on the system; a resource management practice that allowed faculty to make major research-related purchases without triggering alerts in the fiscal center meant that we couldn’t properly time expenditures to align with the fiscal year calendars; NU’s commitment to make the university more accessible to low-income undergraduates and a significant increase in graduate fellowship stipends did not help matters in terms of the university’s bottom line but ensured that the university would remain competitive with its peers.

**TEN:** Are the corrective measures, such as personnel and budget cuts and a moratorium on construction, sustainable? What impact will these various measures have on the academic quality of the university?

**JH:** We recognize that we must do everything we can to protect the university’s core academic mission. We made some very tough choices this last year, to be sure, but we believe that they were cuts that still protected the academic core. We also know, however, that we must remain attentive to the needs of the core and so we are doing everything we can to re-invest in those areas, like academic computing, where austerity measures can only work in the short-term. I am confident that we are turning the university’s finances around and that the academic quality of the university will be preserved.

**TEN:** What is the basis for the prediction that this problem will be resolved by 2021?

**JH:** Strong fiscal management and a very clear-eyed and coordinated approach to budget planning.

**TEN:** Is there anything Northwestern emeritus faculty can do to help the university in this situation?

**JH:** The administration certainly welcomes ideas about how to be penny and pound wise!

**TEN:** Provost Holloway, thank you for this conversation.
**Recent Talks & Events**

**Jeffrey Winters on “Domination through Democracy” at February’s NEO Lunch**

Fifty-five NEO members were treated to a stimulating and provocative talk by **Jeffrey A. Winters**, chair of Northwestern’s Department of Political Science, at Gusto Restaurant in Wilmette on Tuesday, February 5. Professor Winters’ point of departure was the co-existence of two seemingly contradictory but “undeniable” trends during the past 250 years: the increase of democracy worldwide; and the increase in economic inequality and the acceleration of wealth concentration. In fact, the most materially stratified societies in human history—more stratified than ancient Rome or pre-revolutionary France—are today’s Western market democracies, foremost among them: the United States. Winters asks: How can political power shift downward and wealth shift upward? Shouldn’t democracy be promoting more economic equality rather than its opposite?

To answer these questions, at least in the context of American history, Winters first looked at the Constitutional Congress in Philadelphia in 1787, explaining it as a meeting—a confrontation—between the economically powerful and the often radical advocates of democracy. In the end, the founders created a system in which wealth was protected while political power was dispersed. In effect, our democracy protected and still protects wealth stratification by design. The struggle for the upper hand in our society between radical democrats (“socialists”? ) and the wealthy (“oligarchs”? ) can be traced back to the founding moments of our republic.

Winters concluded by tying his argumentation in to today’s “hyperconcentration of wealth” in the US and the fact that the ultra-rich seem to be getting their way more than ever. “There’s a certain in-your-faceness about wealth and power today,” he said. This is leading to greater cynicism on the part of Northwestern students, few of whom can be “convinced that the US today is a democracy.”

NEO members asked many probing questions and the discussion of Professor Winters’ presentation was very animated. All agreed that his talk could not have come at a more appropriate political moment. — Jeff Garrett
NEO MUSIC INTEREST GROUP ATTENDS CONCERT AT MILLAR CHAPEL, THEN MEETS WITH CONDUCTOR AND MUSICIANS

A near capacity crowd assembled in Northwestern’s beautiful Alice Millar Chapel the evening of February 10 to celebrate the 170th birthday of the chapel’s namesake with a concert. Performers were the Chapel Choir and the Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Stephen Alltop. Works presented were a magnificent Symphonie Concertante for symphony orchestra and organ composed in 1926 by Joseph Jongen; a movement from a piano sonata by Joseph Haydn, and finally the Missa Cellensis in honorem Beatissimae Virginis Mariae, also by Haydn. The interesting selection of music was Alltop’s own, and it was well performed by the excellent young undergraduate and graduate students of the Bienen School of Music as well as other schools at Northwestern. The organ part in the Jongen piece was performed by Eric Budzynski, Associate for Religious Life and Chapel Music for Northwestern University.

Larry Pinto of the Music Interest Group had contacted Mr. Alltop a few weeks before the concert to see if he would be willing to meet with NEO members who attended the concert. He graciously agreed to meet with us and others who attended the concert for a post-concert “talk back.” Seventy or eighty audience members stayed for that conversation, about half of whom were NEO members. By all appearances, Mr. Alltop enjoyed the interaction as much as we did, commenting that despite his extensive experience as a teacher and lecturer he had not done such a session previously. We suspect he now looks forward to future encounters like this one. — Al Telser

Visit the NEO Interest Group page on our website for news of forthcoming events!
About 75 Northwestern emeriti and emeritae attended NEO’s winter dinner in the Guild Lounge of Scott Hall on Thursday, March 7. Following the lavish repast catered by Compass Catering, Northwestern’s new on-campus food vendor, a special treat was to hear from Anna D. Shapiro, artistic director of Chicago’s renowned Steppenwolf Theatre—and a member of Northwestern’s theatre faculty. Shapiro, an Evanston native and graduate of ETHS, regularly directs plays in both Chicago and on Broadway. Her direction of Tracy Letts’ August: Osage County won her both the Jefferson Award for Best Director in Chicago and numerous awards in New York. In 2008, she won the Tony Award for Best Director of a Play. Despite her successes there, she has mixed feelings about New York: "Broadway is like the worst boyfriend you ever had. One day he asks you to marry him. The next day he doesn't talk to you."

While guiding us through Steppenwolf’s ambitious program for the 2019/2020 season, Shapiro talked freely and frankly about where her theatre is heading—as well as the theatre world more generally. As an artistic director today, she says it is no longer enough to dwell in a world-removed Arcadia: instead, she must have a “clear understanding of money” and work closely with donors, playwrights, and directors, all of whom have new and sometimes unattainable levels of expectations. She must also work to overcome the legacy of racism on the stage—and behind it. (Quote: “When looking at directors’ credentials, ‘proven’ is French for ‘white.’”) And she must also take into account the expectations of a new generation of theatregoers, many of whom expect to be protected from challenging content—or at least warned in advance that it is coming. “The theatre is not a ‘safe place’,“ she said. “It takes courage to go there. If you want a safe place, go to the zoo.”

Shapiro took time to praise Northwestern as her academic home: NU honors the practice of theatre, she said, not just the idea of it or drama as it exists on paper. Theatre in Shapiro’s understanding is an “open circle” and relies on the live, real-time engagement of a play with a real audience.

Questions for Shapiro were excellent and challenging—and elicited equally interesting and often provocative responses. One NEO member asked Shapiro to describe a play Steppenwolf has rejected and why. Another question asked her to describe what makes a play or its performance appealing to her. To this latter question, she answered: “I am interested in the generosity of the performance, a generosity which allows me to be an audience member again.” – Jeff Garrett
NEO ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP

For the 15+ attending, the February 20th workshop was a valuable review. Common opinion suggests that it is wise to refresh one’s planning every 3 years or so. Several participants were keen to learn more about Qualified Charitable Distributions from their IRAs. For some, the workshop was a call to attention—being sure the Will, the Power of Attorney for Health Care, and the Power of Attorney for Property are in order.

Patrick Bitterman (Law ’90), an attorney with Quarles & Brady, took us through a comprehensive agenda. There was a good atmosphere that welcomed personal questions and candid feedback. For me, I learned about the roles of Executors and Trustees, and their fees. I was also reminded to put personal assets in the name of the Trust.

I think all attending appreciated the opportunity and found the time together rewarding. Thank you to NU’s Office of Gift Planning for organizing and hosting the occasion for NEO. — John L. Ward

FINANCIAL PLANNING IN RETIREMENT

WHAT DOES THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT MEAN FOR MY 2019 TAXES?

By Camille Anderson Licklider, J.D.
Executive Director, Gift Planning
Alumni Relations and Development

In December 2017, Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, described as the most comprehensive tax reform legislation since 1986. Now that tax filing season is upon us, taxpayers will see the direct impact of this legislation for the very first time.

In this article, we will review some of the major changes, and how they might affect you or your loved ones. As a reminder, many of the provisions in this tax bill will expire on December 31, 2025.

**Individual tax brackets and marginal tax rates:** Under the new law, the brackets were lowered, which is good news for most people. For example, the top rate for the highest earners is now 37%, lowered from 39.6%; the bracket that was previously taxed at 28% is now at 24%.
The standard deduction is an automatic reduction in what one owes in taxes. These numbers were increased to $12,000 for single filers and $24,000 for joint filers. This nearly doubles the deduction from the prior year, which, in general, is good news. It also means that a large number of individuals (or couples filing jointly) may no longer itemize.

For those who are still able to itemize, charitable gifts are still deductible. Some important changes were made to existing rules around charitable gifts:

- The maximum allowable deduction amount was increased from 50% to 60% of the taxpayer’s Adjust Gross Income (AGI).
- The overall limit on itemized deductions, known as the Pease Limitation, was repealed.
- Gifts to universities that allow the donor to purchase tickets or receive other benefits involving athletic events are no longer deductible.

The federal estate tax will now apply to estates with a minimum value of $11.2 million for single filers or $22.4 million for couples, increased from $5.49 million and $10.98 million, respectively. As a result, fewer people will be subject to the federal estate tax.

For those who support family members, the child tax credit was increased from $1,000 per child to $2,000 per child. In addition, under the new law, you are now able to deduct unreimbursed medical expenses that exceed 7.5% of your AGI.

These are just a few of the major changes that individuals will observe when filing this year. If you have questions about how the Tax Act might affect your ability to support charities, please reach out to the Office of Gift Planning at (800) 826-6709. We will gladly meet with you or talk by phone. As always, please consult with an independent tax advisor on any and all tax-related questions.

**UPCOMING NEO TOURS**

**NEO Tour of the Block Museum’s “Caravans of Gold” Exhibit**

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

1 pm – 2:30 pm

Note: Registration for this tour is now closed after 30 participants responded to our email invitation!

Northwestern’s Block Museum of Art will be hosting NEO members for a special tour of the new "Block"-buster exhibit, "Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time: Art, Culture, and Exchange across Medieval Saharan Africa." The exhibit will be introduced by Kathleen Bickford Berzock, the Block’s Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs—and an expert on African art, having come to Northwestern in 2013 after a long and successful tenure at the Art Institute of Chicago where she curated exhibits such as "Benin—Kings and Rituals: Court Arts from Nigeria" (2008). Depending on attendance, NEO members will be assigned to
small docent-led groups for an in-depth encounter with the many unique objects on display in this exhibit. Finally, we will re-convene with Dr. Berzock to ask final questions and to wrap up.

Click here for more information about the exhibit.

Where: The Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

Getting There: Parking is limited. If you do not have an Evanston NU permit, you can obtain a daily visitor parking pass for $8.25 at the Parking Services Office, 1841 Sheridan Rd, Evanston, IL 60201, or pay the daily rate at pay stations located in the North and South Parking Garages.

For those who are not registered for the NEO tour: The Block Museum offers free tours of the exhibit every Tuesday at noon (with a member of the curatorial staff) and on Sundays at 3 pm (with one of their wonderful undergraduate docents). This is a great way to be introduced to this splendid exhibition!

NEO Tour of the American Writers Museum

Thursday, May 30, 2019

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Opening its doors in 2017, the American Writers Museum celebrates the breadth of American writing through interactive exhibits and programming that honors the past, promotes the present, and inspires the future of writing in the United States.

We will gather at the entrance of the museum no later than 10:30 a.m. A docent (“storyteller”) will take the NEO group around the museum and introduce the exhibits one by one. After this 30-minute tour, individuals can explore whichever exhibits they fancy. All exhibits at the American Writers Museum are interactive and self-guided.

Among the exhibits we will visit: The Mind of a Writer Gallery; Word Play; The Wintrust Chicago Gallery (see image on the next page); The Negaunee Foundation Children’s Literature Gallery; and the current special exhibit “Frederick Douglass: Agitator” (which closes May 31, the day after our visit).

The tour costs $8 per participant, payable either in cash or by check to the NEO group leader upon arrival.

Registration details will be sent via email and posted on our website by late April.
Where: American Writers Museum, 180 N. Michigan Avenue, Second Floor, Chicago, IL 60601

Getting there—is on your own! Yes, you may of course drive. Rather than drive, consider taking the NU Campus Shuttle to the Chicago campus (see schedule) and grab a taxi (or walk—Google says 25 mins.) to 180 N. Michigan Ave. The Red Line from Howard stops near the museum (exit at Lake, then it’s a 4 min. walk—total 41 mins.) or take the 147 Congress Plaza express bus from Howard CTA (exit at Michigan & Lake/Randolph—53 mins.)

Emeriti Bookshelf

This column draws attention to recent books published by Northwestern emeriti, especially titles of interest to general audiences. Books may be purchased online from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Indiebound and other popular sites, or from your local chain outlet or independent bookseller.

Readers are encouraged to send title information and a brief description to The Emeriti News for inclusion in the “Emeriti Bookshelf”! Note: You do not need to be the author to submit a nomination!


From Sister Carrie to Playboy and from The Jungle to Nature’s Metropolis, Chicago by the Book profiles 101 landmark publications about Chicago from the past 170 years that have helped define the city and its image. Each title—carefully selected by the Caxton Club, a venerable Chicago bibliophilic organization—is the focus of an illustrated essay by a leading scholar, writer, or bibliophile. No surprise then that among these authors are six Northwestern faculty members—half of them emeriti: Carl S. Smith (English/History), David Van Zanten (Art History), and Garry Wills (History).

A narrative in aporetic dialog form in which Chessick describes his intellectual evolution from a laboratory researcher to engagement in the full-time clinical teaching and practice of psychoanalysis, psychodynamic psychotherapy, and philosophy. He reviews the development of his ideas through his many publications and offers commentary on the nature of the origin, environment, and content of his thinking at the time each of these were written, also referring to his voluminous diaries. This serves as a running report on the changing fashions in the field of psychiatry, psychoanalysis, and philosophy over the past sixty-five years along with his opinions about the nature and source of these changes.

**Richard D. Chessick** is Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Feinberg School of Medicine. He is the author of 19 books.


“Almost everyone will recognize when he or she is in the presence of charm. Charm is magic of a kind; it casts a spell. In the presence of charm, the world seems lighter and lovelier. A charming person can cause you to forget your problems, at least temporarily, to hold the world’s dreariness at bay. Charm is a reminder that the world is filled with jolly prospects and delightful possibilities. Watching Fred Astaire dance, or listening to Blossom Dearie sing, or reading the poems of C.P. Cavafy, or merely looking at Rita Hayworth or Ava Gardner, one recalls that the world can be a pretty damn fine place.”

Joseph Epstein is Emeritus Lecturer of English and one of America’s most prominent essayists. He is the author of *Snobbery* (2002) and *Fabulous Small Jews* (2003) and most recently, also, of *The Ideal of Culture: Essays* (Edinburg, VA: Axios Press, 2018).


Gilbert Gilbertson, an inept magic clown whose biggest gigs are kids’ birthday parties, suddenly develops skills in sleight-of-hand and stage illusions that confound expert magicians. He also begins affecting people in strange ways, as well as winning staggering amounts of money in Las Vegas, which he donates to the Catholic Church. Enter a far-right fringe group within the Catholic Church, convinced that Gilbert is working legitimate miracles—miracles they believe will convince Catholics to return to more conservative ways.

**Lawrence L. Michaelis**, is Professor Emeritus and former Chief of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery and Associate Dean at the Feinberg School of Medicine. He is also an amateur magician.
PASSINGS

By George Harmon

D. Charles "Chuck" Whitney, 72, emeritus professor of Communication Studies in the School of Communication and the school's former associate dean for faculty and graduate affairs, died February 9th in Evanston. An expert in sociology and social history of mass communicators, he attended Clemson, worked as a newspaper reporter, and then earned a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. There he met his wife, Ellen Wartella, now a professor of Communication Studies at NU. Chuck came to Northwestern from the University of California at Riverside in 2010 as associate dean. He retired in 2017 when he returned from several years as associate dean at NU-Q in Doha. Obituary

UPCOMING NEO EVENTS

Wednesday, April 3
11:45 am – 2:00 pm Luncheon at Gusto of Wilmette
1146 Wilmette Avenue
Speaker: Gerry Baumann, Professor Emeritus, Medicine, Endocrinology Division; Feinberg School of Medicine presents “The Dwarves of Sindh: How a New Genetic Syndrome Was Discovered”

Wednesday, April 10
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Block Museum Caravans of Gold Tour
See Tour Description Above

Wednesday, May 15
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Spring NEO Dinner
Happ Inn, 305 Happ Road, Northfield, IL
Speaker: Rick Morimoto, Professor, Molecular Biosciences; Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences presents “Searching for the Fountain of Youth”

Thursday, May 30
10:30 am – 12:30 pm American Writers Museum
See Tour Description Above

Tuesday, June 4
11:45 am – 2:00 pm Luncheon at Gusto of Wilmette
1146 Wilmette Avenue
Speaker: Judith Levi, Associate Professor Emerita, Department of Linguistics, Northwestern University presents “My Journey to German-Jewish Reconciliation: Some Surprising Stories and Encouraging Implications for Today’s Turbulent World”

THE EMERITI CALENDAR

See above, “Upcoming NEO Events,” for details of events scheduled during the next few months. Between newsletters, you may visit our NEO website calendar for the most recent updates.

NEO’s Administrative Assistant, Kari Roever, manages this calendar. If you have items to add, e.g. Interest Group events, please communicate your suggestions directly to Kari: kari.roever@northwestern.edu.

You can also discover other groups of interest at http://planitpurple.northwestern.edu/groups/. (NEO is listed under “Emeriti Faculty.”)

The next (Summer) issue of The Emeriti News will be published in late July 2019. Deadline for all content is Wednesday, July 10, 2019.

NEO OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2018–19

President David Zarefsky
President-elect Michal Ginsburg
Secretary Mel Gerbie
Treasurer Kathy Rundell
Immediate Past President Al Telser

Councilors
Roger Boye (2017–19)
Bob Fragen (2018–20)
Jeff Garrett (2018–20)
Michal Ginsburg (2017–19)
John Ward (2018–20)
Ellen Wright (2017–19)

Faculty Senate Representative Rick Cohn
Provost’s Office Representative Celina Flowers (ex-officio)
Assistant Provost for Faculty

Note: The NEO Nominations Committee, composed of Alvin Telser, Robert Coen, and Fred Hemke (chair), has commenced its deliberations, considering who might best serve as NEO officers for the coming term. The committee will prepare its nominations to bring before the entire NEO at the Spring dinner on May 15.
RESERVING SPACE AT NEO

NEO has a small meeting room (accommodating 4–6 people) and access to two larger conference rooms (accommodating about 12 and 20 people, respectively) at 1800 Sherman Avenue available for use by NEO members. For help scheduling these meeting spaces (or other spaces on campus), contact Kari Roever.

Phone: (847) 467-0432
Email: kari.roever@northwestern.edu
Address: 1800 Sherman Avenue, 5th Floor, Room 5407, Evanston, IL 60208

If Kari is unavailable and you need immediate assistance, contact Jared Spitz at (847) 467-6629.

Internet access in these spaces is through the standard Northwestern SSDI.
Projectors, speakers, and PC hookups are available in conference rooms. Macs require an adapter.

When the elevator doors open, this is the sign that greets visitors to NEO Offices at 1800 Sherman!