President’s Message

By David Zarefsky

This summer, 34 of our faculty colleagues will be promoted to emeritus status, and as a consequence will become members of the Northwestern Emeriti Organization. We congratulate these new members on their successful completion of “regulation time,” we welcome them to the ranks of NEO, and we look forward to introducing them to you personally in the next issue of The Emeriti News. If past experience is a guide, however, many will be slow to become involved and to participate in our activities and events. The reason given for this self-denial is not that they can’t believe they really are retired, but that they fear they won’t know anyone. In fact, they often do—if not from their own department, then other faculty with related interests. And if they don’t, NEO is a place where one can make friends quickly, because we are open to new ideas and viewpoints even as we share common experiences and perspectives. What often makes the difference is the helping hand of a NEO member who brings a new member to an event, makes introductions when necessary, and helps all to feel comfortable. I invite us all to give it a try.

Reflecting on the academic year now ending, I think it has been a good one for NEO. We have had an outstanding set of lunch and dinner talks, many attracting record attendance. We launched a new website and revived our newsletter. We organized visits to several musical events and sponsored tours of museum exhibits. We cooperated with HR and the Provost’s office to produce an informative new brochure for prospective retirees, while also cooperating with the Faculty Senate Committee on Salary and Benefits to make retirement benefits more responsive to each person’s unique situation. We are exploring
opportunities for additional benefits that may prove feasible. We enjoy good, collaborative relationships with relevant University officials.

Of course, there is unfinished business. The primary item in that category is revising the parking benefit so that it meets the needs of most emeriti while avoiding adverse tax consequences that largely nullify the benefit. There is nothing definite to report yet, but the parking survey we cosponsored last winter has yielded data that an interdepartmental administration committee is using to craft a workable solution. For those who are better served by the existing benefit despite the tax consequences, that option should remain available. The NEO Executive Council is monitoring this situation and our concerns are kept in mind by the group working on a solution.

This is my final President’s Message. It has been an honor to serve NEO in this role, and I am pleased with what we have been able to accomplish together. I will remain on the Executive Council another year as immediate past president. On July 1, Michal Ginsburg, Professor Emerita of French and Comparative Literature, will become our next president. I am confident that she will continue our upward trajectory of recent years and I look forward to working closely with her.

FROM THE EDITOR

By Jeff Garrett

This issue of The Emeriti News brings reports on recent talks presented at NEO lunches and dinners along with a report on our fascinating tour of the Caravans of Gold exhibit at the Block Museum, hosted by the museum’s deputy curator—and resident Africa specialist—Kathleen Berzock.

Part of the mission of The Emeriti News is to document how emeritus status brings with it a flowering of productivity and creativity along with opportunities for self-improvement—and for giving back to Northwestern and to the broader community. This activity is often in areas quite different from what was once our individual disciplinary focus. In this vein, our Emeriti Bookshelf column presents new books of (mainly, though not exclusively) general interest written by emeritus faculty. This time we introduce three novels written or translated by Northwestern emeritus faculty: one is a crime novel set in 1950s Chicago whose author is the former surgeon-in-chief at Children’s Memorial Hospital; a second is a translation of a forgotten work by the great Japanese writer Jun’ichirō Tanizaki (1886–1965); and the third is a love story set in the turbulent 1970s on American college campuses, bringing together an imbedded CIA agent and a student anti-war activist. Other books we describe are non-fiction, as you will see. We invite all emeritus faculty to submit news of their own newly published books—as well as those of their unnecessarily modest colleagues!
Finally, don’t forget to send us a brief, informal, conversational bio (with a recent photo) introducing yourself to fellow emeriti. To see existing bios, visit the NEO Members page and click twice on the column header Biography. Or you can click on any linked name you find in this newsletter! These short sketches are almost anti-CVs, introducing NEO members to each other at a personal level, with, at the writer’s discretion, childhood or school memories, pet hobbies and projects, pet peeves, and even just pets—anything that contributes to a rounded view of who we are as Northwestern emeriti.

**NEWS FLASH! NEO ELECTION RESULTS!**

At the NEO Lunch on June 4, mere weeks before going to press with this issue of our newsletter, outgoing NEO president David Zarefsky announced the outcome of this year’s election cycle—the first ever conducted electronically. It was good news all around. Turnout was higher than expected, the write-in option was exercised (once), and no interference from foreign powers was detected. The results: Roger Boye (Medill) has been elected NEO’s new Vice President/President-elect; Mel Gerbie (Obstetrics and Gynecology, FSM) and Kathy Rundell (Microbiology-Immunology, FSM) have been re-elected as NEO Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. As new members of Council, we welcome Chuck Dowding (Civil & Environmental Engineering); Fred Lewis (Chemistry, WCAS); and Carol Simpson Stern (Performance Studies, Communication).

We also wish to acknowledge the service of our outgoing officers and council members: Al Telser (Cell & Molecular Biology, FSM), cycling off as Immediate Past President; and council member Ellen Wright (Writing Program, WCAS). Outgoing council member Michal Ginsburg is, of course, our incoming president!

There was, however, some sadness to report: the chair of our nominations committee, Fred Hemke, passed away before its work could be completed. (See the obituary in our Passings column.) Thanks go to the other committee members, Robert Coen and Al Telser, for stepping up and completing the committee’s work.

**PROVOST’S CORNER**

The Provost’s Corner will return for our Fall Issue in September. In the meantime—if you missed it—check out the interview with Provost Jonathan Holloway in our Spring issue.
REPORTS ON NEO TOURS

CARAVANS OF GOLD, FRAGMENTS IN TIME: ART, CULTURE, AND EXCHANGE ACROSS MEDIEVAL SAHARAN AFRICA

On April 10, about 30 NEO members gathered at the Block Museum to explore *Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time*, the ground-breaking exhibit that opened in January and continues until July 21. Kathleen Bickford Berzock (image, r.), Block Museum Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs as well as the curator of the exhibit, welcomed us and provided an introduction to, among other things, the little-known significance of Saharan Africa in the global economy from the 8th to the 16th centuries. She also described the Block Museum’s collaboration with curators, historians, and archaeologists in Africa, Europe, and the U.S. that allowed for the assemblage of about 250 objects from diverse collections showing the centrality of Africa in the medieval world.

We broke into two groups, each with a student docent, who walked us through the exhibit, reflecting on the themes of the six sections into which the exhibit is organized, highlighting specific objects in each section. The docents were well-versed in the historical background and significance of the objects they discussed, stressing the links between the objects on view and the political, social, and intellectual sophistication of their Saharan kingdoms of origin. They posed questions to us and encouraged conversation about our perceptions, which made for lively dialog.

Following the tours, we had the opportunity for individual exploration of the exhibit. The docents remained with us responding to questions. The allotted time was not enough, however, to absorb sufficiently the objects themselves, the labels, the wall text, and the five four-minute video explorations related to the various themes. Some of us lingered beyond the time frame of the tour; others have subsequently returned for a closer exploration.

I’ve now visited the exhibit a number of times, both alone and with others. I always ask those I am with if there is a favorite object. Each response has been different. My personal favorite is the Talismanic textile, most likely Senegalese in origin. Its texts from the Qur’an, their placement, and the design itself are fascinating.

It is important to note that several items in the exhibit come from Northwestern’s own Herskovits Library and the Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections, including *De Totius Africae Descriptio* (Description of Africa) by Leo Africanus, published in 1556, and several Arabic manuscripts ranging in date from 1592 to the early 20th century.
The exhibit is accompanied by a catalog edited by curator Berzock that includes 19 essays elaborating on the exhibit’s themes and is illustrated with the objects in the exhibit—in addition to much more. The exhibit has also provided a context for extraordinary on-campus programming scheduled through the winter and spring quarters, featuring lectures, film showings, workshops, and conferences.

When the exhibit closes at the Block, it will travel first to The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto and then on to the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, where it will close at the end of November 2020, following the annual meeting of the African Studies Association in Washington, D.C. – David L. Easterbrook

(Editor’s note: David Easterbrook is George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator Emeritus of Northwestern’s Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies.)

### Recent Talks & Events

**NEO May Dinner Speaker Rick Morimoto on Searching for the Fountain of Youth; or, On Aging: A Worm’s Eye View**

In his seminal research on the neurological diseases of aging, Rick Morimoto, Bill and Gayle Cook Professor of Biology in the Weinberg College Department of Molecular Biosciences, uses the tiny nematode, *Caenorhabditis elegans* (*C. elegans*). Not only is the worm a model system for biology and medicine, it requires little space and not much food—and, so far, has not drawn the attention of animal rights activists. As a research animal, the worm has a two-week lifespan, three-day life cycle, and is transparent. The genome encodes 20,470 protein coding genes similar to those of humans and the laboratory mouse. Rick spoke at the NEO Dinner at the Happ Inn in Northfield on May 15 to an overflow crowd of emeriti and their guests attracted by the provocative title “Searching for the Fountain of Youth” (FOY). Surely to the disappointment of some members of the audience, it became immediately apparent that a FOY has yet to be discovered except perhaps by a “chosen” few who have yet to divulge the secret.

Rick first presented data on the increase in life expectancy through the ages, from 30 years in Neanderthal times to 85 years today. The “World Demographics of Human Aging” identified the world’s longest-lived person, Jeanne Calment of France, who died at 122 years, 164 days. But the presentation then took a serious turn. Aging can come with a cost that manifests itself in neurological breakdowns such as cystic fibrosis, Lou Gehrig’s disease, Parkinson’s and/or Alzheimer’s, and these abnormalities are where the speaker’s passion and commitment to research were clearly revealed. As noted, Rick has exploited *C. elegans* as a research model to investigate at the molecular level what he has termed “proteostasis,” that
basically involves protein housekeeping of the cell. Protein turnover, which is synthesis and degradation, is a normal function within living cells. When the system malfunctions as a result of a genetic mutation, for example, and protein degradation products accumulate, cellular function is perturbed—leading to disease. Rick has developed the tools and mobilized a dedicated research team of students and post-doctoral fellows to visualize this process in *C. elegans*, a definite advantage over studying, for example, an already diseased cell from a human autopsy specimen after the fact. Finally, Rick’s pride in his ability to form a company with the prospect of moving laboratory findings to bedside was clearly apparent and offered further evidence of his commitment to his research.

Rick’s presentation kept the audience engaged even considering it was after a meal that generally would find many seniors with heavy eyelids.

**Richard Morimoto** came to Northwestern’s Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cell Biology in 1982. In addition to his research and teaching, he has served as department chair as well as a term as Dean of the Graduate School. He and Joyce live in Evanston, have a son and daughter—and recently became grandparents. His credentials as a scientist are recognized on a global basis at the highest levels of his field. – Erv Goldberg

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**A Visit from “The Dwarves of Sindh” with Gerry Baumann**

At their April lunch date at Gusto Restaurant in Wilmette, NEO members heard from emeritus professor and past NEO president **Gerry Baumann** on an exciting adventure of discovery he undertook in the mid-1990s. It was a journey to a remote village in the province of Sindh, in rural Pakistan, to investigate ... an abundance of little people. The dwarves of Sindh are not a race that has existed since time immemorial, but instead a phenomenon documented only in recent generations: fewer than two dozen individuals, mostly male, who did not grow normally as children and, by
the time they became adults, ranged in height from 3’8” to 4’10”. In all other respects, they are intelligent, normally formed and normally able adults.

What had happened in this village in Sindh? A result of malnutrition? The unintended consequence of allowing a traveling circus to stay in residence too long? It is important to note that Professor Baumann is an endocrinologist, not an anthropologist. An endocrinologist is a scientist who studies hormones, which are, as Baumann explained to his NEO audience, “chemical messengers produced in glands and sent to tissues to tell them what to do.” One of the most important hormones for normal childhood development is the human growth hormone (GH), and it seemed clear to Baumann that at the root of this dwarfism was a serious growth hormone deficiency. Endocrinological analysis confirmed that assessment, but instead of being the conclusion of his study, it became Baumann’s point of departure. Genetic analysis took over from pedigree study and anthropometrics, and we in the audience discovered who had actually paid attention in college biology class when the work of Gregor Mendel was discussed. For the purposes of this summary, suffice it to say that consanguineous marriages tend to reveal abnormalities in recessive genes, and that a mutation which deactivated the GH-releasing hormone receptor gene (aka the GHRH-receptor) had come to the fore in Sindh in the context of such marriages.

This type of dwarfism is far from unique. Since Baumann’s initial discovery, at least 45 different mutations in the GHRH receptor gene have become known across the world, each different, but all negatively affecting the ability of the pituitary gland to receive signals from the brain to make GH. Baumann introduced us to a comparable study from the town of Itabaianinha in Brazil in which he was also involved.

Perhaps even more remarkable than the number of these mutations in humans, however, was Baumann’s discussion of dwarfism in “little mice,” confirming that the genetics of mice and men, despite vast complexity, are almost identical. The gobsmacked (but well fed) audience of NEO members may not have followed everything, but certainly developed a profound appreciation for the sophistication of endocrinological research—as well as how it all goes back to the Moravian monk Gregor Mendel. And, at least in the case of the Pakistani and Brazilian mutations, how it all likely goes back to a single individual, known to geneticists as the “founder.”

– Jeff Garrett

NEO members Barbara Deal, Karen Telser, and Rick Cohn were part of the attentive audience at the April lunch.
REPORTS FROM NEO INTEREST GROUPS

Visit the [NEO Interest Group page](#) on our website for news of forthcoming events! Updated frequently!

NEO’s [Art Interest Group](#) (Art IG) is organizing a visit to the impressive exhibit **Manet and Modern Beauty** (May 26 through September 8, 2019), which has been much praised by NEO members who have had a chance to see it. The date has been tentatively set for Saturday, August 24. We will be sending an email announcement to all NEO members in late July with details, and you will be able to register online. Only 14 participants can be admitted, so prepare to respond quickly!

![Jeanne (Le printemps) by Édouard Manet (1881). On loan from The J. Paul Getty Museum for the exhibit Manet and Modern Beauty at the Art Institute of Chicago. Photo: Al Telser](image)

This is the first Art Institute exhibition devoted exclusively to the work of Édouard Manet (1832–1883) in over 50 years. It focuses on the transformation of the artist’s style in his later years.

THE EMERITI BOOKSHELF

This column draws attention to recent books published by Northwestern emeriti and emeritae, both fiction and non-fiction, especially titles of interest to general audiences. Books may be purchased online from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com), [Indiebound](https://www.indiebound.org) 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!

This novel takes us back to America’s last great era of political and social unrest, the 1960s and 70s, which many NU emeriti remember from personal experience. Against the backdrop of turbulence on college campuses, the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, the explosions and police assassinations . . . two young people at the University of Michigan fall in love. The only hitch: one is a young federal agent assigned to infiltrate radical student organizations; while the other is a determined anti-war activist.

“This deeply felt and precisely written story of two young lovers . . . immerses us in the turmoil of the 1967–70 student protests that lead inexorably to reckless violence and ruthless police repression . . . This is a vivid story of today.” (Bill Conger)


**John P. Heinz** is former Director of the American Bar Foundation and Owen L. Coon Professor Emeritus at the Northwestern University School of Law.


In his latest book, Raffensperger describes how doctors in the mid-20th century still learned medicine in the autopsy room, the laboratory, and at bedside, training to become well-rounded general physicians. Since then, however, many doctors specialize narrowly during medical school, depending on X-rays and blood tests for their education rather than on listening and the actual "laying on of hands." Medicine has become a de-personalized business, subject to greedy insurance executives and hospital administrators.

**John G. Raffensperger** is Professor Emeritus of Surgery at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine. He is a prolific author, with several books focusing on the medical education and practice in Scotland. Writing under the pen name John Luck, M.D., Raffensperger is also the author of *Diamonds of Death* (2008), a medical thriller that is set in corrupt 1950s Chicago. A 1953 graduate of the University of Illinois Medical School, Dr. Raffensperger interned at Chicago’s Cook County Hospital and was
a Medical Officer in the U.S. Navy. He went on to become the Chief of Pediatric Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago.


Jun’ichirō Tanizaki (1886–1965), one of the most important Japanese writers of the 20th century, was shortlisted for the Nobel Prize in 1964. **In Black and White,** written in 1928, is a psychological and metaphysical mystery in which the writer Mizuno pens a story about the perfect murder. His fictional victim is modeled on an acquaintance, a fellow writer. When Mizuno notices just before the story is about to be published that this man’s real name has crept into his manuscript, he attempts to correct the mistake, but it is too late. The novel was serialized in newspapers but never published in book form.

Translator Phyllis I. Lyons is professor emerita of Japanese language and literature at Northwestern. In 2018, Lyons was awarded the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, by the Japanese government for her work promoting Japanese culture, language education and cultural exchange.

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**PASSINGS**

**By George Harmon**

Frederick L. Hemke, 83, saxophonist extraordinaire renowned for composing, performing, and teaching for 50 years, died of a heart attack April 17, 2019. He was the Louis and Elsie Snydacker Eckstein Professor Emeritus of Music and a former president of NEO. A faculty member since 1962, he chaired the Department of Music Performance Studies until 1994 and served as senior associate dean for administration. After 50 years of teaching, Hemke retired from the Bienen School of Music in 2012 and was named professor emeritus. Fred performed and presented master classes and lectures throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, appearing as a soloist with the Chicago Symphony and many other orchestras. He recorded albums, won teaching awards and consulted for a company that makes the Frederick Hemke Premium Reed. [Obituary](#)
Frank A. Krumlovsky, a nephrologist who served for more than 40 years at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and on the faculty of Feinberg School of Medicine, died on April 21, 2019. Born in 1936, he grew up in Oak Park and received bachelor’s and medical degrees from NU. In the midst of his residency he served three years with the Navy in Asia and San Diego. He continued to travel widely throughout his life, especially enjoying helicopter tours. Research interests included hypertension, diabetic nephropathy, and early intervention and prevention of kidney disease, focusing predominantly on care of patients in dialysis. His planned gifts will endow a lectureship, a clinical faculty award, and a professorship in nephrology. An atrium on the third floor of the Feinberg and Galter Pavilions was named in his honor.

Arthur L. Stinchcombe, 85, the John Evans Professor of Sociology until his retirement in 1995, passed away July 3, 2018. He was a leading scholar of economic sociology, organization theory, comparative and historical sociology, and the sociology of law. Author of 13 books, Art received a series of awards from the American Sociological Association and an honorary doctorate from the University of Bergen. Before joining Northwestern, he taught at Johns Hopkins, Berkeley, the University of Chicago, and the University of Arizona. His wife and collaborator is Carol Heimer, professor of sociology at Northwestern. Obituary

Robert Welland, 85, a dedicated and popular teacher who was a member of Northwestern’s mathematics department from 1963 until his retirement in 2000, died on December 25, 2018. A congenial and dedicated colleague who created a popular course in computer modeling, Bob concentrated on dynamical systems and was active in the early days of the Midwest Dynamical Systems Conference. Bob was a superb teacher, one of the first to introduce an undergraduate course in “experimental mathematics” that combined mathematics with the power of computers. He was also an accomplished luthier—a maker of stringed folk instruments—and Welland autoharps are still prized by musicians. His house, a short walk from Lunt Hall, was often filled with jamming musicians. The department’s Robert R. Welland Prize honors outstanding work by a graduating senior.
UPCOMING NEO EVENTS

Tuesday, August 6
11:45 am – 2:00 pm Luncheon at Gusto of Wilmette
1146 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, IL

Speaker: Barbara Deal, MD, Professor Emerita, Pediatrics (Cardiology) presents “Healthy Hearts at all Ages.”

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 (Fall) issue of The Emeriti News will be published in late September 2019. Deadline for all content is Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

NEO OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2019–20

President          Michal Ginsburg
President-elect    Roger Boye
Secretary          Mel Gerbie
Treasurer          Kathy Rundell
Immediate Past President  David Zarefsky

Councilors
Chuck Dowding (2019–21)
Bob Fragen (2018–20)
Jeff Garrett (2018–20)
Fred Lewis (2019–21)
Carol Simpson Stern (2019–21)
John Ward (2018–20)

Faculty Senate Representative Rick Cohn

Provost’s Office Representative Celina Flowers (ex-officio)
Assistant Provost for Faculty
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.

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