The Emeriti News
A Quarterly Newsletter for Northwestern University Emeritus Faculty
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BULLETIN! THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN IN!!
Members of NEO’s Music Interest Group invite you to join them Wednesday, January 22, at 4 p.m., for an intimate conversation with Northwestern’s star clarinetist, Steven Cohen, associate professor of music performance at Northwestern’s Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music. Just go to room RCMA 1-180 (next to the McClintock Room in the new music school building).

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Michal Ginsburg

Fall quarter has been very busy at NEO, as we launched two new initiatives. In October, we had our first event in the Re-Discovering NU program: A visit to the Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center, where staff from the Medical School’s Alumni Relations Team organized a tour of the facilities, followed by a box lunch and Q&A session. If you were unable to attend, read Joan Linsenmeier’s account, below. By now you should also have received an invitation to the second visit in this series, this time to the Ryan Fieldhouse, taking place January 30. I hope to see many of you at what promises to be a great event! For details, see this issue’s Emeriti Calendar.
Then, in December, we had the first iteration of our NEO Mini-Course Series at Evanston Public Library. There was a full house for both sessions of David Zarefsky’s “Four Lincoln Masterpieces.” I think we can say with confidence that the Mini-Course project is perceived by all who attended this first course as a great contribution by Northwestern to the Evanston community. We are very happy—and lucky—to have Evanston Public Library as our partner in this enterprise. NEO mini-courses are free and open to the public and NEO members are welcome to attend. For more information on the mini-course for the Winter Quarter—taught by our NEO colleague Bob Coen on “Debt, Trade, and US Economic Leadership”—visit the registration page at EPL’s website. And read our report on this project here.

In November, we had our Fall dinner at the Happ Inn (with Wendy Wall as our speaker); our December lunch (with Jeff Garrett as our speaker) took place at our new venue: Terra & Vine in downtown Evanston. (Read on—or leap there now—for reports on these and other recent NEO gatherings.) We hope that having our lunches in a central Evanston location will enable more people to attend.

Last but not least, I would like to welcome Jason Abbas to our midst. Jason succeeds Kari Roever as NEO program assistant. Jason earned a BS in Public Health from Illinois State University, managed an animal shelter in Morton Grove for five years, and now will divide his time at Northwestern between NEO and the NU Athletic Department, where he assists at NU sports events. You will surely meet him at our February lunch, if not before.

FROM THE EDITOR
By Jeff Garrett, Editor, The Emeriti News

Highlights of this issue include an interview with two senior Northwestern benefits administrators, Anne N. Fish and Sue Rutherford, who answer questions often raised by NU emeritae and emeriti; followed by a very different interview: with Chicago abstract artist and Northwestern professor emeritus William Conger, who recently completed an enormous mural for a new building in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago.

We also report on the first NEO-EPL “mini-course,” a two-session class taught by emeritus professor David Zarefsky in collaboration with Evanston Public Library in early December. And we look ahead to NEO’s next two mini-courses, taught by our emeritus colleagues Robert Coen in February and Michal Ginsburg in April, rounding out what is already a very successful first year for this initiative.

Don’t miss our regular columns either, one happy—about publications authored by emeriti (The Emeriti Bookshelf)—and one very sad, Passings, in which we pay tribute to an especially loved and respected—and now departed—NEO colleague.

Please remember that we depend on you, our readers, for tips and leads. Contact the NEO office at 1800 Sherman, drop me an email, or leave me a phone message at 847-903-6684. (Btw, like my children, I never pick up calls in real time . . .)
The next issue of *The Emeriti News* is due out in late March, so don’t dawdle! Send us your ideas, comments, feedback—not to mention those tips and leads for future articles—by March 10!

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**PROVOST’S CORNER**

*Column Editor Celina Flowers, Assistant Provost*

*Editor’s Note: Column editor Celina Flowers has yielded her time to allow us to report on our recent and very productive meeting with the provost.*

On December 11, members of NEO’s executive council met with Northwestern Provost Jonathan Holloway over lunch, a welcome opportunity to exchange information and ideas, to ask questions as well as to hear (and discuss) the answers. NEO president Michal Ginsburg initiated the conversation with a summary of NEO activities over the last several months. In addition to the continuing (provost-supported) calendar of interesting lunch and dinner programs, tours of local exhibits and museums, and concert visits, she also introduced two new NEO initiatives, “Re-Discovering NU” and the no-charge, non-credit “mini-courses” for the Evanston community described in greater detail elsewhere in this issue. Both of these initiatives have been successes, Ginsburg reported, and she looked for Provost Holloway’s affirmation and support for their continuation.

Provost Holloway reacted enthusiastically to both of these initiatives, stating that these are “exactly the kind of thing we should be doing all the time.” He also agreed with NEO that the oral history project, stalled at present after an auspicious pilot project due to lack of funding and logistical support, should be restarted, perhaps in collaboration with the Society of Fellows, directed by Prof. Baron Reed. He suggested that Ginsburg confer with Reed to see what might be achieved if both of these faculty groups work together.

There followed an informative *tour d’horizon* by the provost outlining several of the major challenges (and opportunities) confronting the university today. Regarding the budget, he observed that “we are still in the woods but can see the clearing,” and that the university is “ballparking” being in the black for the coming fiscal year. Other challenges cited by Provost Holloway included the evolving nature of the Big 10 conference as an academic consortium; the need to restore funding both to the library and to University IT, both impacted by the budget situation; and then finding good uses for the many empty buildings owned by the university, among them Jacobs, Roycemore, and the old Music Administration building. On the latter subject, we discussed—in addition to the need to create a gathering space for
students from first-generation and low-income backgrounds—the desirability of creating a Faculty Center that would house the Society of Fellows, the University Senate, a faculty club, and NEO. For its part, NEO would clearly welcome steps such as this to allow Northwestern’s 600 emeritus faculty to find footing on the “Faculty Pathways” initiative being led by the Provost’s Office.

The information exchange as well as the ambitious projects discussed during this meeting gave both evidence and hope for a greater integration of Northwestern emeriti/ae into the life of the university and the broader community.—Jeff Garrett

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A CONVERSATION ABOUT EMERITI BENEFITS AT NORTHWESTERN

Even after retirement—some would say especially after retirement—Northwestern faculty have questions about taking full advantage of the benefits they have earned through their years and decades of service to the university. With this in mind, the NEO Executive Council was delighted to host Anne N. Fish, Executive Director of Benefits and Work/Life Resources, and Sue Rutherford, Retirement Plans Manager, for an extended conversation at their June 17, 2019, meeting. This meeting proved so fruitful that we repeat here some of the questions posed and the answers provided.

**The Emeriti News:** How do you view your role with retired faculty, as compared to active ones?

**Anne Fish and Sue Rutherford:** We are pleased to partner with active and retired faculty. In practice we are typically most engaged, and likely most helpful, in between the two stages when an active faculty member is considering retirement. It is a critical time for individuals to conduct financial planning and seek out information with regards to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicare supplemental health plans. The University’s Benefits department has a variety of resources including print, online, and actual one-on-one consultations with our benefits counselors. We have prepared information to anticipate retiree questions including timelines and public resources. We support the advice in the Emeriti brochure *Transitions to Retirement*, including considering a personal financial advisor with a broader perspective who can advise on personal circumstances such as wealth outside the Northwestern retirement plans and the complex considerations around initiating Social Security and distributions from retirement funds.

**TEN:** NU’s information sessions on retiree health plans focus exclusively on UnitedHealthCare and BCBS (Blue Cross Blue Shield). Why doesn’t NU give information on a variety of plans and compare/contrast the offerings?
AF & SR: The Northwestern Benefits Department has selected the UnitedHealthCare and BCBS plans to offer to NU’s retirees. We actively monitor these providers and plans and are able to engage the providers to discuss the Northwestern offerings and provide general education. While we monitor the University-offered plans for competitiveness, we do not have the resources or expertise to monitor the universe of publicly available health plans or make recommendations to individuals regarding specific plans. Each faculty retiree has unique health, financial, family, and other personal attributes that will impact his or her choices of health plans in retirement. Our focus is on providing support for the process. Our benefits counselors are experts on the University-offered plans and on navigating the many decisions we know our active, retirement-ready, and retired participants are encountering.

TEN: If a retiree wanted to do “due diligence” in comparing the University’s retiree health insurance options with alternatives, how do you recommend he or she go about it? Do you recommend that retirees use health insurance brokers?

AF & SR: We strongly encourage retirees to conduct due diligence on retiree health insurance options. Beyond the health plans administered by BCBS and UnitedHealthCare, eligible retirees may take advantage of outside experts such as health insurance brokers. There are other private and public resources, including the Illinois Department on Aging’s free statewide health insurance counseling service (“SHIP”) that our benefits counselors routinely recommend.

TEN: When I retire, can I leave my accumulated assets in the University-sponsored retirement plans?

AF & SR: Yes, the Northwestern University Plans are designed for all University participants, both active and retired. In fact, we believe there may be advantages to leaving assets in the Plans as part of a long-term investment strategy. The Plans are governed by ERISA¹, which in addition to creating rights for participants also imposes duties on the University to operate the Plans prudently and in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries. The investment companies and options have been chosen and are monitored by the Northwestern University Retirement Investment Committee with the assistance of an independent investment advisor. The investment options provide a range of risk, liquidity, and investment return opportunities. In addition, the Plans’ size results in various economies of scale, in particular lower fees than may be available outside the Plans. The Plans permit rollovers from other qualified plans and so allow for consolidation of assets. Of course, your selection of the Plans should take into account your personal financial situation including total assets and investments both inside and outside the Plans and how long you intend to have the funds invested.

TEN: Other than health insurance, what other benefits do retirees have access to through HR? When are these available to retirees?

AF & SR: Beyond the health plans administered by BCBSIL (Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois) and United Health Care, eligible retirees may take advantage of dental & vision plans, as well as tuition benefits.

¹ The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) is a federal law that sets minimum standards for most voluntarily established retirement and health plans in private industry to provide protection for individuals in these plans.
Tuition benefits include Employee Reduced, Dependent Reduced, and Dependent Portable. In addition to the offerings provided by the Benefits Office, the University extends privileges to retirees. A selection of these privileges may be found by following these links:

- **Dental & Vision**
- **Tuition Plans**
- **Privileges**

**TEN:** Thank you, Anne and Sue. May we turn to you again in the future as questions arise from NEO members?

**AF & SR:** Of course!

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**NEO’s NEW MINI-COURSE PROJECT: “GIVING BACK” TO THE EVANSTON COMMUNITY**

On the evening of December 2, around two dozen of the over 80 Evanstonians waitlisted for [David Zarefsky](https://example.com)’s mini-course “Four Lincoln Masterpieces” came to Evanston’s public library. They stood patiently in line, hoping that some of the 125 registered participants might not make it in for the first class session. And indeed, thanks to a few last-minute cancellations and a handful of no-shows, library staff were able to shoe-horn all of them into the Community Reading Room. The nearly two-hour class that ensued clearly met or exceeded the expectations of everyone present, as proven by the fact that the same scene played out exactly one week later, for the second class taught by Professor Zarefsky. Not a single seat in the room went empty either night.

NEO’s first “mini-course” proved a couple of things beyond any doubt. First, in an era when America’s political rhetoric—and even respect for English grammar—seem to be reaching a new low, there is a growing fascination with one of history’s greatest political speakers: the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. In this class, four of his speeches (the “House Divided” speech, the Cooper Union Address, the Gettysburg Address, and the Second Inaugural) were carefully analyzed, unwrapping the historical context of 1850s and 60s America, revealing Lincoln’s own political and rhetorical ambitions, and then looking carefully at his sources, from the Bible to Shakespeare, that had the greatest meaning to his audiences. A second reaction to this class: David Zarefsky’s own mastery of the subject matter—and of public speaking—elicited great appreciation, especially from those who had never heard him before. And a final takeaway: The success of this first mini-course showed that there is an enormous community appetite for more sharing by Northwestern University—Evanston’s largest tenant.

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[The Emeriti News](https://example.com) (Winter 2020)
Planning for the 2019–2020 academic year includes two more mini-courses. There is, first, Prof. emeritus Robert Coen’s forthcoming class “Debt, Trade, and U.S. Economic Leadership,” taking place on two successive Wednesdays in February, the 19th and the 26th—and which, over a month before the first class session, already has over 100 registered participants. And then in the spring, on the 23rd and 30th of April, Prof. emerita (and current NEO president) Michal Ginsburg will be teaching four “City Novels,” set in Paris, London, . . . and Chicago. Registration for that class opens on February 19th, and NEO members are welcome to sign up, even if they live in distant and exotic locations, like Skokie or Chicago.

What the future holds for this fruitful town-gown collaboration will be the topic of discussion between the NEO board and EPL leadership during the spring and summer, but if ever there was any question about a mandate to continue, that question was forcefully answered by the public’s visible response to “Four Lincoln Masterpieces.”—Jeff Garrett

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**CHICAGO TRAILS: A MURAL FOR THE CITY**

A Studio Talk with Artist and Emeritus Professor William Conger

Professor emeritus William Conger is an abstract artist based in Chicago. Before retiring from Northwestern in 2006, he taught in the Department of Art Theory and Practice, serving as chair of the department from 1984 to 2001. Since retiring from Northwestern, Conger has had over sixteen solo shows nationally, in Chicago, St. Louis, Los Angeles, New York, and elsewhere, plus a fifty-year retrospective at the Chicago Cultural Center in 2010. His next exhibition of new paintings will open January 24 and run through February 21, 2020 at Zolla Lieberman Gallery in Chicago.

This conversation was facilitated for The Emeriti News by Jack Heinz.

*Professor Conger, you recently completed a large outdoor mural. Is this your first mural? Where is it and who commissioned it?*

Yes, this is my first mural and my largest work. The mural measures 43 x 68 feet and it is located on a courtyard wall at 3218 N. Clark Street, Chicago. It was commissioned by Standard Companies, a nationwide real estate firm.
How did you plan the mural?

I viewed the site, examined architectural plans, and made dozens of small sketches, ultimately deciding on its viewing size. Then I made a maquette oil painting scaled 1 inch to the foot. I pasted temporary scale paper figures along the bottom of the maquette painting to remain mindful of the huge mural size.

What was the main challenge you faced?

The mural would be seen from eight floors of nearby apartment windows. That contradicts what we expect in a modern-day public mural. Ordinarily we see large murals from a distance, as with billboards, but this mural would have constrained viewing space, like ancient secluded cave paintings often dedicated to secretive or religious purposes. Overcoming that constrained viewing led me to compose the work with units implying the whole instead of the whole implying the parts.

Explain.

In classic Greek art, for example, one first perceives the whole artwork, called closed form, and then how its parts harmonize with it; in later Hellenistic art, one perceives the parts first, called open form, visually assembling them into a sense of the whole. My mural has the open form composition because one cannot see the whole mural from any single viewing position.

How was the mural made?

Using my painting, mural artist Jeff Zimmerman projected it onto his studio wall and traced its outlines onto large sheets of paper. He then punched small holes through the outlines. Using large scaffolds, Jeff then tacked the paper sheets to the mural wall. He “pounced” paint though the holes leaving dotted lines on the wall. Connecting the dots, he produced an outline of the whole composition. (This is the same method employed by the Renaissance and later masters in painting large scenes.) Jeff then painted the mural with premixed colors matching my painting. He finished the mural in a month.

We know your work is abstract, but does this mural have a subject or theme?

My work is abstract because it depicts arrangements of lines, shapes, and colors without explicit reference to anything else. My work, however, always suggests or hints at references. The composition of this mural uses interweaving
lines connecting varied shapes and vivid colors that recall Native American art. It alludes to the ancient trails that ultimately mapped the commercial routes and neighborhoods of Chicago. I named it *Chicago Trails* because it is sited on the famous Green Bay Trail that Clark Street follows. I also want to celebrate how the urban history is layered with interconnecting purposes and events, analogous to the abstract elements of the composition. Seemingly disparate parts and events ultimately form a whole as in both history and contemporary experience.

*Can we see the mural now?*

A public viewing reception is being planned for Spring 2020 by Zolla Lieberman Gallery. Or you can contact Lakeview 3200 Apartments, 312-833-2749.

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**REPORTS ON NEO TOURS**

**NEO VISITS THE NEW SIMPSON QUERREY BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER**

The largest new building solely dedicated to biomedical research at any American medical school opened on Northwestern’s Chicago campus in June 2019. The Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center has 11 floors dedicated to research activities, adding up to over 625,000 square feet of research space. NEO members and their guests visited the building on October 23 for a special tour—grateful to our hosts from the Feinberg School of Medicine for providing a shuttle from Evanston! We gathered in the light-filled atrium and split into two groups, one led by Phil Hockberger, Associate Vice President for Research and Associate Professor of Physiology, the other by Eric Boberg, Executive Director for Research at Feinberg. We then toured three floors of the building. Each group had a slightly different tour, reflecting the expertise of our respective guides—but both tours were excellent.

Other specialists provided information as needed. Our guide for one of four floors dedicated to the Stanley Manne Children’s Research Institute (affiliated with Lurie Children’s Hospital) was Philip Iannaccone, Professor of Pediatrics. He described the challenges—but also the excitement—of moving research operations from their former facility in Lincoln Park, where they had been for many years. We learned that each research floor in the building is divided into “neighborhoods,” with labs, offices, and other spaces designed to enhance interaction and collaboration. A glass-walled walkway goes around the perimeter of this floor as well as most others. Outside walls provide striking lake and cityscape views, and inside walls open to offices and labs. This floor also featured a large central corridor housing shared equipment. In addition, we learned about building features designed to enhance energy efficiency, such as special double-paned windows on the sunny south side.
Special guides for the 11th floor, which is under the direction of the VP for Research, were Art Prindle, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, and Gabe Rocklin, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology. Researchers on this floor are associated with the Center for Synthetic Biology, the Simpson Querrey Institute, and the Evanston-based Biomedical Engineering department. The focus on collaboration was evident, with shared laboratory space for multiple faculty members, post docs, and students, as well as shared graduate student office space, all open to an airy, well-lit corridor. The lack of bookcases in faculty offices and student areas seemed especially notable to those of us who set up offices in an earlier era.

The 7th floor is a Medical School floor, and like the Children’s Research floors, it is divided into three neighborhoods. Assigned guide for this floor was Emily Rendleman, lab manager for Dr. Shilatifard, chair of the Biochemistry Department. Again, a glass walkway looped around the whole floor, opening to labs, offices, and meeting areas. An inviting two-story “collaboration commons” shared with the 8th floor can be used for relaxing and socializing. (Research-focused conversation is allowed, too!) Despite the large glass windows, open spaces, and state-of-the-art equipment, one feature reminded some of us of our high school days: corridors lined with lockers for students.

With people still moving from elsewhere on campus, plus new hires, the expectation is that the Simpson Querrey Center will be nearly full soon. Then the vacated spaces will gradually be filled as well. As for future needs: we were surprised to hear that the building contains mechanical and structural systems to allow the addition of 16 additional floors!

After our tour, we enjoyed a lunch provided by Feinberg’s Development and Alumni Relations group, watched a short video on the Feinberg School of Medicine, and had an opportunity to ask questions. The video focused on how research leads to discovery, which leads to treatments, which in turn serves the ultimate goal of enhanced health. As we learned through our tour, the Simpson Querrey Center, with its interdisciplinary programs and shared spaces, brings researchers together across disciplines in support of that goal.—Joan Linsenmeier
Was it only coincidence that NEO’s October luncheon was moved from its usual location, at Gusto in Wilmette, to Gusto in Glenview, several miles further inland? Regardless, by the end of Professor emeritus Emile A. Okal’s fascinating but also terrifying presentation of his tsunami research, we probably all felt more comfortable having lunch at a safe remove from any large body of water. Professor Okal, NEO class of 2016, from Northwestern’s Department of Earth and Planetary Science, is a world-renowned expert on tsunamis, both at the theoretical level—developing detailed mathematical models—and the empirical one, using wave-tank simulations to grasp tsunamis in their physicality as well as leading numerous post-tsunami surveys across the world.

Tsunamis, we learned, can have a number of causes, chief among them earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, and impacts of large objects from space known as bolides. There are also meteotsunamis, which can affect us in the Great Lakes, triggered by high winds and rapid changes of air pressure. The classic profile of a tsunami, however, is one created by a subduction earthquake at sea, usually at the boundary between tectonic plates. The shock wave from this event travels incredibly fast in deep ocean waters—over 500 mph—but as it approaches the ocean shore ("shoaling"), the wave slows down considerably, and its energy, formerly spread over a deep ocean column, is squeezed into a shallow water layer. The result is a surface wave of often enormous power and amplitude, rising to several meters or even tens of meters.

From recent events in Japan (2011) and Indonesia (2004), we know what destruction and loss of life this can cause, and Prof. Okal shared a table compiling the grim data from some of the worst tsunamis of the last several hundred years. But he also made clear that we are not just helpless as we face these natural events. In fact, what was most inspiring about his report was how he and other scientists have been advancing not only early warning systems for coastal areas under tsunami threat, but also ways research can help us predict how tsunamis will affect which regions—and how severely—by identifying certain variable characteristics and modeling how and where they will have their greatest destructive power. Study of so-called paleotsunamis—events occurring hundreds or even thousands of years ago, as recorded in the
The Pulter Project website allows students and scholars to compare the original manuscript, a straightforward transcription, then a host of hyperlinked “amplified editions” showing multiple approaches to editing and annotating the original work. Photo courtesy Wendy Wall

sedimentary strata of coastal regions—can expand the empirical basis for research and study, as well as lead to measures to protect human life for coming generations.

Ultimately, education of coastal populations is key: During the 2011 tsunami in Japan, thousands of lives were saved because people knew to rush to high ground immediately, somewhat compensating for the negligence on the part of utilities who had built a nuclear power plant on an exposed coastline at Fukushima without adequate study—and with (shamefully) little regard for the risks posed by a large tsunami.—Jeff Garrett

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH A 17TH CENTURY WOMAN POET—AT NEO’S FALL DINNER

About 80 emeritae, emeriti, and their guests gathered for NEO’s fall dinner at the Happ Inn in Northfield on November 14. Our speaker was Wendy Wall, Avalon Professor of the Humanities and director of the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities at Northwestern. Her topic: an exciting initiative to bring the latest advances in digital technology to bear on the editing of Renaissance-era manuscripts and do so in a way that encourages comparative and collaborative approaches to research and teaching. The title of Professor Wall’s talk: “Poet in the Making (in the Digital Age): Salvation, Cosmology, and Hester Pulter.”

The raw material for this project is a bound manuscript acquired by the library of the University of Leeds in the 1970s. Its author was Hester Pulter, a hitherto little-known woman poet of the 17th century. According to Wall, the manuscript “appears to have been unread or at least unremarked upon for several centuries.” Pulter’s poems and prose were not published in book form until 2014. Although Wall and her collaborators at a host of US, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and British universities believe that Pulter’s poems deserve to be better known on their own merit, a principal value of the Pulter œuvre is in its representative nature: as a mirror of the well-read author’s life, times, her extensive literary diet, and as a reflection of religious, cosmological, and political views—she was an inveterate Royalist—views which were both received and original to her.

According to our speaker, the Pulter Project breaks with the notion that the goal of scholarly curation is to arrive at a single, standard version of
the text to add to a “canon.” Instead, it accepts that different editors may arrive at different results, each of which (or at least many of which) can offer valid perspectives and new insights, enriching our understanding of the work and the age in which it was produced. In this way, writers can “take on multiple ‘identities’ in the literary canon,” which itself becomes less monolithic.

“The Pulter Project: Poet in the Making” is based on technology developed by staff at University Library’s Digital Collections (Josh Honn) and Northwestern’s Media and Design Studio (Matthew Taylor). This technology allows visitors to the Pulter Project to create adjacencies between what are called “elemental editions”—deliberately pared-down modernizations with minimal notes—and “amplified editions,” which have been commissioned from experts to foreground different aspects of Pulter’s verse. There are currently 13 different “amplified editions” available to users, created by editors from all over the English-speaking world. The site also includes contextualizing materials, educational tools, and curated virtual exhibits inspired by the poems.

By melding cutting-edge technology and time-honored editorial practice, readers can combine various readings and author identities on their desktop—and then in their own minds—to arrive at a complex and ultimately more rounded sense of both oeuvre and author. — Jeff Garrett

THE SCHOLARLY FOOTNOTE IN PERIL!
THE CRISIS OF CITATION PRACTICE IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL EPHEMERA

On December 4, about 80 NEO members gathered at Evanston’s Terra & Vine restaurant to inaugurate this successor location to our popular—but closing—meeting venue for NEO lunches in Wilmette, Gusto.

Speaker was Jeff Garrett, librarian emeritus, who reported on his recent research on behalf of Chicago’s Center for Research Libraries, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, into web archiving and the fate of citation practice in the new age of digital research. Not unlike ephemera of past ages, e.g. Reformation-era pamphlets, French Revolution posters, 19th-century broadsides, and 20th-century newspapers, most websites we see used today as primary sources for research are short-lived, yet they are usually treated—and cited—by authors as if they had the same (relative) permanence and immutability as paper-based monographs or articles published in widely held (and digitally archived) journals.

Garrett reported on the consequences of this crisis:


Anatomy of an archival URL. It encodes the original site address as well as the date and time (GMT) of the crawl. The original site—documenting disappeared persons (personas desaparecidas) in Honduras—was hijacked, presumably by bad actors, and no longer exists. Crawl performed by the Internet Archive on behalf of the Latin American Government Documents Archive (LAGDA) at the University of Texas Austin. Go ahead: try it out! It’s live.
for scholarly communication, with examples of source suppression, site hijacking, content alteration and adulteration. Perpetrators range from rogue cannabis-product advertisers and Latin American putschists to . . . the president the United States.

Garrett outlined efforts being undertaken today at the Internet Archive and elsewhere in the world to archive websites before they can disappear or be corrupted, and why today’s scholars and students are best advised to use archival URLs in their footnotes and bibliographies rather than the volatile addresses of “live” websites where their source material was originally found.— Louie Memm

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**THE EMERITI BOOKSHELF**

This column draws attention to recent books published by Northwestern emeriti, both fiction and non-fiction, 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!


This book relates the history of the pharmacology department of Northwestern University’s medical school, from the founding of the school in 1859 to the present. It is designed to capture the changes that have occurred in the teaching and research activities of the department during a span of 160 years against the backdrop of events in the city of Chicago, the country, and the world—also in light of relevant advances in pharmacology and medicine. The book is divided into chapters that span the tenures of one or more chairs of the department. Their scientific interests and influence on the evolution of the department, including the faculty they recruited, are described. For each era, there is a section on Ph.D. recipients and the titles of their theses, providing a profile of the research being conducted at that time. Department graduates with singular accomplishments in their subsequent careers are highlighted. Complementing the text are reflections and recollections from past chairs, the present chair, and former faculty members. The book is illustrated with photographs of many former and current department members and some unique photos of Chicago campus buildings.— Paula H. Stern
PASSINGS
Column Editor George Harmon

Karen Daniel, 62, an attorney and former director of the law school’s Center on Wrongful Convictions, died December 26, 2019, after being hit by a car near her Oak Park home. Her life’s work was advocating for those convicted in flawed trials, winning freedom for more than 20 people. She was a clinical professor of law emerita, graduated from UC Davis and Harvard Law School, and formerly worked for Cook County’s public defender and for the Illinois Office of the State Appellate Defender, where she appealed the cases of hundreds of convicted defendants. Surviving are her husband, Alan Goldberg, and son, Scott Daniel. Colleague Maury Possley, a former Chicago news reporter, called her a “hero to many, an inspiration to even more.” Visit her faculty profile for more on her work over many years.

UPCOMING NEO EVENTS

On Wednesday, January 22, at 4 p.m., the NEO Music Interest Group is hosting a conversation about “The Clarinet in Chamber Music” with Steven Cohen, associate professor of music performance at Northwestern’s Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music.

Active as both a soloist and chamber musician throughout the US and around the world, Steven Cohen is the former principal clarinetist and frequent soloist with the New Orleans Symphony, later the Louisiana Philharmonic. Currently principal clarinet for the Brevard Music Center and Music of the Baroque, he has performed with the Chicago Symphony and Lyric Opera Orchestras.

Also don’t miss the next two NEO mini-courses, offered in collaboration with Evanston Public Library:

On February 19 and 26, Professor of economics emeritus Robert Coen will be offering “Debt, Trade, and U.S. Economic Leadership.” Venue: Community Meeting Room, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., from 7 to 8:45 p.m. See here for more details, the class schedule, and registration information.

On two successive Thursday evenings, April 23 and 30, Professor emerita Michal Ginsburg, Department of French and Italian, teaches the Spring Quarter mini-course on “City Novels,” an examination of four 19th-century novels set in Paris, London—and Chicago. Venue as above. See here for more details. Note: Registration opens on February 19.
THE EMERITI CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 22, 4:00 p.m. Music Interest Group event: A conversation with Steven Cohen, “The Clarinet in Chamber Music.” Bienen School of Music, RCMA 1-180

Thursday, January 30, 1:30–3:00 p.m. Re-Discovering NU: Visit to the Ryan Fieldhouse and Walter Athletics Center. Register here. Meet in the main lobby of the Walter Athletics Center. Be prepared to walk about a mile!

Tuesday, February 4, 11:45–2:00 p.m. NEO lunch at Terra and Vine. Speaker Steven Lubet, Williams Memorial Professor and Director, Bartlit Center for Trial Advocacy, Pritzker School of Law

Wednesday, February 19, 7:00–8:45 p.m. NEO-EPL mini-course series: “Debt, Trade, and U.S. Economic Leadership.” Session 1. Robert Coen, Department of Economics. Evanston Public Library, Community Meeting Room. Registration required.

Wednesday, February 26, 7:00–8:45 p.m. “Debt, Trade, and U.S. Economic Leadership.” Session 2. Robert Coen. EPL Community Meeting Room. Registration included with session 1.

Wednesday, March 11 6:00–9:00 p.m. NEO Dinner at the Guild Lounge, Scott Hall. Speaker: Alex Kotlowitz, Medill School of Journalism, author of There Are No Children Here and An American Summer.

Wednesday, April 1, 11:45–2:00 p.m. NEO lunch at Terra and Vine; Speaker, Daniel Immerwahr, Department of History, WCAS.

Thursday, April 23, 6:45–8:45 p.m. NEO-EPL mini-course series: “City Novels.” Session 1. Michal Ginsburg, Department of French and Italian. EPL Community Meeting Room. Registration (required) opens February 19.

Thursday, April 30, 6:45–8:45 p.m. “City Novels.” Session 2. Michal Ginsburg. EPL Community Meeting Room. Registration included with session 1.

NEO OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2019–20

President Michal Ginsburg
President-elect Roger Boye
Secretary Mel Gerbie
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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)
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 program assistant Jason Abbas.

Phone: (847) 467-0432
Email: Jason.abbas@northwestern.edu or emeritus-org@northwestern.edu
Address: 1800 Sherman Avenue, 5th Floor, Room 5407, Evanston, IL 60208

If Jason is unavailable and you need immediate assistance, contact Jared Spitz in the Faculty Senate office 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.