President’s Message

By Michal Ginsburg

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well, wherever you happen to be.

President Schapiro’s March 10th email, suggesting that gatherings on and off campus should be cancelled, came only the day before our March dinner. We therefore decided to let members make their own decision whether or not to attend. But as the university extended its Spring break and decided to start Spring Quarter with online courses, and as restaurants were instructed to close and gatherings of more than 10 people are considered unwise, we had no choice but to cancel the April 1st lunch. However, our speaker, Professor Daniel Immerwahr of the History Department, has agreed to give his talk remotely, using Northwestern’s Zoom conferencing service. I am very happy that we have this alternative so that we can carry on the activities that define our community while we are physically separated. You will shortly receive further information about how the virtual talk will be transmitted. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please let me know.

Turning back now to what we have done since our last Newsletter, we have been doing very well. Our second Rediscovering NU event—a visit to the Ryan Fieldhouse and Walter Athletics Center—took place...
on January 30th. It was quite an experience, as you can read in this issue of the newsletter! Our second mini-course at Evanston Public Library—NEO colleague Robert Coen discussing the national debt and US economic leadership—drew about 100 people for each of its two sessions, despite competition with the Democratic debate on the first night and very cold weather on the second. Professor Steven Lubet, of NU’s Pritzker School of Laws, our speaker for the February lunch, unfortunately had to cancel at the last minute due to a death in his family. We were lucky, though, to have Baron Reed of the Philosophy department agree to take his place. This gave us the opportunity to learn more about The Society of Fellows, part of the university’s “Pathways Initiative”—a new multi-year program with the goal of accelerating faculty members’ development and advancement across their careers. Our March dinner, with Alex Kotlowitz as speaker, was set to have a record of 102 people attending; though we ended up with fewer, it was a well-attended event and Kotlowitz gave an impassioned and compelling lecture on “The Journalism of Empathy: Telling Stories Amidst All the Shouting.” See the report in this issue.

Spring is the time to elect new officers and council members and I would like to urge all of you to send the nominating committee your suggestions. Don’t hesitate to name yourself—we truly appreciate volunteers! The more we involve new people in running NEO, the better our programs will be. And the more we strive now to sustain NEO as a community—our community—in what I know for all of us are very difficult times, the more quickly we can return to normal once the crisis ends.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The NEO Nominating Committee is beginning its work and will present a slate of nominees for leadership positions at the dinner on May 7—or electronically if by then physical gatherings are still suspended. To be nominated are a VP/president-elect, who will succeed to the presidency in July 2021; a secretary; a treasurer; and at least three members of the Executive Council, which meets monthly. We welcome your suggestions and self-nominations and ask that you send them to any member of the Nominating Committee (click on names to send email): David Zarefsky, Chair; Barbara Deal; and Jeff Garrett. Please send us your nominations no later than April 10, 2020.—David Zarefsky

FROM THE EDITOR

By Jeff Garrett, Editor, The Emeriti News

In light of the current public health emergency, we are grateful to our newsletter founders who years ago, in their wisdom, made this publication e-only. We can therefore assure you, dear reader, that The Emeriti News is virus-free. Just remember to occasionally wipe down your screen or keyboard and—to combat
those other viruses—keep your Norton or McAfee subscription up to date. Then it is quite safe to read on.

Safe, but we hope also useful and enjoyable. On the useful side, Ed Featherstone of NU Gift Planning acquaints us with the new federal SECURE Act and its implications for charitable giving and estate management. Calendar information is provided to make sure you don’t miss any pending NEO events, nor overlook the recent inevitable cancellations—along with plans to go online with our events or just wait to reschedule them. And, just in case you couldn’t attend a lunch or a dinner or a Rediscovering NU tour in the past two months, our correspondents—your NEO colleagues—report on them for you. On the entertainment side, we offer you an interview with NEO member Irwin Weil, who regularly attracted over 800 students to his courses on Russian history.

Actually and ideally, of course, there is no clear-cut border between the useful and the entertaining, as our report from NEO member Bob Coen’s February mini-course demonstrates, the success of which was already mentioned by Michal Ginsburg in her President’s Message. In that report, we even include the passage from the rap battle between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson from the musical “Hamilton” that Bob used to animate his class. And it was a hit—the mini-course, we mean!

Please remember that we depend on you, our readers, for tips and leads. Send them to the NEO office at 1800 Sherman, drop us an email, or leave me a phone message at 847-903-6684. Please also volunteer to be a reporter for us at an upcoming NEO event, send us news of new books published by NEO colleagues—or yourself—and submit a brief, informal bio for inclusion in the “People” section of our website.

The next issue of The Emeriti News is due out in June, by which time let us all hope that the current health crisis has passed, and we have a beautiful, germ-free summer to look forward to!

PROVOST’S CORNER

Column Editor Celina Flowers, Assistant Provost

Before the national health emergency began to demand our complete and full attention, major initiatives were underway to implement actions recommended by the Undergraduate Student Lifecycle committee, launching the Faculty Pathways Initiative, and implementing Northwestern’s first-ever University Ombuds Office. All these initiatives built on Provost Holloway’s commitment to rigor and empathy anchored in our values of excellence, diversity, and inclusion for our whole campus community.

In January, Provost Holloway announced his departure from Northwestern to

Provost Jonathan Holloway speaking to the Faculty Senate on January 16, 2019. Holloway will be leaving Northwestern to become president of Rutgers University effective July 1, 2020.
become the 21st president of Rutgers University. While we are saddened to lose his inspiring leadership, we remain fully committed to the important work that he has charged to us, exemplified through these and many other initiatives. Rutgers University will gain an outstanding leader, and we could not be happier for them. We wish Jonathan and his family all the best in this new chapter of their lives.

As announced in the Daily Northwestern, President Schapiro has formed a search committee to identify Provost Holloway’s replacement before the start of the next academic year. Kathleen Hagerty, Associate Provost for Faculty, will serve as interim Provost beginning April 1. I look forward to introducing Interim Provost Hagerty to you in person during the upcoming year and to continuing to work in partnership with the NEO to strengthen the visibility and impact of our retired faculty members.

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**THE SECURE ACT AND CHARITABLE GIVING**

By Ed Featherstone, Director, Gift Planning

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, aka the SECURE Act, became effective January 1, 2020. It includes many changes to the rules pertaining to retirement plans, including the following:

- The age at which the owner of a qualified retirement plan (an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), etc.) must start taking required minimum distributions has increased from 70 ½ to 72. Account owners who turn 70½ in 2020 may delay the start of their minimum distributions for an additional year and a half.

- There is no longer an age limit on contributing to an IRA. Before the SECURE Act, account owners could not contribute to an IRA once they reached 70½. This limit has been repealed, benefitting those who work beyond that age and wish to continue saving for retirement.

Now is a good time to consult your tax expert on how these changes may affect you.

For those who are concerned about the taxation of their retirement plan assets and distributions, or for those who have been taking advantage of the IRA rollover, here are some considerations:

- If you are 70½ or older, you may continue to direct charitable gifts from your IRA up to $100,000 per year. These “rollover” gifts can help you save income taxes whether you itemize or not since they count toward your required minimum distribution. Making current gifts helps make a difference today and enables you to see the impact of your support.

- Naming a charity as a beneficiary of your retirement plan is a tax-smart strategy for your estate and heirs. Inherited retirement assets are often taxed more heavily than other inherited assets, but there is no tax owed on such funds if donated to charity. Consider giving these highly-taxed assets to charity and less tax-burdened assets to heirs.
Since the provision allowing non-spousal heirs to stretch out distributions from inherited IRAs over their lifetimes has been eliminated (now such funds must be withdrawn over 10 years), there could be significant benefit to both your heirs and charity to designating IRA assets for a “life income” gift such as a charitable remainder trust. Such testamentary gifts could provide payments to non-spousal heirs beyond the 10-year limit and still yield a gift to a charity you hope to support from your estate.

If you have questions about the SECURE Act and charitable giving, please contact the Gift Planning Office at 1-800-826-6709. You can find our FAQ on the Act as well as other planned giving information on our website.

NEO’S WINTER QUARTER MINI-COURSE: BOB COEN ON “DEBT, TRADE, AND U.S. ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP”

This photo shows roughly half the audience for Bob Coen’s mini-course on U.S. debt, trade, and world economic leadership at Evanston Public Library, February 19 & 26, 2020.

Economics professor emeritus Robert Coen both entertained and edified his audience of over 100 at the inaugural session of the NEO-EPL mini-course on national debt and international trade. “Entertained,” for one, for example by using the rap battle between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton from
the hit musical “Hamilton” as a savvy introduction to his topic.¹ But edified, too, for in the first evening’s class entitled “Some Uncommon Sense about the National Debt,” Coen debunked many popular misconceptions about it, explaining why the national debt is so totally unlike personal and household debt, but also why it is not—at least not necessarily—an unconscionable burden we have passed on to our grandchildren. At the same time, he explained why we may in fact be on the verge of a national crisis by midcentury if the federal government does not bring spending under control within the next decade or two.

In his second class session on February 26 (“The Changing Role of the U.S. in World Trade and Finance”), Coen then explored the implications of our national debt for U.S. economic growth and for the nation’s standing as the financial anchor of the world economy.

NEO’s mini-courses have become a hit, thanks not only to the fantastic organizational and publicity support from our partners at Evanston Public Library, but also because the public—the citizens of Evanston—have embraced this offering with such enthusiasm. Participant survey responses have been extremely positive, urging the collaboration to continue into the coming academic year.

Our Spring Quarter mini-course featuring Michal Ginsburg presenting “City Novels: Paris, London, Chicago” has been impacted by the most recent public health measures—and has been cancelled, at least for the near future. More than 90 sign-ups for this class had already been recorded as we went to press with this issue of the The Emeriti News. NEO members and other participants will be notified in the coming days and weeks about plans for this class.—Jeff Garrett

¹ Here, for example, is Bob Coen quoting Thomas Jefferson scorching Hamilton—in his rendition, only the beatbox was missing!

“Ooh, if the shoe fits, wear it
If New York’s in debt—
Why should Virginia bear it? Uh! Our debts are paid, I’m afraid
Don’t tax the South cuz we got it made in the shade
In Virginia, we plant seeds in the ground
We create. You just wanna move our money around . . .”

Of course, as Coen does not overlook, Hamilton—as part of the same rap battle—then points out that the only reason Virginia is so debt-free is because the actual planters of the seeds Jefferson alludes to are . . . enslaved laborers.
**LET THERE BE BORSCHCH! AN INTERVIEW WITH IRWIN WEIL**

Professor Irwin Weil postponed becoming an emeritus until he was almost 90—we believe because he was just having too much fun at his job. During his 56 years in Northwestern’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, his courses on the classics of the Russian canon regularly attracted hundreds of students; his most popular class on “The Soviet Union and Successor States” in fact repeatedly clocked in at over 800 students enrolled. He is also the author of a highly regarded biography of Maksim Gorky, is accomplished as a guitarist and singer, and is in much demand as a lecturer in both America and Russia. Finally retired, Irv still hasn’t slowed down . . . much. *The Emeriti News* caught up with him only because a bad knee had him laid up in the hospital for a few days in February: he had no choice but to sit still for this interview.

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**The Emeriti News:** So, been to Russia recently?

**Irwin Weil:** I was in Russia several months ago. I go every year. I find it hard to stay away from my friends and the *borshch*.²

**TEN:** Any plans to return soon? If so, will you just be a tourist, or do you have a specific agenda?

**IW:** I hope to get there in March. There will be a meeting between several of my Northwestern colleagues with their opposite numbers in Russia. [Editor’s note: Due to the coronavirus outbreak, Prof. Weil has had to postpone his journey.]

**TEN:** Could you say something about The Russian-American Academic Center for American Studies, which you co-founded in Moscow in 2004? And say something about your Russian co-founder?

**IW:** The Center is an attempt to give Russian colleagues and students a more objective picture of the U.S. than they have received from a great deal of anti-American propaganda. It’s also an attempt to give

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² Note from Irwin Weil to TEN editor: “The word is *borshch*. It is not, I repeat not, spelled ‘borscht.’”
American colleagues and students a chance to see ourselves as others see us. As for my co-founder, **Marina Kaul**, she is a remarkable person and scholar. Born in Russia, her English is akin to that of the British Queen. Her courage and her scholarly writing are equally remarkable. She maintained her intellectual independence in difficult Soviet times, and she has done important research in the area of interrelations between the Russian and English languages. I admire her greatly.

**TEN:** How do you think life has changed for Russians—specifically Russian intellectuals—since your first trip to Russia 60 years ago?

**IW:** The most important change lies in the fact that unlike Soviet times, Russian intellectuals and entrepreneurs can start almost any project they wish, freely and without fear.

**TEN:** Is it true you knew Dmitry Shostakovich?

**IW:** Yes. In 1973, he came to Northwestern to receive an Honorary Degree and I served as his interpreter and guide. I spent many hours talking with him in Russian and he corrected me only twice. He made a wonderful impression on the many people who met and heard him and I will never forget his wonderful and friendly presence.

**TEN:** What do you miss most about teaching at Northwestern?

**IW:** What I miss is the vigorous and close contact with an enormous variety of able and intelligent students. And the vigorous and creative spontaneous exchanges with colleagues.

**TEN:** I see they’re about to serve you lunch. Thank you for speaking with us today, Professor Weil. And of course, as we always say: Удачи в ваших путешествиях! \(^3\)

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\(^3\) English: Good luck on your travels!
REDSCOVERYING NU: WALTER ATHLETIC CENTER AND RYAN FIELDHOUSE

25 NEO members and their guests were treated to a two-hour guided tour of the Walter Athletic Center and Ryan Fieldhouse with Q&A session on Thursday, January 30, 2020. The $270 million athletic facility opened in August 2018 and houses many of Northwestern’s athletic teams, including football, lacrosse, field hockey, and wrestling. The facility was created to allow Northwestern’s 500+ student athletes to be on campus virtually all the time, thus minimizing travel from the football stadium to classes and their other academic obligations.

The facility not only has a regulation indoor football field but houses numerous locker rooms, lounges for students, tutoring rooms, and a large cafeteria in which each student must eat one meal each weekday. It also houses offices for the NU Athletic Department staff as well as a medical facility that can treat student athletes when injured or for physical therapy. These buildings are off limits for non-athlete students who are invited to use the Crown Sports Pavilion and Athletic Center adjacent to the new facility.

The facility was built following a four-year planning/approval process and took three years to construct. The physical plant is gorgeous with spectacular views of the lake. We saw the women’s lacrosse team practicing and saw quite a few students studying, being tutored, and relaxing while we were touring. The NU Athletic staff is
very proud of the 99% graduation rate of its student athletes, which is the highest in the country.

The NEO group was very appreciative of the efforts of Kristin Kane Herbison and Fred Smith who led the tour, as well as to Janna Blais, Deputy Athletic Director, who facilitated the Q&A session.— Rick Cohn and Michal Ginsburg

**Recent Talks & Events**

**Baron Reed on the Faculty Pathways Initiative, The Society of Fellows**

Professor Baron Reed was the invited speaker for NEO’s bi-monthly luncheon gathering on February 4, 2020, again held at our new restaurant venue, Terra & Vine in downtown Evanston. A focus of his remarks was recent efforts of the provost’s office to enrich the faculty experience at Northwestern, increasing both interdisciplinary (horizontal) and intergenerational (vertical) ties along the “pathway” of faculty careers—which, of course, might be expanded to include emerita/us status.

Reed served as president of the Faculty Senate 2018–19. He remains on the Senate Executive Committee as immediate past president. In addition to these roles, he serves as Special Assistant to the Provost. Reed devoted his remarks to three new initiatives established by the Office of the Provost under the Faculty Pathways Initiative: a new post-baccalaureate mathematics and statistics program for underrepresented minority students, to begin summer 2020; a new mentoring program, ASCEND, to support post-tenured faculty; and the new Society of Fellows, which Reed directs, to begin Fall 2020 to support recently tenured faculty.

The new mathematics program will be a special 12-month post-baccalaureate program designed to attract and mentor students from historically underrepresented minority (URM) groups in mathematics and statistics. Nationally, among 294 mathematics and statistics Ph.D.’s from doctoral granting institutions, only 16 were awarded to URM students. The National Science Foundation, along with the Office of the Provost, has funded the program, to be offered by the Mathematics Department.

Reed then described ASCEND, designed to support approximately 20 newly tenured faculty in reaching their post-promotion professional priorities and goals through a series of workshops, providing an “executive” senior faculty coach, and using evaluation and assessment tools to help them gauge their progress. The program is directed by associate vice president for research Celeste Watkins-Hayes.

The balance of Professor Reed’s remarks concerned the Society of Fellows, a new faculty organization to
be launched this fall. The primary purpose of the Fellows is to support interdisciplinary excellence within the University community. Reed noted that recently tenured younger faculty, especially those working on issues at the margins of their disciplines, often have difficulty finding supportive colleagues within their own departments. The Society of Fellows has been established to support these faculty in their endeavors.

The Society will be composed of 27 members, 1/3 senior faculty and 2/3 relatively recently tenured faculty invited to serve staggered three-year terms. Goals for the organization include cultivating a broader University experience, “engineering serendipity,” and supporting high-risk, high-reward academic work. Fellows will receive a one-course teaching reduction. They will participate in lunches, conferences, and other events fostering “horizontal” collaboration, with “vertical” mentorship also promoted between junior and senior fellows.

Professor Reed observed the next step will be to encourage faculty to apply as junior and senior fellows (to be screened by a faculty advisory committee) for “community-minded excellence.” He also emphasized the program will require designation of a physical space within which to operate both for the short and the longer term.—Jeremy R. Wilson

NEO’S SPRING DINNER: ALEX KOTLOWITZ ON “THE JOURNALISM OF EMPATHY”

Medill senior lecturer and writer-in-residence Alex Kotlowitz is one of Northwestern’s—and indeed America’s—most distinguished authors. His 1991 book There Are No Children Here was included among New York Public Library’s 150 most important books of the 20th century. It has worn
well: Just last year, it was chosen by Chicago’s Caxton Club as one of “101 Publications That Shaped the City and Its Image,” a selection of books dating all the way back to the founding of Chicago in the 1830s. Kotlowitz’s latest book is *An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago* (2019; release date in paperback March 31, 2020—see The Emeriti Bookshelf for more information).

So it was a great honor to have this renowned and perceptive witness to the life and dignity of both victims and perpetrators (who are also victims) of Chicago’s horrific culture of violence speak to a large NEO audience. Kotlowitz began with an update on some of the young people he portrayed in *An American Summer*, among them Marcelo Sanchez, a star student who strove to stay out of trouble, but after being shot himself plots revenge and succumbs to rage—and gets arrested and goes to jail. He is now out again—and recently appeared on a panel with Kotlowitz and Chicago mayor Lori Lightfoot.

Kotlowitz emphasized that in most descriptions of Chicago crime, the reporting (if that is what we choose to call it) is done in a distancing, distorting, dehumanizing way—which he associated explicitly with the vocabulary of the current American president. In this environment, he sees his role as the “teller of true stories,” bringing forth “real, rich, nuanced individuals,” a skill he associates with his old friend Studs Terkel, one which he teaches to his students at Medill and which he holds out as perhaps our greatest hope for coping with the problems of urban violence. This is also where he sees the power of local journalism and local journalists, and why it is such a tragedy that so many local papers have either disappeared or—like the *Chicago Tribune*—are on the verge of extinction.

Hence the title of his talk: “The Journalism of Empathy: Telling Stories Amidst all the Shouting.” Kotlowitz shared his hope for the future as well as a path forward, a path which will demand from us both courage and empathy—overall a message that was an especially generous gift to his audience in a time of anxiety and darkness.—*Jeff Garrett*
A BUSY WINTER FOR NEO’S MUSIC INTEREST GROUP

A PRIVATISSIMUM\textsuperscript{1} WITH BIENEN CLARINETIST STEVEN COHEN

During the long Chicago winters, nothing helps pass the time quite like live musical performance, and Northwestern’s fabulous Bienen School of Music offers many divertissements to choose from—including, at least for NEO members, the occasional private session with a member of the faculty.

On Wednesday afternoon, January 22, members of NEO’s Music Interest Group met with Professor Steven Cohen, clarinetist in the Bienen School of Music as well as coordinator of its winds and percussion program. He was trained at Julliard and Oberlin where he was a double major in piano and clarinet. Before coming to Northwestern in 2004, he was principal clarinet at the New Orleans Symphony.

Since our group was small, Steve invited us to his studio for a discussion of the clarinet in chamber music. He and his colleagues were featured in the January 24th concert of the Winter Chamber Music Festival where he played in the Brahms Trio for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano, as well as the Beethoven Septet in E\textsubscript{♭} Major.

During the discussion, Steve demonstrated several instruments. The best-known clarinets are the B\textsubscript{♭} and A clarinets, and these are expected to be owned by all clarinet students at Bienen. The A clarinet has a subtle but darker tonality than the B\textsubscript{♭} and is chosen by composers for that reason. The other clarinets—C, E\textsubscript{♭} and D—also have their unique tonal qualities and are featured in well-known compositions, e.g. Richard Strauss’s “Till Eulenspiegel lustige Streiche.” He noted that, in part because the clarinet was a late arrival on

\textsuperscript{1}privatissimum: In the European tradition a university lecture heard by only a very small and select group of students.
the chamber music scene, several composers wrote for the clarinet at the end of their careers when they were at the height of their musical maturity.

Steve played short excerpts of several compositions as he described the instruments. Our time with him (over an hour) was informative, charming, and informal, with comfortable back and forth discussion between Steve and NEO members on a wide range of topics, including his career path, some former students, his coming plans, and goals for the future. He noted that his experiences at Northwestern with his Bienen colleagues have been much more collaborative than is the case at some other schools and conservatories. He certainly demonstrated his collegiality with his willingness to play—accompanied by NEO colleague Kathy Rundell on piano—a movement from Vaughn Williams’s “Six Studies in English Folk Song.”—Kathy Rundell and Al Telser

STACEY GARROP’S ORATORIO TERRA NOSTRA

Just two weeks later, a small contingent of NEO Music Interest Group members attended the Alice Millar Chapel Birthday Concert on Sunday, February 9, 2020. The sole work on the program was the oratorio Terra Nostra by Chicago composer Stacy Garrop. It was composed in 2015 for the San Francisco Choral Society and the Piedmont East Bay Children’s Choir.

The work, conducted by Stephen Alltop, featured the Alice Millar Chapel Choir, soloists, the Evanston Children’s Choir, and members of the Northwestern University Orchestra. Oratorios are a relatively uncommon musical form in contemporary classical music. This piece is a magnificent contribution to the contemporary musical scene.

Part I of the piece (Creation of the World) incorporates passages from the King James Bible and creation myths from India, North America, and Egypt. Poems by fourteen different poets in Part II (The Rise of Humanity) and Part III (Searching for Balance) comprised the text for the rest of the piece. The music and words provided an excellent balance for each other. The soloists, choruses, and orchestra performed at a high level of excellence.

Dr. Alltop led an interesting Q&A and discussion session after the concert. Composer Ms. Garrop, along with a doctoral student in choral conducting, one of the soprano soloists, and a French horn player participated in the discussion.
in this session. There was great enthusiasm about the work from the audience which was reflected in many interesting questions. Ms. Garrop’s charm, energy, and engagement with the audience added to the enjoyment of the evening’s performance.—Al Telser

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, but also by others who have spoken recently to NEO audiences. Books may be purchased online from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Indiebound and other popular sites, or from your local chain outlet or independent bookseller, several of whom offer home delivery options.

Readers are encouraged to send title information and a brief to the editor for inclusion in this column. Note: You do not need to be the author to submit a nomination!


This is the paperback edition of Kotlowitz’s new bestseller on life (as well as love and death) in the violence-plagued neighborhoods of the city of Chicago, resuming the narrative after 20 years since publication of his classic, There Are No Children Here. For an excellent summary and review of this new book, read what Aaron M. Renn wrote in City Journal under the title “Portraits of Despair in Chicago.”

Release date: March 31, 2020. Before release available for pre-order through your bookstore.

See also the report on Kotlowitz’s talk at the NEO dinner on March 11 in this issue of The Emeriti News.

PASSINGS

Column Editor George Harmon

Haskel Benishay, 91, professor of managerial economics at Kellogg, died February 24, 2020. In 38 years at the business school until his retirement in 2005, Ben played a vital role in the evolution of the department of managerial economics and decision sciences, which Dean Don Jacobs liked to call "an intellectual hothouse." Ben’s movie reviews were a popular feature for many years in the suburban Pioneer Press. A native of Israel, he earned a Ph.D. in economics and statistics from the University of Chicago and lived on Chicago’s far
north side. Surviving are his wife of nearly 60 years, Sarah, three children and four grandchildren. Obituary.

**John R. (Jock) McLane**, 84, a history professor who was also the 2013–14 president of NEO, passed away January 25, 2020 in Evanston. Perennially enthusiastic, kind and good-humored, Jock graduated from Harvard and received his Ph.D. from the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies in 1961. Jock then taught South and Southeast Asian history at NU through 2010, writing books on Indian nationalism and 18th-century Bengal, chairing the history department, and serving as associate dean of Weinberg and master of two residential colleges. Survivors include his wife, Joan; children, Derek and Rebecca; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service, followed by a reception, is planned for April 4, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at the Alice Millar Chapel, though like most other campus events it will likely be rescheduled. Obituary.


**David S. Ruder**, a leading scholar in corporate and securities law as well as dean of the law school from 1977 to 1985, died February 15, 2020, in Highland Park. He was 90. As dean he helped plan the Rubloff Building and the remodeling of halls, brought distinguished scholars to the faculty, and led a $25 million capital campaign. Early papers on insider trading led to his reputation as an expert on antifraud rules, and he served two years as chairman of the Securities Exchange Commission. Born in Wausau, Wisconsin, he went to Williams College and was first in his class at the University of Wisconsin’s law school. Surviving are his wife, Susan; three children; two stepchildren and nine grandchildren. Obituary.

**Janardan Reddy**, professor emeritus of pathology at Feinberg School of Medicine, passed away March 13, 2020, at his home in Hilo, Hawaii, after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease. Dr. Reddy, a beloved figure
in the medical school, was a widely admired investigator and writer on liver biology. He joined the faculty in 1976 and was department chair from 1993 until retirement in 2007, twice receiving the George H. Joost outstanding teacher award at the medical school. Dr. Reddy wrote more than 400 articles, reviews, and book chapters, and was a strong advocate for pathology education and faculty mentoring.

A final note: Northwestern Law School’s Center on Wrongful Convictions is planning to host a rose ceremony in honor of emerita Karen Daniel on April 30, 2020, 6 p.m.–9 p.m., at the 19th Century Club in Oak Park. As of this writing, we do not know whether that event will take place or be postponed. For the latest information, call Northwestern’s Bluhm Legal Clinic at 312-503-8576 or visit the Center’s website.

The CWC is also planning a symposium dedicated to Prof. Daniel in fall 2020 in Thorne Auditorium on the Chicago Campus, but that date has not yet been set. Again, contact the Bluhm Legal Clinic for details.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING UPCOMING NEO EVENTS

Following the March 11 directive from the President’s office announcing major closures across campus, we have moved our April 1 NEO lunch with speaker Prof. Daniel Immerwahr online. (Details forthcoming!) Also, since our community partner and venue Evanston Public Library has closed its building through Sunday, April 12, and cancelled all events through the end of April, our Spring Quarter mini-course “City Novels,” taught by emerita professor Michal Ginsburg, will not take place as planned. Registered participants will receive a separate notification whether and, if so, when and how we will proceed with that class.

Starting in May, other NEO programming, summarized in the following “Emeriti Calendar,” will in all likelihood be impacted by coronavirus containment measures, which are being adjusted almost daily in response to the evolving public health situation. NEO members will receive updates by email and/or via the NEO website.

THE EMERITI CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 1, 11:45–2:00 p.m. NEO LUNCH TALK MOVED ONLINE: Speaker, Daniel Immerwahr, Department of History, WCAS. Presenting "How to Hide an Empire: Telling the Story of the Greater United States."

Thursday, April 23, 6:45–8:45 p.m. CANCELLED—See Notice Above: NEO-EPL mini-course series, Spring Quarter: "City Novels." Session 1. Michal Ginsburg, Department of

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French and Italian. Registration closed.

Tuesday, April 28, 10:00–12:00 p.m. CANCELLED—Rediscovering NU: Tour of the Entrepreneurship Garage and Integrated Molecular Structure Research Center (IMSERC)

Thursday, April 30, 6:45–8:45 p.m. CANCELLED—See Notice Above: “City Novels.” Session 2. Michal Ginsburg.

Thursday, May 7, 6:00–9:00 p.m. STATUS UNCERTAIN: NEO Dinner at Happ Inn, Northfield; Speaker, Noshir Contractor, McCormick School of Engineering, School of Communication, and Kellogg.

Wednesday, May 20, 3:30–7:00 p.m. STATUS UNCERTAIN: “Planning for the Decades Ahead: The Challenges and Opportunities of Retirement in the Age of Longevity,” 108 Harris Hall, Evanston Campus.

Tuesday, June 2, 11:45–2:00 p.m. STATUS UNCERTAIN: NEO Lunch at Terra & Vine; Speaker, Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, School of Education and Office of the Provost.

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**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 our 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 SSID.

Projectors, speakers, and PC hookups are available in conference rooms. Macs require an adapter.

Northwestern Emeriti Organization
1800 Sherman Avenue, Room 5407
Evanston, Illinois 60208
(847) 467-0432
https://emeriti.northwestern.edu/

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Unless otherwise credited, most photographs are by the editor.