The last couple of months have been trying for all of us. I hope that you are doing well—as well as one can under the circumstances—and are keeping safe and sane. I also hope that our virtual lunchtime talks on Zoom, even though they are few and far between, have provided some relief. We will continue holding events remotely, using Zoom, until such a time as the State of Illinois, the City of Evanston, and our own university’s central administration relax stay-at-home and social distancing and it becomes safe again for our demographic to come together in groups.

Since NEO voting is electronic, it was not affected by COVID-19 stay-at-home mandates. I am delighted to report that many more people voted this year for our new slate of officers and council members than in the past, which I take as a sign of a growing active membership. I would like to thank all of you for voting and also offer special thanks for the many suggestions for next year’s NEO leadership. The results of the elections will be announced on June 2nd, just before Professor Hollis Clayson’s talk. I hope to “see” many of you then for what promises to be a very interesting presentation.

As you know, one of the measures the University has taken to deal with the financial problems caused by COVID-19 is to furlough a certain number of staff members. It is unfortunate for us that one staff member to be furloughed is our wonderful PA, Jason Abbas. Jason has been an outstanding PA and I
know that we will all miss him for these next several months. I would like to thank him on behalf of all of us for the great work he has done and to wish him all the best in this difficult time.

NEO’s year ends on June 30th, so this is the last time I will be addressing you as President. I have enjoyed this role very much, especially the opportunity it provided me to meet and interact with so many of you. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Executive Council for all their hard work and support: I am proud of all that we have accomplished together this year.

FROM THE EDITOR

By Jeff Garrett, Editor, The Emeriti News

However later generations look back on these times, let it not be said that we let things slide, that we did not take advantage of every opportunity to sustain the many institutions and relationships that together make up our world. One such institution—and granted, it’s a tiny one—is this newsletter, along with the activities of the emeritae and emeriti of a great university it records and in turn promotes.

In this issue we want to continue providing information our readers will find useful, for example a look by Camille Licklider of Northwestern Gift Planning at the implications of the CARES Act for charitable giving—as well as a detailed calendar of NEO events through the end of the calendar year. We report on two Zoomed events featuring prominent Northwestern faculty members Daniel Immerwahr and Noshir Contractor. We want to shine the spotlight on the life and career of NEO colleague (and centenarian) Jeremiah Stamler, who revolutionized preventive cardiology and, along the way, stood up to McCarthyism and HUAC. And in our Passings column, we want to remember several other colleagues who have sadly departed this earthly vale in recent months.

Finally, we have two favors to ask of you, our readers—beyond the usual requests for tips and leads, for which we are always grateful. In the mid 1990s, in the course of a software changeover, the University deleted records documenting the year emeritus status was granted to many of our members. Today, a total of 172 emeriti and emeritae (of 575) lack a “class” year in our roster. If you would take a moment to check your entry (detail, left) and, if there is an “N/A” next to your name, please drop your editor a single-line email with the correct year of your ascent to emeritus status—we will be much obliged. Also, please consider submitting a brief, informal bio—not a cv—to be linked to from that same page. It is a great way to introduce yourself—or re-introduce yourself, on your own terms—to your colleagues. Look at any one of the current bios on our member page to see how others have done it. No pressure!
The next issue of The Emeriti News is due out in September, by which time let us hope we are all much closer to living normal lives again than we are at this moment.

**PROVOST’S CORNER**

**Column Editor Celina Flowers, Assistant Provost**

It goes without saying that the world is radically different from the “normal” we took for granted just three months ago. In these very challenging times, it can be difficult to maintain a sense of optimism or hope. But that is exactly what we traffic in—hope for the future as embodied in our mission of educating and training young people to change the world. So as we find ourselves in the midst of wrapping up this academic year, pushing our graduating students out into the world, and beginning to think about welcoming our incoming students and faculty members, let us remember that honoring these annual traditions represents our confidence and hope in a brighter future for all.

We also have an annual Spring tradition of celebrating our newly appointed emeritae and emeriti faculty. The word "emeritus" comes from the Latin for "earned" and originally was applied to soldiers in ancient Rome, "veteran soldiers who have served their time," and who are now free to enjoy their lives, pursue long neglected interests, but also to share their wisdom with those younger than themselves. They impart their wisdom not just to younger faculty members, but also to students and to our broader communities—as evidenced through the continuing success of the mini-courses now offered in partnership with Evanston Public Library.

So, welcome to our 36 new emeritus faculty members! Together they represent seven different schools and 1,046 combined years of teaching, mentoring, researching, and creating. Congratulations to each of them for their long and impactful careers, and welcome to the Northwestern Emeriti Organization!

These are trying times, indeed. Our ability to gather in person will remain curtailed for the foreseeable future, and many NEO activities extending into the fall months will continue to be converted to a virtual mode of delivery. I know we are all eager for the day when we will be able to gather in person again. Until then, I encourage everyone to draw upon this community of vibrant, curious, engaged, and caring individuals. Reach out to a fellow NEO member, sign up for an upcoming lecture, form a virtual cooking, reading, or other interest group. And most important, take care of yourselves!

Extending warm wishes from the Provost’s Office, and in anticipation of brighter days ahead,

_Celina_
**Welcome New Members of the Northwestern Emeriti Organization!**

At Northwestern University’s 162nd Annual Commencement on Friday, June 19, 2020, University President Morton Schapiro will recognize 36 faculty who this year will be awarded emeritus status by the Board of Trustees. We congratulate them as well—and welcome them to membership in NEO, the Northwestern Emeriti Organization!

David Abrahamson, Professor Emeritus of Journalism, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications; 25 years of service

Eileen Bigio, Professor Emerita of Pathology, Feinberg School of Medicine; 19 years of service

John Bushnell, Professor Emeritus of History, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 40 years of service

Karen Chou, Professor, Clinical Emerita of Civil and Environmental Engineering, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science; 10 years of service

S. Hollis Clayson, Professor Emerita of Art History and Bergen Evans Professor in the Humanities, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 35 years of service

Tom Collinger, Associate Professor, Clinical Emeritus of Medill Integrated Marketing Communications, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications; 23 years of service

Anne T. Coughlan, Polk Brothers Professor Emerita of Marketing, Kellogg School of Management; 35 years of service

Stephen Davis, Professor Emeritus of Engineering Sciences and Applied Mathematics, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science; 41 years of service

Richard Davison, Associate Professor Emeritus of Cardiology, Feinberg School of Medicine; 48 years of service

Bernard J. Dobroski, Professor Emeritus of Music Studies, Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music, 42 years of service

Dario Fernández-Morera, Associate Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 43 years of service

Jonathan Fryer, Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine; 24 years of service

Christopher Herbert, Professor Emeritus of English and Chester D. Tripp Professor of Humanities, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 51 years of service

Robert Hirschtick, Associate Professor Emeritus of General Internal Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine; 30 years of service

Patrick Kiser, Professor Emeritus of Biomedical Engineering, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science; 7 years of service
Judy Ledgerwood, Alice Welsh Skilling Professor Emerita of Art Theory and Practice, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 25 years of service

Chung-Chieh Lee, Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science; 39 years of service

D. Soyini Madison, Professor Emerita of Performance Studies, School of Communication; 13 years of service

Hamid Naficy, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Professor Emeritus of Radio/TV/Film, School of Communication; 14 years of service

Daniel Nagle, Professor Emeritus of Orthopaedic Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine; 35 years of service

Gregory Olson, Professor Emeritus of Materials Science and Engineering, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science; 31 years of service

Mary M. Poole, Senior Lecturer Emerita of Theatre, School of Communication; 30 years of service

Jane Rankin, Senior Lecturer Emerita of Communication Sciences and Disorders, School of Communication; 15 years of service

Musunuri Sambasiva Rao, Professor Emeritus of Pathology, Feinberg School of Medicine; 42 years of service

Mark Reinecke, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Feinberg School of Medicine; 18 years of service

Hsiu Ling Robertson, Assistant Professor of Instruction Emerita of Asian Languages and Cultures, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 16 years of service

Vijay Sarthy, Professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology, Feinberg School of Medicine; 29 years of service

David Scheffer, Director Emeritus of the Center for International Human Rights, Pritzker School of Law; 15 years of service

Kenneth Seeskin, Klutznick Professor of Jewish Civilization and Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 48 years of service

Kamal Seth, Professor Emeritus of Physics and Astronomy, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 59 years of service

Marshall Shapo, Frederic P. Vose Professor Emeritus of Law, Pritzker School of Law; 42 years of service

Michael Sherry, Richard W. Leopold Professor Emeritus of History, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 43 years of service

Larry Trzupek, Senior Lecturer Emeritus of Chemistry, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 15 years of service
James G. Webster, Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies, School of Communication; 34 years of service

Burton Weisbrod, Cardiss Collins Professor Emeritus of Economics, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 31 years of service

Owen Youngman, Professor Emeritus of Journalism, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications; 12 years of service

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The 2020 NEO Nominating Committee, consisting of Barbara Deal, Jeff Garrett, and David Zarefsky (chair), submitted its report at the NEO event on May 7. To fill an existing vacancy on the Executive Council, the Committee recommended, and the Council elected, Larry Henschen (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science).

The Committee then proposed the following slate:

For Vice President / President-Elect: Erv Goldberg (Molecular Biosciences)

For Secretary: Steve Fisher (Mathematics)

For Treasurer: Phyllis Lyons (Asian Languages and Cultures)

For Members of the Executive Council: Ronald Braeutigam (Economics), Barbara Deal (Pediatrics), and Jane Rankin (Communication Sciences and Disorders).

There were no nominations from the floor.

Electronic ballots were distributed to all NEO Members. To be counted, ballots must be received by noon Monday, June 1. The results will be announced at the NEO event on Tuesday, June 2. Newly elected officers and Council members will begin their terms on July 1.

Continuing members of the Council are Roger Boye, president; Michal Ginsburg, immediate past president; Rick Cohn, Faculty Senate representative; Jeff Garrett, newsletter editor; and Council members Fred Lewis, Chuck Dowding, and Larry Henschen.—David Zarefsky

ARE YOU AN ADOBE CREATIVE CLOUD POWER USER?

The Adobe Creative Cloud software suite is a powerful set of tools popular with advanced students and faculty. Northwestern University's agreement with Adobe provides for use of the full suite by eligible faculty and staff. Northwestern Information Technology (NUIT), after discussions with NEO, reached an understanding with Adobe that a limited number of emeriti
faculty can be included in the university’s operating agreement with Adobe without charge. Currently, approximately 20 emeriti/-ae take advantage of this arrangement, which we hope will continue indefinitely into the future.

NUIT has informed us that they can accommodate an additional *limited* number of emeriti/-ae in this program but has requested that individuals who have a strong and continuing need for this software rigorously self-select before applying. If you need Adobe Creative Cloud for your work and research, please contact the IT Support Center to make this request.

We are grateful to NUIT for engaging with Adobe on our behalf.—Roger Boye and Jeff Garrett

---

**The CARES Act and Charitable Giving**

*by Camille Licklider, JD, Executive Director, Northwestern Gift Planning*

On March 27, Congress passed an historic $2 trillion stimulus package to combat the economic impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the United States. The wide-reaching Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act contains several provisions that may impact your decisions about charitable giving this year, including:

- **A new “above-the-line” deduction**

  Taxpayers who do not itemize may claim up to $300 per person ($600 per couple) for gifts of cash made to qualified public charities. This will allow more taxpayers to claim charitable deductions, including those who were unable to do so following the increase in the standard deduction in 2017. This rule, which applies only to cash gifts, is permanent and will not expire at the end of 2020 unless additional legislation so requires.

- **Suspension of the adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation on charitable giving deductions for gifts to qualified charities**

  Taxpayers who elect to itemize may deduct up to 100 percent of their AGI for charitable cash contributions made in 2020 to qualified charities. This is a major increase over the 60 percent limit that was in place prior to the passage of the CARES Act. It is important to note that the 100 percent allowance applies only to cash gifts made in 2020. In addition, it does not apply to gifts made to donor-advised funds, private foundations, or split interest trusts like Charitable Remainder Trusts.

  The suspension of the AGI limitation may be especially helpful to anyone who is carrying an open pledge with a charity like Northwestern, or someone who is considering a major cash gift to a needy organization this year.
• **Waiver of required minimum distributions from certain retirement accounts**

The CARES ACT suspends required minimum distributions from IRAs and many other retirement accounts for the 2020 tax year. This is welcome news for individuals who may be looking to build up the value of their retirement accounts. At the same time, individuals can continue to make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) to charities like Northwestern University from IRAs starting at age 70½. Taking advantage of QCDs can be a tax-wise way to support charities during your lifetime with assets you may have intended to donate after death.

For more information about the CARES Act and its impact on charitable giving, we invite you to visit the following article on our website: [Tax Benefits of the CARES Act](#).

As always, we welcome the opportunity to discuss current legislation that may affect your estate and charitable gift planning. Please reach out to my team using the following e-mail address: giftplanning@northwestern.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

---

**NEO-EPL Mini-Course, Spring Quarter 2020**

**“City Novels”: Adventures in Mobility—and Virtuality**

On the afternoon of May 20, following a month’s delay as NEO and its partners at Evanston Public Library came to terms with the new virtual environment, Prof. [Michal Ginsburg](#) presented the first session of her mini-course "**City Novels: Paris, London, Chicago**" to an appreciative audience of 75. This first session had its own title: "Walking the City: Spatial and Social Mobility in Balzac's *Old Goriot* and Dickens's *Oliver Twist*."  

Beginning with *Old Goriot*, Ginsburg explained how the *physical* city stands for the *social* city. She showed how the novel’s hero, Rastignac, learns the laws that govern the new social order, ushered in by increased social mobility, by walking the city. Balzac represents social mobility as a process without end—one never really “arrives”—where the cost of success is compromise and loss of individuality. She then contrasted Balzac’s novel with Dickens’s *Oliver Twist*, written at about the same time. Dickens’s novel is not about social mobility but about regaining one’s inherited place in society. The city, rather than being the site of endless opportunities, represents temptation that Oliver must resist.

Oliver’s outings across the city show the proximity between middle class residences and slums: they serve to test Oliver’s belonging to the middle-class world.

Ginsburg’s second class, "The Metaphor of the City in Hugo’s *Les Misérables* and Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie*," took place on May 27, just after the press deadline for this issue.— [Jeff Garrett](#)
THE FUTURE OF THE NEO-EPL MINI-COURSES

NEO’s successful mini-course program—offered in collaboration with Evanston Public Library—goes full speed ahead into the 2020–21 academic year, coronavirus or not.

Sandra L. Richards, emerita professor of African American Studies, Theatre, and Performance Studies, will teach a mini-course broadly related to the role of theater in contemporary society. The class will be offered on two successive Wednesdays, December 2 and 9, from her home in Durham, North Carolina, via Zoom. Professor Richards holds a bachelor’s degree from Brown in English and French literatures and a PhD from Stanford in drama. Her course, like all mini-courses, will be open to NEO members as well as to community residents at large at no cost.

Two more mini-courses will be offered in winter and spring quarters: “Combating Climate Change with Carbon-Free Electricity” by Professor emeritus Elmer Lewis of Mechanical Engineering; and a course on the native American heritage of Evanston by Professor Patty Loew, who has been director of Northwestern’s Center for Native American and Indigenous Research since 2017 and is the 2020 winner of the Daniel Linzer Award for Faculty Excellence in Diversity and Equity.

Professors Lewis and Loew will also conduct their classes via Zoom unless there has been a significant improvement in the public health situation over the coming months. And once again we wish to express our thanks to Evanston Public Library for the excellent cooperation and support, which allows us to present this program again during the coming academic year!—Roger Boye

CENTENARIAN, REVOLUTIONARY: A TRIBUTE TO DR. JEREMIAH STAMLER

Northwestern emeritus professor Jeremiah Stamler, who turned 100 last October, was first mentioned in the New York Times in May 1952—when many NEO members were toddlers and some not even born. It was in a report on a conference in Cleveland, where this young and hitherto unknown researcher reported on a study suggesting that estrogen may be “the key to the mystery of why women under 50 [are] far less susceptible to hardening of the arteries,” and therefore

Left: Dr. Jeremiah Stamler as a young researcher. Photo courtesy of Northwestern University Media Relations

Page 9 — Return to Table of Contents  
T h e  E m e r i t i  N e w s  (Summer 2020)
heart attacks. This was an entirely revolutionary assertion 68 years ago: that heart attacks had external causes that could be studied and addressed—as if they were the result of disease. At the time, Dr. Stamler worked in the cardiovascular department at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. He later worked in public health for the City of Chicago before coming to Northwestern and becoming the founding chair of NU’s Department of Preventive Medicine in 1972. Since then, and despite the emeritus status he enjoys today, he has never truly retired. Throughout the 50s, 60s, and 70s, he and his colleagues, through determined research, revealed what factors influence heart function, above all showing that eating healthier and not smoking substantially reduced the chances of heart attack. Stamler’s work would lead to a sea change in the way the American Heart Association and the U.S. government approached cardiovascular health and outreach to the general public. Over these years, Dr. Stamler never shied away from conflict with powerful food lobbies—and of course the formidable tobacco industry. Then, in the 1990s, came his assault on salt consumption as a contributor to heart disease. The call to battle was sounded by his paper, “The INTERSALT Study: Background, Methods, Findings, and Implications,” published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition in February 1997. Public health experts across the country would later credit Dr. Stamler for contributing materially to the fact that death rates from heart disease in the United States declined by roughly 70 percent between the 1960s and 2010.

**Taking on HUAC**

This physician called the father of preventive cardiology was, however, a revolutionary across the board—not just in his medical research. In the 1950s, Stamler became engaged in a host of social causes. One such activity was the Committee to End Discrimination in Chicago Medical Institutions, an organization promoting racial integration across a deeply segregated city—at the time a no less radical cause than the suggestion that diet can lead to heart disease. By 1965, his engagement for progressive movements earned him and his colleague Yolanda Hall a subpoena from the House Un-American Activities Committee, HUAC, to appear at a hearing held in Chicago. They went, of course, but together with many of the eleven other witnesses summoned, Stamler refused to answer the questions posed by the investigating congressmen. Clay Gowran, a clearly outraged reporter for the Chicago Tribune covering the hearings and, incidentally, a Medill grad (BSJ 1935), counted a total of 243 times testimony was refused. And of the 50 to 100 demonstrators outside the hearing venue supporting Dr. Stamler and the others, chanting (according to that same Tribune reporter) their “hatred of the House body,” many were described as “bearded and unkempt.”

Jeremiah Stamler, however, would later have his day in court. In the historic case *[Stamler v. Willis]* brought as a civil action by the Center for Constitutional Rights in 1969, the constitutionality of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and the subpoenas it issued was

---

itself challenged. Although the civil suit was denied by Judge Julius Hoffman—yes, that Julius Hoffman—Dr. Stamler’s attorneys won on appeal before the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. Once federal courts refused to enforce HUAC subpoenas, it was only a matter of time before the committee itself was disbanded.

Fast forward to October 2019. During the intervening half century, Jeremiah Stamler continued at the forefront of his field—a field he largely created. His most recent NIH research grant—for research into a better understanding of how diet, environment, and DNA help determine a person’s blood pressure—won approval just four years ago. Stamler’s colleague and the current head of the Feinberg School’s Department of Preventive Medicine, Donald M. Lloyd-Jones, said during an interview last year, “I don’t know how many other people at the age of 99 have an active NIH RO1 grant, but I’ve got to believe that the number can be counted on one hand.”

After the death of his first wife, Rose, in 1998, Jeremiah Stamler chose to marry again, this time his school sweetheart Gloria. He is convinced that in addition to a diet, love plays a role in living a long and healthy life. The connection between love and health, he says, “is almost impossible to research, very difficult. But I’m convinced it’s important.” —Jeff Garrett

---

REPORTS ON NEO TOURS

NEO’s very popular “Rediscovering NU” program has been suspended in light of social distancing concerns. We look forward to resuming these tours as soon as the national public health situation has improved.

The world as it was: NEO members enjoying a tour of the new Walter Athletic Center and Ryan Fieldhouse in January 2020. Photo by Al Telser
**RECENT TALKS & EVENTS**

**DANIEL IMMERWAHR ON “HOW TO HIDE AN EMPIRE”**

On April 1st, NU Professor of History Daniel Immerwahr was NEO’s guest speaker for a successful first virtual luncheon, attended (via Zoom) by over 50 emeritae and emeriti from all over the Chicago area—and from as far away as California. Attendance was in the same range as NEO’s in-person lunches, auguring well for a locked-down future of virtual gatherings.

In his remarks, Immerwahr proposed “a slightly different way of understanding United States history,” one which treats the U.S. as it has never wished to treat itself: an empire. Unlike the British Empire or the Roman Empire before it, America’s empire, which for much of the 20th century included the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Hawai‘i, Alaska, and a host of Pacific islands and island groups, was never celebrated and indeed barely taken note of. In fact, in the American mind, real America consisted only of the contiguous 48 states—the “mainland”—and only those stars on the flag were what were celebrated on Flag Day.

What might have been just an act of cartographic discrimination took a fateful turn on the eve of World War II, when America decided—in the event of war with Japan—to write off its western Pacific possessions, chief among them the Philippines and its 16 million U.S. nationals. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, last-minute handwritten revisions to the famous “Date of Infamy” speech to Congress show that the president himself edited the Philippines out of it, reflecting the understanding of a large portion of the American population that it was not worth defending. Indeed, a survey conducted by Fortune Magazine in 1940 revealed that only 55% of Americans felt that Hawai‘i was one of the “foreign countries” the U.S. should protect in the event of war. This went too far for Roosevelt, who—to make sure the country rose to his call to arms—underscored that the Japanese attack was against the “American island of Oahu” (italics)
added). During the ensuing war, the deserted Philippines suffered enormously under Japanese invasion and occupation—but no less during the so-called “liberation,” which brought the total destruction of Manila from the air and the slaughter of Filipinos by American bombers and ground forces intent on destroying the Japanese. Many Americans fighting in the Philippines were unaware that they were fighting on American territory.

As Immerwahr made clear, there has also always been a racial component to how Americans regard their territories. Historically, Hawai‘i has seemed more “American” than the Philippines not only because it was closer to the mainland, but also because it has a significantly higher white population. It was also not just global war strategy that explained the eagerness of the United States to come to the aid of England before defending its own territories—the so-called “Germany First” policy. It reflected a closer bond mainland Americans felt toward their British cousins than for their own territories. This again shows a “differential sense of whose lives mattered more and whose mattered less.”

Recent events remind us that America’s empire is still “hidden”—and its (American) citizens still second class. Puerto Rico, home to over three million Americans, is to this day “disenfranchised and subordinated by all three branches of government.” This lower status was on painful display in the federal disaster response to Hurricanes Harvey and Maria, when aid went disproportionately to Texas and Florida. And in the current COVID-19 crisis, the national response has been no better: off-base hotels on the island of Guam have become “dumping sites” for infected Navy sailors, showing little concern for the well-being of the native population.

— Jeff Garrett

---

**TEAMWORK IN THE POD: NOSHIR CONTRACTOR SPEAKS AT NEO’S MAY LUNCH**

NEO members and their guests “gathered” once again on May 7, 2020, for our second online lunchtime lecture, this one presented by Noshir Contractor, Jane S. & William J. White Professor of Behavioral Sciences and director of the Science of Networks in Communities (SONIC) research group at Northwestern. Contractor holds appointments in three of Northwestern’s schools: McCormick, Communication, and Kellogg.

The title of the talk was “Teaming in the Time of COVID-19: What Astronauts Can Teach Us about Working Together.” Because astronauts work in teams, NASA wants to understand influences on team performance. For example, how might months spent together on a Mars mission affect how a team does its work? Contractor and collaborators at Northwestern, DePaul, and NASA have studied teams using NASA’s Human Exploration Research Analog (HERA), a simulation in which small groups are confined for several weeks, perform tasks like those of an actual space mission, and, at the same time, provide data for NASA-sponsored research.
The first study Contractor described used eight 4-person teams confined in the HERA module for 30-45 days. Teams worked on multiple tasks. For tasks where they had to actively do something, like control a robot, performance improved over time. In contrast, for tasks with the goal of producing novel and useful ideas or selecting the best from a set of options, performance tended to decline. When the task involved discussing and resolving an ethical dilemma, no consistent pattern was found.

In a second study, members of a team combined information to make decisions—such as which of three failing pods to repair, which of three approaching asteroids to target, and so forth. Relevant information was spread across team members. Some was shared by all members of a team or by a subset. In addition, individual team members had unique information that was key to making the best decision. One finding: The longer a team was together, the less likely they were to choose the best option. In addition, team members offered unique information that eliminated a poor choice more often than information supporting the best choice. Thus, negative information had more impact, a finding consistent with other research.

Our speaker then turned to a fascinating overview of the cleverly named CREWS project (CREWS = Crew Recommender for Effective Work in Space), designed to learn more about what makes a good team and to provide recommendations. He reminded us of Tom Wolfe’s book about Mercury astronauts, The Right Stuff, and noted that what was “the right stuff” for a short, solo Mercury mission is different from what is optimal for a voyage to Mars. One key difference: the importance of good social relationships, given the extensive time that will be spent with a small team.

Using data from past HERA teams, the research group developed a model linking characteristics of team members and team tasks to indicators of social relationships, including members’ assessments of whom they liked working with and who made tasks difficult to complete. Next steps involve developing guidelines for constituting teams in ways that enhance both performance and satisfaction. As Contractor emphasized, astronauts on future NASA interplanetary missions will be confined together, with no way out, for long periods of time. If a HERA team performs a task well but team members come out of it thinking, “Never again do I want to be with these people,” looking ahead to an actual mission, that is not an auspicious result!

NEO members reflected on the relevance of this research for our current time. Like astronauts, we are now in our own pods, alone or in small teams (some of which are called “families”). It was good to have this opportunity to learn together.— Joan Linsenmeier
NEO’S NEW ZOOM CULTURE: A PHOTO ESSAY
BY AL TELSER

Former NEO president Al Telser has pooled a few photos to capture how we are learning to interact in the Age of Pandemic. We may now all be accustomed to our new Zoom culture—though it is only three months old—but someday we will look back on this “new normal” as an exceptional time of our lives.

Hopefully.

THE EMERITI BOOKSHELF

This column draws attention to recent books published by Northwestern emeriti—fiction as well as non-fiction—especially titles of interest to general audiences. We also include works by non-emeriti who have spoken at recent NEO events. Unless another source is stated, these books may be purchased directly from your local independent bookstore—many of whom, largely as a result of the pandemic, now have robust and efficient e-commerce sites—or from Bookshop.org, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Indiebound, and other online sources.

Page 15 — Return to Table of Contents
Readers are encouraged to send title information to the editor to be considered for inclusion in this column. Note: You do not need to be the author to make a suggestion. Feel free to confidentially inform on friends and colleagues!


Among other goals, Breen seeks to explain the differences between the American Revolution and the later—and far more violent—revolutions in France, Russia, and China. As Princeton historian William Anthony Hay noted in a review last fall, Breen sees one major difference being a spirit of restraint characterizing the local revolutionary committees set up in the American colonies. They “became as concerned with anarchy and mob rule as with British tyranny—thus acting as a brake on the kind of violent excess into which revolutions so easily devolve.” (WSJ, September 23, 2019)


Jennifer Szalai wrote in her New York Times review of the original hardcover release of *How to Hide an Empire* (Macmillan, 2019): “To call this standout book a corrective would make it sound earnest and dutiful, when in fact it is wry, readable, and often astonishing. . . . [Immerwahr] also knows how to tell a story, highlighting the often absurd space that opened up between expansionist ambitions and ingenuous self-regard.” In addition to a separate UK edition, translations into German, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, Dutch, Chinese (both simplified and traditional) have been published or are in preparation. See also the report on Immerwahr’s talk to NEO members on April 1 in this issue of *The Emeriti News*.


This is the German edition of Robert Lerner’s much celebrated biography of the brilliant, eccentric German-American medievalist Ernst Kantorowicz (1895–1963) originally published by Princeton in 2017. It is noted here not only to draw attention once again to a fascinating life and a fascinating book by one of our colleagues, but
also because of the resounding reception it is receiving by its new German audience. Released just a few months ago, it has been the recipient of ecstatic reviews in Die Welt (“grandios”), the Frankfurter Rundschau (“essential”), the Süddeutsche Zeitung (“masterfully composed and elegantly written”), and Deutschlandfunk Kultur (“calmly exciting . . . love life included”). For Francophiles, Gallimard published a French-language edition of Ernst Kantorowicz in 2019.

A final note: NEO members had the good fortune to hear Robert give a luncheon talk about his book in December 2017.

---

**PASSINGS**

*Column Editor George Harmon*

**Harry Cohen**, 102, emeritus professor of anesthesiology, obstetrics, and gynecology at the Feinberg School of Medicine, died March 23, 2020, in Naples, FL. A native of Baltimore, he earned his medical degree at the University of Maryland, served as a captain in the U.S. Army in London, practiced in Baltimore until 1966, received OB anesthesiology training at Columbia, and then joined the faculty at the University of Miami. Later he held the same position at Northwestern University Medical School, where he also became the Director of Obstetrics and Anesthesiology. He and his wife of 70 years, Mitzie, established an annual lectureship at Northwestern and donated art—including pieces by Picasso and Renoir—to the Block Museum on the Northwestern campus. He wrote prolifically on medical topics, loved pro football, and early in life flirted with becoming a concert violinist. [Obituary](mailto:).

**Max Epstein**, 95, professor of electrical engineering and computer science and Holocaust survivor. In his youth, Max passed through the Łódź Ghetto, Auschwitz, and six other concentration camps. He passed away April 21, 2020, in Highland Park. A faculty member since 1967, he was a pioneer in applying optical principles from electrical engineering to biomedical engineering. He developed endoscopes and laser systems that enabled minimally invasive medical procedures that eventually became routine. Max served in Israel’s War of Independence, graduated from the U.S. Israel Institute of Technology, came to the U.S. in 1952, earned his PhD in 1963 from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He wrote prolifically on medical topics, loved pro football, and early in life flirted with becoming a concert violinist. [Obituary](mailto:).
Institute of Technology, held multiple patents, started several companies, and helped found the Illinois Holocaust Museum. Obituary.

**Eugene Max Lerner**, 91, professor emeritus of finance at Kellogg School of Management, died February 21, 2020. Before joining Kellogg in 1966, he served on the faculty of the graduate business schools at NYU, CCNY and UCLA. He was president of his own investment advisory firm, Disciplined Investment Advisors, for more than 20 years. He was executive chairman of the Lerner Group at HighTower, a director of wealth management at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, a governor of the Chicago Stock Exchange, senior economist to the Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives, and an economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago with Milton Friedman. Obituary.

**William P. McKeever**, 96, a medical professor and a longtime cardiology practitioner at Evanston Hospital, died May 14, 2020. He moved to the U.S. on a fellowship after obtaining his medical degree from University College Dublin, served as an Army cardiologist at Walter Reed Medical Center, was a resident at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and came to the Chicago area to do research at G.D. Searle. Bill particularly enjoyed teaching and was known for his sharp clinical skills and high standards. At Evanston Hospital he had a large cardiology practice, conducted research, served as president of the medical staff, ran the coronary care unit, was vice chairman of medicine at Evanston, and chief of medicine at Glenbrook Hospital when it opened. Joanie, his wife of 66 years, passed away in March. Obituary.

**Albert J. Miller**, 98, a cardiologist at Northwestern Memorial and professor emeritus at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine, died on April 21, 2020, after contracting COVID-19. Born in Chicago, Al commuted from Albany Park to Evanston as an NU undergraduate, graduated from our medical school in 1946, and served as an Army doctor in Alaska, where he was on a team that established the first Arctic Aeromedical Research Laboratory. He practiced at Hines VA, Children’s Memorial Hospital, and Cook County Hospital, and formed a cardiology practice that later joined Northwestern. He did research on the lymphatics of the heart, continuing to see patients until he retired at 86. Al loved photography, gardening, writing poetry, travel, and reading history and philosophy. Obituary.

---

**THE EMERITI CALENDAR**

Note: All events will be virtual over Zoom until current precautions have been lifted.

Tuesday, June 2, 1:00–2:00 p.m. Lunchtime Lecture: Speaker **Hollis Clayson**, Art History.

“**Illuminating Paris: Art and Lighting Entangled.**”

---

Page 18 — Return to Table of Contents The Emeriti News (Summer 2020)
Monday, June 22, 1:00–2:30 p.m.   Executive Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 1:00–2:00 p.m. Lunchtime Lecture: Speaker Elmer Lewis, Mechanical Engineering. “Combating Climate Change with Carbon-Free Electricity."
Monday, August 24, 1:00–2:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting
Monday, September 28, 1:00–2:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 1:00–2:00 p.m. Lunchtime Lecture via Zoom: Speaker David Zarefsky, School of Communication. “Sixty Years of Presidential Debates.”
Monday, October 26, 1:00–2:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting
Monday, November 16, 1:00–2:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 2, 7:00–8:30 p.m. NEO-EPL Mini-course Part 1: Sandra Richards, Department of African American Studies. Title TBD, relating to the role of theater in contemporary society.
Tuesday, December 8, 1:00–2:00 p.m. Lunchtime Lecture: Speaker Patty Loew, director of Northwestern’s Center for Native American and Indigenous Research. “ImagineNatives: An Indigenous History of Northwestern.”
Wednesday, December 9, 7:00–8:30 p.m. NEO-EPL Mini-course Part 2: Sandra Richards, Department of African American Studies.
Monday, December 14, 1–2:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting

**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)
- Larry Henschen (completing the term of Carol Simpson Stern, 2020-21)
- John Ward (2018–20)

Faculty Senate Representative: Rick Cohn
RESERVING SPACE AT NEO

Due to the closure of the Evanston campus, NEO’s meeting rooms at 1800 Sherman Avenue are currently unavailable for use.

Northwestern Emeriti Organization
1800 Sherman Avenue, Room 5407
Evanston, Illinois 60208
Editorial & Administrative Correspondence: emeritus-org@northwestern.edu
(847) 467-0432 (currently not staffed)
https://emeriti.northwestern.edu/

*The Emeriti News* is published four times per year (fall, winter, spring, and summer) for the emeritae/emeriti of Northwestern University and other interested parties. Our next issue (Fall) will be published in mid to late September. Press deadline: September 10, 2020.

Unless otherwise credited, most photographs are by the editor.