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President’s Message
From NEO President Erv Goldberg

We look back on an autumn full of great programs—as amply documented in this issue of our newsletter. We refuse to be stymied by the pandemic, despite the fact that by now it has us all exhausted. Your elected Executive Council continues to meet regularly to evaluate proposals and increase benefits to NEO members. For example, the Council endorsed an amendment to

Guild Lounge, December 1, 2021. For one brief shining moment . . . normalcy seemed within reach—before slipping away again. It was NEO’s first live event in 21 months. President Goldberg chaired a membership meeting where an important vote was taken and then introduced the discoverer of Lyrica, Rick Silverman, to speak on “Drug Discovery: Ingenuity or Serendipity?”
the Charter to improve representation of NEO members who reside outside the Chicago area. The measure went to the membership and was approved by a unanimous vote of those attending the December 1, 2021, meeting—making it the last time a measure of consequence will be approved without giving the entire membership, including those living far away from Chicago, the opportunity to vote on it. To enable this, we have increased our technical “savvy” so that hybrid meetings will allow off-site NEO members to participate in most, if not all, NEO programs. So, in the future, if you can’t attend in person, you will be able to be with us virtually.

At its January meeting, the Executive Council will consider a proposal to extend the terms of Secretary and Treasurer to two years each, in line with terms of EC members. The goal is to allow these officers to acquire and then capitalize on their experience rather than departing just when they fully understand their responsibilities. That amendment will come up for a vote by the NEO membership in February 2022, so watch for the ballot.

I am also very pleased to announce that after a six-month hiatus—and with thanks to the hard work of Celina Flowers in the job search—NEO once again has an administrative assistant: Gina Marie Prokopeak. Gina will be introduced to you in this issue of the newsletter—and also introduces herself with a first article!

On another positive note, as alluded to above, we have had four excellent presentations during the fall I hope everyone enjoyed. Most notably, we had an in-person luncheon attended by more than 40 NEO members and guests (see photo on page 1). We have recruited outstanding speakers for winter and spring programs which will be held as noon and evening events—very likely, due to the Omicron variant, only on Zoom. Last, but not least, NEO received national recognition—and an engraved bottle of champagne (as yet unopened)—in October at the 2021 National Meeting of AROHE (Association of Retirements Organizations in Higher Education) for its mini-course project, thanks to the team of Michal Peled Ginsburg and Jeff Garrett—and the many NEO members who have taught for this worthwhile program. Read about that in Jeff’s “From the Editor” column, immediately following.

My best wishes to you all for a happy, healthy New Year as we hope for more positive news on the pandemic front. In the meantime, everyone: stay well.
FROM THE EDITOR
By Jeff Garrett, Editor, The Emeriti News

Everyone involved was, of course, enormously pleased to hear that NEO was the winner of a 2021 HERO Innovation Award for our mini-courses project, but the taping of our acceptance speech, to be shown at the opening ceremony of the AROHE Annual Conference in October, was anything but smooth. The recording session was scheduled for September 17, when it happened that your editor (who is also the mini-course coordinator) was on a bike trip along the Mississippi River between Wisconsin and Minnesota. No problem! Michal and I had written and practiced our speeches already, so I would just stop early for the day and use my laptop (stowed in a saddle bag) and hotel Wi-Fi to participate. (Michal would be dialing in from home.) But on that day, alas, the ride did not go according to plan: just one hour before our recording appointment, I was lost in the wilderness with no hotels, no public libraries—i.e., no internet—in sight. But then, as in the Eagles’ song, I saw a motel at last, grabbed a room, cleaned myself up, and set things up for the video. Miraculously, things then went swimmingly. I just hope no one in the audience realized that I was “broadcasting” from what was probably the seediest no-name motel on the Mississippi River this side of New Orleans.

Since it has been four months since our last issue in September, there is very much to report on this time! We hope you enjoy this issue of The Emeriti News!

PROVOST’S CORNER
By Celina Flowers, Assistant Provost for Faculty

For this Winter issue of the News, I am very pleased to introduce my new colleague, Gina Prokopeak, who will be providing administrative and operational support to NEO. Gina brings a wealth of experience leading marketing and sales teams for the hospitality and hotel industries. Prior to that, she was a member of the Alumni Relations and Development team for Northwestern University’s Dental School. When I first interviewed Gina for this role,
I knew she would be a terrific match. She is incredibly detail-oriented, thorough and conscientious, efficient, and goal-driven—all qualities that have meant that she is already excelling at her job. But Gina possesses a set of rarer and more valuable qualities—she is genuinely curious about people and eager to find ways to support the mission of the Northwestern Emeriti Organization. Already, Gina has identified some new possibilities for keeping NEO members engaged with one another and the University. I look forward to working with Gina and NEO leadership in the coming months to further explore these ideas.

The last time I wrote for this column was for the Summer 2021 issue. At that time we were all nervously anticipating the many challenges we knew this academic year would bring, while being cautiously optimistic that the pandemic restrictions would ease during Fall Term. Recent weeks have reminded us that this pandemic is far from over, and we need to remain vigilant and cautious in order to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

I don’t know what the coming weeks will bring, but the heightened risks associated with the COVID-19 Omicron variant may precipitate a pause in being able to fully return to physical gatherings—such as the lunch many of you enjoyed in December. I sincerely hope this is not the case, as I am aware of how meaningful these opportunities to gather in person are to this group. Whether it is meeting for a campus talk, attending a concert or theater production, visiting an art exhibit or strolling the lakefront, these physical connections to one another can provide much-needed restoration to the soul. I remain optimistic that we will soon have more chances for these personal connections.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and happy New Year.

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**RE-MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Northwestern will be hosting the annual meeting of the Big Ten Retiree Association this summer. The dates will be **Monday through Wednesday, August 1–3**, which is a week later than announced in the last issue. The change was made to secure the availability of meeting space. Representatives from each of the Big Ten universities’ retiree organizations will be invited to attend.

The meeting will include sessions to showcase Northwestern and address topics of common interest. Topics will include retiree organization newsletters, the arts in a research university, relations between universities and their local communities, miniaturization in wireless diagnostic technologies in science and medicine, and the internationalization of higher education. A number of Northwestern administrators and faculty members, including Provost Kathleen Hagerty, will be among the presenters.
We want to acknowledge the hard work of the conference organizers, NEO past presidents Al Telser and David Zarefsky, to create a stimulating program to show off our university—and NEO, of course—to the representatives from our 13 Big Ten partners. They are being ably supported by NEO administrative assistant Gina Prokopeak and Assistant Provost for Faculty Celina A. Flowers.

Many thanks to the Office of the Provost for generously supporting Northwestern’s host role.

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**MAKING AN IMPACT—WHERE YOU LEAST EXPECT**

by Gina Prokopeak, NEO Administrative Assistant

When I joined NEO in November, my 9-year-old son asked what I would be doing. I explained that I’d be working with retired faculty at Northwestern and that as “emeriti,” these professors had reached the pinnacle of their academic careers, ultimately receiving this prestigious honor.

Despite his young age, my son has a strong interest in mathematics and physics and already has ambitious academic goals, so I knew he would be interested. I explained that he could learn more about these professors and their journeys by looking at the bio section on the NEO website.

Unfortunately, we didn’t find a bio for a mathematics or physics professor, but this exercise opened his eyes to how to build a path to attain his life goals. While the bio offers a glimpse into how a career is built and nurtured, it also includes the other activities, hobbies, interests, and people that make a person whole and well-rounded, pre- and post-retirement. I was excited to share this resource with my son.

 Granted: most 9-year-olds don’t browse the NEO site. But your fellow emeritae and emeriti as well as colleagues at NU and elsewhere just might find your story of interest. Sharing experiences helps connect us—especially during these times when in-person gatherings are challenging. Maybe you’ve taken up painting, are an avid cyclist, have a grandchild you want to brag about, or are continuing your academic endeavors. For these reasons, I hope you will write a bio to share your ongoing story. We currently have only 21 bios out of 628 Emeriti, but we hope to have at least 50 on the site in the next few months. To submit or update, **click here.**

Thank you for sharing your story—and for sending us a current snapshot. My son will be on the look-out for

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*Jack Snarr*

In the early 1960s when I was completing an electrical engineering degree at the University of Cincinnati there were a mere handful of graduate programs in the US in biomedical engineering. One was at Duke University where I completed a master's degree and another was in NU’s EE department. At NU I endeavored to apply the control system theory of mechanical systems to understanding control of physiological systems. After a year at “TEDY” (now McCormick) I transferred to Physiology in the Medical School. Upon completing the Physiology Ph.D., I was hired to teach cardiorespiratory physiology to medical and dental students, totally oblivious to a developing need in a few years of the Medical School for a new Associate Dean for Student Programs, a “mother hen” of sorts for its 700 students. Little could I have envisioned that this would become a 29-year adventure in problem solving of an entirely different nature than what I had been formally trained to address. Yet to my delight this opened opportunities to work with all other students, faculty and staff on both campuses. While

*Jack Snarr’s bio on the NEO site exemplifies the personal and informal tone we are hoping for in our bios section.*
entries from a physics or mathematics professor. In the meantime, I encourage you to connect with your emeriti colleagues by reading their bios, linked to below.

**Michael Altman**, Pulmonary, Feinberg  
**Roger Boye**, Journalism, Medill  
**Richard Cohn**, Pediatrics, Feinberg  
**Charles Dowding**, Civil & Environmental Engineering, McCormick  
**Robert Fragen**, Anesthesiology, Feinberg  
**Jeffrey Garrett**, Administration, University Library  
**Melvin V. Gerbie**, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Feinberg  
**Michal P. Ginsburg**, French & Italian, Weinberg  
**Erv Goldberg**, Molecular Biosciences, Weinberg  
**George Harmon**, Journalism, Medill  
**John (Jack) Heinz**, Law, Pritzker  
**Judith Levi**, Linguistics, Weinberg  
**Joan Linsenmeier**, Psychology, Weinberg  
**Stephen Presser**, Law, Pritzker  
**John G. Raffensperger**, Surgery, Feinberg  
**Kathleen Rundell**, Microbiology-Immunology, Feinberg  
**Jack Snarr**, Physiology, Feinberg  
**Al Telser**, Cell & Molecular Biology, Feinberg  
**John Ward**, MEDS and Opns., Kellogg  
**Ellen Wright**, Writing Program, Weinberg  
**David Zarefsky**, Communication Studies, SoC

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**NEO, aka: The “Fellowships Annex”**  
by **Elizabeth Lewis Paroe**, Director, Office of Fellowships

When *The Emeriti News* first asked me about the relationship between the Office of Fellowships and NU’s over 600 emeritae and emeriti, I answered that I consider NEO to be the “Fellowships Annex.” Indeed, in 2015 my colleague **Steve Hill** and I presented to the Northwestern Best Practices Forum about the virtues of including emeriti faculty in our committees and mock interview panels. Emeritae and emeriti reading this may or may not realize just how many of you are either past or present friends of Fellowships, so let me call out some of you by name:

- The founding director of the Office of Fellowships (**Sara Vaux**),
- Fulbright committee (**Frank Safford, Maud Hickey, Robert Lerner, Bernie Dobroski**, and more),
- Goldwater committee (**Stephen Carr**),
- Former British Scholarship committee chairs (**Dan Garrison** and **Roger Boye**),
- British committee (**Helen Schwartzman, Marcia Gealy, Richard Roth, Mark Sheldon, Mary Poole**, and more),
- Luce committee (**Phyllis Lyons**),
- Truman committee (**Jeff Rice**)
- Fellowships night keynote speaker (**Holly Clayson**),
Advisory Board member (Jane Rankin), not to mention Ron Braeutigam, whose role as Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education meant annual performances at our winners party—not to mention the monthly visitations from Sara (later: me) with hat in hand.

So many more were the stalwart sources of student referrals to our office and exemplars of best practices as mentors, letter writers, and mock interviewers.

At this point in our conversation, the editor of The Emeriti News made the mistake of asking just how NEO members can support the Office of Fellowships most effectively. Here are three suggestions:

1. Train your junior colleagues in the art of mentorship, including letter-writing.

2. Please answer our pleas for participation when they come. We expend terrific effort matching individual students with the ideal mentors for particular skills and situations and will make every effort to accommodate your schedules.

3. Finally, a simple appeal: Northwestern has lagged behind peer institutions for decades in the creation of internal funding to set up parallel post-baccalaureate opportunities to those funded by Fulbright, Luce, and the British Scholarships. The Roger Boye Oxbridge Bursary is currently a small award of $1K for a student about to embark upon a graduate degree at Oxford or Cambridge. We’d love to have this fund grow into a more substantial scholarship or to have NEO construct and fund their own award!”

“—Beth Pardoe

For more information on the work of the Office of Fellowships, visit our website!
Our third year of mini-courses, offered in collaboration with Evanston Public Library, was inaugurated on November 2, 2021, with Prof. emer. Wesley Skogan’s single-session mini-course, Police Reform: Progress and Pitfalls. It was obvious from the outset to all participants—among them both active duty and retired Evanston policemen and -women, including the former Chief of Evanston Police (now: interim chief) Richard Eddington—that Skogan was very well versed not only in the macro-issues of police reform, e.g. racial profiling, consent decrees, “pretextual” traffic stops, etc., but also with the daily lives of beat cops, the importance of sergeants and other frontline supervisors for implementing and enforcing proper procedures, and lieutenants and others up the ranks for holding the police and the whole chain of command accountable for their actions. In the lively discussion following the lecture segment, Skogan was asked to provide positive examples of police reform. And he obliged, citing reform models in big cities like Los Angeles and medium-sized ones like Lowell, MA. Oh, there had been homework, too, namely reading selected articles from the Washington Post series on “Policing in America.”

If you missed this class, a complete recording is available on the Evanston Public Library’s YouTube channel. For a copy of the four-page chat log with many fascinating questions, annotated with Prof. Skogan’s answers and commentary, just drop a note to Gina Prokopeak in the NEO office.

Next up: Our NEO colleague Prof. emer. Hollis Clayson teaches the mini-course Perspectives on French Impressionism (Tuesday, January 18 & 25, 2022), 7:00–8:30 pm. Originally scheduled as a hybrid event, the latest Covid wave has forced us to move everything to Zoom. As of this date, we have over 250 registrations—including numerous NEO members.

This class will focus on French Impressionism, a style of painting and printmaking, a social formation, and an ideology of modernity, that arose in Paris in the 1870s. Prof. Clayson will consider divergent perspectives on its meaning and its volatile critical fortune. Course Description & Registration Page.

Finally for this academic year, in Spring Quarter: Prof. emer. Jerry Goldman (Department of Political Science) will present on SCOTUS: Law and Politics. (April 26 & May 3, 2022). This mini-course will acquaint participants with the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). Prof. Goldman’s synopsis:
“The Court is both central and ill-fitted to our democracy. Once you grasp this central contradiction of the Court’s role—that it is both a legal and a political institution—you will be in a good position to evaluate its work. This Janus-faced impression is baked into the institution and has been reinforced throughout its existence.” — Jeff Garrett

BACK TO CAMPUS: AN INTERIM REPORT
BY JOAN LINSENMEIER

If you walked through Northwestern’s campus in Fall 2020, you likely found it a strange experience. Sidewalks were nearly empty and people you saw were all masked. Buildings were closed, classrooms mostly abandoned. There was no March through the Arch for first-year students; they and sophomores were told not to come to campus. Some juniors and seniors stayed away, too.

Fall 2021 was different. With Covid-19 vaccines and testing readily available and strict university policies in place, students were back, buildings open, and classes meeting not on Zoom, but in person (with masks). There were two Marches through the Arch: one for first-year students and one for sophomores who missed out on the tradition last year.

Administrative planning for Fall 2021—developing rules and procedures, thinking through what-ifs and exceptions—was challenging. I spoke with faculty members in Weinberg, McCormick, and Communication to get their perspectives on Fall 2021 teaching. Below is a sampling of responses, edited for brevity.¹

What’s it like to be teaching in person again?

“It’s really nice to have people in the room! Teaching is so much more rewarding. And, remote is three times more work.”

“Except for the masks, it seems pretty normal.”

“Handing out exams is much easier than getting everything set up online—and there’s less concern about academic integrity issues.”

“It’s great to be able to have little chats with students before and after class again, to hear what they’re thinking and get to know them better.”

¹ Evolving Covid-19 patterns meant a return to online teaching in January 2022. We’ll see what the rest of the year brings!
Do the students seem different?

“They’re very, very happy to be back on campus—and going to class in person. Last year, even students living on campus went to class online.”

“Students seem more focused than last year. They ask more and better questions. I think fewer are multi-tasking than when we were on Zoom.”

“I’ve seen more problems with motivation, depression, and falling behind. This isn’t a lot of students, but it’s more than usual.”

“They’re so excited to be here and feel like they have to make up for lost time. They want to do everything—and this has led to some oversaturation and exhaustion.”

“Some students are having trouble adjusting to a return to pre-Covid academic standards, with less flexibility and stricter grading.”

“First-year students seem especially excited and motivated—but also a bit behind in some academic skills, for example writing. Chemistry faculty have seen deficits too. Our sophomores also have to do some learning about how to be Northwestern students—while in harder classes than first-years.”

“Some juniors and seniors need to relearn how to take notes and to prepare for exams where they can’t use external resources. Some colleagues might retain open-book tests, though, rather than constraining the use of outside resources.”

Has anything about this year’s teaching been weird or surprising?

“We were all concerned about what to do if lots of students were sick or in Covid quarantine, but except for a brief flu outbreak, class attendance has been comparable to past years.”

“I thought having everyone masked would be weird but got used to it quickly. I do get thirsty because I can’t easily sip water during lectures!”

Any Covid-era changes you might keep?

“I asked my students about this. Overwhelmingly, they want faculty to keep recording lectures and posting them online. They like being able to rewatch parts they didn’t fully get the first time—and to watch a full lecture if they missed class due to illness or other issues.”

[From a performing arts instructor, reflecting on why, somewhat surprisingly, his classes last year were the best he ever taught:] “NU students are highly ambitious, bright students, often trying to do too many things and to outdo each other. Last year my students (and this might not apply to everyone) were not doing so many other things. They seemed less exhausted. I’m now even more aware of the
importance of encouraging students to slow down, to learn how to make their bodies work more efficiently. To quote the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, ‘Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.’"

[From an academic adviser] “I see greater faculty interest in student well-being. More faculty are keeping an eye out for how students are doing overall. They’re more attuned to students who aren’t doing well, whether academically or in other ways.”

“Zoom has worked quite well for one-on-one advising. You can share documents, put notes in the chat, and ‘read’ faces. It’s been great for meeting with students studying abroad in different time zones—much better than phone calls. It’s good for students who aren’t feeling well, too, and we’re all more attuned to wanting sick students to stay home.”

“Video chats with colleagues last year were a good way to stay connected, and we hope to continue.”

I—the interviewer—agree with this last point, and interviews for this article were held on Zoom. Thanks to all the faculty members who shared their views.

**RECENT TALKS & EVENTS I**

**“LARGE TEAMS DEVELOP, SMALL TEAMS DISRUPT” – UNDERSTANDING RESEARCHER BEHAVIOR AND RESEARCH SUCCESS WITH DASHUN WANG**

On Wednesday, September 22, NEO hosted Prof. Dashun Wang, founding director of Kellogg’s Center for the Science of Science and Innovation, discussing “Initial Progress in the Science of Science.” He introduced his NEO audience to three aspects of his recent research, all of which focus on understanding the impact of researcher behavior and networks on successful outcomes. The first had to do with best-work trajectories of researchers—a topic surely of interest to search committees and university administrators, predicting the productivity of new hires. Historically, Prof. Wang’s comprehensive empirical studies suggest that the best work with the greatest impact is achieved between the ages of 30 and 40, when researchers have accumulated enough experience to make original contributions to their field and still have high energy and high enthusiasm. “Winning streaks” marked by high-impact work regularly last four or five years, and there tends to be only a single winning streak in a career. Wang charted the same trends among artists and film directors. All of these creative arcs are characterized by an exploration phase, success, and then an exploitation phase. Artists? Well, said Prof. Wang, “Van Gogh was also a data point in my data set”: he did his best work after 1888, when he moved from Paris to the south of France.

A second area of research Wang reported on in his talk had to do with the relative merits of small teams vs. large ones in making an impact in their disciplines. Wang presented evidence that large teams are becoming more and more the norm as individuals (and small teams) can no longer master the ever-expanding knowledge base needed to move the discipline ahead, a trend that funding sources
encourage by preferring proposals from large teams to those from smaller ones. Large teams, however, tend unsurprisingly to be conservative and “developmental,” whereas small teams are more likely to pursue “untested opportunities” and be “disruptive.” This finding has been arrived at empirically by applying something known as the “disruption index”: Disruptive work has the property of supplanting previous research in papers by others, while “developmental” work is cited most often together with previous work—this can be and has been measured by Prof. Wang’s team. The example most cited in Wang’s talk was the LIGO Scientific Collaboration\(^2\), which has over 1400 individual members and 127 institutions from 19 countries. It has accomplished extraordinary developmental work based on the work of “the ultimate small group,” namely one person—in this case: Albert Einstein, aka the ultimate disruptor in physics and our understanding of the universe.

Finally, and perhaps most interestingly for some of us, was Wang’s analysis of failure—especially the consequences of early failure on long-term career outcomes. Here, too, Wang brought in another area of competitive endeavor—sports—and discussed how “near misses,” e.g. the 4\(^{th}\)-placing performer in Olympic competition, actually tends to have greater career success than the 3\(^{rd}\)-place (bronze medal) winner. Although there is no blanket rule here, “narrowly losing motivates you to try hard, to become a better version of yourself.”

Although it was perhaps a little late for most members of Prof. Wang’s audience to apply his insights to advancing their own careers, it may give us all some retrospective wisdom we can use to understand the career trajectories of ourselves and of others.—Jeff Garrett

\(^2\) LIGO stands for Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory. “The LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LSC) is a group of scientists focused on the direct detection of gravitational waves, using them to explore the fundamental physics of gravity, and developing the emerging field of gravitational wave science as a tool of astronomical discovery.”—For more on LIGO visit https://www.ligo.org/about.php.
In science we talk about advances in research being significant if they move the field forward. In the lecture we heard, the field of infants and children’s diagnostic medicine was catapulted far into the future. John A. Rogers, the Louis Simpson and Kimberly Querrey Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Chemical Engineering enthralled a NEO audience with his discussion of “Soft Electronics for the Human Body,” specifically for maternal, fetal, neonatal, and pediatric applications. The audience was introduced to his area of nanotechnology by a description of a single major process developed at the Querrey Simpson Institute for Bioelectronics, which he heads, namely the creation and refinement of highly sophisticated patches that—like super-smart, flexible band aids—conform to the movements of the skin surface, all the while monitoring bodily processes and transmitting data to a remote receiver.

This is the remarkable feature of these nanomaterials: that they can be designed as wireless devices for non-invasive clinical grade monitoring of vital signs and clinical diagnoses in neonates and young children. Other examples described by Prof. Rogers—this time for adults—included designs for patches that collect sweat, e.g. during work or exercise. These devices contain reagents in surface wells that react by changing color as ion and metabolite levels change, as indicators of the need for hydration and/or a rest period. In fact, a commercial version of this device is being marketed for just such measurements by the company that distributes Gatorade. Other highlights from the Rogers lab include bioabsorbable electronic medicines for accelerated nerve healing, closed-loop bio-optoelectronic systems for peripheral neuromodulation, skin-interfaced platforms for non-invasive monitoring of flow through cerebrospinal shunts, wireless biosensors for Alzheimer’s diagnostics, and cystic fibrosis screening.
The patches for neonatal applications have enjoyed the support of major foundations, for example the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, for scaled deployments in India, Pakistan, Zambia, Kenya, and Ghana.

The talk was a great example of the path from basic science to medical translation—since even the greatest discoveries in science never leave the textbook unless they can be applied to real-world and real-life processes.—Erv Goldberg

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**RECENT TALKS & EVENTS III**

**DON HAIDER ON THE COMING MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

On November 16, 2021, Donald Haider, emeritus professor of strategy at Kellogg, spoke to an audience of NEO members about the coming midterm elections this November—the midpoint of President Biden’s four-year term in office. He underscored that this may be the most important midterm election of our lifetimes because of the parity and polarization between our two national parties and their voters. Election stakes have also rarely been higher: the ambitious Biden/Democratic Party agenda hangs in the balance; the battle for control of the Republican Party continues to rage; state redistricting and reapportionment of electoral seats resulting from the 2020 census come into play for the first time, a reshuffling that will shape federal and state political power for the rest of this decade.

Haider began by questioning whether the party in power will likely lose in 2022, which has been the midterm pattern for 37 of the past 40 elections. He proceeded to analyze the four determinants of midterm outcomes: voter turnout; census-generated redistricting (often gerrymandering) of representative maps; issues motivating voters for/against candidates and party, and finally the candidates themselves and the role of political parties.

Haider concluded his remarks by pointing to several factors that deserve watching between now and the 2022 election, among them the President’s approval rating, economic indicators, and the former president’s role in shaping primaries and elections. He also commented on several possible governance scenarios that could emerge following the 2022 election.

Prof. emer. Haider, who taught at Northwestern from 1973 until retiring in 2017, has a distinguished past which deserves mention. He was a Republican candidate for Chicago mayor in 1987, famously riding a two-and-a-half-ton elephant down State Street to draw attention to his campaign. He has collaborated on several books with famed marketing guru Philip Kotler, also a Northwestern emeritus. And in 2018, he...
was **inducted into the United States Rugby Hall of Fame**—he had played rugby at Stanford as an undergraduate, coached teams in Chicago, and continued to be a player himself well into his 70s.—*Don Haider and Jeff Garrett*

### RECENT TALKS & EVENTS IV

**“DRUG DISCOVERY: INGENUITY OR SERENDIPITY?” — THE ANSWER IS: “YES!”**

On December 1, 2021, NEO had its first live in-person event in 21 months. About 40 people gathered for lunch, a business meeting, and a talk in the Guild Lounge of Scott Hall.

Our speaker was Professor **Richard Silverman** of the Department of Chemistry. Professor Silverman has appointments in several additional departments and centers. The title of his talk was “Drug Discovery: Ingenuity or Serendipity?”

He began by discussing how drugs are an ancient part of human culture, referring to a Chinese text dating back 5000 years. It describes using a plant whose active ingredient we know now is **ephedrine**, today used (among other purposes) as a decongestant and bronchodilator. Throughout history, drugs have been derived from plants and other organic sources. In fact, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has a **Natural Products** section which tests hundreds of substances every year for potential pharmacological applications.

As organic chemistry has developed over the past 150 years or so, chemists have been synthesizing compounds in the laboratory that have pharmacological activities. Biochemistry, the study of the chemistry of living cells, has provided a more rational basis for organic chemists to design chemicals that interact with living systems and thereby modify them.

Whether derived from natural sources or in a chemistry laboratory, only about one of 100,000 molecules tested achieves success on the market. The process is time-consuming, expensive, and subject to extensive government regulations. Drugs go through three phases of testing (or trials) before they are put on the market. A fourth test of the success of a new drug is whether it performs as expected—and maybe a fifth: whether it makes money for the company that develops and markets it.

A major factor that drives the process of drug discovery is the prevalence of a disease in the general population. Heart disease and cancer are the two diseases that cause the most deaths in the developed world, hence many new drugs intended to treat these diseases appear on the market every year. A drug that is very successful on the market—"very successful” meaning one that generates over a billion
Viagra was one of the “blockbuster” drugs that Prof. Silverman discussed—making effective use of illustrative graphics to describe the treated condition and its cure. Image courtesy of Richard Silverman.

There are many conditions that large numbers of people live with for which effective drugs are not available. A few examples of these are chronic pain, psychogenic illnesses, and all neurodegenerative diseases. There are also diseases that affect a relatively small number of individuals; these are called “orphan diseases.” The cost and effort in developing drugs for diseases in these categories are high. Yet scientists are motivated to take on these challenges because of the potential benefit the drug could have.

For many university researchers, and for small as well as large pharmaceutical companies, these situations drive a great deal of research. Professor Silverman reviewed several drugs and explained how they were found or synthesized. For each of these examples he posed the question in the title of his talk: is the success of this drug the result of ingenuity or serendipity? At this point in his talk, it was clear that both explanations are guiding principles in drug discovery.—Al Telser

EMERITUS PORTRAIT

COMPUTERS MAY BE DUMB, BUT THEY ARE VERY FAST
A CONVERSATION WITH MARTIN MUELLER

Martin Mueller, with joint appointments in the departments of English and Classics, hasn’t slowed down much since becoming an emeritus in 2012. The author of books on the Iliad and the Nachleben (legacy) of Greek tragedy since 1550, for the last three decades he has devoted himself to realizing the promise of digital tools to enrich our knowledge and understanding of ancient Greek and early English literature. In the mid-1990s, he lobbied successfully for Northwestern’s first acquisitions of very large searchable corpora of Greek, Latin, and early modern English texts—and then set to work developing the tools to use with them. His Chicago Homer, created with then-colleague Ahuvia Kahane, now at Trinity College Dublin, uses “some quite primitive but effective technologies to make Homeric repetitions visible to the eye” (Mueller). Despite its hoary age, Chicago Homer has run without interruption on a Northwestern server for over 20 years and continues to be used by students and scholars all over the world. Mueller
also created a widely adopted tool for searching pre-1700 English texts using modern orthography. Just one example (see illustration below): searching for keyword “devil” retrieves over 40 ancient spelling variants, e.g. “deevil,” “deuel,” “deuil,” “deuyl.” This simple but powerful tool is now used over 1000 times a day by students around the world consulting ProQuest’s database Early English Books Online.

Jeff Garrett spoke with Martin Mueller for The Emeriti News.

The Emeriti News: Can you say a few not-too-technical words about your current project, EarlyPrint, and maybe more generally about the potential of digital methodologies for text analysis?

Martin Mueller: In a nutshell, humans “make sense” of spoken or written language by tacitly assigning each “word” to a “lemma” (the dictionary entry form of that word) in some grammatical state. Unlike human beings, computers have no tacit knowledge. If you want them to make sense you need to introduce some rudiments of readerly knowledge in a tediously explicit form. This is called “linguistic annotation.” The pay-off is large: computers may be “dumb”, but they are fast. With the right markup, they can very quickly retrieve answers to fairly complex queries from the almost two-billion-word corpus of printed English from the 1470s to 1800.

TEN: You’ve always enjoyed great support from academic computing at Northwestern. Would you care to single out any individuals who made your work possible? Have they continued to support you post-retirement, or have you had to recreate your research team outside Northwestern?

MM: Just about everything I have done since the mid-nineties has depended on collaboration with Phil Burns, John Norstad, and Bill Parod, members of what used to be known as “Academic Technologies.” Add Craig Berry, who as an undergraduate majored in English and Physics, got his PhD from NU with a dissertation on Spenser’s use of Chaucer, and has made his living in

the IT world while continuing scholarly work on Spenser. Berry and Parod built the Chicago Homer, Burns and Norstad built Wordhoard, Burns and Berry have built EarlyPrint.

**TEN:** You have also given dozens (hundreds?) of Northwestern students grant-funded employment during your 40 or so years at Northwestern. What did you have them do? Was this meaningful work for them? Did it advance their careers in any tangible way?

**MM:** Well, here is what I heard back from one of them, Nicole Sheriko, who worked with me on these projects, graduated from NU in 2014, got a PhD from Rutgers, in the meantime publishing half a dozen articles on Renaissance drama in major journals, and is now A H Lloyd Junior Research Fellow at Christ’s College in Cambridge:

*The typical college course can only focus on a handful of canonical texts, but working across such an enormous digital corpus reoriented my sense of how wide and eclectic early modern drama is. It gave me a chance to work back and forth between close and distant reading, something I still do as I reconstruct the corpus of more marginal forms of performance from references scattered across many plays. A lot of those plays are mediocre at best, and I often remember a remark you made to us about how mediocre plays are so valuable for illustrating what the majority of media looked like and casting into relief what exactly makes good plays good. The project was such a useful primer in the scope and aesthetics of early modern drama . . . So, in big ways and small, the work I did at NU has stayed with me.*

**TEN:** What accomplishment gives you the greatest sense of pride from your nearly half century at NU?

**MM:** The most useful thing I’ve done is probably the Chicago Homer.

**TEN:** Has retirement given you more time to pursue hobbies and interests outside the field of humanities computing?

**MM:** Although my wife would probably call me a monomaniac, we enjoy listening to music from Monteverdi to Bartok and hiking in the mountains around where we have a house.

**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 older works by emerite/-i featured in this newsletter, as well as interesting works by non-emeriti who have spoken at recent NEO events. Unless another source is stated, these books may be purchased directly from local independent bookstores—many of which, largely as a result of the pandemic, now have robust and efficient
e-commerce sites—or from Bookshop.org, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Indiebound, as well as other online sources.

Readers are encouraged to send title information to the editor to be considered for inclusion in this column. Please note that you do not need to be the author to suggest a title for mention! Feel free to confidentially inform on your friends and colleagues!


[From the author:] “Magic in the Middle Ages first came out in 1989, which means it’s over thirty years old. It has always sold pretty well, and it has been translated into several foreign languages, but over the years it got a bit dated. There has been a tremendous amount of work on the history of magic since 1989, some of it inspired in part by the first edition of my book. Our understanding of the field has changed. We know a lot more now about the role of angel magic—a notion that challenges the traditional bifurcation of “demonic magic” and “natural magic.” There has been new thinking about the role of imagination in magic, the magical efficacy of words, and various forms of deception and illusion. People have been working on the archaeology of magic. So my book really needed to be updated—and that’s what I did, at the urging of Liz Friend-Smith, the editor from Cambridge University Press. It was a lot more work than I had anticipated. All the images had to be obtained from scratch in digital form, and getting images during the pandemic was surreal. Three cheers for the Bibliothèque nationale de France; they were great. Not so many cheers for some other libraries.”


Rethinking the great literary prophets whose ministry ran from the eighth to the sixth centuries BCE—Amos, Hosea, First Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Second Isaiah, and Job—Seeskin examines their often-shocking teachings in light of their times, their influence upon later Western and Jewish thinkers, and their enduring lessons for us. “I wrote this book because I thought the Hebrew prophets are an important but often neglected group of thinkers. In houses of worship,
we read them in snippets on ceremonial occasions. But the truth is that they raise profound questions about moral reasoning, innocent suffering, the power of forgiveness, and the divine persona.”


This classic textbook helps students of any engineering discipline understand key probability concepts, random variables and their use in reliability, Weibull analysis, system safety analysis, reliability and environmental stress testing, redundancy, failure interactions, and more. Elmer Lewis says of this new edition: “When I wrote the 2nd edition of my reliability engineering textbook 25 years ago, I thought it would have died of old age by now. But a couple of years ago, two friends who were still teaching from it said an updated 3rd edition was needed, and if I was agreeable, they would do much of the work. As it then happened, they did more than 90% of the work, it turned out well, and Wiley is about to release it.”

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**PASSINGS**

Column Editor George Harmon

*Note: We list Passings each quarter as we learn of the news. Please keep us informed of such events, readers, and don’t be shy about adding your own observations about our beloved emeriti.*

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**Bala V. Balachandran**, 84, Kellogg distinguished professor of accounting and information management and founder of the Great Lakes Institute of Management, India, died September 27, 2021, at home in Northbrook of congestive heart failure. He attended college in his native India, served briefly in that army and then earned a PhD at Carnegie Mellon in 1973, the same year he joined Kellogg. Known as Uncle Bala to his students, he helped created graduate programs in India and won the nation’s fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri, in 2001, for his contributions to education. An eminent scholar, overflowing with warmth and joie de vivre, he could act, sing, and mimic in the classroom. Surviving are his wife of 57 years; son Vasantha; son Sid, a professor at UIC; son Diwakar; and four grandchildren. [Obituary](#)
Ivan Ciric, 87, professor of neurosurgery at Feinberg, passed away November 12, 2021. Born in Austria, he studied at the University of Belgrade before earning his medical degree from the University of Cologne in 1964. At NU he introduced microsurgical techniques for neurosurgical disorders, with special interest in microsurgery of pituitary tumors, acoustic neuromas, meningiomas, cerebral gliomas, and spinal disorders. Clinical research included the role of surgery in the treatment of malignant cerebral gliomas, with emphasis on outcomes of gross total removal of these tumors and studies of lateral recess stenosis as a component of spinal stenosis. In retirement, he became an avid poet and writer of essays on history and the intersection of spirituality and medicine, including a 2016 memoir, *Listen to the Patient: Of Life and Neurosurgery*. He also was a runner and hiker who traversed the Rockies and the Alps. Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Anne; children Sandy, Kathy, and Steven; and two grandsons. [Obituary](#).

Stephen Davis, 82, Walter P. Murphy Professor Emeritus of Engineering Sciences and a pioneer in fluid dynamics whose research made significant contributions to theoretical fluid mechanics, passed away November 12, 2021. His research interests included theoretical fluid mechanics, hydrodynamic stability and interfacial phenomena, materials science, thin films and crystal growth, and asymptotic and variational methods, with four books and more than 200 other publications. Steve joined McCormick in 1979 after working at Johns Hopkins, Imperial College London, and RAND after receiving his bachelor’s, master’s, and PhD degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In 1994 he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering for contributions to the mathematics of hydrodynamic stability theory and interfacial phenomena. Election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences came in 1995, followed by the National Academy of Sciences in 2004. A daylong symposium in his honor is now an annual event at McCormick. [Obituary](#).

Kathleen Galvin, 78, a dedicated and distinguished teacher, scholar of family communication, and professor of communication studies, passed away peacefully at home in Evanston on September 12, 2021. A Fordham graduate, she joined our faculty in 1968 after completing her doctorate. She remained at NU until her retirement in 2019. She was chair of Speech Education from the mid-1970s until 1988 and associate dean of the School of Communication from 1988 until 2001. Kathy authored or coauthored textbooks for high school and college, including *Person to Person: An Introduction to Speech Communication* (1st ed., 1973) which went through multiple editions. With co-authors, she wrote *Family Communication: Cohesion and Change* (10th ed., 2018), with an 11th edition now in preparation. “Life is complicated,” Kathy often said in viewing her role as helping unravel complexities to find an easier path forward. Survivors include her husband of nearly 50 years, three children, and four grandchildren. [Obituary](#).
Norman Ginsberg, 75, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Feinberg and a pioneer in developing and applying ultrasonography and prenatal diagnosis of obstetrical patients, passed away July 30, 2021. He was among the first clinicians in the U.S. to perform chorionic villus sampling. He graduated from Chicago Medical School and did his internship and residency at Michael Reese. Loved by his patients for his sense of humor, kindness, and self-effacing demeanor, Norman helped thousands of women, many of them high-risk, as a member of the Association for Women’s Health Care. His leadership in prenatal diagnostics earned him accolades; he was vice president of the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and chair of the Fetoscopy Working Group. His list of publications was lengthy. Survivors include his wife, Denise, and daughters Alexis Ellicott, Melinda Ginsberg, and Sara Ginsberg. Obituary.

Lewis Landsberg, 82, former dean of Feinberg and chair of its Department of Medicine, died September 23, 2021. The author of over 230 publications, he had an international reputation in the fields of the sympathetic nervous system, the regulation of metabolism, hypertension, and obesity. He also wrote two books: On Rounds: 1000 Internal Medicine Pearls (2015) and Catecholamines: Physiology, Pharmacology for Students and Clinicians (2017), summarizing his clinical experience and some of his fundamental research. He graduated from Williams College and from Yale’s school of medicine. After a research fellowship at the NIH with Nobel laureate Julius Axelrod and two years on the Yale faculty, he joined Harvard Medical School, and in 1990 moved to Chicago to become vice president for medical affairs at Northwestern. He officially retired in 2020. A deanship, a society, and a research day are named in his honor. Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Jill; daughter Alison; son Judd; and five grandchildren. Obituary.

Eileen Patricia McGowan, 92, an active member of NEO and the widow of the late John P. McGowan, one of our most distinguished University Librarians, passed away peacefully Nov. 20, 2021, in her Northfield home. She was born in New York City to parents who had emigrated from Ireland. Eileen and her family were actively engaged in the life of the library during John’s tenure and ever since. In 2011, she and her five children were honored with the Deering Family Award. Four of the children attended NU and one of them, Dee McKechnie, served on the library’s board of governors. Six of her grandchildren also went to NU. Survivors include children Carol Place, Joanne, John, Deirdre McKechnie, and Malcolm; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Obituary.
Thomas Soper, 86, a retired surgeon, passed away December 17, 2021, at The Mather in Evanston. A life-long Evanstonian, he graduated from ETHS, Princeton, and Feinberg. After surgical residency, he joined the faculty and the staff of Evanston Hospital, where he taught and practiced general surgery until his retirement in 1995. Tom, blessed with a contagious smile and a zest for life, loved boyhood summers at his grandfather’s ranch in Montana, where he tended sheep, rode, fished, and hiked. He married his high school sweetheart, Julie. She died in 2000, and a few years later he married Joan Todd. They shared dance cruises, camping in the Caribbean and New Zealand, and hiking in Montana. Tom also loved raising Monarch butterflies, releasing as many as 80 each summer, even as his health and memory began to decline. Survivors include Joan, daughter Carolyn Stearns, son Stephen, and three grandchildren. Obituary.

THE EMERITI CALENDAR

Please visit the NEO website’s Program of Events for updates between newsletters and your email for invitations to upcoming events. If you need assistance, please contact the NEO office at emeritus-org@northwestern.edu, (847) 467-0432.

Tuesdays, January 18 & 25, 2022, 7p.m.–8:30 p.m. Winter Qtr EPL-NEO Mini-Course. Instructor: Prof. emer. S. Hollis Clayson (Art History). “Perspectives on French Impressionism.” Offered by NEO in collaboration with Evanston Public Library. Zoom only. Register Here.

Monday, January 24, 2022, 1 p.m.–2 p.m. Executive Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 5 p.m. Dinner. Speaker: Barbara Newman, John Evans Professor of Latin; Prof. of English, Classics, and History, presents "The Permeable Self: Five Medieval Relationships." Guild Lounge of Scott Hall, Evanston Campus.³

Monday, February 28, 2022, 1 p.m.–2 p.m. Executive Council Meeting

Monday, March 28, 2022, 1 p.m.–2 p.m. Executive Council Meeting

³ Important Notice: Depending on University guidance and assessment of COVID-19 risks, this event may be cancelled or postponed. Any changes will be communicated in advance to all registered attendees.
Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 11:30 a.m. Luncheon. Speaker: **Nyree Zerega**, Director of the Program in Plant Biology and Conservation. Guild Lounge, Evanston Campus

Monday, April 25, 1 p.m.-2 p.m. Executive Council Meeting

Tuesdays, April 26 & May 3, 2022, 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Spring Qtr. EPL-NEO Mini-course. Instructor: Prof. emer. **Jerry Goldman**, Department of Political Science, on SCOTUS: Law and Politics. **Offered by NEO in collaboration with Evanston Public Library. Course description & Registration.** Hybrid: In person (EPL) & online.

Monday, May 23, 2022, 1 p.m.–2 p.m. Executive Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 5 p.m. Dinner. Speaker: **Robert Gundlach**, Prof. Dept of Linguistics; Faculty Associate, the Cook Family Writing Program. Guild Lounge, Evanston Campus

August 1–3, 2022 Big Ten Retirees Association Conference, hosted by NEO, Evanston Campus.

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**NEO Officers and Executive Council Members, 2021–22**

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<td>Celina Flowers (Assistant Provost for Faculty, ex-officio, continuing)</td>
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<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Gina Prokopeak (Provost’s Office, continuing)</td>
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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.

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Our next issue (Spring 2022) will be published in mid March, 2022.
Press deadline: Thursday, March 10, 2022.