The Emeriti News
A Quarterly Newsletter for Northwestern University Emerita & Emeritus Faculty
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CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

President’s Message
Provost’s Corner
Welcome New Emeritae and Emeriti!
New Event Policies
How To Protect Your Digital Legacy
Re-Discovering Northwestern: The Shirley Ryan

Memory Series 5: The End of Monastery Libraries
NEO Remembers the Unabomber
Emeritus Portrait: Steve Carr
Emeriti Bookshelf
In Memoriam
The Emeriti Calendar

NEO Officers & Council Members

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EDITOR
From Jeff Garrett

This is a sad, double farewell. On the one hand, I am surrendering the gavel of NEO’s presidency after a busy year—which I enjoyed co-planning and co-executing with many of you. But I am now also giving up the editorship of this newsletter after almost five years. Regarding the former, I am happy to return to civilian life, especially in the knowledge that successor Steve Carr has gotten to know NEO very well this past year as NEO’s VP and has some great plans. Steve brings profound experience both as a teacher and an administrator to the office. Then, regarding the latter, the editorship, I may be relieved to win back that part of my life which I’ve devoted to making it what I hope is a readable and informative publication. But I will actually miss this work, for it has brought me into close contact with individuals and groups at Northwestern I had little knowledge of pre-retirement. In the course of producing 18 newsletter issues, I have gained ever greater respect for the disciplinary diversity of this university, as represented by its emeriti, as well as for the depth of intellect and accomplishment they represent. The experience of interviewing—to give several examples—a past law school dean about reforming the Electoral College; an historian of Russia who knew Shostakovich; a centenarian cardiologist who stood up to Joseph McCarthy and HUAC in the 1950s; plus dozens more exceptional individuals who are members of our
organization—that has been a gift. Three individuals I want to thank in particular: Michal Ginsburg, who first drafted me into the Executive Committee; David Zarefsky, who took a chance on a new EC member to assume the editorship of this newsletter; and Holly Clayson, who twisted my arm to the breaking point [not really] to stand election as VP/President-elect. I also thank my predecessor, Erv Goldberg, and my successor Steve Carr, for their good counsel and friendship. And of course, Gina Prokopeak, our able administrative assistant, who has kept the NEO ship afloat and sailing ahead despite occasional rough waters; and Celina Flowers in the Provost’s Office, who I know works to support NEO and keep its standing high among the many organizations of a great university.

PROVOST’S CORNER
BY CELINA FLOWERS, ASSISTANT PROVOST FOR FACULTY

Our emeriti and emerita population, perhaps more than anyone, can appreciate the seasonal passing of time and the value in occasionally pausing to reflect, appreciate, and celebrate life’s passing moments. This time of year, amidst the celebrations and farewells, provides a natural moment to do so and I hope you will indulge me as I take such a pause in this year’s final NEO Newsletter issue.

As you already know, this has been a year of great change and opportunity, with President Michael Schill starting his tenure on September 12, 2022. On June 15, he had the opportunity to meet the NEO and observe firsthand the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment of Northwestern’s emeriti population.

I hope you will join me in appreciating the many, many ways that Jeff Garrett has led the NEO this past year. He has been a tireless champion and spokesperson for the organization, from enlisting outgoing McCormick Dean Julio Ottino to give a special talk on “Art, Technology, and Science: Intersections, Bifurcations, and Opportunities” to arranging for a special members-only tour of the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago. As is fitting for the theme of this column, Jeff curated a five-part speaker series for this year on the topic of Memory, highlighting the ways in which individual and societal memory operate and intersect.

Jeff has also invested significant time and energy into building a quarterly newsletter, the benefits of which you are currently enjoying. It has grown into a valuable repository of news, updates, and other important information about Northwestern’s emeriti faculty. Jeff’s commitment to this project has been extraordinary and I, for one, am very appreciative of his work to create this truly remarkable and valuable resource.
Many of us, including myself, have lost dear family members, friends, and colleagues this past year. We remember and honor these lives and how they have enriched our own.

On Monday, June 12th, the University’s 165th Commencement celebrations took place. We appreciated the opportunity to celebrate and say farewell to our 2023 graduates, and we welcomed 47 new colleagues as fellow emeritus and emerita faculty members. You will find a list of these names immediately following. I hope you join me in celebrating their accomplishments and welcoming them to the NEO.

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWESTERN EMERITI ORGANIZATION!**

At Northwestern University’s 165th Annual Commencement on June 12, 2023, University President Michael H. Schill recognized 47 faculty members who have been awarded emerita or emeritus status by Northwestern’s Board of Trustees. We congratulate them as well—and welcome them to membership in NEO, the Northwestern Emeriti Organization!

*New emeritae and emeriti!* We invite you to read this issue of *The Emeriti News* —and past issues—to learn more about NEO, your new organizational home, and about our many activities and events. We also invite you to send us a brief, informal bio (ideally with a recent photo) to be linked to from the online roster of our membership. These bios introduce NEO members to each other, showing how emeritae and emeriti remain productive after their elevation to emeriti status—as well as have fun and keep their sense of humor.

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**William Anthony**, Senior Lecturer Emeritus, German, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 30 years of service

**Joan Anzia**, Professor Emerita, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Feinberg School of Medicine; 17 years of service

**Herbert Beller**, Professor of Practice Emeritus, Law Instruction, Pritzker School of Law; 14 years of service

**Galya Ben-Arieh**, Professor of Instruction Emerita, Political Science, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 17 years of service

**Patrick Birmingham**, Professor Emeritus, Anesthesiology, Feinberg School of Medicine; 35 years of service

**Bruce Bochner**, Samuel M. Feinberg Professor of Medicine Emeritus, Medicine - Allergy and Immunology, Feinberg School of Medicine; 10 years of service
Joan Sander Chmiel, Professor Emerita, Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine; 45 years of service

Rifka Cook, Associate Professor of Instruction Emerita, Spanish and Portuguese, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 22 years of service

Jeanne Dunning, Professor Emerita, Art, Theory & Practice, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 26 years of service

Mary Finn, Cardiss Collins Professorship Emerita, English, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 28 years of service

Reginald Gibbons, Frances Hooper Chair in the Arts and Humanities Emeritus, English, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 42 years of service

Jonathon Glassman, Wayne V. Jones Research Professorship in History Emeritus, History, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 34 years of service

Paul Goerss, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 25 years of service

John Greening, Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus, Integrated Marketing Communications, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications; 22 years of service

Kurt R. Hansen, Senior Lecturer Emeritus, Music Performance, Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music; 32 years of service

Kristine M. Healy, Assistant Professor Emerita, Medical Education, Feinberg School of Medicine; 13 years of service

Nancy Hobor, Theodore R. and Annie Laurie Sills Professorship in Journalism Emerita, Integrated Marketing Communications, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications; 13 years of service

Allan Horwich, Professor of Practice Emeritus, Law Instruction, Pritzker School of Law; 25 years of service
David Kamp, Professor Emeritus, Medicine–Pulmonary and Critical Care, Feinberg School of Medicine; 36 years of service

Ming-Yang Kao, Professor Emeritus, Computer Science, Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science; 22 years of service

Richard Kraut, Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professorship Emeritus, Philosophy, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 28 years of service

Patty Loew, Professor Emerita, Journalism, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications; 6 years of service

Regina Logan, Assistant Professor of Instruction Emerita, Human Development and Social Policy, School of Education and Social Policy; 29 years of service

Laurence Marks, Walter P. Murphy Professorship Emeritus, Materials Science and Engineering, Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science; 39 years of service

Ellen Mulaney, Senior Lecturer Emerita, Law Instruction, Pritzker School of Law; 17 years of service

Donald Nally, John W. Beattie Chair of Music Emeritus, Music Performance, Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music; 11 years of service

Barry Nelson, Walter P. Murphy Professor Emeritus, Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences, Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science; 28 years of service

Alan Peaceman, Professor Emeritus, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Feinberg School of Medicine; 33 years of service

Richard Pope, Solovy/Arthritis Research Society Professor Emeritus, Medicine-Rheumatology, Feinberg School of Medicine; 38 years of service

Sarah M. Pritchard, Librarian Emerita, University Libraries; 17 years of service

Marleta Reynolds, Professor Emerita, Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine; 38 years of service

Morton Schapiro, President Emeritus, Northwestern University; 13 years of service

Arthur Schmidt, Associate Professor of Instruction Emeritus, Physics & Astronomy, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 40 years of service

Joseph Schneider, Professor Emeritus, Surgery-Vascular Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine; 30 years of service
Rose Seidman, Librarian Emerita, University Libraries; 21 years of service

Barbara Shwom, Professor of Instruction Emerita, Cook Family Writing Program, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 46 years of service

Hans-Georg Simon, Associate Professor Emeritus, Pediatrics, Feinberg School of Medicine; 24 years of service

Bruce Spencer, Professor Emeritus, Statistics and Data Science, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 43 years of service

Benay Stein, Assistant Professor of Instruction Emerita, Spanish and Portuguese, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 21 years of service

Seth Stein, William Deering Chair in Geological Sciences Emeritus, Earth & Planetary Sciences, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 44 years of service

Jane Sullivan, Professor Emerita, Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences, Feinberg School of Medicine; 35 years of service

Ralph Tamura, Professor Emeritus, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Feinberg School of Medicine; 42 years of service

James Thomas, Professor Emeritus, Otolaryngology, Feinberg School of Medicine; 5 years of service

Tadanori Tomita, Professor Emeritus, Neurological Surgery, Feinberg School of Medicine; 42 years of service

Jack Tumblin, Associate Professor Emeritus, Computer Science, Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science; 22 years of service

Linda Van Horn, Professor Emerita, Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine; 46 years of service

Robert Wallace, Professor Emeritus, Classics, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; 32 years of service

New Event Policies

NEO has established the following new payment policies, effective for all cost-associated events beginning fiscal year 2024 in an effort to better steward its budget. For events requiring a payment, registrants will need to pay using a credit card upon registration. This becomes effective September 1, 2023. Also, event cancellations need to be made at least 5 business days prior to the event date. If a
cancellation is made less than 5 business days prior to the event date, no refunds will be issued. If a
cancellation is received 5 business days or more before the event date, a full refund will be made. This,
too, becomes effective September 1, 2023. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Gina
Prokopeak, NEO Administrative Assistant, at emeritus-org@northwestern.edu.

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HOW TO PROTECT YOUR DIGITAL LEGACY
BY SANDEE SEIBERLICH, ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Have you wondered what will happen to your online information when you die or are incapacitated?
After a period of inactivity, some accounts may eventually be deleted, but much of your content
will live on if providers are not notified. It is never too soon to develop a digital legacy plan by
following a few key steps.

Designate an online executor and provide Instructions. You will need
to name an online executor and document instructions for this person detailing how to access and
handle anything tied to your active digital footprint. Often called a digital will, this set of instructions is
vital, because without them, your loved ones will be left to deal with your online accounts, assuming
they can even find and access them.

Inventory your accounts and subscriptions. Include social media, digital storage, email accounts, along
with any regular online bills, airline/credit card points, as well as subscriptions for streaming, digital
storage, publications, etc. You will also need to include your passwords, along with the codes to unlock
your computer, phone, and other devices. This is much easier if you use a password manager, such as
LastPass.

You may prefer to use a digital legacy online app, which will guide you through documenting access to
your assets. MyWishes is free and easy to use, with a My Online Accounts feature to capture your
assets.

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1 Reprinted with friendly permission from The Sifter, Newsletter of the Wisconsin–Madison Retirement Association, April 2023 issue. Minor edits have been made for the benefit of our NEO audience. For further information on managing your digital legacy, visit the website of the Digital Legacy Association (UK) and see “What Should Happen to Our Digital Legacy?” by Ben Lovejoy (2019).
Familiarize yourself with Post-Death Account Management. For example, Facebook allows you to designate a legacy contact to manage your account if you choose to be memorialized, or you can have the account deleted, while Instagram requires a death certificate to make any account changes.

Do not assume you own your digital content. Account credits, points, and cryptocurrency are typically transferable to your heirs. Movies, music, phone apps, and email accounts are usually not transferable.

After completing these steps, update your information annually, and share your intentions with your family, a power of attorney, or trusted friend. Reassure them this preparation is for everyone’s peace of mind just in case it is needed.

NEO Resumes “Re-Discovering Northwestern” Tours
Visiting the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

On March 23, with COVID gradually fading in the rearview mirror of history, we dared resume our popular tours of Evanston and Chicago campus locations, focusing mainly on new Northwestern facilities (and new architecture) NEO members may never have seen during their active years as NU faculty.

Founded in 1953 as the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab is not part of Northwestern per se but has always been closely associated with our medical campus. It is an extraordinary not-for-profit organization, having ranked #1 in the country by U.S. News as the best rehabilitation hospital every year since 1991. It specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation for adults and children with the most severe, complex conditions—from traumatic brain and spinal cord injury to stroke, amputation, and cancer-related impairment. The organization moved to its new $550 million, 1.2-million-square-foot research hospital at 355 E. Erie St. in March 2017. This money was raised almost exclusively through donations. Photo: Al Telser
NEO-EPL Mini-Courses Update

“Communal Identity Conceived as Sacred Identity”
Richard Kieckhefer on What Gave the Medieval City its Dignity—and its Modern Allure

Over a hundred Evanston residents were in the room (or on the Zoom) for each of the two sessions of “Sacred Places: What Gave London, Paris, and Florence Their Allure,” this academic year’s third and final mini-course and the 12th such course since this prize-winning collaboration between NEO and Evanston Public Library began in 2019. Considering the announced topic, it surely surprised some to hear the instructor, Prof. Kieckhefer, begin by discussing—of all things—the debate surrounding plans to build the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. Soon, however, it made sense. In St. Louis in the 1930s, those opposed to the monument argued: “Don’t we need to be building more practical things?,” while proponents of the—admittedly not-at-all practical—arch responded, “Yes, but spiritual values are important, too!” And St. Louis was indeed the “gateway” for Lewis & Clark and many thousands of settlers on their way West, and this gateway role was the foundation of St. Louis’s civic identity. Prof. Kieckhefer made clear that spiritual values taken seriously by the modern city are a form of secularized sacrality—minus the transcendent element of Middle Ages religiosity. In this way, the Gateway Arch is a modern expression of values and aspirations that gave rise to the enormous building projects of the Middle Ages, like the famous Duomo in Florence.

In Europe between 1000 and 1500, the “vocabulary of the sacred was largely taken over from the Church.” Towns and cities had patron saints watching over them, and there were always legends on hand to explain why a particular saint had chosen a particular town, or why that saint’s relics (i.e., physical remains) were in that town, even though the saint in question may never have been there. Venice, which acquired the “ecclesiastical dignity” (along with the political hegemony) that had once been Ravenna’s, claimed St.
Mark as its patron and protector, even though Venice would not come into existence until long after the evangelist had died. Not a problem! Every inhabitant of Venice knew that an angel once appeared to St. Mark aboard a ship, pointing to a marsh on the distant coast, explaining that a great city would arise there someday—and become his final resting place. And St. Mark gave his approval. You doubt this? In Italian, they say: se non è vero, è ben trovato; or in English: If it’s not true, it’s [at least] well invented.

Often following in the footsteps (or hoofprints) of pilgrims like Hieronymus Münzer, Prof. Kieckhefer took us to St. Maximin, Arles, Seville, Florence, among other destinations, and their miracle-working icons, then on to Bruges, Paris, and finally London. In Prof. Kieckhefer’s second class session on May 4, we learned that London was a very difficult case because the sacred history of pre-Conquest England wasn’t of much interest to a lot of post-Conquest Londoners. Folks at London’s St. Paul’s did their best to stir up devotion to Saint Erkenwald (died 693), but to little effect. Nonetheless, in the end, London’s clerical elite rose to the challenge and succeeded in making London sacred, too.

Complete recordings of both class session 1 and 2 are available on the Evanston Public Library YouTube channel.—Jeff Garrett

REPORTS ON NEO EVENTS (MEMORY SERIES 5)
Jeff Garrett on the End of Monastery Libraries in Europe

On May 11, outgoing NEO president Jeff Garrett gave the fifth and final presentation in this year’s series on human memory: “Monasteries, Memory, and Modernity: The Violent End of Monastic Libraries in Europe.” He focused less on the vitally important memory function monasteries served during the Middle Ages as preservers of knowledge, instead considering the way the nascent nation state, over several hundred years,
The goals were to take over the monasteries’ wealth and land; to shore up claims to rule by securing ancient charters; and to gain control of their nation’s intellectual capital. The state felt no shame at all “extracting the brains from the corpses of the monasteries,” as one historian put it, overlooking that the thousands of European monasteries and abbeys being dissolved were not dead—not even moribund—when this took place, but were instead flourishing like rarely before in their history. A recording of this Zoom-only presentation, attended by 40 NEO members, is viewable online.

**NEO REMEMBERS THE UNABOMBER**

Theodore J. Kaczynski (1942–2023), who killed three people and injured more than 20 between 1978 and 1995 in a wholly demented effort to bring about the collapse of modern society, died on June 10, 2023, in his prison cell at a federal facility in Butner, North Carolina, at the age of 81. It was an apparent suicide.

As many of us know, Kaczynski had an especially close, albeit (on our part) involuntary relationship with Northwestern University. In the months preceding his death, The Emeriti News just happened to be gathering recollections of encounters with Ted Kaczynski by NEO members. Kaczynski’s death on June 10 was not anticipated as we prepared this story.

Our first remembrance of those grim days (and years) is from Buckley Crist (Materials Science & Engineering), NEO member since 2007:

> The first “Unabomber” event was the explosive misfire of a pipe bomb in the Tech mailroom in the late afternoon of May 26, 1978. I was the putative sender and E. J. Smith at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in upstate New York was the intended recipient, per the curiously hand-written shipping label. There were no injuries, no serious investigation at the time, and no publicity whatsoever (not even a *Daily Northwestern* article). Finally, following the third bomb on an American Airlines flight in November 1979, the FBI investigated possible connections between me and E. J. Smith and discovered two “persons of interest” who were never identified publicly because they were not involved. I had encounters with a series of Chicago-based FBI agents after that.

I managed to keep out of the press until a garbled account (wrong date, wrong state, misspelled name) appeared in an Ann Arbor, MI, paper years later in December 1985. The alleged source of this
misinformation was Northwestern’s University security office—to which: no comment. My role in the first bombing was becoming public knowledge, and the drumbeat of interview requests increased in frequency and persistence with the fatal attacks on Thomas Mosser in late 1994 and Gilbert Murray in April 1995. Northwestern, the FBI, and I were of the same mind—I would not grant interviews but would talk to reporters on “deep background” to confirm or refute their information. This I did dozens of times. In one regrettable instance, Melissa Block at NPR surreptitiously taped and broadcast our conversation—not good form!

Kaczynski was arrested on April 3, 1996, amid many news reports that included information leaked by law enforcement. I granted my only authorized interview to NBC Channel 5 News the following day: that organization had respected my desire for anonymity for an appreciable time, and interviewer Phil Walters was a fraternity brother from college.

My final chapter was an August 1997 meeting at Northwestern with the federal prosecution team. They wanted me to be a witness at the trial, but I was reluctant for two reasons. First, I had no knowledge that would contribute to the guilt or innocence of Theodore John Kaczynski. I never met him, I had no idea why he used my name, and my “first bomb” had been destroyed by the ATF before linking it forensically to any other. Second, I was disturbed that the prosecutors had reneged on their agreement, arranged by Ted’s brother David, not to seek the death penalty. The prosecutors were insistent that I participate but Kaczynski pleaded guilty before my appearance was even scheduled.

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We then reached out to David Easterbrook, emeritus since 2014, who, in October 2005, years after Kaczynski had been arrested and begun serving his life sentence in a federal penitentiary, suddenly found himself the recipient of a letter from that unmistakable source. Here are his recollections:

It didn’t happen very often, but it did happen.

Several times a year during my tenure as curator of the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies (1990–2014), a letter would arrive from an incarcerated individual. The envelopes were always clearly marked that the contents came from a prisoner at a specific institution. Following American Library Association guidelines for library correspondence with prisoners, Herskovits Library staff always replied
to any reference requests for information about Africa. Some requests were very general—others very specific. Until October 2005, when a letter arrived that was like no other.

It was not a request for information. It came from “Theodore John Kaczynski,” and he was offering us the gift of a multivolume work by the distinguished Austrian ethnographer Paul Schebesta (1887–1967). Kaczynski offered us the first edition of the work, published in the original German. The library already owned the work in English translation, so declining such a gift was a routine decision.

A letter from this prospective donor, however, was anything but routine. I was therefore relieved that Northwestern already owned the work. But at the same time when the envelope arrived, not knowing what was inside, I paused and held the unopened envelope—I saw it came from Kaczynski at the U.S. Penitentiary MAX at Florence, Colorado, and noticed his distinctive printed handwriting (remembering it from the New York Times publication of portions of his manifesto in his handwriting). The Unabomber actually wrote that! I wasn’t certain if I wanted to open the letter. Can’t I pass this on to someone else, I wondered, remembering that the Northwestern community had been one of his victims?

I did open it, however, began reading, and was immediately struck by his unusually lengthy description of the condition of the work, the need for rebinding, and his concern that it find a home in a library where its use was likely. He explained that one of the volumes was in his cell and the others were in storage somewhere else. He even asked that if Northwestern didn’t want the item, I would recommend another library he could offer it to.

I took it to the University Archivist, Patrick Quinn (emer. 2008). Although we thought no one but the two of us was nearby, our conversation was overheard by a Daily reporter. He got the scoop, and just two weeks after Kaczyński wrote the letter, the Daily published the story.

A final tale links the Unabomber to Northwestern, and despite its grim origins, it does have a happy ending. We will let Roger Boye, Medill emeritus, tell the story. It actually came to us in the form of a “letter to the editor” following the most recent (March) issue of this newsletter . . .

Jeff,

It is quite a coincidence that you used a paragraph or two from the 1994 Unabomber story to illustrate the digital Evanston Review. Your excerpt is about the death of Thomas Mosser.

On that terrible day, his then 13-year-old daughter, Kimberly, was in the basement of their home in New Jersey when the bomb went off. She gave an emotional eulogy at her dad’s funeral, just a few days before Christmas.

Kim entered Medill in September 2000 and in the winter quarter of 2001–02, she enrolled in my news writing class. I have often thanked my lucky stars that she picked my section when there were three other options. What a wonderful person! We have been good friends ever since. This past March she celebrated her 42nd birthday.

Soon after graduation in 2004 she got a job in the office of the New Jersey governor and a couple years after that, in the White House office of national security during the Bush administration. In 2007, on a Saturday when the Bush family was in Texas, she gave me a behind-the-scenes tour of the White House, something I will never forget. I’ve attached a picture of the two us standing near a side entrance. Anyhow, after working on Capitol Hill, she now runs her own company while raising her children. We still keep in touch.
In the wake of Kaczynski’s death, the New York Times published a long retrospective of his life and crimes. Another notable—but potentially disturbing—retelling of the Unabomber saga was published in The American Reader in 2015: read it here.—The Editor

EMERITUS PORTRAIT

“I JUST WANT TO SAY ONE WORD TO YOU . . . PLASTICS!”

Stephen Howard Carr retired in 2021 after a long and successful career as a researcher, teacher, and senior administrator in the McCormick School of Engineering, with an emphasis on Materials Science—a field in which Northwestern is an acknowledged national leader. In light of his expanding role in NEO, we wanted to get to know him better, and so we were grateful that he agreed to sit down for a conversation with us about how he went from a childhood in Dayton, OH, to a career in materials science, and specifically: in polymers.

Outgoing editor Jeff Garrett spoke with Steve Carr for The Emeriti News:

The Emeriti News: First of all, Steve, congratulations upon becoming president of the Northwestern Emeriti Organization. Many of us are enthusiastically looking forward to you taking the helm! Your very wonderful one-page autobiography on the NEO website describes how you developed your interest in engineering. Can you remember your very first engineering or design project? (And if it involves Good Humor ice cream sticks, that’s okay.)

Steve Carr: When I was in 7th grade, I set out in my home chemistry lab to design a molecule that would make the strongest material possible. I failed, but I did start a fire in our basement.

TEN: I read that as a child, you got to meet Orville Wright (see photo, l.) and Charles F. Kettering, two giants of American engineering history. How did those meetings come about?

SC: My parents both grew up in suburban Dayton in the 1920s and 30s. They married in 1940, but soon enough they had a little boy (me), and my dad was off to military service. After the War they bought a bungalow that was not so far from where Orville Wright and Charles Kettering lived. I did Halloween trick or treating on Mr. Wright, and I would see Mr. Kettering while accompanying my mom at the supermarket.

TEN: Apart from the neighbors, are there things about Dayton, Ohio, that you think helps turn young people to engineering?
SC: Part of my formative context, besides having wonderful parents, were my two grandfathers. One was Dartmouth-educated and had an M.S. in Civil Engineering; the other was an illiterate millwright at a factory that produced high-quality paper. Both often let me accompany them out in the production floor, where I got up-close-and-personal with molten steel and with a paper web carrying an enormous electrostatic charge while moving at 70 mph. I got the points: making things for real is not simple, and there is a lot of science that enables commercial success.

What I saw in Dayton in those years was just how inseparable enterprise and technology were. It helped that there were prominent men, like the Wright brothers and Kettering, but also Edward Deeds, James Cox, and John H. Patterson driving internationally prominent businesses forward. And then there was the Air Force’s Wright Field, which was the predecessor to Edwards AFB in California. It was just a few miles away from where we lived, and my aunt worked as a typist in the Materials Lab there. Every time there was an open house for the public, “Little Stevie” was whisked off to see what they were doing now. In abundance were cool airplanes, some of which were capable of going faster than the speed of sound—almost an impossibility, it seemed.

TEN: When was the first time you ever heard the word “polymer?” And I have a related question: Is “polymer” just a fancy word for “plastics”? (I’m thinking of the famous scene in “The Graduate,” from 1967.)

SC: I first heard of polymers as a highschooler in an industry outreach demonstration in 1958. It was done by a chemist from Monsanto, which at that time had a corporate research center in Dayton. Before our very eyes he produced polyisoprene, an ingredient of many commercial rubbers, via a dramatic reaction that made all us kids go “Wow!” I was allowed to handle the wet, rubbery mass after class. So, with that, I was hooked. When it was time to go to college, I enrolled at the University of Cincinnati because one could participate in the co-op program there. Somewhat providentially my employment arrangement was with a division of General Motors located in Dayton. Their products all had value added by polymeric components, including plastics, rubbers, coatings, and fibers. During those eye-opening years my fascination with polymers drove me to seek out a graduate program where I could participate in advancing in this field. Luckily, I was able to enroll in 1965 at Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve University) in the only comprehensive polymer science program then-extant in the world.

TEN: You received one of the first PhD’s in the United States in polymer science, then got hired into Northwestern’s fledgling material sciences program. That was back around 1969. What was working in this new field at Northwestern like?

SC: I did have two colleagues here who also worked on polymers, but most of the others worked on metals. It was a point of pride that my being on this young materials science faculty would help add to its balanced focus on all categories of materials.
TEN: Northwestern is now one of the top two or three programs in the country (with MIT and Stanford) in materials science. When did NU attain this lofty ranking? And in your opinion, what or who was it that made that happen?

SC: Although our faculty had early pioneers and visionaries here even in the 1950s, the persistent commitment to broad coverage of the field, quality of research (meaning hiring only top faculty), and wide participation throughout the profession were keys to our success. The department faculty always made decisions via overwhelming consensus, and everybody tried to keep us pacing the field of materials science.

TEN: In your NEO bio, you talk about the importance of co-op programs, mixing academic study and, I assume, hard work in industry. Have such programs gone by the wayside?

SC: McCormick still has a co-op program in place, but its prominence has been eclipsed by internships. Some students even combine intermittent employment with studies on campus in ad hoc ways. There are a few schools like my alma mater, Cincinnati, that have kept co-op central to their engineering education.

TEN: In 1992, nearly twenty-five years after coming to Northwestern, you accepted a role in administration, becoming McCormick’s undergraduate dean. How did your career and your academic life change when that happened? What if anything did you stop being able to do? What new opportunities presented themselves?

SC: As my teaching practice developed, I became aware of yet better ways to get students to learn. Furthermore, I began to realize that developing a proclivity in students to want to add value to an enterprise was the most common outcome for a McCormick student. However, there was a disconnect between the outcomes many of the faculty tried to achieve and the preparation students needed for the careers they were ultimately going to pursue. Consequently, when then-dean Jerry Cohen asked me to become his undergraduate engineering dean, I eagerly took the position. It took a few years to wrap my head around all that is involved with the undergraduate engineering office and its responsibilities, but soon enough, the path forward became clear, and influential faculty had joined in planning a new initiative, Engineering First, whose legacy is a pair of signature courses unlike any others in the world.

TEN: The words “design” and “design thinking” pervade undergraduate engineering education at Northwestern. Why is that?
SC: Engineering is the act of creating new things to improve people’s lives. This creative process lies at the heart of it all, so, independent of whatever discipline(s) you live in, you will be advancing humankind when you are creating something new. Design is just creativity with a focus.

TEN: You became an emeritus in 2021 but are still teaching and also still involved in what you call “uber-disciplinary research programs.” Do you want to tell us about one of those?

SC: I got a chance to become involved in a broad-spectrum project initiated by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). It concerned their offering of a systematic way a community, somewhere in the world, can recover following a major disaster, such as an earthquake, a tsunami, a hurricane, a wildfire, or a war, and not have an adverse effect on wildlife. Central to this recovery process are several steps: what to do with rubble; and how to select the best materials for rebuilding. WWF had need for expertise in reviewing, improving, and expanding their list of suggested construction materials, so they approached our Institute for Sustainability and Environment at Northwestern (ISEN). That’s where I came in. Other faculty, such as William Miller (emer. 2022) and Andreas Waechter (to name just a few), contributed systems, approaches, and optimization procedures to this research effort.

TEN: Do you have a favorite travel destination? And don’t say Dayton, Ohio. We won’t believe you.

SC: For over a half-century, my wife, Ginger, and I have frequently vacationed in the Rocky Mountains in general, and Wyoming in particular. These vacations included our daughters once they came along. Since 2005 our annual destination has been a dude ranch near Dubois, WY, and our daughters now bring along their boys to make it feel like we have buckeroos-in-training. Over the years we have taken delight in seeing an amazing number of historical and natural sites “out there.” Wanna see my fossils?

TEN: Another time, Steve! Thank you for this informative conversation, and best wishes in your new position of authority at NEO!
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 emeritae/-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!


In early May of this year, Timothy Earle (emer. 2011, Anthropology) was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences. This was his second high honor of 2023: In February, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for American Archaeology. Earle has served as chair of Northwestern’s Department of Anthropology (1995–2000) and president of the Archaeology Division of the American Anthropological Association.

Prof. Earle recently told *The Emeriti News* about his new book, *A Primer on Chiefs and Chiefdoms*: “This book documents within a social science framework how modern archaeology studies comparatively deep histories of societies. In conjunction with regional scholars, my career has included field research projects on the prehistoric political complexity in Polynesia, South America, and Europe—cases that were historically independent. The formation of regionally organized chiefdoms is documented in each region, but organizational formations reflected distinctive power relationships linked to their political economies.”

Co-author Andrew Ortony (emer. 2012, SESP), child of a Czech father and Slovak mother, was raised and educated in England. He came to the United States in 1973. After 17 years at UIUC, he took a position at Northwestern. Ortony wrote the following about this new edition of his (now) standard work, first published in 1988:

“During the 1960s and 1970s, psychology underwent a metamorphosis from behaviorism to cognitivism—from the study of behavior to the study of mind conceived of as an information processing system. The excitement surrounding this ‘cognitive revolution’ was palpable, but attention to one aspect of mental life was conspicuously absent: emotion. In 1979, convinced that cognition is hugely important in the elicitation of emotions, I started working on a psychologically grounded but computationally tractable account of the cognitive underpinnings of emotions. The result was the publication, nine years later, of *The Cognitive Structure of Emotions*, co-authored with colleagues Gerald Clore (University of Virginia) and Allan Collins (emer. 2005, SESP). Because of its computational orientation, the book, which has now been cited over 10,000 times, had a major impact on the emergence of a sub-area of Artificial Intelligence known as Affective Computing, and the model (known in the field as OCC, after the initials of its authors) became the go-to model for computational models of emotions. The recently released second edition includes some theoretical improvements and updates of related research and literature. It ends with a contributed chapter by two leaders in affective computing who trace the impact of the OCC model on the field.”

**REMINDER ABOUT THE CAR RENTAL BENEFIT FOR NU EMERITAE AND EMERITI**

We continue receiving queries about the car rental benefit for NU faculty and staff. Next time you rent a car anywhere in the United States or abroad, visit https://partners.rentalcar.com/violet/ and scroll to the bottom of the page. There, select “Non-Business Use”—and make your reservation! Example: Doing this for a one-week rental in July of a mid-size car from, say, Naples, FL airport made the rate plummet from $604.34 to only $283.45! Note, however, that this rate does not include coverage in the event of physical damage or 3rd party liability. It is possible though that this coverage may apply through other insurance that you have, including your credit card contract, which often covers the Collision Damage Waiver (CDW).
In Memoriam
Column Editor George Harmon

Note: We list Passings in alphabetical order, and we publish them 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.

**Katherine Kaufer Christoffel**, 74, a retired Feinberg pediatrics professor who practiced at Lurie Children’s Hospital and Northwestern Medical, passed away June 11, 2023, in Minneapolis. While providing primary care for children ranging from newborns to teenagers, she published articles on childhood obesity, insulin resistance, toddler feeding patterns, gunshot injuries in children, and related topics. “Kathy was intelligent, strong, and magnificently capable as a pediatrician, public health advocate, and mother,” her newspaper obituary read. “Her passing breaks the hearts of many, but she will also be remembered as a true foremother, a pillar in the world of pediatrics and public health.” She was on the advisory board of the consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children. Kathy received her medical degree at Tufts in 1973 and then had residencies in pediatrics at Ohio State and Northwestern. [Obituary](#).

**Edmond Confino**, 71, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and an international authority on infertility, passed away May 25, 2023. Regarded as an excellent clinical instructor, he authored or coauthored over 70 articles and book chapters and focused on techniques for non-invasive treatment of fallopian tube occlusion. Born in Bulgaria, Eddie emigrated to Israel with his physician parents in 1952. He did medical studies and residency at Tel Aviv University, served five years as a military medic, moved to a fellowship at Rush, joined NU in 1993, and retired in 2018. Clinical partner Ralph R. Kazer said: “The perfect infertility doctor possesses three attributes: the empathy of Mother Teresa, the wisdom of Solomon, and the hands of a safecracker. Eddie Confino possessed all three.” [Obituary](#).

**Edwin S. Mills**, 93, whose teaching, research and writing focused on real estate and urban economic development, died October 29, 2021. Ed wrote 20 books, including *Urban Economics*, now in its 15th printing, and authored more than 130 papers. He was editor of the *Journal of Urban Economics*, co-editor of the *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, and a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association* and *Review of Urban and Regional Development*.
Studies. Before joining Kellogg, he was professor of economics and urban studies at Princeton. In addition to research on U.S. topics, he wrote about urban development in Japan, South Korea, India and Thailand. He was a consultant to private organizations as well as government agencies including the U.S. Navy, U.S. Public Health Service, and the U.S. Office of Science and Technology, the United Nations, and the World Bank. He received a bachelor’s from Brown and a doctorate from the University of Birmingham, England.

Newton N. Minow, 97, former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission who held bachelor’s and law degrees from Northwestern and was a life trustee, died May 6, 2023. Born in Milwaukee, he served in World War II (and before college) as an Army sergeant in China and Burma. After clerking for Supreme Court Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson, Minow was an aide to Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson, and practiced law before being named by President Kennedy to the FCC. Newt was a partner at Sidley & Austin from 1965 until his death, a director of CBS Inc., FCB Global, and Encyclopedia Britannica, and chairman of both the Public Broadcasting Service and Rand Corporation, as well as also professor of communications policy and law at Northwestern, all the while helping build public TV and radio. An author of books on the media, he worked for half a century to improve television. "When television is good," he wrote, "nothing is better. But when television is bad, nothing is worse." He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his efforts. He viewed his greatest contribution as persuading Congress to pass legislation that led to the creation of communications satellites. 

Sidney Simpson, 87, who had a distinguished career in regeneration and developmental biology, passed away peacefully on April 25, 2023. Born in Russellville, Ark., he had a fascination with science while a young boy. He graduated from Arkansas Polytechnic College and earned his PhD from Tulane University. As a graduate student, he worked at the summer embryology course at the Marine Biology Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., where he met Nan. He took his research and teaching abilities to Case Western Reserve, Northwestern, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. At UIC, he was department head and for two years dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Sid and Nan retired to Albuquerque, where they plunged into being artists. Sid was especially drawn to abstracts, experimenting with form, color, and paint: “I never encountered a technique that I didn’t want to try!” His work appeared in juried and open shows and wound up in private collections. He also became a self-educated expert in art history, especially artists of the past 150 years. Later on, Sid and Nan enjoyed travel to faraway places, including Israel, Egypt, Peru, Greece and Italy.
Arthur Veis, 97, former professor of structural biology and associate dean of the medical school and graduate school, and one of those who started NEO, died April 23, 2023. He was NEO’s president in 2004–5, its second year. At Northwestern since 1960, Art taught in the department of biochemistry at Feinberg, now the department of cell and developmental biology, and had a long list of journal publications, and was editor-in-chief of Connective Tissue Research for more than 25 years. He worked with Marilyn McCoy and Arnie Weber to begin Program Review, chairing it for the first few years. His cheerful wife, the late Eve, was a key player in the honors program in medical education. Art’s undergraduate studies in chemical engineering at the University of Oklahoma were interrupted by sea duty with the Pacific Fleet during World War II. His doctorate from NU was in physical chemistry. Art’s research interests were primarily the mechanisms of biomineralization in bones and teeth, and secondarily the structure and assembly of collagen molecules and fibrils. Surviving are his daughters, Dr. Judith (Prof. Andrew Gavil) Veis, Sharon L. Veis—a faculty member in NU’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders—and Dr. Deborah Veis, as well as seven grandchildren. Obituary.

Oswald Werner, 95, who had a joint appointment in anthropology and linguistics at Northwestern for 32 years, died in Santa Fe, N.M., March 26, 2023. Known as Ossy to family and friends, colleagues, and students, he was a linguistic anthropologist specializing in Navajo semantics through the study of cultural knowledge that he called “ethnoscience.” His best-known work was a handbook of ethnographic methods titled Systematic Field Work. Born in what is now Slovakia, Ossy emigrated to the U.S. after World War II, settling in Syracuse, N.Y., where he opened a photography studio and met his wife, June Travers Werner. Later on at Northwestern, he founded a summer field school based in New Mexico and Arizona. The Northwestern Ethnographic Field School operated from 1973 to 1994, placing students in Latino and indigenous communities throughout the region. In 1995, Ossy moved with June to Albuquerque. After her death in 2015, he moved to Santa Fe. He was an avid photographer and developed an aptitude for composing haiku. A lover of wordplay, Ossy was always ready with a pun, with some of his work published in the pages of this newsletter, e.g. Fall 2021 issue, p. 7 and 8. Obituary.

Andy Zoltners, 77, an expert on sales force issues who joined Kellogg in 1976 as part of an effort to develop quantitative marketing, died April 11, 2023. In 1983 he co-founded ZS Associates with Prabha Sinha to use integer programming to solve sales questions such as sizing, territory alignment, and compensation. ZS now has more than 15,000 employees and 35 offices in 15 countries. Andy received a bachelor’s in mathematics from the University of Miami, a master’s in mathematics from Purdue, and a PhD in industrial administration from Carnegie-Mellon. In 1973 he joined the business school
faculty at UMass Amherst, where he met Sinha. Three years later Andy moved to Kellogg, where he taught for 35 years. He is the co-author of nine books on topics such as sales force management, sales analytics, and incentive compensation. He developed an MBA sales force course and executive programs in sales force. Andy was co-author of nine books and more than 40 articles and book chapters. Born in a displaced persons camp in Augsburg, Germany, in 1945, he came with his Latvian family to Milwaukee. Andy was inducted into the Chicago Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame in 2005. [Obituary.]

THE EMERITI CALENDAR

Note: NEO events are either virtual over Zoom, in person at locations on campus or in the community, or hybrid, i.e. taking place in both real and virtual space as this will allow us to accommodate NEO participation from anywhere.

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

Zoom links and passwords (if required) will be communicated to all NEO members in advance.

Thursday, June 15, Lunchtime event

Wednesday, June 28, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT
Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 26, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT
Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT
Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT
Executive Council Meeting

NEO OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2022–23

President: Jeff Garrett (Libraries/German, 2022–23)
VP/President-elect: Steve Carr (Materials Science & Engineering, 2022–23)
Secretary: Charlotte Crane (Law, 2022–24)
Treasurer: Mary Dedinsky (Medill, 2022–23)
Immediate Past President: Erv Goldberg (Molecular Biosciences, 2022–23)

Councilors: Holly Clayson (Art History, 2022–24)
Mary Poole (Theatre, 2021–23)
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.

This will be the last issue for our engaged editorial board consisting of George Harmon, Joan Linsenmeier, and David Zarefsky.

Our next issue (Fall 2023) will be published in mid-to-late September. Press deadline: Friday, September 8, 2023.