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PRESIDENT’S WELCOME

At the end of summer 2023 it was time for the next Northwestern Emeriti Organization (NEO) president to take the helm of this important organization. And so it was regarding the organization, but as for this newsletter itself, there is what we have come to call “The Squad” that pools the talents of eight NEO members who are veteran writers. Its members are Holly Clayson, Mary Dedinsky, George Harmon, Joan Linsenmeier, Al Telser, Kathy Rundell, David Zarefsky, yours truly, and Gina Prokopeak, who is NEO’s staff member and jack of all trades. Ideas and feedback you would want to pass along related to the newsletter can be sent to any of us.

We do not envision any kind of profound changes to be made to the newsletter, but living things evolve or else just fade away. There is no intention for the latter outcome, so you will see new aspects of the newsletter in the coming issues. For example, Al Telser worked diligently to create the new eye-catching masthead you see in this issue. We hope you like it. Many were inspired by things you told us in the all-member survey of last Spring. (See NEO Survey Results article on the constructive suggestions that issued from the survey results.) The need to deepen the value of our website also figures into this newsletter picture, because it is our archive and it is where supporting materials are made available. Additional volunteers to put some effort into improving our website are welcome.

Finally, a full year’s worth of programming is taking shape. Please see our calendar of events on page 13, check your email, and visit our website regularly for additional programming. It’s going to be a great year!

—Steve Carr, NEO President & Editor, The Emeriti News
Dear Northwestern emeri faculty,

As we enter a new academic year, President Michael Schill and I recently shared our well wishes with the University community. I would like to extend those greetings to you—and particularly to our newly appointed emeri faculty, who will be recognized later this year.

In early September, we unveiled a new set of University priorities and guiding principles that speak to our personal connections, our societal obligations, our commitment to expanding the frontiers of knowledge, and our limitless potential to improve ourselves and the world around us.

In addition to the institution-wide priorities, school and unit leaders will develop additional goals that may be complementary to the University priorities or may lead us, together, in new and exciting directions.

We look forward to an exciting year of opportunity and growth, and I encourage you to stay engaged and work with the NEO to share your perspectives this year and beyond.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hagerty
Provost
First Chicago Professor of Finance

Congratulations to NEO Executive Committee Councilor, Prof. Emer. Holly Clayson, who has been named the Distinguished Scholar for the College Arts Association’s 2024 Annual Conference. Read More.
UPCOMING EVENTS

October 11
10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. CDT
Revisiting School District Design:
Engineering Meets Education Policy in Evanston
Brunch Lecture with Karen Smilowitz, Professor in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences, McCormick and Professor of Operations, Kellogg. Evanston Campus and via Zoom.
In-person registration is closed. Email emeriti-org@northwestern.edu for late requests.

October 25 & November 1
6:00 p.m.-7:45 p.m. CDT
The Emergence of Modern Chicago Mini-Course
with NEO member and Prof. Emer. Carl Smith.
In-Person at Evanston Public Library and via Zoom.
The Mini-Course lecture series is offered in partnership by Evanston Public Library and NEO. Click here to Register.

View the full Calendar of Events in this newsletter and on NEO’s website.
PRESIDENT SCHILL GIVES
REMARKS AT THE NEO SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

NEO contacted Northwestern’s new president Michael Schill soon after he became the university’s 17th president in September 2022, hoping to get on his dance card by year’s end to meet our members and discuss our future relationship. “Mike,” as he prefers to be called, responded promptly and very cordially, accepting our invitation, but asking for a couple of months to first get his feet on the ground with the many pressing issues the university faces. As it turned out, it would not be until June of this year before we were finally able to convene—the very month in which he was formally inaugurated as president, presided over his first university commencement, and presented his strategic priorities to the Board of Trustees. This delay was in fact fortuitous, because in his remarks to the 70 NEO members in Guild Lounge, he was able to share what those strategic priorities would be during the first years of his presidency, freshly vetted by the university trustees.

Speaking mostly off the cuff, President Schill outlined and explained his six goals. The first was to leverage Northwestern’s remarkable strengths in the biosciences—in partnership with chemistry, engineering, and the medical school—to leap ahead in this growth area. A focus on the biosciences, he said, seems especially opportune given the inauguration of the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub Chicago, an initiative that will bring enhanced resources into play for closer collaboration between Northwestern, the University of Chicago, and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He especially welcomes the opportunity to “enter a new era of cooperation with my former home, the University of Chicago.”

A second goal will be to focus our resources interdisciplinarily on sustainability and climate change research, specifically carbonization, renewable energy, sustainable business practices, and the legal framework necessary to effect real societal change.

Third, President Schill noted that data is being used “in more and more sophisticated ways across all fields of research, including the humanities,” but we are lagging behind in providing infrastructural support for our researchers and students: “We are not where we should be.” This situation is now being aggravated by the introduction of generative AI across the spectrum, whereby the president noted, to the laughter of the audience, that in his own experience “it basically lies all the time: none of it is verifiable.”

As his fourth strategic priority, he described plans to pull all the social sciences into the renovated Jacobs Center, including Buffett and the Institute for Policy Research. The goal of this will be to allow the kind of easy communication across departments that leads to creative, out-of-the-box thinking and productive collaborations. The one exception will be the Department of Economics, because they moved with Kellogg to the Global Hub and will surely want to stay there.
Strategic Priority no. 5: Continue and enhance efforts to make us a more diverse university, a challenge especially in light of the Supreme Court decision to end affirmative action. President Schill said he sides with former Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, that “diversity is a fundamental value.”

A sixth and final priority of his presidency will be to work toward a more civil discourse culture among students with very different political, ethical, and social views, who at present have all retreated into their different camps. President Schill said he will staunchly defend freedom of speech, but “we must also venerate empathy,” meaning that just because you have the right to say something, doesn’t mean that you always should. It is not helpful to gratuitously insult or hurt others. Northwestern should promote a culture of freedom—and prudence—and that, too, will be a goal of his presidency.

In closing, he said that Northwestern’s “rapid ascent to eminence” in the last few decades has been thanks in large measure to the emeriti of the university, and he thanks his audience for these efforts. “Everything you choose to do now is a gift rather than an expectation,” and he is therefore especially appreciative of what the emeriti are doing.—Jeff Garrett

View President Schill’s Address
View NEO’s Business Meeting PowerPoint Presentation by Jeff Garrett

BTRA MEETS AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

The Big Ten Retirees Association (BTRA) held its annual summer meeting at the University of Wisconsin – Madison on July 26-28. Each Big Ten university has a retirement organization comparable to NEO (though most of the others include both faculty and staff). Each university is invited to send up to two delegates to the summer meeting. Every Big Ten university was represented except for Rutgers. I was privileged to serve as the Northwestern delegate.

The BTRA summer meeting has two main purposes. One is to discuss issues of common interest and concern, whether the discussion is planned in advance, or the issues arise spontaneously. This year we discussed ways to increase member participation in planned events, differences in leadership structure within our organizations, different reporting relationships with our universities’ central administrations, and volunteer opportunities on our campuses and in our communities, among other topics. Different though our situations are, we all found that these discussions produced useful suggestions for projects and activities.

The other major goal of the BTRA meeting is to showcase the host university with respect to topics of broader interest, usually drawing on the host’s faculty resources. Wisconsin offered several interesting programs. One featured Wisconsin’s intensive efforts toward sustainability and yielded an interesting discussion comparing others’ approaches. Another reviewed the history of the political tension between
land-grant universities and state governments, and another dealt with water quality and its effects on agriculture in the surrounding area, using Lake Mendota (on the Wisconsin campus) as a case study emphasizing alternative predictions for 2070. Access to public higher education for nontraditional students was the topic of one of the dinner presentations. The other featured a former tribal judge from the Ho-Chunk nation in a discussion of issues related to the sovereignty of indigenous peoples.

Receptions, meals, a tour of the campus art gallery, a virtual campus tour, and time for informal gathering rounded out the schedule. A special treat was a spectacular fireworks display marking the beginning of the 175th year of the university – not, as we might have thought, the convening of the BTRA.

Next year’s conference will be July 24-26, 2024 at The Ohio State University. Northwestern hosted this conference in 2022 so our turn will not come again until 2036. —David Zarefsky

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**THE EMERITI TRAVELER**

**FAMILY VACATIONS AT DUDE RANCHES**

A great many of you have family traditions for how everybody gets together, typically in the summer and complete with grandkids. We discovered on the NEO Executive Council that two of us, yours truly and Charlotte Crane, have great fondness for going to a dude ranch out in the West. Thus, we submit the following for a description of why they are so memorable. Others of you in this readership have vacations that add to your lives in similar ways. We (the newsletter editor and squad) would like to hear about them, as well, so that they can be shared in future newsletters.

The Steve Carr family started going to a Dude Ranch in western Wyoming in 2005. Initially, it was just my wife, Ginger, and I for 10 days, but we have returned every year (except 2021) since then with more and more of our daughters and their respective family members. With our daughters living on opposite coasts, it is always cherished moments when we can get together, anywhee. The photograph shows our tribe posing last month for its annual family picture.

NEO Pres. Steve Carr and his family.
Photo courtesy of Steve Carr.
A guest ranch is a dude ranch when its theme is life of the pioneering “Old West”. Guests live in conditions that have the hallmarks of those rugged days; this is not glamping. Activities revolve around horse rides (morning and afternoon), fishing, hiking, cookouts (breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner), and Bluegrass/C&W song fests after dinner. More modern amenities have crept into the guest experience, including artistic cuisine, heated swimming pools, and spas.

The ranch the Carrs go to, the CM Ranch (cmranch.com), is some 50 miles due east of Grand Teton National Park. Located near Dubois, Wyoming, it was started in the 1920s as a place where boys of notable East Coast families could go for a month and acquire manly (mostly outdoor) skills, in the style of Teddy Roosevelt. However, it wasn’t long before the 20th century began to change the nature of such experiences, and so by the mid-1930s the CM Ranch offered one- or two-week stays, some of which were only for boys, some only for girls, and some for entire families. In those initial years, travel to the CM Ranch was by reserved rail cars, one originating from South Station, Boston, one from Pennsylvania Station, New York, one from 26th Street in Philadelphia, and one from Union Station in Chicago. At the end of the rail line, the guests still had a 100-mile stagecoach ride just to get to The Ranch! These days this trip is done in the air-conditioned comfort of our VW Tiguan on modern highways.

Although it was not her first dude ranch, the one Charlotte Crane visited in Colorado this past summer was chosen not because of family traditions, but because it was convenient following a family wedding in Crested Butte. But if we had been looking for a place solely on the basis of its traditions, Drowsy Water Ranch, just outside Granby, would still have been a top contender. The same family has run the place for more than fifty years, and it has welcomed many repeat guests in that time. The family owns thousands of acres looking down into a valley that is surrounded by Bureau of Land Management range.

To be truthful, recent years have not been easy at Drowsy Water—the second largest wildfire ever in Colorado stopped within fifty yards of a guest cabin in 2020, and the resulting change in the groundcover on the hillsides then led to flash flooding. Perhaps as great a challenge was presented by the disruption caused by Covid in the summer of 2020, since a resort that relies on traditions (in their programs, in their camp songs, in their special meals) ordinarily passes them on with repeat staff and repeat guests.

But by the summer of 2023 things had recovered, with everything repaired and plenty of repeat staff and guests. Each of the 50-60 guests—all the way down to age five— is assigned one of the ranch’s 100 or so horses for the week. Rides are scheduled so that after an initial day of training, families can choose to ride together as families, or break into peer groups. (Daycare is provided for those too young to go on the trail, and chances are good even a two-year-old will have a chance to interact with a horse and the ranch’s various other farm animals).

A family trail ride is a great way to interact with grandkids, especially those that might scoff at other activities. But at Drowsy Water, parents should not wait too long to schedule their ride, since at the end of the week, training has intensified for the contests at the ranch rodeo!

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Steve Carr and Charlotte Crane
**NEO SURVEY RESULTS**

Last winter, 122 NEO members responded to a survey sent out by the NEO Executive Council. Nearly 80% of these live in the Chicago area, most of them year-round, and about two-thirds had attended a NEO event in the past year. Newer retirees were overrepresented; 43% of respondents had been NEO members for 3 years or less. The survey asked about impressions of past events, *The Emeriti News*, and the website. As well as suggestions for new ways to connect.

We were delighted to see that there was overwhelming praise for *The Emeriti News* which was read by nearly all respondents. NEO activities (lectures, mini-course series) were also valued, and there is still substantial interest in Zoom involvement. With generous support of *The Alumnae of Northwestern*, NEO has obtained electronic equipment that will enhance online connectivity. Although meals were not seen as necessary at afternoon or evening lectures, they are still generally appreciated. Several people noted the challenge and/or expense of parking on or near the Evanston campus and recommended that at least some gatherings take place at other sites.

Respondents looked to NEO as a source of information about university events and policies that affect our members. Along these lines, most felt that the amount of email sent by NEO was about right and that the emails were informative. After “informational” value, respondents felt that NEO provided continuous learning (a way to “keep the ‘little grey cells’ active,” as one put it) and, to a lesser extent, social contact, and opportunities for “reconnecting with old colleagues.”

Another finding from the survey was the very positive response to the idea of developing interest groups and some respondents expressed willingness to help do this. Not surprisingly, potential topics were wide-ranging. A small selection: current affairs, local history, the environment, cooking, literature (various categories), and wellness. If NEO could identify emeriti who might begin a group, either in-person or virtual, this could be a rewarding new direction. Want to get involved? Please contact emeritus-org@northwestern.edu.

Similarly, some respondents recommended more NEO-organized outings for those with shared interests, something done more in pre-Covid times. Possibilities include curated trips to small museums, “insider” tours of corporations or non-profits, and pre-performance lectures linked to on-campus music and theater offerings. Another respondent suggested NEO-organized service activities.

One section of the survey pointed to an area in which your Executive Council should try to do better. A significant number of respondents were unaware that there is a NEO website, and others noted a need to improve the website and its linkage to *The Emeriti News* and other communications, making it a more important source of information to the community.
Members would also like to see more interaction between NEO and Human Resources with a key goal being providing more information for current faculty on planning for retirement. For example, it could be helpful for a current faculty member to talk to someone who retired in the recent past. There are many considerations beyond the financial and health care decisions that could be addressed. In addition, such interactions would acquaint faculty approaching retirement with NEO and what it has to offer.

—Kathy Rundell and Joan Linsenmeier

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.

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 1980s Chicago, third-year medical student Joan Turner begins her specialty rotations. On her first day in pediatrics, a Code Pink bellows from the overhead sound system for one of the babies assigned to her. And that jarring event is just the beginning. Joan becomes embroiled in a search for the culprits of a baby-stealing ring that targets underprivileged women.

While navigating her medical training and growth as a physician, and dodging her way through the hospital tunnel system, Joan becomes a target herself. Joan's dog, her roommate, and a budding relationship with an ophthalmology resident provide support while the mist of the hospital crime scene hangs over her head. Comfort also arrives when Joan's mom, historian and avid birder, introduces time-tinted letters from her great-great-great-aunt Eleanor, the first woman trained in medicine in the United States. Aunt Eleanor provides wisdom and clarity during Joan's ordeal by "dream transporting" her to the 1850s and medicine as practiced at that time.
The Mamluk Sultanate ruled Egypt, Syria, and the Arabian hinterland along the Red Sea. Lasting from the deposition of the Ayyubid dynasty (c. 1250) to the Ottoman conquest of Egypt in 1517, this regime of slave-soldiers incorporated many of the political structures and cultural traditions of its Fatimid and Ayyubid predecessors. Yet its system of governance and centralisation of authority represented radical departures from the hierarchies of power that predated it. Providing a rich and comprehensive survey of events from the Sultanate's founding to the Ottoman occupation, this interdisciplinary book explores the Sultanate's identity and heritage after the Mongol conquests, the expedience of conspiratorial politics, and the close symbiosis of the military elite and civil bureaucracy. Carl F. Petry also considers the statecraft, foreign policy, economy, and cultural legacy of the Sultanate, and its interaction with polities throughout the central Islamic world and beyond. In doing so, Petry reveals how the Mamluk Sultanate can be regarded as a significant experiment in the history of state-building within the pre-modern Islamic world.


About 20 years ago, Michigan State University Press undertook to publish a ten-volume series of essays related to the history of American public discourse. I agreed to edit what will be Volume IV when the series is completed. A dozen essays generally cover the period between the Compromise of 1850 and the end of Reconstruction. Included are essays on that 1850 Compromise and the Congressional debates over the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1875, refutational speeches such as Frederick Douglass’s attack on scientific racism, informal debates like the Lincoln-Douglas encounters, modes of political argument typified by Stephen Douglas, Frederick Douglass, and Salmon P. Chase, the evolution of proslavery arguments from John C. Calhoun to Alexander Stephens, canonical speeches like Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address, and the influence of Reconstruction on the revival of the woman’s suffrage movement. Several of the essay authors have Northwestern connections.
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.

James A. Ibers, 91, a pioneer in structural coordination and inorganic chemistry, died Dec. 14, 2021, in Chicago. Jim was recognized widely for bringing the science and art of X-ray crystallography to inorganic chemistry, which made the structural determination of metal complexes possible, encouraged the synthesis of new compounds, and led to powerful synthetic methodologies, coordination chemistry, bio-inorganic chemistry, solid state synthesis and X-ray crystallography. He was honored with many chemistry awards and retired as the Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor of Chemistry. Born in Los Angeles, he took bachelor and doctorate degrees at Caltech, and then was a chemist at Shell Development and Brookhaven National Laboratory before joining NU in 1965. Obituary.

Robert A. Lamb, 72, a virologist who focused on influenza and paramyxoviruses, and was the Kenneth F. Burgess professor of molecular and cellular biology and an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, died Sept. 5, 2023, at Evanston Hospital. Bob's research on mechanism of action of viral proteins led to development of new vaccines and medicines. He researched how virus cells work at the molecular level. Each fall there is a Lamb Lecture at NU. Born in London, he moved to the U.S. to join Rockefeller University after his PhD from Cambridge. He joined Northwestern in 1983 and set up the Lamb Laboratory to focus on sequencing viral genes and characterizing viral protein. He chaired the department from 2011 to 2017. Bob was editor of the Journal of Virology and then editor-in-chief of Virology. In 1997 his team found a way to stop influenza viruses from leaving their host cells and stop the viruses at the end of their replication cycle. Studies on the fusion protein were applicable to the envelope proteins of SARS coronavirus, HIV and Ebola virus. Northwestern Now memorial.
Frank Paul Stuart, 88, a master surgeon who mentored and trained numerous transplant surgeons throughout his distinguished career, passed away peacefully at home May 16, 2023. After a medical degree at Northwestern, where he met Joan, a nursing student, Frank did a postdoc at Harvard. There he performed research with Francis D. Moore, a pioneer in organ transplant. He completed his surgical residency at University of California-San Francisco, where he and Joan spent four happy years exploring the West Coast. Frank returned to Chicago in 1966 to build the transplant program at the University of Chicago before returning to Northwestern in 1992 to help create yet another world-class transplant program. He served as president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons from 1993 to 1994 and received the ASTS Pioneer Award in 2010. Frank and Joan were avid sailors on Lake Michigan and enjoyed traveling and spending time with their three children and five 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.

2023

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 10:30am-12:30pm CDT  Fall Lecture and Brunch. Speaker: Professor Karen Smilowitz, Kellogg School of Management and McCormick School of Engineering: “Revisiting School District Design: Engineering Meets Education Policy in Evanston.” Norris Center, Evanston Campus and Zoom.

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT  Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. CDT  Fall Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 1. Prof. Emer. Carl Smith presents “The Emergence of Modern Chicago”. In-person and Zoom, Evanston Public Library Main. Register.

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. CDT  Fall Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 2. Prof. Emer. Carl Smith presents “The Emergence of Modern Chicago”. In-person and Zoom, Evanston Public Library Main. Register.

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CST  Executive Council Meeting
2024

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CST  Executive Council Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. CST  Wtr Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 1.
Prof. Emer. D. Soyini Madison presents
“Avant Garde Art in the Black World”. In-person and
Zoom, Evanston Public Library Main.

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. CST  Wtr Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 2.
Prof. Emer. D. Soyini Madison presents
“Avant Garde Art in the Black World”. In-person and
Zoom, Evanston Public Library Main.

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CST  Executive Council Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 11:30am-1:30 p.m. CST  Spring Lecture and Lunch.
Prof. Emer. S. Hollis Clayson presents
“The Dark Side of the Eiffel Tower”. Guild Lounge at
Scott Hall, Evanston Campus and Zoom.

Wednesday, March 27, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CST  Executive Council Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. CST  Spring Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 1.
Prof. Emer. Peter Hayes. In-person and Zoom,
Evanston Public Library Main.

Thursday, April 25, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. CST  Spring Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 2.
Prof. Emer. Peter Hayes. In-person and Zoom,
Evanston Public Library Main.

Wednesday, May 1, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CST  Executive Council Meeting

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

NEW EVENT POLICIES IN EFFECT

Effective September 1, 2023, for events requiring a payment:

A credit card will be necessary to confirm registration.

Cancellations need to be made at least 5 business days prior to the
event for a full refund. If a cancellation is made less than 5 business
days prior to the event, no refunds will be issued.
### NEO Officers and Executive Council Members, 2023–24

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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.

Our engaged editorial squad consists of Steve Carr, Holly Clayson, Mary Dedinsky, George Harmon, Joan Linsenmeier, Kathy Rundell, Al Telser, David Zarefsky and staff member, Gina Prokopeak.

Our next issue (Winter 2024) will be published in late January.
Press deadline: January 15, 2024