



The Emeriti News

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PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Spring's arrival in Chicago is always a saltatory process, and we are in the middle of it now. For example, I have already done some preparation of our lawn, gardens, and patio for warmer weather, but, as I type this paragraph, it is now snowing. Thus, the message is: Just don't worry about it; enjoy the variety and know that all these seasons morph into the next one "like clockwork."

The NEO Newsletter continues to evolve, at a deliberate pace, to be sure. This time we are adjusting the scope of *The Emeriti Bookshelf*. Its lead section will be Books and (this is new) a second section will be Scholarly and Creative Works. What we found was that many NEO members are proud of the serious work they are still doing and have put in the public domain, so this is our chance to list it. In this newsletter edition you will see that *The Emeriti Bookshelf* now has both sections. It is fascinating what you all are doing!

It is now also the season for developing the slate of NEO members we think would do a great job with some of the positions of responsibility. Right now, we are in the process of finding people to serve as officers on the [Executive Council](#). If you find value in our programming and your NEO relationships, please consider volunteering or naming someone we should approach in this matter. As we all know, it takes active folks to ensure that organizations thrive. If you're interested, but unsure, please reach out to [Kathy Rundell](#) who is heading up our [Nominating Committee](#). She can explain what the time commitment and responsibilities include.



Carr, as buckaroo wannabe in Wyoming.

-[Steve Carr](#), NEO President & Editor, [The Emeriti News](#)

EMERITI IN THE NEWS

Earlier this year **Jon Ziomek's** (Journalism) volunteer work at O'Hare International Airport was featured in the [Chicago Tribune](#). [View Ziomek's perspective](#) in this issue.

MORE NEWSWORTHY MENTIONS

New Bios. Thank you to NEO members [Steve Sawyer](#) (Law and NEO Exec Council member) and [Mark Sheldon](#) (Philosophy) for sharing their biographies for the NEO website. Visit our [Bio form](#) to share yours!

Martin Plonus (Engineering), enjoying Colorado slopes for his 90th birthday. Happy birthday!



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18 and May 2

6 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. CT

NEO and Evanston Public Library Mini-Course. Prof. Emer.

[Peter Hayes](#) presents *Misconceptions about the Holocaust*.

In-person and via Zoom. [Register](#).



May 8

2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. CT

Evanston and The History of the Automobile.

In-person at Double Clutch Brewing Co.,

2121 Ashland Ave, Evanston. Enjoy history and

appetizers. In-Person event. [Register](#).

KATHY'S AND ROB'S MUSICAL ADVENTURES

[Kathy Rundell](#), Professor Emerita in Microbiology-Immunology—and NEO's President-Elect—played flute, piccolo, and piano in high school. She chose the University of Rochester for college partly so she could take lessons at the Eastman School of Music but decided to major in biology. While in graduate school at Case Western Reserve University, she took flute lessons at the Cleveland Institute of Music; her teacher was the first chair of the Cleveland Orchestra.



*Rundell playing at a friend's wedding.
Photo courtesy of Kathy Rundell.*

[Rob Linsenmeier](#), Professor Emeritus in Biomedical Engineering and Neurobiology, played clarinet starting in 4th grade. In high school and during college summers, he sang in the church choir, directed by his father. As an engineering undergraduate at Carnegie-Mellon University, Rob played in marching band (wearing a kilt!) and concert band, and he also played in all three concert bands while a graduate student at Northwestern.



Linsenmeier in junior high orchestra. Photo courtesy of Rob Linsenmeier.

After graduate school, for both Kathy and Rob, research, teaching, and family crowded out music. Rob did work his way through the first Suzuki violin book with his daughter and also (with our late NEO colleague Bernie Dobroski) served as adviser for the NU chapter of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity. Kathy took out her flute on special occasions, like playing at a friend's wedding. Mostly, though, she let both flute and piano go for about 30 years. Then, in the mid 2000s, she started taking piano lessons again, anticipating that retirement would open up more time for music.

In her role as Editorial Board member of *The Emeriti News*, Joan Linsenmeier recently interviewed Rob and Kathy about their musical adventures.

TEN: I know the two of you reconnected through the [Wilmette Community Band](#). Tell me a bit about the band, how you got involved, and what your role is.

Rob Linsenmeier: While it carries the Wilmette name, the band has no official relation to Wilmette; we rehearse and play our main concerts in Evanston. During the summer we perform in local Independence Day parades and at other outdoor venues. Members come from Chicago and several northern suburbs; some are music teachers, but most are not professional musicians.

I joined the band in 2019, the year I retired. I had known and liked the conductor, David Fodor (PhD Northwestern), when he directed our sons at Evanston Township High School. I started in the second clarinet section and moved up to the first section after the pandemic, which, interrupted our activities. I also joined the board of the band, where my responsibility is designing concert programs and doing some publicity.

Kathy Rundell: When I first returned to making music with other people, it was through piano chamber music and piano duets. My pianist friends encouraged me to get out my flute because they wanted to play with other instruments. I learned about the Wilmette Community Band after accompanying some wind players in the Evanston area. They also introduced me to the Music Institute of Chicago's New Horizons Band and Community Orchestra.

TEN: What other music activities do the two of you share?

KR: For me, the most interesting one is our music clubs. The [Evanston Music Club](#) and North Shore Musicians Club are both over 100 years old and are in the process of merging. In addition to monthly meetings where members play for one another, the clubs hold an annual scholarship competition for university students. Northwestern music students are frequent applicants—and winners. Last year, we awarded \$1400 each to five students who gave us a fabulous concert in May.

RL: Kathy recruited me to join the Evanston Music Club. We've played duets together and we're currently rehearsing with a bassoonist to prepare for a trio performance. I've also agreed to start working with Kathy on the scholarship competition.

TEN: Hmm. I'm sensing a tendency to go beyond practicing and performing music to take on administrative roles too. This might not surprise your former colleagues! Other musical activities you want to mention?

KR: One Music Club member has been organizing chamber music sessions through Meetup where people are matched for trios, quartets, etc. I've met several good musicians, young and old, through this group.

RL: I play in a newly formed clarinet quartet. I'm also still a faculty adviser for Northwestern's Phi Mu Alpha chapter. Like me, most members aren't music majors, but music is a key way in which they interact with other people

TEN: Any final words for our readers?

KR: I never anticipated how involved in music I'd become. I tell those who wonder what they will do when they retire: Just start with something—volunteer, take a class, join a club. It's amazing how one thing leads to another and, before you know it, you have a new set of friends from all walks of life and a wealth of new opportunities.

RL: Music can be a way to reconnect with people from your past too. Kathy and I met when she was an Associate Dean at the Graduate School—and now we interact in a very different way.



Linsenmeier and Rundell.

KR & RL: Come enjoy music with us! Both performing and non-performing members are welcome to participate in our music clubs. And if you live in the Evanston/Chicago area, come to our band concerts! You can find the schedule online at www.wilmetteband.org.

BLACK ABSTRACT ART AND BLACK IMAGINATIONS

MINI-COURSE WITH PROFESSOR EMERITA OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES [D. SOYINI MADISON](#)

Professor Madison’s mini-course challenged attendees to engage with Black abstract art and treated them to a visual feast of paintings and sculptures by Black artists that were visually compelling yet largely unfamiliar.

One challenge of abstract art is that it doesn’t explain itself immediately, as representational art does. Madison described “slow looking” as a practice for looking at abstract and other artworks in a meditative way. Madison encouraged viewers to see works of Black artists as gifts that can be slowly unwrapped, layer by layer, with repeated looking aiding in the discernment of meaning.



Artist Torkwase Dyson’s “1919 Black Water Background Project.” Photo courtesy of Torkwase Dyson.

The core of the mini-course was an extensive, carefully curated tour of abstract paintings, sculptures, and installations by Black artists. Several were trained in Impressionism, Cubism, and other European artistic movements. But European trends were far from the only influence on their work. Black and indigenous people had been making art with abstract forms long before the turn to abstraction in Europe. The artworks often have functional origins, as in a brilliantly colored printed cloth created by West African women and made to be worn. Diverse materials are used to capture abstraction: Melvin Edwards (b. 1937) pounded metals into the shapes of chains and shackles, representations of containment or confinement that signify incarceration and enslavement; Noah Purifoy (b. 1917) used found objects and remade them to represent rituals of Black life and community; Howardina Pindell (b. 1943) punched holes in steel to represent the complexities of Blackness.

Abstract works by Black artists also addressed the struggle surrounding the civil rights movement. Chicago artist Theaster Gates (b. 1973) created wall art of firehoses, some blood colored, reminiscent of those turned on Black civil rights protesters. Bethany Collins (b. 1984) saturated newsprint-sized sheets with black paint and hung them on gallery walls to represent the news blackout imposed by the Birmingham News on the city’s civil rights demonstrations and their violent suppression by police, events that the newspaper refused to report. Torkwase Dyson’s (b.1973) “1919 Black Water Background Project” artworks symbolize the murder that ignited the 1919 Chicago race riots, using color and texture as signals of how Black people must carefully navigate among unpredictably violent White people to create safe spaces for themselves.

In her closing remarks, Madison described the colors and patterns of Black abstract art as being like jazz, with the colors and patterns as notes. When we hear the notes and the combined sounds, we don’t worry about “What does this say?” or “Does it have a narrative?”. Thus, Black abstract art can be liberating for both the artist and the viewer.

View *Black Abstract Art and Black Imaginations* Mini-Course. [Course 1](#) and [Course 2](#).

-Jane Rankin

THE DARK SIDE OF THE EIFFEL TOWER NEO TALK BY PROFESSOR EMERITA S. HOLLIS CLAYSON

On March 14th, NEO Executive Council member, Holly Clayson, Professor Emerita of Art History and Bergan Evans Professor Emerita in the Humanities, delivered a fascinating talk entitled, “The Dark Side of the Eiffel Tower” (Note: she has a book by the same title under contract with the University of Chicago Press.) My expectation was that she had dredged up some scandalous stories of human misbehavior that we would find comparable to those of H. H. Holmes in *The Devil in the White City* (Erik Larson, Crown Publishers, 2003.) As it turned out, my expectations were wrong, as Holly told of aspects of this spectacular national monument that we seldom, if ever, hear about. They lie in the shadows of its fabulous reputation. Of course, as a long-time licensed engineer, learning about the details of the Eiffel Tower was right up my alley. Furthermore, the 1870s-genre iron alloy and its coating piqued my curiosity as a life-long zealot of materials science and engineering. The lighting of the tower was a show all in itself. It included gas lights along horizontal railings, smoky Bengal Lights up the legs of the structure, and (the latest thing!) electric arc search lights whose beams were aimed at will on people and places of interest. For visitors and Parisians its looming presence and probing searchlights led many to have a suspicious regard for it having an ulterior purpose altogether.



*Clayson engaging with NEO members.
Photo by Al Telser.*

The tower was the centerpiece of the 1889 World’s Fair in Paris, and it was a complete success in that capacity. The international prominence of the Eiffel Tower served France well as a symbol of their flair for beauty as well as their mastery of superior technology. The tower and the World’s Fair together were seen as a grand assertion of French republicanism and, at the same time, French colonialism. Of significant note: Mr. Eiffel covered two-thirds of its (enormous) costs through his own company. That meant, however, that revenue from visitors also went to his company, with the consequence being that it recouped its investment within the year the tower opened. I was amused to learn that some of Mr. Eiffel’s early guests up the tower were Americans, William “Buffalo Bill” Cody and Thomas Edison. Over the 135+ years of its existence there has been a succession of modifications, some for modernization and some for structural protection. Hardening the tower against possible war damage, especially in the 1940s, was extensive and prudent.

If you’d like to view this lecture, please send your request to emeritus-org@northwestern.edu.

-Steve Carr

EMERITUS JON ZIOMEK FINDS FULFILLMENT AIDING WEARY O’HARE TRAVELERS

When I retired from Northwestern University’s faculty more than ten years ago, I did what many of us do—I stayed connected with my field and continued to write. But I also wanted meaningful volunteer work. And I found it at O’Hare International Airport.

If you’ve traveled through O’Hare and know how to navigate that giant airport, it’s possible you’ve never noticed any of the seven information desks that are scattered through the four terminals. But plenty of less-experienced travelers need the help of the Travelers Aid Chicago volunteers at those desks. I’m one of them.

I usually help around two hundred people every shift, and on big summer travel days, the numbers are even higher. The questions we get cover a huge range of topics, which requires a strong understanding of airport and airline operations, plus general Chicago knowledge. If we get stumped, we have a reference binder that holds several thousand pieces of information about airline locations and schedules, regional buses, taxi locations, hotel shuttle buses, local and downtown hotels, the CTA, the RTA, Amtrak, Greyhound, and other related topics.

So we have to be ready for almost anything, although the most common problem is helping someone locate their next flight. A surprisingly high number of travelers don’t even know what airline they’re flying on. (O’Hare is used by nearly 50 airlines.) Our most difficult problems are usually about missed or delayed flights and how people can reschedule their travel—such stressful situations can generate angry, worried, and sad travelers. I’ve had travelers break down in tears in front of me.

A recent issue at the airport has been the arrival of undocumented immigrants into Chicago. Although most have arrived by bus into central Chicago, we’ve seen an increase at O’Hare, too. Many are passing through to other cities, which we can help with, but for those who are intending to stay here, Travelers Aid has a system in place for moving these people into Chicago’s social services.

I’ve enjoyed this airport work enormously. I’ve kept at it for more than eight years and have written several articles about it. Although most of my interactions are quick, I like to compare this work to teaching because I’m helping people solve problems. I recently had a traveler thank me for my instructions and then say, “I’ll bet you were a professor.” I hope he was saying that because he found my directions to be clear and succinct, and NOT because I sounded like a long-winded geezer.

Got some time on your hands? Think about this volunteer activity. Track me down and ask me about it.

-Jon Ziomek



*Ziomek helping a traveler.
Photo courtesy of Jon Ziomek.*

THE EMERITI BOOKSHELF

This column draws attention to recent books and articles published or reviewed by Northwestern emeriti. Readers are encouraged to send title information to the [editor](#) to be considered for inclusion. You do not need to be the author to suggest a title. Feel free to inform on your friends and colleagues!



BOOKS



Anthony, William, [Farnsy: A Novel](#) (Maine: Maine Authors Publishing, 2022). 357 pages.

Farnsy is a relaxing mystery romance set in a town near and dear to author and NEO member, William “Bill” Anthony, who spends a portion of the year in Damariscotta, Maine—where the novel is set. His story centers on Farnsy, a police officer who finds community and love while solving a mystery involving Necco wafers (a long-time New England confection) and fishing lures. NEO staff member Gina Prokopeak had the privilege to connect with him and learn firsthand what motivates his writing.

The Emeriti News: Even though you are “from away,” you consider yourself a Mainer. What first drew you to Maine? What keeps you coming back?

William Anthony: My first trip to Maine was in the 50’s with my grandparents who lived in Boston. But it wasn’t until I started at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, that the state got under my skin. Colby is where I met my wife. We eventually married in Maine, vacationed there with my wife’s family and after our daughters were born, we rented a place for ourselves on Damariscotta Lake for a couple of weeks every summer. I have been fortunate enough to set down some roots in the mid-coast community—as a docent at the Pemaquid Point Lighthouse; as a columnist on boating safety for the *Lincoln County News*; starting a German table; starting a local writer’s forum; and as a member of a boating club out there. It’s like home.

TEN: Waltz’s Soda Fountain, frequented by title character Farnsy, is a real place and according to [The Lincoln County News](#) is one of the few authentic soda fountains still in business. Do you consider Waltz’s a setting or a main character, or both?

WA: Waltz’s Soda Fountain is a real place indeed. I guess I stumbled upon it in the 80’s. I sat at the end of the 8-seat counter near the window on Main Street—which is where the character Doc sits in *Farnsy*—and listened to the locals and their lovely Maine accents.

Now to your question: Being a theater lover, especially small theater, I think of Waltz's as a small stage setting where folks "from away" might just happen to hear a good story told by a local. If they take the time to listen. It's trendy these days to talk about a communal "3rd space"—not our home or our office, but a more public hub for open interaction. The proverbial cracker-barrel conversation, as it were. That's Waltz's. But my friend, Matt Cost, a well-known Maine mystery writer, recently told me that he thinks "...a setting can contain many characteristics of a character." He writes that the setting in one of his series "...has backstory, personality, and helps drive the story forward as much as any of the characters." Matt says "Waltz's is most definitely a character in *Farnsy*." I don't know. Is the *Pequod*, Ahab's whaling ship in *Moby Dick*, a character? Not sure. But it's a magnificent setting.



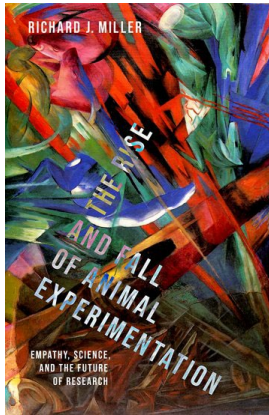
Anthony and his boat, the "Susan B.," leisurely cruising down the Damariscotta River. Photo courtesy of William Anthony.

TEN: In your book bio, you say, "storytelling is essential to being human." What impact do you hope this story has on readers?

WA: I don't just think storytelling, narration, is essential to being human, I think it's the one thing that distinguishes us from other sentient beings. The narrative past tense is the human tense. Whales communicate long distances in low frequencies, brief bursts. Birds, dogs, cats, apes, elephants, maybe even trees communicate. But as far as we know, only humans tell stories with a beginning, a middle and an

end. Probably at least half of our stories are "stretchers": lies and tall tales. Long and short, some of them are sung, but our stories entertain, educate, enlighten, inspire, caution, and scare the hell out of us. Our stories are the glue of our communities, our families—and yes, I dare say, even academic departments. It's the way we make sense of our lives and a way we preserve our history.

I've been humbled to hear from folks both in town and from far away (e.g. a women's reading group in Florida), who love this little book. But to answer your question, I'll simply say that I'm satisfied if *Farnsy* brings a chuckle or a smile to readers. Given the upturned world we live in, isn't that what we need—some affirmation that what truly matters in life are the connections between people and the support we offer each other?



Miller, Richard J. (author). [The Rise and Fall of Animal Experimentation: Empathy, Science, and the Future of Research](#). (Oxford Univ. Press, 2023). 304 pages.

(From book description.) Every year, hundreds of millions of animals are used in the service of biomedical research, despite the risk of extreme cruelty to these animal subjects. The expansion of the pharmaceutical industry and university research funding rapidly normalized its practice. What exactly are these experiments supposed to achieve from the scientific point of view and how effective are they? Working scientists answer these questions by saying that their research is absolutely necessary if we are to develop new therapies for human diseases. But is this really the case?

Written by a scientist with over 40 years of laboratory experience, *The Rise and Fall of Animal Experimentation* critically examines this assumption and asks whether it is true that animal-based research achieves its aims and, if so, how often this occurs and if there are alternatives to performing animal-based science. The book takes readers through the history of animal experimentation: its early beginnings in antiquity, how it advanced in the seventeenth century during the Scientific Revolution until the present day, and explores the diverse scientific, theological, and philosophical influences that formed the basis for these ideas about animal-based science. Referencing developments in various fields including stem cell biology, genetic sequencing, and live imaging, the book describes the scientific advancements that bring the value of animal experimentation into question and encourages biomedical research to consider more anthropocentric paradigms that reflect the entire spectrum of human diversity.

SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE WORKS

Philip Iannaccone. "Chapter 3.02: The Environment, Public Health and Personalized Medicine: Where Do We Go From Here." [Comprehensive Precision Medicine, 1st ed.](#), Kenneth S. Ramos, editor. (Elsevier, Inc. 2023.) pp. 343-354.

Hamid Naficy. "[Iranian Internet Cinema, A Cinema of Embodied Protest: Imperfect, Amateur, Small, Unauthorized, Global.](#)" *Media and Mapping Practices in the Middle East and North Africa: Producing Space*. Edited by Alena Strohmaier and Angela Krewani. (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. 2021.) pp. 119-138.

Hamid Naficy. "Collecting Pre- and Post-Revolution Iranian Movie Posters in the US and in Iran," [Collecting Prints, Posters, and Ephemera: Perspectives in a Global World](#). Edited by Ruth E. Iskin and Britany Salisbury. (Bloomsbury Academic, 2020.) pp. 245-261.

Mark A. Segraves, [“Using Natural Scenes to Enhance our Understanding of the Cerebral Cortex’s Role in Visual Search,”](#) Annual Review of Vision Science, Vol. 9, pp 435-454 (2023.)

Mark Sheldon. [“Comments by opponents on the British Medical Association’s guidance on non-therapeutic male circumcision of children seem one-sided and may undermine public health,”](#) with Stephen Moreton, Guy Cox, Stefan A. Bailis, Jeffrey D. Klausner, Brian J. Morris, World Journal of Clinical Pediatrics, Vol 12 Issue 5 (December 9, 2023.)

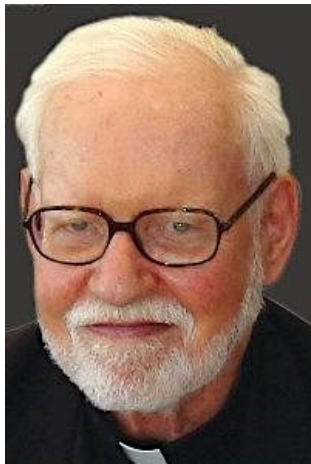
Mark Sheldon. [“Ethics of Transitioning from Curative Care to Palliative Care: Potential Conflicts of Interest Using the Example of Neurosurgery,”](#) with Nathan A. Shlobin and Mark Bernstein, World Neurosurgery 168. (Elsevier. Dec 2022.) pp. 139-145.

S.H. Sohrab, [“Invariant Model of Boltzmann Statistical Mechanics and Its Implications to Hydrodynamic Model of Electromagnetism, Physical Foundations of Quantum Mechanics, Relativity, Quantum Gravity and Quantum Cosmology,”](#) Journal of Problems of the Evolution of Open Systems, Vol. 25 No. 3-4, pp. 3-40 (2023.)

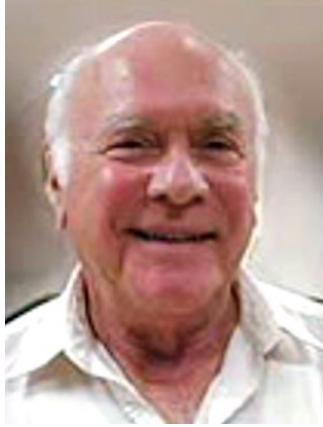
IN MEMORIAM

Column Editor [George Harmon](#)

Note: We list In Memoriam in alphabetical order, and we publish them each quarter as we learn of the news. Please keep us informed of such events and share your own observations about our beloved emeriti.



Jesuit Father **James F. Bresnahan**, 96, a professor of medical ethics, died Oct. 23, 2018, in Weston, Mass. In 1981 he began directing a program in medical ethics and humanities at Northwestern’s medical school. Born in Springfield, Mass., he attended Holy Cross and Harvard Law School and was ordained in 1959. He taught theology at Fairfield University, where he pronounced his final vows in 1965. A year later he began doctoral studies at Yale, taught for two years at Regis University, then joined the faculty of Jesuit School of Theology and the University of Chicago’s School of Divinity. In Chicago he met a group of Northwestern doctors who wanted to explore ethical issues in medical practice. Fr. Bresnahan published more than 30 scholarly articles and book chapters. In 2002 he went back to New England to live at Boston College; later he had an appointment at Dartmouth’s Medical School. [Obituary.](#)



Laurie Brown, 96, a theoretical physicist and historian of quantum field theory and elementary particle physics, passed away Oct. 25, 2019. He received a doctorate at Cornell under Richard Feynman and joined NU in 1950. Laurie spent academic years at the Institute for Advanced Study, at the University of Vienna, and as a Fulbright Scholar in Italy. From 1960 to 1970 he was a consultant for Argonne National Laboratory. He edited several books on Feynman and wrote mainly on the history of 20th century physics after World War II, especially nuclear and particle physics. During the 1990s a focus of his work was the history of modern physics in Japan. Laurie was one of the founders of the Forum on History of Physics of the American Physical Society and twice was chair of the forum. In 1961 he was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society. [Obituary.](#)



Adele Westgate Combs, 90, assistant university librarian for general services in Evanston, died Oct. 26, 2023, in Milwaukee. Born in Mendota, Ill., she developed an early love of books that led her to Indiana University for a master's in library science. In 1957 she married Richard Combs, a fellow MLS student. They parted in 1974 but remained close friends. Adele worked as an academic librarian at Columbia University in NYC and at Newport School for Girls. She loved nature. After retirement from NU in 1998, she volunteered at Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago. She supported the arts, stayed up to date on current events, and enjoyed world travel. "You couldn't help but love Adele," said a friend. "She lit up a room and had a lot of little kid in her." [Obituary.](#)

Elaine Lazar Grant, 97, who spent 25 years on the faculty in the School of Communication, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, passed away Aug. 18, 2022. She was the first female co-chair of the General Faculty Committee and was an associate dean of the Graduate School. Elaine was a fellow in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and a founding member of the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She lived in Chicago, Evanston, Highland Park, and recently Glenview. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern. Elaine valued knowledge greatly and, post-retirement, organized and took many classes through The Alumnae of Northwestern University. She had two sons and a daughter, eight grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren, all of whom were the lights of her life. [Obituary.](#)



J. (Joseph) Gordon Millichap, 102, professor of pediatrics who was one of the first pediatric neurologists in the U.S., died at home in Chicago May 7, 2021. He was a nationally and internationally recognized expert in treatment of epilepsy, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, and other neurological disorders of children and adolescents. Born in the United Kingdom, he received his MD there, served in Iraq with the Royal Air Force, had fellowships in pediatrics in Boston, and established pediatric neurology training at Mayo and Northwestern. He wrote more than 150 publications or books on neurology, epilepsy, attention deficit disorder and learning disabilities. He had a private practice in Chicago and saw patients into his 96th year. The youngest of his four sons, Dr. John Millichap is teacher and researcher at Lurie Children's Hospital.

[Obituary.](#)



Gordon J. Murphy, 86, an electrical engineer who wrote texts on automatic control theory, died Nov. 26, 2023. Upon graduation from high school in Milwaukee in 1945, he enlisted immediately in the Navy and served on shipboard in the Pacific as an electronic technician. He graduated from Milwaukee School of Engineering, earned a doctorate at the University of Minnesota, and joined Northwestern in 1968. His interests expanded into electronic systems and digital computers, leading to design and commercialization of electric vehicles. He served a term as chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering and retired in 1997. Patents were awarded to him in television, consumer products, motion control and electronic dental instruments. He also was president of IPC Systems, a design and development company specializing in electronic systems, from 1975 through 2003. [Obituary.](#)



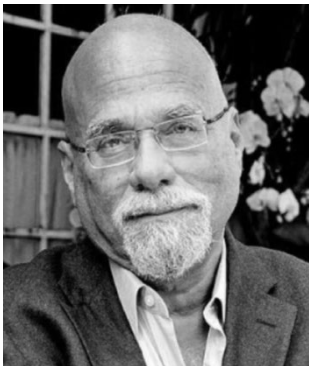
John Phair, 89, an infectious diseases professor at Feinberg and an early leader in investigating HIV infection, died of heart failure Feb. 19, 2024, at Westminster Place in Evanston. He was "a great mentor, instrumental at the beginning of the AIDS pandemic to keep people sane and sensible during the biggest health care crisis of the day," said colleague Robert Murphy. Born in Paris, where his father was leading the Army's meningitis division, John was an All-American swimmer at Yale, earned his medical degree at the University of Cincinnati, moved to Hiroshima for the government to study the effects of radiation among survivors, taught at the University of Cincinnati, and joined Northwestern in 1976. His daughter, recording artist Liz Phair, said her father championed AIDS patients early on, when "no one wanted to treat them." Many people in the HIV community have told her, "Your dad is a hero of ours." [Obituary.](#)



Catharine A. Regan, 91, who taught Old and Middle English and wrote articles on typology and orality in literature during her 33 three-year career, died Jan. 10, 2024, in San Diego. She developed and taught one of the first web-based classes, History of the English Language, which influenced similar courses at other universities. Cathy also wrote commentary notes for the Oxford edition of John Trevisa’s translation of Bartholomaeus Anglicus’s *De proprietatibus rerum*. She encountered Jesuit spirituality at the University of Detroit, played clarinet in its marching band, and earned a doctorate at Illinois. She had a lifelong interest in classical music. Upon retiring in 1999, Cathy began a second career as a hospice volunteer, following the footsteps of her brother Jim. She was aided by knowledge drawn from her study of death and dying in the Dark Ages. Dedication to her patients made her a superb and highly appreciated volunteer. [Obituary.](#)



Jerome L. Rosen, 88, a physics professor for more than 40 years, died Feb. 28, 2020. He was primarily interested in experiments in high-energy particle physics. His late work was associated with the HERA-B experiment at the Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron in Hamburg, Germany, and with experiment E835 at Fermilab. Both experiments use high-energy proton collisions to examine the properties of quarks. His doctorate was from Columbia. He was a fellow of the American Physics Society and mentored more than 20 PhD students. [Obituary.](#)



Roger Schank, 76, a pioneer in artificial intelligence, cognitive science and learning sciences, passed away in Shelburne, Vt. Jan. 29, 2023. He was at Stanford and Yale prior to joining Northwestern in 1989 as a professor of computer science to establish the interdisciplinary Institute for the Learning Sciences through a 10-year, \$30 million grant from Andersen Consulting. The team—200 members at its apex—developed systems to aid in problem-solving, decision-making, planning, and learning. Roger wrote more than 125 academic articles and 30 books, and he founded several companies in learning technologies. Among his PhD students are several Northwestern faculty members. He described the common theme of his projects as “trying to understand the nature of the human mind” and “building models of the human mind on the computer.” [McCormick School obituary.](#)



Donald W. Turner, a dental surgeon and Navy captain, passed away April 23, 2021. He attended St. Louis University on a two-year baseball scholarship, was drafted by the Army, and served in Korea as a combat medic. He went back to St. Louis for an undergraduate degree at Washington University. After a doctorate in dental surgery, he took a commission in the Navy dental corps and went to Vietnam to run the dental clinic of the Fifth Marine Regiment, earning a bronze star with combat V. While at the Naval Medical Research Institute, he earned a PhD in microbiology. Later on he commanded a unit at Great Lakes Naval Station. Upon retirement he joined Northwestern as a professor of dentistry and periodontal surgery, where he enjoyed a passion for teaching his trade. Donald was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan, a skilled builder of wooden ship models, a storyteller, a “questionable” pie maker, and an avid Civil War student. [Obituary.](#)



Otto Karl Werckmeister, 87, an art historian of the New Left and one of the movement’s prodigious intellects and imposing personalities, passed away June 7, 2023. Born in Berlin in 1934, he knew Nazism firsthand, witnessed the arrival of the Red Army, and had direct experience of de-Nazification. Karl received his doctorate in art history, philosophy, and modern literature at Freie Universität Berlin in the 1950s, when the FU was the epicenter of increasingly militant West German students. For Karl, Marxism meant engagement with anything seeming symptomatic of forces in contemporary culture, especially Paul Klee. He had a long-running fascination with comics, graphic novels, animated film, and music. Karl taught at UCLA until 1971, then became a professor in art history at Northwestern, retiring in 2002 and relocating to Berlin, “my hometown.” [Obituary.](#)



John Wick, 88, a leading authority on tests and measurement, passed away peacefully March 8, 2023 at home in Glencoe, from Alzheimer’s disease. He spent his working lifetime helping students improve their academic skills through testing. Raised in Mankato, Minn., John joined the Army and for three years served as a Morse Code interceptor. He went to college at Mankato State and to the University of Iowa for a PhD in statistics, then joined Northwestern as a professor of statistics, retiring in 2001. He wrote several books on the subject and also created standardized testing programs. He was a consultant to the North Central Association and many schools and organizations. John enjoyed fishing, cooking, golfing, gardening, walking, traveling, and having a beer at his favorite local tavern. [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—
emeritus-org@northwestern.edu, (847) 467-0432.

Thursday, April 18, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. CT	Spring Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 1. Professor Emeritus Peter Hayes presents "Misconceptions about the Holocaust." In-person and Zoom, Evanston Public Library Main. Register.
Wednesday, May 1, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. CT	Executive Council Meeting
Thursday, May 2, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. CT	Spring Qtr: EPL & NEO Mini-Course, Session 2. Professor Emeritus Peter Hayes presents "Misconceptions about the Holocaust." In-person and Zoom, Evanston Public Library Main. Register.
Wednesday, May 8, 2 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. CT	"Evanston and The History of the Automobile." Double Clutch Brewing Co, 2121 Ashland Ave, Evanston. Enjoy history and appetizers. In-Person event. Register.
Tuesday, June 4, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CT	NEO Spring Business Meeting and New Emeriti Welcome. Guild Lounge at Scott Hall, Evanston Campus. In-person and Zoom.
Wednesday, June 26, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. CT	Executive Council Meeting

NEO OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2023–24

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NEO IS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO SERVE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

If you are interested in helping to guide NEO’s future,
please reach out to [Kathy Rundell](#)
of this year’s [Nominating Committee](#).

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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](#).

Masthead photo by [Al Telser](#).

Our next issue (Summer 2024) will be published in July.

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