The President’s Column
David A Stumpf
Professor Emeritus of Neurology

We’re in transitions! I am honored to serve as your NEO President this next year. It came as a bit of a surprise since the request was made to postpone such consideration and give me opportunity to further develop this newsletter. But the Nominating Committee proceeded nonetheless.

The President has many opportunities ahead, motivating the search for the next Chief Editor of The Emeritus News. We have many capable emeriti, and your interest in and suggestions for this position are welcome. With many systems and support in place, the successor can focus more on content and less on mechanics.

My colleagues on the Executive Council are Mark Ratner, vice president; Allan Drebin, past president; Dan Garrison, secretary; Daniel Linzer, provost, ex officio; and at-large members Alvin Telser, Vera Texeira, Kathy Rundell, Morteza Rahimi, Erv Goldberg and Jack Snarr.

We will continue to develop the proposal for an Emeriti Home. The Provost has been generally supportive, but many details must be developed and committed to writing. Defining what will happen within such a facility is a high priority because this will suggest space, other resource and financial requirements. Our next NEO Luncheon presentation will concern this and provide initial opportunity for emeriti input. The slide deck for and summary of the discussion will be posted for others who could not attend.

David A Stumpf, MD, PhD
Editor’s Notes

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Editor in Chief
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I spoke my piece in the President’s Message. But I will tweak you once again with a plea for your input. In our last issue Bob Craig launched what might be an ongoing stream of articles about emeriti interests and activities. In this edition, Michele Weldon describes her engagement in the OpEd Project. This program helps its participating thought leaders gain access to and promulgate evidence based opinions in forums read by elite decision makers. OpEd especially encourages alternative views from underrepresented groups. The result is often the viral spread of their consequential ideas. Over 80 NU full time faculty have participated in the year-long fellowship training; emeriti also have engagement opportunities in public forums across the country. Michele’s own commentary appears regularly in outlets such as New York Times, USA Today, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Christian Science Monitor, CNN, Cosmopolitan, Huffington Post, The Guardian, Los Angeles Times, Medium, Narratively, Pacific Standard, Quartz, Slate, Writer’s Digest and many more.

We would welcome your submissions about professional projects, hobbies, travels, and other activities. The Emeritus News will only be as good as our contributors … we are counting on tapping your talents!

Editorial Board:

- **Robert Coen, Weinberg School.** Bob is a macroeconomist, former Chair of the Department Economics and Associate Dean at Weinberg. He served as staff editor and later on editorial boards ipolicies, curriculum, promotion and tenure, the General Faculty Committee and the Provost’s Program Review Council.

- **George Harmon, Medill School.** George was Medill’s news department chair for 15 years. He was publisher/editor of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and assistant managing editor of the Chicago Daily News. He is now a director of Paddock Publishing, publisher of suburban newspapers. He is a Vietnam veteran and chaired the NU faculty committee on Naval Science and the Committee on Athletics and Recreation. He is a member of the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame.

- **Abe Peck, Medill School.** Abe lives in Santa Barbara, CA where he is a freelance author, contribution author and consultant. He is a member of the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame and former reporter for two Chicago newspapers. He chaired the magazine department at Medill for more than 20 years and served as acting dean and in other administrative positions.

- **Jon Ziomek, Medill School.** Jon was Medill’s assistant dean in charge of graduate editorial programs for 16 years. He also taught urban news reporting, business reporting and science reporting. Before joining Medill, Jon spent a decade in Chicago journalism. For most of that time, he was a business news reporter, features reporter and labor reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times. Jon continues to write and edit on a freelance basis.
The OpEd Project’s Public Voices Fellowship at Northwestern

“If you say things of consequence, there may be consequences. But the alternative is to be inconsequential.”

By Michele Weldon

Each of us knows intuitively and through lived experience, that the more different voices you engage with regularly and the more sources you investigate, that the more fully dimensional will be your base of knowledge.

Using a metaphor of music, the more instruments comprising a symphony, the richer the sound experience. The same is true in media as well as many arenas of public thought leadership. The more experts we hear from, the broader our references and better informed are our points of view.

The opposite is also true: When we consistently hear only from a narrow slice of society on any platform of media from broadcast to ink on paper or digital, the less informed we will be. And when we only hear from a small group of public intellectuals in leadership across disciplines, the less robust our conversations and the more myopic we become.

The quantified truth is that the majority of voices we hear from across all media platforms, as well as in leadership in Congress, corporate boards, or even representation in movies, books and academia, sound and look remarkably similar. These voices are mostly white, male, Western and privileged.

This is a legacy born of history, tradition and behaviors. The goal is not to undermine or damn these voices, but to move forward and join in to shift from this culture of exclusion and disenfranchisement to one of inclusion.

That is the mission of The OpEd Project, a social justice initiative founded in 2008 by journalist and author Katie Orenstein with the goal to include in larger public discourse under-represented voices (whether that gap is identified by gender, race, age, ideology, geography, class, socioeconomics, ability, religion or even academic discipline). From the front door forums of media commentary to the higher levels of decision making, access is necessary so all voices, regardless of where they come from, have a chance to tell the story and to write history. This inclusiveness will ensure that thought leadership is a true meritocracy.

In 2012, The OpEd Project launched The Public Voices Fellowship at Northwestern, and next year will head into its fifth year. I serve as director of the NU Public Voices Fellowship, and lead the fellowship along with Holly Kearl, a senior facilitator with The OpEd Project who is also an...
author and journalist. I brought the idea of the fellowship to the attention of Provost Dan Linzer in 2011 and he agreed to support it.

For the last four years, 80 full-time faculty members have been selected to participate in quarterly convenings and weekly mentorship. Each year, a new cohort of 20 faculty members from across the university are selected to participate. Upon selection from a pool of applicants, each participant pledges to contribute at least two demonstrations of thought leadership, whether those are opeds, speeches or other types of content over the nine-month active fellowship.

In that time, the path from published idea to other action and outcomes becomes clear. Decision makers as well as other media, publishers, agents, conference organizers, policy makers, employers, funders and more pay attention to these timely pieces, and a domino effect occurs. The result is often the viral spread of key ideas.

As a result of commentary published in high visibility outlets from the New York Times to CNN, Washington Post, Reuters, Scientific American and literally hundreds of other outlets, participants in the fellowship have received not just recognition, but promotions, invitations to serve on boards, funding, book contracts and more. The audience grows exponentially from a small group within a silo to possibly millions of readers.

The goal of the Public Voices Fellowship is not haranguing about the lack of equity of voice, but providing a solution. Why not inform the top thinkers and experts about how to join in these forums, by building timely, evidence-based, value driven arguments of social value? Why not push to create a transformational shift within those engaged faculty to see a social responsibility in their knowledge and expertise?

The practical work in the fellowships is to orient these esteemed academics, researchers, and public intellectuals from universities, non-profits and organizations that what they know and how they know it belongs in the larger conversation around critical issues of our day.

So far, more than 10,000 individuals from all over the world have been through The OpEd Project either in public voices fellowships at institutions including Northwestern, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, Emory, Dartmouth, Cornell and many more to The Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, Ms. Foundation or in public seminars in cities around the world. Yale and Northwestern are the longest continuously running fellowships in the roster of universities.

To date 80 NU faculty members from all schools—medicine, law, engineering, arts and sciences, business—have achieved more than 630 successes. That total includes more than 350 published opeds in scores of major outlets on timely issues of importance, as well as media appearances, speeches, books, and so much more. To see the work of each years’ cohort, please go the Provost’s website, and click on each year’s fellowship, where you can also see a video of the fellows discussing what the work means to them and the legacy of their research.

Aside from possible personal advancement for each of these fellows seeing their ideas catch on with their names attached, they also have the opportunity to delve into other projects, to reach broader audiences and to engage in new work, funded by new sources and to collaborate with
new partners. It also places Northwestern at the center of major public conversations on critical
issues.

Applications are open until August 15 for full time faculty for this coming year’s fellowship, that
is generously supported by Dan Linzer and Lindsay Chase-Landsdale. This summer a group of
administration and alums, along with me, will select 20 fellows for the coming year from a pool
of outstanding faculty up to three times that size. We look to represent faculty from a broad array
of disciplines and areas of research, so that the group is diverse and robust.

While slots in the year-long fellowship are limited to full-time faculty, there are possibilities for
emerita faculty to benefit from The OpEd Project, with offerings of public seminars in a dozen
cities around the country, including Chicago.

While many of the emeritus faculty have spent years writing, lecturing and teaching about their
research and ideas and know very well how to do that, the seminars are about much more than
just a singular expression of one idea. The goal is to act upon the understanding that your
knowledge as it connects to the erupting critical issues of the day belongs in the larger world,
inspiring intelligent and meaningful conversations on what matters most to all of us.

As director of the fellowship, I spend my time editing and pitching the work from outstanding
faculty like Nancy Loeb at the law school, who recently wrote about the cost to Midwest
farmland of sand fracking in the New York Times. I edited and placed Sandra Waxman’s
eloquent piece on infant language in Aeon, a new outlet for academic work based in the United
Kingdom. I helped Jessica Winegar polish her piece on the parallels of domestic violence in this
country and honor killings in the Middle East for Womensenews. I helped Sheehan Fisher of
Feinberg publish a topical piece about the evolving role of fathers in TIME.

Why does it matter? Because these are important ideas that otherwise would not have been
heard. Yes, if the idea is controversial, the writer may get hundreds of emails and perhaps
thousands of comments on the piece plus even more interaction on social media. Not everyone
agrees. Not everyone’s reaction is positive inside or outside the academy.

But there is a saying at The Op Ed Project that informs the work we all do. It is this: “If you say
things of consequence, there may be consequences. But the alternative is to be inconsequential.”
I dare say none of us would wish for that.

*Michele Weldon is emerita faculty, a senior leader with The OpEd Project and the author of
five books. Her most recent is the award-winning Escape Points: A Memoir.*
Gambling on Life
By George Harmon; Editorial Board

Inna Naroditskaya, professor of musicology, was guest speaker for NEO’s dinner March 9, 2016, at Monastero’s Ristorante, 3935 W. Devon, Chicago. In a talk titled “Gambling on Life,” she provided context and showed video from a production of Tchaikovsky’s opera, “Queen of Spades.” Based on a short story of the same name by Pushkin, the work premiered in 1890 to acclaim in St. Petersburg.

Prof. Naroditskaya specializes in Azerbaijani and Eastern music cultures, Russian music, gender studies, and diasporas. She has authored two books, “Song from the Land of Fire: Azerbaijani Mugam in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Periods” (2003) and “Bewitching Russian Opera: The Tsarina from State to Stage” (2011), written many articles and essays, and produced radio programs.

At one point during her talk at Monastero’s she had the emeriti singing along with her. They did well, the professor said, “but possibly not well enough to audition for the Lyric.”

NEO hears archivist
By George Harmon; Editorial Board

Kevin Leonard, the university’s archivist, gave NEO a visual rendering of what Northwestern was like a century ago on the eve of U.S. involvement in World War I.

Speaking April 6 at NEO’s monthly luncheon at the Allen Center, Leonard’s slides chronicled a building boom on campus, volunteering and training in the early years of the war, censorship of “salacious” student publications, and the dawn of coeducation and professional programs.

Headquartered on the first floor of Deering Library, he oversees a web site and 20,000 linear feet of archival material. “Come and see me,” he told the retired professors. “Go home and see what you have. Why are you hanging onto those files when you have someone like me who will take them?”
Aryeh Routtenberg (1939-2016)
By David Stumpf

Aryeh Routtenberg died February 27th at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He was 76 years old and an active faculty member until just prior to his death. We have decided to honor these faculty who reached an age and status entitling them to emeritus status but who chose to remain engaged in their research and faculty roles. Aryeh was such an unquenchable fellow. He was an enthusiastic neuroscientist who founded the Cresap Lab and spent his entire 50 year academic career at Northwestern. He is affectionately remembered in the University’s obituary. To which I can add that he was a delightful colleague, a view shared by many others: http://www.psychology.northwestern.edu/people/faculty/aryeh.html. His “academic tree” is also quite notable and interesting.
Items of Interest

The Emeriti Calendar

The Emeritus News home page has a link to the Emeriti Calendar. This link takes you to Planet Purple, the University’s master calendar, with the content filtered for the Emeriti Faculty group.

The Emeriti Calendar will include NEO meetings and other events of potential interest. Clicking on specific events will provide details and also a link for downloading the event directly into your calendar.

Emerita Vera Texieira-Muller-Bergh is managing this calendar. Enthusiasts of particular events to help her get items into the calendar. Please communicate your suggestions and interest directly to Vera Texieira-Muller-Bergh via this link.

You can also access other groups of interest at http://planitpurple.northwestern.edu/groups/.

What are you up to? We’d like to share your news with fellow emeriti. For more details, please use our “How to Contribute” link.

Where we live:

Visualizing where we live, can help us plan. Balancing privacy with a desire to connect: we’d like to hear from you.