



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CIRCLE

Courier

Fall / Winter 2011-2012

Message from the Presidents

We are pleased to be your University Circle Co-Presidents during the 2011-2012 year. Melissa Leasia will certainly be missed because the leadership she brought to the organization these past few years has been extraordinary, but we will do our best to move forward with the energy she brought to the table. We welcome both new and returning members and we look forward to an exciting year. Your participation and involvement will insure our success.



Sally Dobroski



Jean Wilson

Four of our Circle Board members attended the Big 10 Conference at Purdue University in June. Purdue did an outstanding job of hosting delegates from all 12 universities. Take note of the more in depth coverage of this event in the following pages of the **Courier**.

Read with pleasure and satisfaction the article about our Circle scholarships. Through your generosity, we are helping another promising staff member with the cost of her

education. This year, we hope to continue to fund students in the School of Continuing Studies and we also plan to award a special undergraduate grant.

It's time once again to anticipate a lively, fun-filled year of Circle activities. Each fall brings a new line-up of programs planned to entertain, educate and bring good friends together. Look for the program possibilities noted in this issue of the **Courier**. Mark your calendar for those events that interest you and invite a guest to come along.

This year's One Book—One Northwestern book is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. The book will inspire some great discussion among students, staff, and faculty as well as Circle members. Details about planned discussion groups will follow later this year.

The mission of University Circle is to provide opportunities for Northwestern University women to participate in service, scholarship and social activities that enhance the role of women in the University community. We hope to have you join us in our efforts to foster a spirit of good will at Northwestern University. Our ambitions are noble and they can be attained with your endorsement and support.

Jean Wilson

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Thank You Circle Members

In February, then president Melissa Leasia received the following note:

Dear Melissa,

In May of 2008, I was lucky enough to receive a University Circle scholarship. It made a significant difference in my academic career and this past December I graduated with a Masters degree in Public Policy and Administration. I am moving next month to pursue my career in education policy in New Orleans. I just wanted to say "thank you" again with all my best.

Warmly,
Kristine Barker





Mission

The mission of University Circle is to provide opportunities for Northwestern University women to participate in service, scholarship, and social activities that enhance the University community.

Membership

If you know of a woman who is interested in becoming part of University Circle, please bring her along to a special interest group or general membership program. You may also contact Jane Dowding at (847) 446-0302 and Jane will happily send membership information out by mail. You can find membership information on the University Circle web site:

www.northwestern.edu/university-circle

Board Meetings

University Circle Board meetings are held at noon on the third Thursday of most months, at Parkes Hall, Room 204 (behind Alice Millar Chapel). All members are welcome. Meetings last no more than one hour and are always lively and fun. Please contact one of the Presidents if you plan to attend and if you have an item for the agenda. See page 6 for dates.

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University President's Wife Mimi Shapiro

Interest Group & Project Contacts

French Conversation	Margherita Andreotti
Spanish Conversation	Nancy Allred
Piece Makers Quilters	Margaret Schatz Cathryn Timmers
Programs	Debbie Crimmins
Scholarship	Barbara Rossow
Settlement House	Claudia Krizek (Holiday Project) Eileen McGowan (Kid's Concert) Jane Wilson (Holiday Project)
Social Service:	Glenda Mockros (General Chair) Mariette Paynter (Projects)

For information about other interest groups, please contact either co-president.

Directory Updates: Please contact Nancy Spears at (847) 998-1277 or Nancy@spears.net by December 12.

Behind the Scenes At the Botanic Gardens

On May 7, 2011, several Circle members had a real treat when we visited the Chicago Botanic Gardens. Burt Mount had arranged for Melissa Grey, a graduate student in the Graduate Program in Plant Biology and Conservation, a collaboration between NU and the CBG, to give us an insider's tour of the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Conservation Science Center laboratories.



Melissa Grey and Burt Mount with the pollinators (bugs!) Melissa collected in Utah.

Melissa's web-site describes her research as follows:

"The density of a population's floral display can greatly affect its reproductive output. By influencing pollinator behavior, a floral display can shape flower visitation rates, the number of flowers a pollinator visits per plant, and even the species composition of the pollinators."

Her research "investigates the effects of floral density

on the reproductive output of *Penstemon pachyphyllus* growing in southwestern Utah. As *P. pachyphyllus* naturally occurs in dense patches, it is an excellent species for this study." Melissa spent 7 weeks in Zion National Park "conducting in situ manipulations of floral density, vegetation surveys, pollinator observations, bee bowl collections, and gathering data on fruit and seed set" in the summer of 2010 and, armed with these data, she is "exploring whether the density of *P. pachyphyllus* floral displays encourages facilitation or competition within the population, as measured by reproductive success."

After sharing her research with us and showing us the pollinators she collected in Utah, Melissa showed us some of the other labs in the building and some of her favorite haunts at the Garden. Then we enjoyed a chilly lunch on the patio of the CBG cafeteria.



Remembering Charlotte Westfall

A past president and long standing member of University Circle, passed away in June.

She served Circle in many capacities and has been a friend to many over the years.

Charlotte will be greatly missed.

Big 10 Women's Conference

Remi Akinyemi, Trink Newman, Cathryn Timmersand Sally Dobroski, (pictured L-R) were our Circle delegates attending the biennial conference held at Purdue, June 10 - 12. The weekend began with Purdue's President Cordova hosting a dinner at her home. Delegates had their first opportunity to meet women from the Big 10 universities and begin to exchange ideas with each other. The evening concluded with a memorable performance by the Men's Glee Club, complete with a song featuring all the 12 university fight songs.



storied alums and Saturday night's dinner was held under the Apollo 1 Space Module in the atrium of the Neil Armstrong Hall of Engineering

At Sunday's business meeting, two By-Law Changes were proposed. The first, to accept Nebraska into the Big 10 Women's Conference, was enthusiastically endorsed. The second, to eliminate the word "women's" from the title of this

conference was tabled and will be further discussed in 2013 at the next conference, hosted by the University of Illinois.

Saturday's Roundtable Discussions focused on topics of leadership, interest groups and membership. Campus tours of Purdue's Black Cultural Center, Vet School, Visual and Performing Arts Center and the Food Science Wine Division offered insights into Purdue's special strengths.

Another of Purdue's strengths is aeronautical engineering. Amelia Earhart was on the faculty when she disappeared during her historic flight in 1937, in a plane designed and built on campus. Neil Armstrong and Eugene Cernan are among Purdue's

Northwestern is the smallest of the universities in the Big 10 Conference and the only private school. Club sizes range from 105 members (NU) to 715 (Iowa). Although there are many differences in how each club structures its membership policy, interest groups, scholarships and finances, the delegates have many interests in common and valued sharing ideas with each other.

Northwestern University Circle last hosted the Big 10 Conference in 2003. Our next host year is 2025.



Holiday Wrapping Party & Cookie Exchange

Circle's annual holiday wrapping party was once again an unqualified success. This was the 21st year that Circle members have joined together to help make the holidays special for Northwestern Settlement families. In 2010 we wrapped gifts for five families, including 15 children and 7 adults. In addition to the donated gifts, Jewel gift certificates and toiletries were included for each family and a check for \$1,715

was given to Settlement to use to help the families pay their rent and utility bills. In a letter to chairs Claudia Krizek and Jane Wilson, Northwestern Settlement President Ron Manderschied said, "The families we serve usually do not have

the resources to give their children gifts, to prepare holiday dinners or, often, to pay their bills. Your generosity went a long way in spreading much needed holiday cheer in our West Town and Humboldt Park communities." Many thanks to Barbara Rossow, whose lovely home was briefly transformed into a warm but chaotic North Pole, and to all the members and guests who helped with the buying, sorting, wrapping and packing of hundreds of gifts. After the "work" was done, we took a few minutes to enjoy each other's company and to eat and swap our home-made holiday goodies.



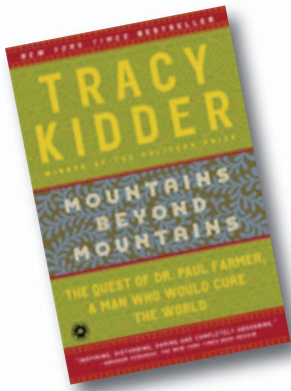
Do You Know the Answer



What was "The Special Committee on an Important Problem?"

(answer p 6)

One Book One Northwestern 2011 & 2012



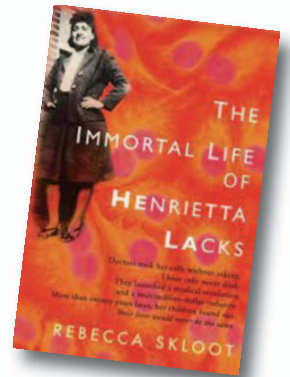
On Friday, January 28, 2011 about twenty University Circle and Association of Northwestern Women (ANUW) members gathered in the living room of the John Evans center for a discussion of Tracy Kidder's powerful book, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*. The book was the One Book One Northwestern selection for 2010-11. This campus-wide

program brings together students, staff and faculty from across campus around a single book.

It was wonderful to have Professor Robert Gundlach and Professor Dan Lewis lead the discussion. Gundlach is the founding director of the Writing program at Northwestern and is also a professor in the Department of Linguistics. Lewis is the director of Northwestern's Center for Civic Engagement and a professor of Human Development and Social Policy. They started off the discussion with two handouts, one an interview with Tracy Kidder and the other a few excerpts from the book. Much of the discussion focused on Dr. Paul Farmer, a Harvard-educated physician who has spent much of his life working in Haiti and other impoverished countries. We discussed his

motivation and how he was able to build Partners in Health from its founding into a major organization serving Haiti and a number of other countries. We also talked about how Kidder's writing style was able to capture the different facets of Farmer's character using both quotes and his own commentary based on their travels together. Gundlach and Lewis also gave us insights from their experiences using the book in a course for undergraduate students.

This year's book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, tells the story of Henrietta Lacks, a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more. The book will make you ponder the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing. It is a fantastic read – even if you think the topic doesn't interest you, give it a try. For more information about this year's One Book One Northwestern programs, check out the web site at www.onebooknu.org.



Start reading and keep your eye out for more information about Circle's November 17 One Book program.



L-R: Margaret Schatz, Debbie Crimmins, Dan Lewis, Gail Higgins, Robert Gundlach

University Circle Events

Coleen Burrus, Evanston 9th Ward Alderman and Director of Corporate Relations at Northwestern gave a lively talk at the May luncheon on "moonlighting" as an Alderman. Coleen first became involved in Evanston on the Plan Commission in 2005 though there was some hesitation to appoint her because she worked at Northwestern. She opposed the "tower project" and received hate mail during that very difficult process. She was asked to run for Alderman in 2008, which was challenging for her, "to always be positive and talk about one's self." She ended up winning 60% of the vote in a three way race.

Now she says to "remember who brought you to the dance." Since the voters in her precinct elected her, she needs to always return calls and e-mail, and work many nights, and breakfasts, and lunches. Perhaps her biggest challenge is to be a public servant on one hand and to be a politician on the other hand, willing to trade votes and to compromise to make city government work.

Upcoming Programs

Keep your eye out for more information.

November 17 – One Book One Northwestern

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks – Her son, David Lacks will be speaking at the Evanston campus from 7 to 9 pm. We will go out for dessert and discussion afterwards.

December 7 – Wrapping Party and Cookie Exchange

January or February – Potluck and Theater

April – Field trip TBA

May – Luncheon TBA



Board Meeting Schedule

**Parkes Hall – Room 204
12 Noon to 1:00 pm**
2011
September 15
October 20
November 17
December – no meeting

2012
January 19
February 16
March 15
April 19
May – Annual Meeting and Luncheon - TBA



Prairie Historic District Tour

In April, Circle members enjoyed a tour of two historic houses in the Prairie Avenue Historic District of Chicago. A National Historic Landmark, Glessner House was designed by noted American architect Henry Hobson Richardson and completed in 1887. It remains an internationally-known architectural treasure in Chicago. It served as an inspiration to the young Frank Lloyd Wright and has a collection of Aesthetic and English Arts and Crafts movement objects. The Clarke House is Chicago's oldest house. Done in Greek Revival style, it shows what life was like for a middle-class family in Chicago during the city's formative years, before the Civil War. After a fascinating tour and a brief but expensive visit to the gift shop, several members enjoyed a hearty lunch at Krolls, a south side sports bar.

Answers

Photo (pg 8) This is a picture Annie May Swift Hall, 1920 Campus Drive (formerly 1905 Sheridan Road). Built in 1895 and recently renovated, it was designed by Charles R. Ayers in an eclectic mixture of Venetian Gothic Revival and Romanesque styles. Annie May Swift was the daughter of Gustavus F. Swift, the meatpacking tycoon. She was a Northwestern student when she died in 1889 from typhoid fever. The building originally included offices, recitation rooms, a library, a gymnasium, and an auditorium for what was then known as the School of Oratory and is now the School of Communication, which continues to occupy it, along with WNUR (89.3 FM), the student-run radio station.

Trivia (pg 4) In 1933, President Scott received a letter from the president of the University of Chicago, requesting that confidential consideration be given to the possibility of merging the two universities. Scott called the request, "the most important problem ever presented to the Board of Trustees," and the committee formed to study the problem was initially called "The Special Committee on an Important Problem" to keep the discussions secret. "A nine-month period of investigation, argument and deep soul-searching unmatched at Northwestern before or since," followed. (Northwestern University: A History 1850-1975 p. 182)

Opera Night



Circle's annual Potluck Dinner and theater event in February was a grand success. After a hearty potluck dinner served in Guild Lounge, Circle members and their

guests attended the Northwestern student production of Mozart's "The Magic Flute" in Cahn Auditorium.

A very special attraction of the evening was Jay Lesenger's commentary of the opera. Jay talked about how Mozart created "The Magic Flute" and offered information about how the dynamic stage set was designed and brought to life. He shared artist's drawings and

examples of stage props with the group. He concluded by answering questions from the attendees.

Jay, Northwestern's opera director, has been the director of the opera program at the distinguished Chautauqua Institution since 1995. Included among his other directing engagements are New York City Opera, San Diego Opera and scores of other nationally prominent opera companies. Jay has been our guest speaker at previous theater events. The information that Jay shared with us certainly offered new insights into the production and enhanced our enjoyment of the opera.



"Magic Flute" director Jay Lesenger explained how the set was designed and built.

Roasted Vegetable Pasta with Fresh Herbs



This is the second of the collection of recipes from our fall 2010 Cooking Demonstrations and Luncheons at the Evanston Whole Foods. With the farmers' markets at their peak and locally grown vegetables and herbs coming in, what could be better? Note that this is a great recipe for experimenting. You can use any shape pasta that catches your fancy and you may add or substitute vegetables and herbs according to your preference and what's available. If substituting dried herbs, use smaller quantities.

Serves 8

Ingredients:

- 1 pound penne pasta
- 2 yellow summer squash, cut into ½ inch pieces
- 4 Roma or plum tomatoes, cut into ½ inch pieces
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into ½ inch pieces
- ½ pound button or cremini mushrooms, cleaned and cut in half
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and smashed
- 1-2 tablespoons fresh thyme, chopped
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves, torn
- ¼ cup fresh Italian parsley, chopped
- ½ cup Asiago or Parmesan cheese plus some for the table
- Olive oil
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Place vegetables and garlic on a large baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper and stir to coat. Roast the vegetables, stirring occasionally, until they are lightly browned, about 20 - 30 minutes.

While the vegetables are roasting, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook until al dente. Drain pasta, reserving a cup or so of the pasta water.

Toss the pasta, vegetables, herbs, cheese, butter and a bit more olive oil together. Adjust seasonings if desired. If mixture seems dry, add some of the reserved pasta water. Divide into serving bowls and garnish with sprigs of basil and/or parsley.

Pass the extra cheese.

Yum!





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What building is this and what goes on inside it? *(answer pg 6)*



2011 Spring Luncheon & Scholarship Award

During our annual spring luncheon on May 19, University Circle awarded our scholarship to Victoria Schiffman (R). Victoria is enrolled in Northwestern's Master's of Public Policy and Administration program with an interest in non-profits and international humanitarian aid. Her goal over the summer was to define her thesis topic and to begin writing. Victoria is a full-time employee in the University's International and Area Studies, where she provides administrative support and advises students completing the major or minor. Victoria enjoys traveling, photography, and reading. Victoria was accompanied by her mother, Janet Schiffman. The scholarship was presented at a luncheon in the Guild Lounge.



Also attending the luncheon was Emily Ayshford, who received a scholarship a year ago. Emily is nearing the completion of her MFA course work and she is also thinking about a topic for her thesis, which is in creative writing. She continues to work as a science writer for the McCormick School of Engineering.

Fun Factoids: University Circle's scholarship is the only one awarded by the School of Continuing Studies to students working on graduate degrees.

Since the scholarship's inception in 2004, there have been 13 recipients.