As your new Circle Co-Presidents, we are happy to report that Fall was an exciting time for University Circle. We witnessed the “One Book, One Northwestern” event at Harris Hall – preceded by dinner at Dave’s Italian Kitchen. We joined in the merry-making at not one, but two holiday wrapping parties with cookie exchanges. We also delivered Christmas gifts to NU’s Settlement House in Chicago. Thanks to all Circle members who shopped, baked or sent donations that helped to make a better Christmas for those in need.

We experienced the dedication of the hard-working Executive Board—always ready to go the extra mile with an idea. We were in awe of Directory Editor Nancy Spears, as she oversaw in one short week all the additions, deletions and edits to the 2011-2012 Circle Directory. Thank you, Nancy, for your 10th year of editing the Directory.

Catherine Launay, with the help of her husband, Robert, resurrected Ethnic Dining and led us to Masouleh on a cold January night for a wonderful Persian feast. A good time was had by all who participated.

Also in January, a large representative sampling of Circle members attended a potluck supper full of culinary delights in the Guild Lounge of Scott Hall, followed by a stellar performance of the Dolphin Show’s production of 42nd Street. We all left Cahn Auditorium snapping our fingers and tapping our toes.

Our former President, Melissa Leasia, relocated to Colorado, but before she left town she got the ball rolling on the new web-site and she continues to work on the Courier with help from Debbie Crimmins and many others who contributed articles and photos.

As we reflect on our members’ hard work and accomplishments and the good times we’ve had during these past months, we can now look forward to the programs and activities that are on the horizon. We are anticipating more Ethnic Dining experiences, hosting Settlement House families at a Kids Fare Concert, and campus visits from Noble Street Charter High School students. Check out Circle’s new website and this Courier for ways you can volunteer and participate in these events.

University Circle will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2015. Margaret Schatz has volunteered to update the 1990 history written by Dorothy Murphy. Thanks to Margaret for accepting this challenge.

We are looking forward with excitement to many more fun events as the weather warms up. Outside spring trips awaken us all to the glories of living in this wonderful place we call our home, Chicago. The annual spring luncheon is set for May 17th. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for lunch where we announce and introduce our 2012 scholarship winner. This would be a wonderful time to invite a friend to come along, perhaps someone who would value and enjoy becoming a member of the Circle family.

Our New Circle Web-Site: www.northwestern.edu/university-circle

Please be sure to visit our updated web-site regularly! We will be keeping it up to date with reports on past Circle programs, the latest Circle news and information about upcoming programs and volunteer opportunities. Colorful and fun, you may even discover that YOU are in one of the great photos highlighting Circle activities. Thank you to the University, which continues to host us on the larger NU web-site and to Andrea Albers in the Web Development office for all of her help. Circle members Debbie Crimmins, Margaret Schatz, Jane Dowding, Tamara Foster, Santina Crosiner, Sheila Kessler and Melissa Leasia, and Circle friend Elizabeth Kollross, contributed to the design and content of the new site.

Contact Debbie Crimmins (d-crimmins@northwestern.edu) whenever you have program updates or fun photos for the new site.
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 co-presidents if you plan to attend and if you have an item for the agenda.

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Circle Leadership 2011-2012
Co-Presidents Sally Dobroski (847) 251-4915 ssdobroski@gmail.com
Jean Wilson (847) 724-9413 wilsonjean2@gmail.com
VP Programs Debbie Crimmins (847) 864-3908 d-crimmins@northwestern.edu
VP Membership Jane Dowding (847) 446-0302 jane-dowding@yahoo.com
Margaret Schatz (847) 475-2365 m-schatz@chem.northwestern.edu
Recording Trink Newman (847) 846-1402 tnewman@northwestern.edu
Secretary Marietta Paynter (847) 724-6082 payntermm@aol.com
Treasurer Remi Akinyemi (847) 467-1163 O-Akinyemi@northwestern.edu
Assistant Treasurer Cathryn Timmers (847) 491-3588 c-timmers@northwestern.edu
Courier Editor Melissa Leasia (303) 674-6406 Melissa@MelissaLeasia.com
Website & Listserv Jane Dowding (847) 446-0302 jane-dowding@yahoo.com
Tamara Foster (847) 467-1351 tjif@northwestern.edu
Labels Mary Ellen Van Ness (847) 328-5447 mevanness2002@yahoo.com
Archives Nancy Allred (847) 475-8047 L-allred@northwestern.edu
Directory Nancy Spears (847) 998-1227 nancy@spears.net
Immediate Past President Melissa Leasia (303) 674-6406 Melissa@MelissaLeasia.com

Ex-Officio
University President’s Wife Mimi Shapiro

Interest Group & Project Contacts
Ethnic Dining Catherine Launay
French Conversation Margherita Andreotti
Spanish Conversation Nancy Allred
Piece Makers Quilters Margaret Schatz Cathryn Timmers
Programs Debbie Crimmins
Scholarship Barbara Rossw
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.
Michael Guerrero Receives A Grant
This fall, University Circle continued our tradition of supporting deserving graduates of Noble Street Charter School who attend Northwestern by presenting an unrestricted grant of $500 to Michael Guerrero.

Michael is a junior majoring in industrial engineering at the McCormick School of Engineering on Northwestern’s Evanston campus. Michael is a member of the NU Soccer Club, and the Society of Hispanic Engineers, and is a SafeRide Driver. In his spare time, Michael enjoys writing hip-hop music and poetry. Following graduation, Michael’s goal is to join Teach for America.

Making the presentation (below) are (from left): Jean Wilson, co-president; Michael Guerrero; Remi Akinyemi, treasurer; Barbara Rossow, chair of scholarship committee; and Sally Dobroski, co-president.

Thank You, Marietta!
For many years, Marietta Paynter has served as Projects Chairperson for the Social Service groups. Under her leadership, hundreds of scarves, mittens, hats, afghans, lap robes, and booties and caps for premature babies have been knitted and donated to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Children’s Memorial Hospital and Northwestern Settlement House.

Marietta would like to give another Circle member the opportunity to lead this important effort. Responsibilities include overseeing the project goals set by the group, ordering the yarns and organizing the donations. More than a dozen women actively participate in the Social Service groups, enjoying each other’s company as they work on these worthwhile projects.

If this sounds like a good match for you, or for you and a friend, please contact co-president Jean Wilson at 847.724.9413 or Sally Dobroski at 847.251.4915.

Remembering Royal Buscombe
Our dear friend Royal Buscombe passed away in October. Royal was a long time Circle member. She was a devoted member of the daytime social service group and she helped organize the International Women’s group, which she co-chaired until just a few years ago.

Royal will be greatly missed.
There is a long history of University Circle members’ involvement with CCIS, a volunteer organization committed to helping international students, postdocs and professors feel more at home in our community. Circle members helped launch CCIS and continue to be active – especially in the International American Women group and the Parent and Tot Playgroup.

International Women meets regularly to provide our guests with insights into American culture, holidays and traditions through programs and field trips. There is always a need for help planning interesting events, homes that can host approximately 15-25 people and people who can provide rides. To volunteer, contact Circle member Anita Yamada, anitayamada@comcast.net (847.869.3634) or Kim Mulligan, kimmulligan@sbcglobal.net (847.784.9024.)

The Parent and Tot Playgroup currently meets once a month for holiday parties and other events for parents and wee ones. The young parents, who are far from home, especially appreciate meeting other young parents. American moms of young children are encouraged to come and share friendship, simple crafts, songs and games. For more information, contact Jenna Luque at SLPJenna@gmail.com.

As Northwestern welcomes more and more foreign students and faculty, there is a growing need for volunteers in other areas as well. For example, the English Conversation Partners program matches international students with volunteers so that they can practice their English and learn about our culture. (for more information go to CCS.Englishconversation@gmail.com)

The Foster Relative program matches our guests with local “families” who provide a wide range of support, from holiday invitations to casual dinners to simply staying in touch with occasional phone calls or e-mails. (for more information contact Greta Sims at rgsims@att.net.)

(Editor’s note: Circle member Joan Fragen can provide more detailed information about these and other CCIS programs. Contact her at 847.446.0184 or joanfragen@gmail.com.)

Piecemakers

Piecemakers are having a busy, fun and productive year! Last January, we decided to make lap quilts for the five Settlement House families who would receive Circle Christmas gifts. We quickly decided on patterns and colors for the quilts, greens and plaids were pulled from the members’ home stashes of fabrics and the fun began. All five quilts were completed and ready for wrapping at the Holiday party. In the same generous spirit, we also bought and wrapped other gifts for one of the families.

Piecemakers really enjoy working together. Everyone joins in to decide on projects, create the overall design of each quilt and determine how the blocks will be positioned. Luckily, some of our members have become experts at machine quilting, the final touch! Currently we are working together to make twin size quilts for The Harbour in Park Ridge. The Harbour provides emergency shelter, transitional housing and case management for homeless, locked-out, and runaway youth in the north and northwest suburbs. Learning new techniques and getting ideas is what makes quilting together so much fun. Do you quilt or would you like to learn? New members - from beginners to experts - are always welcome. Contact me if you have questions or wish to be added to the e-mail list.

Piecemakers Nancy Spears, Debbie Crimmins, Bert Mount, Margaret Schatz, Ann Duncan-Gibbs, Cathryn Timmers, Lonnie Dunlap, Lonna Horwitz, Melanie Anderson, Gayle Mason
The highlight of Circle’s Spring Luncheon is always the awarding of our Circle scholarship. Did you know that University Circle’s Scholarship is the only scholarship awarded by the School of Continuing Studies to graduate students? Each year the scholarship committee has the honor and privilege of reviewing the applications of highly qualified and motivated young people and the responsibility for choosing the most qualified among them to receive this gift from our membership.

Scholarship Chair Barbara Rossow and her committee begin the process in the fall, soliciting gifts from Circle members. In January, their efforts turn to publicizing the availability of the scholarship and answering inquiries from interested students. On March 1, the applications are all in and the committee then has the difficult decision of deciding among them. It is difficult to turn down applicants, but the joy that comes from notifying the winners of their award makes up for it. The winners are then invited, along with their guests and the winners from the previous year, to the spring luncheon. The last task of spring is to generate the paperwork that actually transfers the funds from the Circle account at the University’s development office to the winner’s tuition account. We know from our past winners that the generosity of our Circle members has a direct and tangible impact on their lives, and we are gratified by how many of them have kept in touch with you can do,” she told students.

Skloot’s keynote address on January 26 at Tech Auditorium. She told the audience she first learned of Henrietta Lacks and the HeLa cells in a biology class at age 16. It was what Skloot later called a “what?” moment – when a subject piques her curiosity. A decade after first hearing Henrietta Lacks’ name, Skloot set out on an obsessive, 10-year project to unearth the story of Lacks and her descendants and the scientific breakthroughs that HeLa cells had spawned.

“Honing your ability to recognize your curiosity and follow it is one of the most important things

One Book One Northwestern by Debbie Crimmins

Circle members were able to enjoy two events presented by the One Book One Northwestern program on this year’s book, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot. For the first one on Thursday, November 17, we gathered for dinner at Dave’s Italian Kitchen before walking up the street to Harris Hall to hear Henrietta’s third child, David “Sonny” Lacks’, answer questions from his perspective on the creation of the HeLa cell line and other issues raised in the book. His daughter Jeri Lacks Whye joined him on stage. Evonda Thomas, Director of the Evanston Health Department moderated the discussion. David Lacks’ mother Henrietta Lacks died on the “colored ward” of a Baltimore hospital, but her cells, taken without her permission in 1951, live on as one of medicine’s most important tools. David Lacks was not bitter about what had happened. He said, “She was a giving person. Many beneficial things have come from her cells. I know she would appreciate this being a giving situation.” David, his daughter, and the author then answered questions from the audience.

This preview encouraged a number of Circle members to attend Skloot’s keynote address on January 26 at Tech Auditorium. She told the audience she first learned of Henrietta Lacks and the HeLa cells in a biology class at age 16. It was what Skloot later called a “what?” moment – when a subject piques her curiosity. A decade after first hearing Henrietta Lacks’ name, Skloot set out on an obsessive, 10-year project to unearth the story of Lacks and her descendants and the scientific breakthroughs that HeLa cells had spawned. “Honing your ability to recognize your curiosity and follow it is one of the most important things you can do,” she told students.

Skloot talked about her circuitous path becoming a science writer. She mentioned being kicked out of several schools starting in pre-school. Skloot’s original goal was to become a veterinarian and it was only toward the very end of college after taking a creative writing course that she considered becoming a writer. After the book was published, she tracked down the teacher who originally mentioned the HeLa cells to her. He had not remembered the incident, but her advice to teachers in the audience was, “No matter how bored, disengaged or distracted your students may appear, you never know what one sentence you say may forever influence a student.”

Scholarships to Be Awarded at May 17th Spring Luncheon

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A Fun Evening at Potluck & Musical

– by Debbie Crimmins

Over 30 Circle members gathered at the Guild Lounge on Saturday, January 21, for a sumptuous potluck (including many incredible desserts) before seeing the Dolphin Show musical 42nd Street at Cahn Auditorium. The executive co-producers of the 70th anniversary show, Lucas McMahon (above-L) and Jeremy Shpizner (above-R) stopped by to tell us about their experiences staging the musical. One hundred fifty students were involved with this year’s production, 36 appearing on stage, including a chorus line of 28 dancers. Finding that many tap dancers on campus was a challenge. When asked about his biggest challenges in mounting shows, Lucas mentioned having to find a car and get it into Cahn for another production he worked on at Northwestern. They talked about picking the show by brainstorming at all hours of the night about feasible musicals and ending up with a list of about 100. They narrowed it down to three, considering the elements they knew they wanted to see, such as dancing, and pitched those three to the board of Arts Alliance, finally landing on 42nd Street.

42nd Street follows a young actress headed for stardom during the Great Depression as she sings and dances her way into the spotlight and the hearts of adoring fans. Circle members thoroughly enjoyed the show. It was an especially lively evening since it was fraternity and sorority night. Jeremy had done his job well by selling out the house.

2012 Kids’ Fare Concert

– by Sally Dobroski

By the time you read this, an eager group of Northwestern University Settlement House children and their parents will have enjoyed the Kids’ Fare Concert at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall as guests of University Circle and The Bienen School of Music. This year’s concert featured the Merit School of Music Symphony Orchestra performing Sergei Prokoviev’s “Peter and the Wolf.”

Most Circle members know the story of Peter, a brave boy who lives with his grandfather, a pet cat, a duck, and a neighborhood bird in a forest clearing, and we know what happens when a big, grey wolf comes out of the forest looking for something to eat. We may even remember the magic that we felt when we first heard this now familiar orchestra piece, with the bird (flute), duck (oboe), cat (clarinet), Grandfather (bassoon), wolf (four French horns), the hunters (woodwinds, timpani and bass drum) and Peter himself (the strings) represented by instruments that were new to us. Circle was pleased to be able to share this magic with our young friends from Settlement and, as always, Circle members who volunteered had as much fun as our guests.

After the concert, children, family members, Settlement staff and Circle volunteers gathered at Norris Center for brown bag lunches assembled by the volunteers. Thank you to Eileen McGowan and Sylvia Tafoye who coordinated this year’s event and to everyone who was on hand to shop, make the lunches and host our guests.

Noble Street Charter School Students to Visit

Do you enjoy spending time with bright, enthusiastic and highly engaged young people? Do you like showing visitors our beautiful campus and answering questions about NU? In May, Carolyn Krulee will be hosting college prep students from Noble Street Charter High School when they visit the NU Campus, take a tour, visit classes and eat in a dorm cafeteria, and she could use some help. Please contact Carolyn at 847.475.4908 or c-krulee@northwestern.edu if you would like to volunteer and she will give you the specifics.
This is the third recipe from Circle’s 2010 private cooking demonstration and luncheon at Evanston’s downtown Whole Foods. Quick and simple, it would be especially nice for Sunday breakfast, brunch or light lunch, paired with a fruit salad.

**Ingredients:**
- 1 package of frozen puff pastry
- 1 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 cup chopped spinach
- 8 eggs: 5 whole and 3 yolks
- 1 ½ cups half and half
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon fresh ground pepper

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Cut puff pastry into 12 squares and use the squares to line 12 muffin cups. Divide the cheese and spinach evenly and place in the puff pastry cups. Mix the eggs, half and half and spices together. Pour on top of the spinach and cheese, dividing the mixture evenly between the 12 pastry cups. Bake for 20-25 minutes until the pastry is golden and the eggs are cooked through. Serve warm.

Notes: You may use fresh or frozen spinach. If using frozen, defrost it thoroughly and squeeze out as much water as possible. You may substitute other types of cheese as desired (try cheddar, Monterey Jack or Feta for example). You can also experiment with other fillings such as cooked bacon, cooked sausage, ham, asparagus, broccoli or mushrooms. Firm vegetables may work better if blanched or par-cooked before being added. If you do this, be sure to drain thoroughly and pat dry. Serves 6

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**Union League Club Tour & Lunch**

Our spring outing this year will be a trip to the Union League Club of Chicago, where we will have a curator-led tour of the Club’s world class art collection. Collecting art has been a tradition at the Union League Club since 1886. There are nearly 800 works in the Club’s collection, most of which are on view. The collection represents more than 150 years of American art and features a range of art movements, styles, and subjects. It includes paintings, sculptures, drawings, watercolors, prints, photographs and decorative arts. It is one of the oldest and most important private collections of American art in the Midwest, and one of the finest collections of Illinois art anywhere.

After the tour, we will enjoy lunch together in one of the Club’s many atmospheric dining rooms. Keep your eye out for your e-mail invitation which will have all the details. (If you do not use e-mail you will receive yours in the mail.)

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**Ethnic Dining Is Back**

On January 16th, several Circle members and their guests enjoyed a special Persian feast at Masouleh Restaurant in Chicago. Gathered together around one very large table, we were first served Mirza Ghasemi (grilled eggplant with tomato, eggs and garlic) and Torshe Tareh (fresh spinach, mint, and cracked rice). Next came a warm and delicious lentil bean soup with yogurt. This course was followed by delicious chicken and beef kebobs, wonderfully seasoned beef stew and Feesenjan, a tasty chicken dish made with ground walnuts and pomegranate sauce. Flaky baklava, rich with honey and pistachio nuts, provided a perfect ending to the meal.

Catherine and Robert Launay planned our outing, making special arrangements with the chef and owner to open the restaurant for our group on a Monday night, when it is usually closed. More ethnic dining adventures are being planned for the spring. Look for your invitation online or check Circle’s website. (Invitations will be mailed to members who don’t use e-mail). It would be great fun if you could join us. Bring a friend!
In 1982, Mary Jane Crowe, WCAS ’33 and life trustee of the University, donated a collection of more than 200 pieces of elegant, fine silver to Northwestern. At the time, Provost Raymond Mack turned over the care and use of the collection to University Circle and arrangements were made to store it in the locked cabinets in the Guild Lounge kitchen, along with other items owned by Circle and the University Guild. Recently, Circle, Guild and University staff members have been hard at work identifying and making an inventory of the various items stored in the kitchen and the Circle Board has been grappling with the question of what to do with these valuable items that we no longer use. We are pleased to announce that the collection has found a home in the newly renovated Wieboldt House, home of President Schapiro and his family. Mary Ellen and Morty are delighted to have the silver available for their use when entertaining. The collection includes nine 12-piece place settings, dozens of serving pieces, and stunning coffee and tea sets. The Schapiros regularly host events for students, faculty, and staff, and are proud to entertain in the new home of the treasured collection. Without the hard work and excellent records of Mary Ellen, this would have been nearly impossible to sort everything out.

Trivia:

What was the team known as prior to that game?

In 1922, after a scrappy 3 to 0 loss to University of Chicago, a Chicago sportswriter suggested the football team should be called the Wildcats. What was the team known as prior to that game?