two years ago a group of Northwestern officials — including the president, provost, and deans of the School of Communication and Medill School of Journalism — were invited to meet with delegates of the Qatar Foundation, a philanthropic project established by Qatar’s royal family. The foundation was engaged in building an exciting new educational facility, Education City, in the Qatari capital of Doha. Selected U.S. universities were being invited to create branch campuses in Education City to offer their flagship programs.

The Qatar Foundation asked us to think about an exhilarating project: creating a branch of Northwestern University in Education City to offer undergraduate degree programs in journalism and communication. Since then there have been many meetings in Evanston, in Doha, and by teleconference. We agreed to work with the Qatar Foundation on this extraordinary initiative, and the result is that a contingent of Northwestern faculty will begin teaching our first students in Doha this fall. One of the stories in this issue of Dialogue focuses on Northwestern University in Qatar and our new collaboration with Medill.

Almost at the same time as that first meeting with the Qatar Foundation, we decided to develop a new set of programs for students who wish to advance the communication arts and sciences through their scholarship and creative activities. The first of these new programs, our Communication Century Scholars Program, provides special mentoring for our most academically talented students. The hope is that this attention from faculty will help prepare Century Scholars for prestigious graduate fellowships and admission to the best graduate programs.

Additional programs provide opportunities for students to work collaboratively with faculty. The new Innovations Fund provides grants to faculty that are used to hire undergraduates as research or production assistants. This both helps the faculty and gives students the opportunity to work closely with faculty outside the classroom. Our new undergraduate research grants program provides support directly to undergraduate students to pursue their own projects. The second major article in this issue features students who are benefiting from these opportunities and using them to advance our understanding of communication.

The new program in Education City and new opportunities for undergraduate students, along with many more exciting initiatives, are helping to position Northwestern and its School of Communication in the forefront of the increasingly global and technologically diverse entertainment industry. I know of no other communication or performing arts school that has been as agile in adapting its curriculum to the new environment in which we work — changes in economic and political structures, the digitization of content and growth of digital information systems, the growing importance of networks of all types. This is a great tribute to the dynamism of our University and its capacity for supporting innovation.

You and other alumni can help us innovate by sharing your ideas and supporting new initiatives. As always, I encourage you to contact the school if you are ready to get engaged.

Barbara J. O’Keefe
Dean, School of Communication
Start a dialogue: dialogue@northwestern.edu
Southern tales

E. Patrick Johnson (Ph.D., Louisiana State University), professor, chair, and director of graduate studies in the Department of Performance Studies and professor of African American studies, has been busy travelling the country performing his one-man show Pouting Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tale. The show is adapted from his book Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South – An Oral History, scheduled to be published this September, with a Labor Day weekend book launch in Atlanta as part of its Black Gay Pride celebration.

“It’s been incredible,” Johnson says of the whirlwind tour of university campuses. “The performance adds a different element to the stories that the book won’t be able to give. You get to hear the voices, the intonations, the colloquialisms. While I don’t fully embody the characters, I do try to affect their voices. It gives the audience some sense of how these people speak.

When Johnson wrote Sweet Tea, he based his interviews with 77 men in 15 states, ranging in age from 19 to 93, he knew it would ultimately become a performance piece as well but was uncertain whether it would be a one-person show. Eventually he realized that “since I was the one sitting in their living rooms and sitting in the cafes . . . I could best render the stories in a more authentic way on stage, in terms of nuances of their voices.

After 15 performances across the East Coast and Midwest over winter quarter, Johnson continues to tour the show through spring quarter and is already scheduled for performances in the next academic year. He is eager to perform at southern universities this fall including the University of North Carolina, his undergraduate alma mater.

“I think it will be different in the South,” Johnson says. “The themes will be familiar to the audience. Some of the issues that the men deal with that are particular to the South will register with them in a way that doesn’t happen with audiences in the Midwest or Northeast.

The southern audiences may also include some of the men Johnson interviewed for his book, a prospect Johnson finds a bit daunting. “Hopefully they will find my performances of their stories affirming and complimentary,” he says.

The most rewarding part of performing Pouting Tea, Johnson says, is when an audience member thanks them for during the stories in this way. “People say. It’s affirming to me. I learned something that I didn’t know about being black and gay in the South. Those stories are so compelling they need to be told. That’s what I want to hear as a performer and researcher.

The inspiration for Sweet Tea came to Johnson 12 years ago when he attended a cookout in Washington, D.C., that was sponsored by Us Helping Us, a gay men advocacy group that conducts HIV/AIDS research. “At that cookout was a group of old-timers-sitting under a tent, talking about the good old days of what it meant to grow up gay in the South. Johnson recalls.

“As I was listening to these stories, I thought to myself, this is important. People should hear about this. Someone should chronicle these stories. It took me 12 years, but that was my motivation.

With stories from five generations, Johnson’s book is the first recorded oral history of black gay men in the South.

A research bonanza

In addition to her appointment as an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow at the Huntington Library, English and performance studies professor Tracy Davis (PhD, University of Warwick) also recently received a Stanley J. Kable Fellowship in Theatre History from the Huntington Library at Harvard University. “I look forward to the opportunities for immersion in these collections,” Davis says. “Both are in support of my project on 19th-century British repertoire.

The Huntington Library in San Marino, California, is a private collection on a beautifully landscaped estate. “The Huntington has extraordinary collections in British history,” Davis explains. “My particular area of interest is the copies of plays that went through the Lord Chamberlain licensing system in the early 19th century. These unique copies of plays produced in the London theatre.

The Huntington Fellowship will give Davis access not only to the Huntington collection but also to Harvard’s theatre collections and general holdings. She plans to pursue the Huntington Fellowship this fall and the Huntington Fellowship in March 2009.

“In both cases,” says Davis, “it’s a great opportunity for me to be working in these collections alongside other scholars at various points in their careers on a range of topics in the humanities and, in the case of the Harvard fellowship, also in music, which is an important area of my project.

An august collaboration

The dynamic trio of Anna Shapiro (MFA, Yale School of Drama), Ana Kazmierz (MFA, Northwestern), and Todd Rosenthal (MFA, Yale University) played an integral part in Steppenwolf Theatre Company’s production of August: Osage County, which moved from Chicago to Broadway in less than half a year.

“This whole thing has been a whirlwind, says Shapiro, who also directed the Broadway production. “We were very surprised that the show moved as fast it’s really quite large in every conceivable financial way. That we moved once to Broadway and now again into an open run is nothing short of amazing, I actually walked around stunned. Really.

An associate professor of theatre and director of Northwestern’s MFA in directing program, Shapiro has worked with the show’s scenic designer, associate professor Todd Rosenthal, numerous times since their graduate-school years at Yale. “I adore working with him,” Shapiro says.

“‘It’s also great for our students because they see us negotiating daily the exact issues and challenges we ask them to engage with in their work. We get better, and, I hope, so do they.

In August: Osage County, Shapiro’s first opportunity to work with costume designer and assistant professor Ana Kazmierz.

“Shes deeply talented and she moves through the work with such ease,” says Shapiro.

Kazmierz says she enjoyed designing a contemporary play that is “trans-realism, adding that “when I first read the play, I was kind of breathless. It was really intense in the best possible way.

Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in drama, Tracy Letts’s August: Osage County opened at Steppenwolf in Chicago last July and moved to the Imperial Theatre on Broadway December 4 with much of the same cast. It has since moved to Broadway’s Music Box Theatre, where it is scheduled for an open run.

Above (clockwise from top right): Anna Shapiro, Todd Rosenthal, and Ana Kazmierz. Below: A scene from August: Osage County currently running on Broadway (photo by Joan Marcus).
A new campus on the other side of the world

BY EMILY HISER LOBDELL

As classes at Northwestern’s School of Communication resume for the school’s 131st year this fall, an entirely new generation of future communication graduates will take their seats in classrooms more than 7,000 miles across the globe. Northwestern University and the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development have established Northwestern University in Qatar northwestern’s first international branch campus — at Education City just outside the Qatar capital of Doha.

Attracted by the University’s programs in communication and journalism, the Qatar Foundation first approached Northwestern President Henry Bienen about a Middle East campus in mid-2006. Northwestern School of Communication and Medill School of Journalism will offer undergraduate programs in these two areas, making Northwestern the sixth U.S. university to establish a campus in Education City (joining Carnegie Mellon University, Georgetown University, Texas A&M University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Cornell University). Graduate programs are offered by the Qatar Foundations Faculty of Islamic Studies. Admission requirements to each university’s Education City program are identical to those at the parent institutions, and the degrees offered are the same as those at the U.S. campuses. Approximately 40 students are expected to enroll in the two Northwestern programs in the first year.

School of Communication students on the Qatar campus will complete a media industries and technology program that includes developing basic intellectual and communication skills, mastering core theories and concepts in social influence, mass communication effects, and audience assessment; studying communication industries and associated technologies, including interactive media, film, television, radio, journalism; and taking elective liberal arts courses for depth and breadth in areas of special interest. Courses will be similar to those offered on the Evanston campus but will be adapted to a semester rather than a quarter calendar.

Sarah Dun, formerly the schools assistant dean for undergraduate advising and student affairs and now associate dean for admissions and student affairs in Qatar, says that establishing a campus in the Middle East is a chance to “internationalize our curriculum in an important part of the world. The opportunity to collaborate cross-culturally in today’s global climate is vital to the development of our school and University to address the challenges of education in the 21st century. “Qatar is at the center of dynamic transformations in the Gulf region and the Middle East.

Joining Dun in Qatar is Mimi White, formerly the school’s associate dean of graduate programs. As senior associate dean White is responsible for overseeing the faculty, curriculum, and curriculum implementation for the communication program as well as serving as liaison to the School of Communication in Evanston.

White explains that the new campus offers new research opportunities for faculty and students and “provides greater visibility for Northwestern and the School of Communication in a totally different part of the world. Qatar is at the center of dynamic transformations in the Gulf region and the Middle East. They are putting impressive resources into reimagining their country as a leading force for stability and diversity in the region, including tremendous investment in education, research, and culture. Qatar has the material, conceptual, and imaginative resources to dedicate to this enterprise. This area also experiences rapidly expanding media industries (in Qatar specifically and the region more generally). Thus the student audience here is ripe for both professional training in the area as well as media literacy skills to serve civic citizenship.”

Northwestern has been recruiting students for the new campus by visiting Qatari schools, attending school fairs, and hosting a December open house at the Intercontinental Hotel Doha. In addition to many Qatari students, White expects applicants to include students from Doha’s expatriate community and from a broad range of countries throughout the Middle East and beyond.

Frequent opportunities for Evanston campus students to study in Qatar and Qatar students to study in Evanston are definite possibilities. “We are starting off in fall 2008 with only a freshman class and a first-year set of courses,” White says. “Thus these opportunities probably won’t be realized until after at least year three or four of operations, when we have a larger array of courses to offer. This will function along the lines of study abroad, though students will be at Northwestern, whether they are on the Evanston or Doha campus.”

Northwestern Qatar programs will be housed in a Texas A&M building for the first academic year, with plans to move into a building constructed for Carnegie Mellon University in summer 2009. “We have been very pleased and are grateful for the hospitality shown by the other branch campuses,” says John Margoli, Northwesterns dean and chief executive officer in Qatar and formerly associate provost for faculty affairs in Evanston. “We hope that within three or four years we will be moving into a building designed and built for Northwestern University in Qatar.”

Dun, who has already spent an extended period of time in Education City preparing for the new campus, says that...
“Providing the training necessary for the Qatars as they develop their country and being part of bringing a vibrant media scene here is a truly unparalleled opportunity.”

Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, emir of Qatar. Its stated mission is to "prepare the people of Qatar and the region to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world and to make Qatar a leader in innovative education and research. To achieve that mission, the Qatar Foundation supports a network of centers and partnerships with elite institutions, all committed to the principle that a nation's greatest natural resource is its people.

With a population of 900,000 and one of the world's highest per-capita incomes (from oil and natural gas revenues), Qatar is developing at a rapid pace. "The leadership here is so progressive and smart," Dun says. "The way they are guiding their country and developing its resources is amazing. Providing the training necessary for the Qatars as they develop their country and being part of bringing a vibrant media scene here is a truly unparalleled opportunity."

Margolis agrees that the new campus is not only a great opportunity for Northwestern but also a benefit for students in the region who are eager to study communication and journalism. "For students in the Middle East, and especially for female students who are more constrained in their ability to study abroad," says Margolis, "it presents an opportunity to enjoy a first-class American education in fields in which Northwestern particularly excels.

Forensics team milestones

Achieving its best finish in the team’s history, the Northwestern forensics team placed second overall in the Illinois state tournaments, which took place March 1 and March 2.

"This is the highest ranking we’ve ever received as a team, and it’s monumental considering it is widely recognized that we compete in the most competitively difficult region in the nation," says Cecil Ellis, acting director of forensics. In addition, the team received its first-ever George Armstrong Award. This annual traveling award goes to the team with the highest cumulative point total in the state.

"It is an honor to have received this award and testament to the impact this team has had on the state of Illinois since the first competitor participated more than 10 years ago," adds Ellis.

Sophomore Dillon White was the state champion in prose interpretation, in addition to placing third in dramatic interpretation and sixth in poetry interpretation. Other individual honors went to junior Mallory Dworski (third place, impromptu speaking), sophomore Harrison Gordon (sixth place, program oral interpretation), junior Ryan Murphy (fifth place, informative speaking), senior Sean Qualfield (fifth place, after-dinner speaking), and junior Rachel Vaughan (sixth place, dramatic interpretation). Qualfield and Murphy also placed second in parliamentary debate.

Broadway run. Due to close September 7, Rent focuses on the lives of starving artists in New York's East Village as many of their community struggle with HIV/AIDS.

"It is the biggest honor of my life," says Kanter, who fell in love with Rent as an adolescent. "The role has become so iconic, and it was something that I've grown up with and was so huge to me, it never really crossed my mind that I'd get to play Mark. Now that I'm 21, the characters in the show are of my generation. Originally scheduled to close in June, Rent was recently extended to September, and Kanter's contract was extended so that he will close the show as Mark.

"I'm very, very thrilled about it," Kanter says. "The most exciting thing is having my friends come see it."
Supporting undergraduate research

by Emily Hiser Lobdell

School of Communication students are known for thinking outside the box, pushing the limits of creativity and innovation in their studies, research, and performances. Over the past year, several exceptional School of Communication seniors have gone above and beyond the average undergraduate experience to pursue special research projects in their chosen fields. With the help of School of Communication undergraduate research grants (URG) funded by generous alumni donations, these students have researched mammalian ear cells, immersed themselves in Shakespeare, observed phone-in radio shows in Ghana, analyzed beauty pageant culture, and produced original short films. Such projects are not only valuable in themselves but also provide springboards for continued exploration.

A deeper understanding

For senior communication sciences and disorders major Jonathan Chou, pursuing some kind of biological, generic-based research was essential for his premedical school preparations, but he also wanted to work on a project specifically related to his major. He discovered that communication sciences and disorders professor Peter Dallios’s lab integrated both worlds — conducting studies in audiology but specifically at the molecular level.

Chou was awarded a $2,500 undergraduate research grant to investigate expression of the EHD-4 protein in the mammalian inner ear and its interaction with the Cadherin-23 protein to determine whether communication between the two proteins has physiological implications in mice. He hopes his research could eventually lead to real-world medical improvements. “The more you know about something, the easier it is in the future to make something that has potential benefits,” Chou explains, citing the possibility of improved cochlear implants as an example.

While Chou had previously worked in a biology lab, he had only worked with bacteria in Petri dishes never with mammals. “It was an initial shock,” Chou says. “The mice were moving and all looked the same.

Chou says that conducting research with a communication sciences and disorders focus allows him to “put a human face behind everything he does.” “When you are learning all these things in med school, it’s easy to lose sight of what the purpose of all of this is, how this research is going to help us in the future.”

Total immersion

Senior theatre major Leslie Hart spent the summer of 2007 immersed in the Bard as part of the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey’s Professional Training Program. Hart was awarded the first-ever $2,000 immersion grant through the Office of the Provost, with a supplemental $250 grant from the School of Communication. She joined 30 other acting apprentices from undergraduate theatre programs across the country as part of a professional regional theatre community.

“It was a chance to take my Northwestern training and expand on it in a way I can’t directly get here,” Hart explains. Immersion meant three days of classes per week, including acting, stage combat, voice technique, and textual analysis, all culminating in a performance of Henry VI, Part 1. The rest of the week, Hart was assigned to the company’s production office.

“We did anything from writing stage sets to going to the outdoor stage down the road to help build a set. Hart says. Attending performances and staffing the opening night parties were also integral parts of the experience, allowing Hart to rub shoulders with critics, actors, and patrons.

Interviewing the company’s artistic director, Bonnie Monte, was one of the most inspiring experiences of the program in terms of Hart’s future plans. In her final report on the apprenticeship, she describes how Monte “expressed the value of working one’s way up and training as an artistic director through assisting other artistic directors in venues where one would ultimately like to work.

Although she is open to exploring opportunities in Chicago after graduation, Hart ultimately plans to head back to the East Coast to “find her place within the entertainment industry.”

Hearing voices

For senior communication studies major Karen Ariah, undergraduate grants provided an opportunity to explore phone-in radio programs and democracy in Accra, Ghana. Ariah, whose family is originally from Ghana, says she wanted to conduct a research project in 2007 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the country’s independence.

“What interesting about Ghana in particular is that radio wasn’t privatized until about 1996,” Ariah says. “The idea of private radio and people being able to voice opinions is kind of
new. That’s why phone-in radio shows are such a big deal people can speak publicly and freely.

Ariah won a $3,000 undergraduate research grant as well as a $500 Newton Minow Grant to spend two months in Ghana interviewing radio show hosts, station managers, professional journalists, and others in the print and television media industry. She focused primarily on three radio shows at two

show on a station nominated for a BBC award; and Sister-Sister, a call-in show focusing on social issues affecting women.

Ariah even participated in Sister-Sister on the air and was both amused and amazed by the candor of callers in discussing even the most personal aspects of sexual relationships. “I was like, oh my god, did that caller just say that word? My mom and my grandmother are listening to this! Ariah recalls.

For Ariah the most valuable part of the experience was realizing how the “power of being able to talk freely something Americans may take for granted was so valued in Ghana.”

“Here in the United States, radio is considered ‘old media,’ Ariah says. “Over there [in Ghana], Internet and television are not as penetrating for economic reasons, but if you have a battery-powered radio, it doesn’t matter if your lights are out or if you can’t read everyone can participate.”

Ariah recently won a Fulbright Award to continue her media studies in Ghana.

Pageant culture
Traveling the country to study child beauty pageants over the summer of 2007 was an eye-opening experience for senior performance studies major Nikki Zaleski, who was awarded a $3,000 undergraduate research grant for her senior project “There She Is: The Performance of Age, Elitism, and Regionalism in Child Beauty Pageants.”

“I’m really interested in girls’ advocacy. Zaleski says, explaining that while pageants pride themselves on confidence building, her observations suggested otherwise. “A lot of parents feel comfortable getting their children involved because the pageants’ mission statements focus on building awareness, communication skills, and confidence, when actually what they are doing is putting young bodies on stage for consumption. One of the most unsettling moments of Zaleski’s study came during a late-evening awards ceremony in the 9- to 12-month age division. “Mothers were going on stage with their babies asleep, putting crowns on sleeping children, and taking pictures of them, hanging them all these prizes. Zaleski says. “The commodity of all of it was really frightening, and in the midst of all this, these babies are snoring away. Who is really winning these prizes? Who are we really doing this for?”

Zaleski attended five pageants: two in Austin, Texas, one in Siskiyou Springs, Arkansas, one in St. Louis, and one in New York City. “That’s five weekends of hairpray, false eyelashes, lipsticked babies, and Somewhere Over the Rainbow covers, Zaleski wrote in her final report.

Ultimately, Zaleski says she can pass judgment on the pageants as absolutely negative or positive experiences. “I think there is something really wrong happening in overall pageant structure, but when you get down to the individual girls, they seem to really enjoy it. Zaleski says. “I am still struggling with what is wrong with that. If these girls are having a good time and taking away positive memories, I’m trying to figure out the long-term effects.”

After graduation Zaleski hopes to find work as a teaching artist in a girl-specific organization, using creative arts expression to explore media literacy, health, sex education, and confidence building.

Slice of life
Last summer senior radio/television/film major Paul Kruse was riding in a car on Chicago’s West Side (“I think it was near Cicero, Kruse muses) with two friends, stuck in a typical traffic jam in the heat. Their car was so close to the car in the next lane that one of the friends stuck a tape measure out the window and pokéd the driver in the next car. The driver in the next car laughed, and that was the end of it. Little did Kruse realize that this incident would provide the inspiration for a short narrative screenplay: a script that ultimately won one of five $5,000 grants funded by alumni Zach Braff (C97).

Kruse was one of more than 30 students who applied for the grants after learning about them on the department’s listserv. After three rounds supervised by a radio/television/film faculty selection committee in consultation with Braff, the field narrowed to 25 then to 10, then to the final 5 to be funded for production including what Kruse calls his “slice of life.”

“It was really exciting,” Kruse says. “For the film community as a whole, this was really unprecedented.”

While Kruse’s film will not duplicate the exact scenario that played out near Cicero last summer, its theme is rooted in the idea of coincidence as it follows two people driving along side each other.

Kruse is working on the film this spring and hopes to send the completed product to film festivals. Says Kruse, “I hope it will be a good short film to have on my reel.”
James R. Booth (Ph.D., University of Maryland), professor of communication studies and sociology, reported findings of research he and his students conducted for the 2008 New York Times’ survey on the impact of digital media on young people. The study, funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, found that teenagers who use digital media are more likely to engage in risky health behaviors such as smoking and alcohol use, and less likely to engage in social activities such as volunteering and participating in extracurricular activities. The study also found that teenagers who spend more time on social media are more likely to experience increased levels of anxiety and depression.

Heidi Copeland (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), an associate professor of English, presented her research on the use of hip-hop culture in contemporary literature. Her study, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, sheds light on the ways in which hip-hop culture is used to explore themes of race, class, and gender. The study also examines the role of hip-hop culture in shaping the cultural identity of young people.

Canon Award recipient, Dr. David F. Cline (Ph.D., University of Georgia), professor of communication studies, presented his research on the impact of social media on political and social activism. His study, funded by the National Science Foundation, found that social media is a powerful tool for mobilizing people to engage in political and social activism. The study also found that social media is used to disseminate information and mobilize people for political and social causes.

Linda Gates (MA, NYU), associate professor of journalism, presented research on the role of social media in shaping public opinion. Her study, funded by the Knight Foundation, found that social media is a powerful tool for shaping public opinion. The study also found that social media is used to disseminate information and mobilize people for political and social causes.

Debra Tolochko (Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago), professor of communication studies, presented research on the use of social media in shaping public opinion. Her study, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, found that social media is a powerful tool for shaping public opinion. The study also found that social media is used to disseminate information and mobilize people for political and social causes.

From left: Daniel Cantor, Henry Goddard, Susan Manning, Top left: Pablo Boczkowski Right: The Marriott Theater's production of Les Misérables, directed by Dominic Missimi, was the destination for an Arts in the City outing in April attended by 50 School of Communication students.
Kate Smith Snow: In her 80s she earned a second bachelor's degree and a master's degree in art history from East Tennessee State University and became a professor of art history in both Tennessee and Bermuda, leading art history tours to Italy.

Larry A. McKeever (CS'77) died on September 9 at age 77. McKeever's professional pursuits included nanotext, creating commercials, recording, and acting. He was well known as the "voice of the blind", reading the monthly Braille Bulletin for the Blind and the executive editor of the Federal of the Blind for 15 years and also recording more than 120 abridged titles for Books on Tape of California. He and his wife of 45 years ran their own dinner theater, Charlie's Showplace, in Des Moines, Iowa, from 1973 to 1984. McKeever was also seen in three feature films: Cold Turkey, Return to Hannibal, and Gone in the Night.

Nancy J. York (CS'73) died on September 22 at age 75 in Lombardy, Italy. York was a member of the Thompson advertising agency's telecommunications division in 1971 and later established Jack H. Thompson advertising in New York. She was an avid tennis player and golfer.

John L. Hilton (CS'78) died on August 9 at age 70. He was a strategic consultant at Thompson advertising agency's telecommunications division in 1971.

Susan K. Morton (CD'68) died on December 23 at age 67. A member of Delta Delta Delta sorority at Northwestern, Morton taught elementary school, worked as a district sales manager for Holiday Inn, and was vice president of administration.

John T. Trahey (GCE'67) died on January 16 at age 74. Ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1963, Trahey taught high school in Cleveland, Ohio, eventually heading the school's drama department. He earned his doctorate in theater while teaching at Loyola University Chicago, where he was a member of a 40-year career he established the theater department and major.

Peter K. Hiscox (CH'70, CG'71) died on December 2 at age 66. As president of the Rochester Hearing & Speech Center in Rochester, New York, he oversaw the national promotion and sales of the RHSC Articulation Severity Scale, an instrument that standardizes how speech professionals view children's test results. Active in community affairs and public service, Hiscox enjoyed carpentry and writing poetry.

Donald C. Johnson (CS'72) died on November 24 at age 57. A professional loca- tion photographer who especially enjoyed nature photography, Johnson was president of Mid-State Imaging Association. He was an avid tennis player and golfer.

Philip H. McDermott (CD'71) died on January 23 at age 53. Known for his love of literature and film, McDermott was a high school teacher in Los Angeles from 1986 to 2005.

Ann E. Fisher (CD'00) died on October 2 at age 51 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After working at Northeastern's Cleveland campus for two years, she earned an MD from Rush University Medical College, where she was in the course of a 40-year career he established the theater department and major.

Samuel R. Caswell (CD'01) died on December 8 at age 28 in Los Angeles. As vice president of development for Scott Rudin Productions, Caswell played a role in the pro- duction of such films as The Queen, The Hours, Team America: World Police, and Scandal, No Country for Old Men, and Stay Low.

Martin Block II (CD'02) died on February 1 at age 27. Known for his sense of humor and his love of travel, music, and movies, Block was a district manager for Gap-Kio, Inc. His father, Martin P. Block, is a professor of integrated marketing communication at Northeastern's School of Journalism.

Faculty

Helmar R. Myklebust (1910-2008)

Helmar R. Myklebust, one of the early leaders in Northwestern's communication sciences, died on February 26 at age 97. He came to Northwestern in 1948 as an associate professor of audiology and taught until retiring in 1969. In 1951 he started the Children's Hearing and Aphasia Clinic, which focused on the differential diagnosis of children with various types of auditory disorders. His broad background in clinical psychology and hearing impairment provided the basis for one of his widely used textbooks, Auditory Disorders in Children: A Manual for Differential Diagnosis.

In 1954 Myklebust changed the clinic's name to the Institute for Language Disorders, expressed gratitude for the donation.”Judge Marcus’s generous gift will enable us to remain at the cutting edge of college debate, and the team is tremen- dously appreciative of his support and ongoing interest in the debate program,” said Furnit. “I am looking forward to working with the team with the goal of bringing home Northwestern’s next national championship.”

As a law student at Harvard University, Marcus supported himself by teaching communication courses at the nearby Massachusetts Institute of Technology and coach- ing its debate team. In both his years as the MIT debate coach, the team won the New England championship. As Marcus notes, “They haven’t left, and they haven’t let us down.”

Marcus has thrived in a lifelong career involving “virtually every aspect of dispute resolution,” from 30 years as a litigation lawyer to serving as a trial judge, an appeals court judge, and a faculty member at three law schools—Harvard, Cleveland State University, and Case Western Reserve University. Today he is president of Private Judicial Services, a private mediation practice in Fairview Park, Ohio.

Donors

Even with such an impressive resume, Marcus says that his wife of 56 years is still a “better debater” than he is.

Why were your significant influences at Northwestern? The person I would describe as most significant to my development was James McRath, a School of Speech (now School of Communication) graduate student who was also the debate coach. He later became the debate coach and head of the communication department at the University of Southern California and was a leader in the field of debate. He gave me what I would call meaningful direction. I enjoyed the activity of competitive forensics debate, and he was able to give not only instruction but counseling and, all of those being helpful. That was probably the best training I had at Northwestern and my most significant teaching for law school.

What were some of your most memorable Northwestern experiences?

I found a wonderful wife. We have now been married for 56 years. Most students enjoy their undergraduate school, for a wide variety of reasons. I went to law school ultimately to get a good job and earn a living; I went to Northwestern to become an adult. I was very pleased with my college education.

How have you stayed in touch with the school?

Because of the geographic distance, it is difficult for us to travel to Chicago to go to a football game, see a play, or to enjoy the Wau-Mau Show, but I watch what’s happening, and we cheer for the athletic teams. We are cheering vigorously for the women’s lacrosse team.

What would you tell other alumni who might consider making a donation?

An undergraduate education is where the most attach- ment is; it is part of the maturing process for a young person. Remember how you became an adult, and remember who helped you become an adult.