Dear ARF Members –

Since last we communicated, ARF has been buzzing with activities!

In January, we enjoyed the “Thank God the Holidays Are Over” banquet. Before dinner, guests greeted old and new friends while sipping wine and perusing the Needle ARF display for the Silent Auction. A delicious three-course meal was served and the Harmony Partners’ Barbershop Quartet provided the entertainment. All in all, a wonderful evening with friends.

A special thanks goes out to the Needle ARF group and other individuals who contributed their beautiful creations for the Silent Auction at our banquet. The entire proceeds from the auction go into our scholarship fund. In addition to the Silent Auction, the ARF Board would also like to thank all our members who have given so generously to the fund. Your contributions have helped to keep the ARF scholarship going all these years.

Our February speaker was Dr. Clare White, a fourth-year faculty member from CSUN’s Department of Religious Studies. She spoke about the Cognitive Science of Religion (CSR), a fascinating new area of research in the field of Religious Studies. Dr. White was a witty, delightful speaker with a beautiful Irish lilt and a remarkable depth of knowledge about cognitive and evolutionary sciences research. Case studies from her own international research really brought the theory to life.

Coming up on March 9th will be Brenda Kanno speaking on the history of the CSUN Botanic Garden. The talk will take place in the Bistro at 2 pm so no walking is required.

On April 6th the ARF Field Trip will take us to the Norton Simon Museum. Councilman Mitch Englander is generously providing a bus for our transportation. Don’t miss the bus!

May 14th is our Memorial Scholarship Luncheon where we honor our graduate scholarship recipients at the same time as we honor our deceased members through the support of student research.

In the last newsletter, I was delighted to see that many of you had made contributions to the newsletter concerning your retirement activities, travels, and new endeavors (or new family members!). Several ARF members who don’t live nearby have told me they look forward to that section of the newsletter because it helps them stay connected by reading about what you are doing. So don’t be shy, write to Ann Perkins, Newsletter Editor: ann.perkins@csun.edu

Hoping to see you at our upcoming events!

Cordially,
Alyce Akers
NEWS FROM CSUN AND THE CSU

ARF Scholarships

Funding of the ARF Memorial Scholarship Awards has been provided from donations by individual members, funding activities through the yearly Silent Auction at the January Banquet, and a one time raffle of a quilt at a June picnic. Bill Schlosser, ARF Past President and then Chair of the Drama Department provided the initial funding from the proceeds from the play Love Letters.

From 1999 through 2015, there were 52 scholarships awarded to deserving graduate candidates from a variety of disciplines across campus. The initial monetary award was $500. In 2015 there were four awards of $2,000 each! Over the years a total of $68,500 has been disbursed. Chris Smith.

The review and selection committee for the 2016 ARF Scholarships will consist of ARF Members: Nancy Owens, chair, Roberta Mauskch, Dan Blake, Phyllis Russell, Sandy Jewett, and Jim Allen.

We thank these members for their dedication to ARF and the CSUN students and look forward to meeting the recipients at the May 14th, 2016 ARF Memorial Scholarship luncheon. If you would like to make a contribution to the Scholarship Fund, contact Treasurer Dan Blake (Daniel.blake@csun.edu).

Seeking Emeritus Faculty to Review Community College Courses Submitted for CSU/CCC Intersegmental Transfer Project

In 2010 the California Legislature mandated (SB 1440) that the California Community Colleges create transfer degrees of no more than 60 units for the 25 highest demand disciplines. CSU campuses with degree programs deemed “similar” to the degree completed in the community college must accept all students who have completed these degrees and provide a program leading to a BA or BS in no more than 60 additional required units. Further these students may not be required to repeat a course at the CSU that is “comparable” to a course the student completed while attaining the lower division transfer degree.

The leadership of the statewide Academic Senates in the CCC and the CSU worked together to develop a program to accomplish this goal. Intersegmental groups of discipline faculty were the key to creating each of the model curricula (Transfer Model Curricula – TMC) that provided the templates for creation of the transfer degrees in the CCC. This process also included the development of course descriptors that described the required elements for all required courses listed in the model curriculum. The project is being coordinated by C-ID (California Course Identification Number System) funded through the Academic Senate of the CCC. All of the TMC’s and the related courses can be found at c-id.net.

Transfer Model Curricula have now been approved for 36 disciplines. Large numbers of students have been transferring into the CSU under this program. Within the CCC system there are now almost 2,000 of these transfer degrees in place for students who wish to have a defined path for transfer to the CSU and completion of a bachelor’s degree.

A method for determining comparability of courses is critical to this project. C-ID provides a mechanism to identify comparable courses. Community Colleges may not have a transfer degree approved until all of the required courses in the proposed degree have been approved to match the descriptors developed for the designated TMC. Discipline faculty from each segment make the determination of the acceptability of each course that is submitted to C-ID for this designation.

If you would like to participate in this project as a course reviewer for your discipline please contact Barbara Swerkes at: barbara.swerkes@csun.edu. The review process is similar to campus-to-campus articulation review except approval of a course in this process provides statewide articulation for students holding a transfer degree. All reviews take place on-line. Reviewers receive a small stipend for each course reviewed.

CFA Protects Faculty Rights Regarding Retirement Annuity Investments

An attempted maneuver by CSU management to shift faculty retirement investments without their consent was thwarted recently due to the swift efforts of CFA leaders.
In November 2015, the CSU Chancellor’s Office sent out a letter informing Tax Sheltered Annuity 403(b) Plan participants that the CSU was “making important changes” to the program. Subsequent information (“CSU TSA Contribution Amount Changes Participant Letter”) was sent out by email on January 25, 2016.

CFA President Jennifer Eagan worked with a group of faculty and staff to look into the issue. Some CSU faculty, both active and retired, were not aware of the immediately upcoming changes. Many of those who were aware indicated that they were upset about the changes.

CFA pursued its contractual right to a “Meet and Confer” with the CSU Chancellor’s Office. That meeting was held February 2, 2016, with CFA represented by Representation Chair David Bradfield, Representation Specialist Omar Joseph, and George Diehr, Mary Anwar, and Elizabeth Hoffman from CFA’s Joint Committees on Health & Retirement and Retired Faculty.

As a result of this Meet and Confer, the Chancellor’s Office has agreed to reinstate participants’ control and choices over current 403(b) investments. For active employees, there will be changes, going forward, in investment choices for future contributions to 403(b) plans.

The Chancellor’s Office has agreed to widely disseminate clear information about the revised policies and timelines and will ask employee unions, the CSU Academic Senate, and other groups such as the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association to help get the information out. The Chancellor’s Office has also agreed that it will consult with these groups early in the process when contemplating future policy changes. Nancy Owens.

IN MEMORIAM

Frank McGinnis (Music) passed away at home on February 2nd, 2016 the age of 84. He was born in 1931 in Superior, Wisconsin, and received a B.A. at the University of Wisconsin and a Master of Music in piano as well as a Ph.D. in Music Theory at the Indiana University School of Music.

In 1995, Frank retired from California State University, Northridge, as Professor Emeritus of Piano and Music Theory. He received the Meritorious Performance Award at CSUN, the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Wisconsin, and the Master Teacher Certificate from the Music Teachers National Association, where he also served as President of the Association and on the MTNA National Executive Board.

People to People International selected Frank to lead Fine Arts delegations to many distant points on the globe. In this capacity, he and his wife traveled to such destinations as Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, Greece/Turkey, Australia/New Zealand, China, and Russia. As a special guest of the Tchaikovsky International Competition, he was interviewed on Moscow television. Frank’s musical tastes ranged from Classical to Jazz, and he listened to and played a wide spectrum of styles with equal pleasure and talent. He was active in solo and chamber music, having performed with the Concord Trio, Roger Wagner Chorale, and Soli Vocal Quartet. Frank also enjoyed a multitude of activities outside of music, including hiking, playing games, visiting with his six granddaughters, and performing mechanical upkeep on his classic cars. He served during the Korean War as an airplane mechanic for the United States Air Force.

Frank is survived by his wife Freddie Lu; four daughters, and six granddaughters. A memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, March 5th at Northridge United Methodist Church. From tribute by Sandra Bostrum.

In lieu of flowers, and to honor Frank’s passion for music and education, the family asks you to please consider a gift to a piano scholarship fund in Frank’s name at California State University, Northridge. Make checks payable to “CSUN Foundation,” note “In Memory of Frank McGinnis” on your check, and send to CSUN Foundation, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330-8296.

REPORTS FROM PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

January Banquet

About 80 ARF members and guests enjoyed the food, entertainment, and companionship at ARF’s "Thank God
The Holidays are Over" banquet on January 16th. The “Harmony Partners” Barbershop Quartet were very charming, engaging and gave an enjoyable performance. Something a little different was that the men gave a preview of the after dinner show by singing to guests at each table during the dessert course of our dinner. A very nice touch.

The Needle ARF group and individual donors submitted 39 items for bid, with the average sale price being $30 and the highest bid being $75. $837 was the total raised to be donated for ARF scholarships. Items included beautiful creations in glass, wood, and fabric, and these talented donors are already working on new pieces that may show up in next year’s auction. Several ARF members mentioned that it was too bad this event didn’t come before the holidays, but a few wise shoppers were getting gifts for the coming year.

**February Program**

![Patrick Nichelson introducing Clair White](image)

On Wednesday February 10th, Dr. Claire White of Religious Studies spoke to ARF faculty about the Cognitive Science of Religion (CSR). She holds a Ph.D. from Queens University, Belfast, Ireland, in the cognitive science of religion, and taught at Queens, Oxford, and Cambridge before coming to Northridge. A widely and internationally published researcher and an outstanding teacher, White provided the audience with an introduction to the burgeoning field of Cognitive Science of Religion. Her erudition and wit were outstanding; her PowerPoint outline and case studies were truly interesting. Retired faculty from the sciences, humanities, social sciences and applied sciences asked questions that White answered with wit and clarity, and animated conversations about the lecture continued into the parking lot.

To briefly paraphrase the abstract of her presentation, Claire White argues that at the heart of CSR is a theory that human cognition is necessary (but not sufficient) to explain the persistence and prevalence of human ideas and behaviors deemed “religious.” CSR differs from other academic approaches to religion in that it explains (not just describes) religion and makes central the role of the human mind in this explanation.

Here is some of what I, a non-specialist observer, found in her lecture. What is it “in” the human brain-driven mind that is productive of, and comforted by, religious experiences, patterns and ideas that show up across cultures? For instance: the idea of re-incarnation, or that there is a great self that governs human life, or that there is no self (great or human), or that a super-human being monitors our moral actions, or that there is lasting, universal significance in how we treat the bodies of those who are dead. Why is it comforting, even rewarded by others, to hear voices nobody else can hear? What is it “in” the brain/mind that is reassured by religiously sanctioned brutality? What turn of the brain’s evolution gives humans the idea of, and thirst for, personal, social and cosmic “meaning?” Why does religion make people ‘good?’ What cognitive consolations come from stylized anthropophagy (human flesh eating): blood ceremonies, cannibalism, the Eucharist?

What if we do not need to fully accede to unitary theories of a vast, murky un-conscious, or tribal terror, or cultural conformity, or psycho-pathology, or patterns of mimicry for a fuller answer to so many questions about “culture” and “religion?” These are just a few of the questions CSR asks.

In Dr. Claire White CSUN is fortunate to have an expert and teacher in the growing field of CSR. Patrick Nichelson.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**Wednesday, March 9th:**
**Dr. Brenda Kanno, CSUN Biology Department, An Irregular History of the CSUN Botanic Garden**

Few people realize that the Botanic Garden, established in the late 50's, is almost as old as the campus itself. Several of the original Biology faculty recognized the utility of situating a living laboratory close to where Biology classes were held. Since then, the Garden has grown to include a complex of 4 greenhouses, shade house, and nursery/growing ground. The facility has witnessed both natural (earthquake, tree fall, flood, bee...
Each character has a story to tell: Ballinger works on his performance, Harvey Keitel as Mike Boyle, and Jane Fonda as Brenda Kanno, manager of the CSUN Botanic Garden, will lead a visual tour of the Botanic Garden’s past and present. She welcomes input from the audience.

April Field Trip

The Field Trip to the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena on April 6th is on target. City Councilman Mitch Englander's office has approved free bus transportation to the museum and restaurant. Therefore we know that you will help ARF show its appreciation to the Councilman by inviting family and friends to support ARF in filling the bus. The only cost will be the admission to the Norton Simon Museum and lunch on your own. The bus holds 41 people; if you are interested in going, email Karen.robinette@csun.edu. Let's fill the bus and have a good time.

FILM GROUPS

The Tuesday Film Group met in February at Joyce Linden’s and discussed Lady in the Van with Maggie Smith. In spite of many positive reviews, our group had mixed reactions, with the members giving it a combined rating of 6.7. The chief criticism was that the premise was unbelievable, even though the events actually occurred in Britain in the 60’s. It seemed doubtful that a woman so lacking in social skills would have been tolerated for such a long period of time. There was confusion in realizing that the male lead was actually talking to himself when there were two men shown conversing. The story developed very gradually, and only toward the end were various events revealed and related.

Previously, we had discussed Bridge of Spies and rated it as 9.7 and worthy of Oscar awards for the film and for Tom Hanks. Although the plot was well known, we learned interesting information not given at the time of the actual event. It is still in theaters and we highly recommend seeing it. Helen Geidt.

The Tuesday Film Group met in January at the home of Chris Smith. Six members were present. Of the six members, three saw Youth, directed by Paolo Sorrentino. In the cast were Michael Caine as Fred Ballinger, Paul Dano as Jimmy Tree, Rachel Weisz as Lena Ballinger, Harvey Keitel as Mike Boyle, and Jane Fonda as Brenda Morel. This film is a dramatic comedy about emotions. Each character has a story to tell: Ballinger works on his earnings and, man-made (film, TV & rock video projects) events, images of which will be part of the presentation. Brenda Kanno, manager of the CSUN Botanic Garden, will lead a visual tour of the Botanic Garden’s past and present. She welcomes input from the audience.

“Simple Songs,” Jimmy on his acting, Lena Ballinger on the meaning of a relationship, Mike Boyle on his lost playwriting, and Morel is a brutal former colleague of Mike. All are looking for the never-ending process of finding the meaning in everyday life. I would add that there is great comfort in the conclusion of Youth because it climaxes with a beautiful heart-breaking opera medley entitled “Simple Songs.” The piece’s orchestration, like its lyrics – “I’ve got a feeling, I live near, I live for you now.” —is not remarkable into itself. But the wealth of emotions that the soprano singer Sumi Jo conveys through her heart-breaking performance confirms the deceptive power of Youth, a film about small sentiments and searching for the meaning in everyday life. I took some of this review from Simon Abrams review of December 4, 2015.

Two of the members gave Youth a six, and I gave it an 8.5. However, my son and daughter saw Youth with me and they both gave the movie a nine. The movie is well worth seeing.

In December 2015 the Tuesday Group met at Jeanne Glazer’s home to discuss Brooklyn, directed by John Crowley. The members enjoyed it very much and gave it an overall rating of 8.5. The film tells the story of a young Irish girl, Ellis Lacy, who is sponsored by an Irish priest for a job in Brooklyn, U.S. A. She leaves her small Irish town for opportunities not available to her in the 1950’s in Ireland. The story and script is based on Colm Toibin’s 2009 novel Brooklyn. Toibin tells a beautiful story of Ellis’s crossing, her loneliness and alienation in her new world. She finds romance with Tom Fiorello, an Italian American. Since she is called home suddenly due to her sister’s death, Ellis and Tom get married, and she keeps this secret to herself. However, Ellis brings with her a new view of herself with her acquired American values. She is open and outgoing in new relationships. She begins to date a handsome young man, but the local busybody searches out her secret of her marriage in Brooklyn and threatens to expose her secret. Knowing that she needs to move forward with her life, Ellis returns home to Tony. The costuming and places are authentic and beautifully sequenced throughout the movie. Comedy, drama and romance are interwoven skillfully throughout the script. Chris Smith.

Ten members of the Monday Film Group met at the home of David and Diane Schwartz on January 18th to discuss The Big Short, a documentary that chronicles the 2008 collapse of the housing market, and
Carol, a romantic drama about two women of disparate age and social position who fall in love with each other. The Big Short, in following the collapse of the housing credit bubble due to excessive subprime lending, is told from the point of view of two young college friends who predicted the collapse and saw a way to make millions by "shorting" or betting against the housing bond market. Greed is the operative word in this Byzantine world of traders, hedge fund managers, and other players determined to make a fortune. The film received mixed reviews from Club members, as some liked the use of vignettes to move the various elements of the plot forward. Others, though, had difficulty in following the story threads and sorting out the various groups involved. One member found the portrayal of what happened interesting, but not enlightening. Others agreed, criticizing the plot for trying to cover too much, and the script for being too technical. One member commented that the story got lost in the minutiae. The acting was highly praised, with a special nod to Christian Bale, a crazed former physician who becomes a hedge-fund manager and is one of the first to forecast the mortgage bond collapse. He spends most of the movie sitting in his office, beating his desk with drumsticks to heavy metal music—a telling metaphor as the looming collapse develops intensity. The ending of the film was troubling for a few members. Other than fines, neither the mortgage houses or the banks suffer any serious consequences. As one member put it, there is no one to root for in this film; no "just desserts," and no comfort level. Members rated this film at 7.8.

With the exception of one member who hated it, most of the members liked the film Carol. Discussion focused on the pace of the movie, which several members thought was too slow, but which two other members praised as contributing greatly to their enjoyment. The overall consensus is that there was much to like about this film: the acting was excellent, particularly Rooney Mara, the younger of the two women, whose performance one member lauded as luminous. Members thought Cate Blanchett was very believable as the older woman, although one member thought her performance was good, but not extraordinary, given her outsized talent in other films. Two members especially liked the music, which both highlighted and complemented the story line. Members commented on how well the film captured the look of the 1950s, when the story takes place. The clothes, particularly Blanchett's, are perfect, right down to her full length fur coats, which were so popular at the time. The streets, Blanchett's Cadillac and all of the other 50s-era automobiles, were all authentically looking and served to emphasize the time frame. This was seen as vital to the plot, since views of same sex relationships, the stilted view of a woman's place, and the need for women to fit into the social structure at the time characterized the era. Members gave this film an overall rating of 8. Dorena Knepper.

BOOK GROUPS

The Tuesday Book Group for March discussed Helen MacDon-ald's H is for Hawk: an unusual book that was well received by our group. It recounts the experiences of the author in training and hunting with hawks, a hobby that entranced her as a child and one she took up again as an adult after the untimely death of her father. The book deals primarily with that most recent effort to train and hunt with a large goshawk -- a very difficult task requiring patience over the course of months, much freshly killed meat for rewards, and ultimately getting inside the mind of Mabel, her hawk. Prepared by her lifelong interest in falconry, MacDonald draws poignantly from many books on falconry, old and recent, particularly The Gos-hawk by T. H. White, the deeply troubled author of some much loved books about King Arthur. MacDonald purchases her hawk with great care and begins the slow process of training this wild bird. She isolates herself from other people much of the time, and seems to remain quite depressed, especially over the loss of her father. But she assuages her grief to some extent by the intensity of her focus on trying to teach Mabel to return to her perch on Helen's fist and later to hunt prey such as rabbit, mice, or partridge.

MacDonald is apparently a part-time college instructor based in Cambridge, England. She is an exceptionally keen observer of the countryside where she flies Mabel, and she knows a great deal about how its various natural features fit together ecologically. Even more distinctive is her ability to convey in fluid detail the richness of that the rural landscape and of hawk behavior, as well as the slow planned steps and frequent frustrations she encountered in seeking to gain the cooperation of her goshawk. Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin

ARF Science Book Group

On January 20th, 2016, we met to discuss Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel by Carl Safina. The book is written in an easy to read style, clearly ad-
dressed to a general audience. While it does have a section titled “notes,” no citations or references are included in the text itself. Some members found that a bit odd. The book primarily consists of anecdotal reports of animal behavior that support the belief that animals have feelings, personalities and can think. Several of the group members found the book highly interesting, however, some felt it was overly anecdotal and weak in the promised link between new research in the brain and animal behavior. We agreed that the author’s objective appeared to be drawing attention to the destruction of the environment of wild animals, which perhaps explains the emphasis on the behavior of elephants, wolves and killer whales.

Heidemarie Lundblad.

At the meeting of February 17th the book discussed was: The Evolution of Everything: How New Ideas Emerge by Matt Ridley. Ridley’s book is based on the premise that all development – physical, cultural, etc. evolves from the bottom up. In 16 fairly short, well written chapters he tries to make a convincing argument that everything from the universe to the internet develops in an unorganized, somewhat randomly manner beginning with some change in an organism or idea which eventually may (or may not) develop to an overarching system (the universe) or may fail because it is ahead of its time but may eventually be “discovered” and become extremely successful (electricity and the light bulb) when the time (environment) is right. We had a lively discussion primarily about his somewhat exaggerated paens to the evolution of the economy, universal health care and universal education. All of which, in his opinion would have been at least as successful if not even more so if there had been no government interference. Some of us felt that he was too Panglossian in his praise of unfettered development in these areas in the 19th century. His arguments in favor of nature over nurture in the development of personality did not convince us. If parents have little if any influence in the development of a child (other than providing good or not so good genes) why should society have much influence? His argument in favor of “it is all in the genes” sounds suspiciously Calvinistic. On the other hand, his discussion of some other issues e.g. morality, culture, genes was more convincing. All in all, it was an enjoyable, stimulating discussion.

The next meeting will be on March 16th in the Oviatt Library 3rd floor conference room. We will discuss How Doctors Think by Jerome Groopman, 2008, and for April 20th we will discuss Rust: The Longest War, by Jonathan Waldman, 2015. Heidemarie Lundblad.

SCCARF started 2016 with a gastronomic excursion to Los Toros, a one-of-a-kind Mexican-style restaurant in Chatsworth that is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. This extremely popular eatery, a local icon filled with colorful murals and interesting cultural artifacts, is known far and wide for its luscious Margaritas; a few who attended made clear that they were drawn, at least in part, by another chance to sample the restaurant’s version of this delightful drink. The 27 SCCARFers who attended found themselves seated at three tables in a private backroom, an arrangement that facilitated intimate conversation and enhanced the group’s camaraderie. As usual, we ordered off an extensive menu; typical combination plates proved popular, but many preferred one of the gourmet dishes, each unique, and listed simply as 1st Bull, 2nd Bull . . . .16th Bull. A few elected quite unusual plates, among them nopales rellenos (stuffed cactus). While many paired their meal with margaritas—our server helpfully explained the two types available—others opted to savor a sangria, beer, or one of the other many libations. Our group much enjoyed the large portions and many gave Los Toros a "thumbs up" as a great choice for dinner! And, that's no bull! (Jeanne Glazer and Joyce Linden)

Half of our group are in this photo. Left to right they are: Ron and Stephanie McIntyre, Larry and Barbara Carretto, Tim Fox and Phyllis Russell, Nancy and Jim Allen, and Raymonde Motil. Photo by John Motil.
ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2015—2016

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