PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

CATHY JEPSSON

Where did the ARF year go? I can’t believe that on June 1st we will have our Annual Picnic and General Membership meeting. It will begin at 11am, in Arbor Court on campus, catered by the University Food Services. Arbor Court is a shady area located between Business and Engineering (north of Oviatt). This venue proved to be enjoyable last year, and easy to organize. Come and enjoy the company of fellow members, and vote on and meet the slate of ARF officers for 2019/20.

Prior to that, and one of my favorite ARF activities, is the upcoming ARF Memorial Graduate Projects Awards. This awards ceremony is a brunch at the Orange Grove Bistro on Saturday, May 11th, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Following brunch with the awardees and their guests, each of this year’s four winners will regale us with a brief exposition of her or his project.

A warm welcome to Pamela Bourgeois, our incoming President for 2019-2020. A little information about Pam: she was born in Berkeley, CA, but was raised in Kansas and then after age 7 in Michigan, the oldest of 6 children. Her father was a newspaper man and her mother a teacher. She earned her BA from Marygrove College in Detroit, her MA from the University of Michigan, and her PhD from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Pam retired as Professor Emerita in the English Department, and completed her FERP in 2016. During her tenure at CSUN she coordinated the department’s Developmental Writing Program. She primarily taught courses in Medieval Literature, and Rhetoric and Composition to grad students, training the department’s TAs for the freshman writing program. For many years, she coordinated the University’s Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam (UDWPE).

She and John Clendenning (ARF Secretary) were married in 2003. They subscribe to the LA Phil, the LA Opera, and love to travel. Recent trips include an African Safari, and the Galapagos Islands. And of course, their 7 grandkids keep them entertained with their sports and other events.

Have a wonderful summer!
Cathy Jeppson

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NEWS FROM CSUN AND THE CSU

Update regarding response(s) to the GE issues

What follows is a brief update of our campus responses to Executive Order (EO) 1100R, addressing and defining what would constitute the GE package for the CSU, and EO 1110, establishing placement and curricular guidelines with respect to students’ completion of both the A2 Written Communication and B4 Quantitative Reasoning requirements.

CSU Campuses have found both of these EOs to fly in the face of the faculty governance of curriculum that is the foundation of higher education, and to introduce particular challenges to GE at CSUN. The requirement for Undergraduate coursework in the natural sciences, arts and humanities, and social sciences effectively limits the nine units to these three areas. This challenges, if not prevents, students’ access to the heretofore required explorations in Lifelong Learning (CSUN GE Plan R, Section E) and in Comparative Cultural Studies/Gender, Race, Class, Ethnicity Studies, and Foreign Languages (CSUN GE Plan R, Section F). Student enrollments and faculty teaching assignments, and the stated goal across campuses of significantly increased 4 year degree completion may be affected.

There is a chronology of events documented on the CSUN Faculty Senate page. It has been observed that at least one consequence of CSUN’s responses to date leaves much regarding implementation and assessment of 1100R to the administration, preempting the participation of the Faculty Educational Policies Committee. It is clear that there have been many controversies from campus faculty leadership, as well as the student body, regarding the nature and possible effectiveness of responses to these Executive Orders. In February, however, the CSUN Faculty Senate approved a resolution declaring no confidence in Chancellor White’s leadership in the context of these EOs and what they represent.

Early in the Spring 2019 semester, the CSU GE Task Force (brought together by the Chancellor’s Office, the Board of Trustees, and the ASCSU—with membership from these bodies) released its own report and suggestions for the contents of CSU GE. The contents of the report diverge somewhat from EO 1100R, while remaining compliant with it. commentary/feedback is sought from all sources, including such bodies as CSUN’s ARF, from the ASCSU arm of the Task Force.

The ASCSU, at its March 14th-15th meeting, did a first reading of two opposing resolutions concerning this report, with a final vote to be held at its May meeting:

AS-3373/EX-Receipt of the General Education Task Force Report expresses gratitude to the members of the task force and directs the Executive Committee to refer campus feedback to two standing committees for review. Concerns expressed by various discipline councils and campuses were acknowledged during the introduction and discussion of this resolution.

AS-3378/FA-Resolution Rejecting the February 2019 General Education Task Force Report asks that no action be taken on the report and that it be referred to a new subcommittee, the GE Program Review Committee, for completion.

At its own April 11th meeting, the CSUN Faculty Senate approved a resolution supporting the second of these ASCSU resolution drafts (AS-3378/FA) for reasons including the reduction of the Title 5 requirements and the removal of “double counting” (which currently allows a student to use a GE class in a major or minor as well as in GE).

The resolution emerging from the ASCSU’s March 14th-15th meeting addresses more specifically EO 1110 and its corollary requirements for revisions to the Early Start programs (summer pre-semester programs for first-time freshmen who require additional preparation for the GE freshmen courses in math, and reading and writing), in ways that have them mirror parts of the first year programs, possibly supplanting them. The resolution is in direct and supporting response to resolutions passed by both the CSU faculty English and Mathematics Councils (which are also on the linked-to page). Sharon Klein

CalPers Investments

April 12th, 2019: In last week’s ERFSA session at CSU Dominguez Hills, the ERFSA board discussed the CalPERS transfer of billions of dollars into a "private equity" adventure. Here is the text of the letter that will come from ERFSA President William Blischke to the CalPERS Board. The letter will go to CalPERS with the unanimous support of the statewide ERFSA board. Among other perils, the private equity process will be substantially immune to public participation and oversight. Patrick NIchelson

Memorandum to Members of the CalPERS Board of Administration

Subject: CalPERS Direct Plan for Private Equity Investment, Pillars III and IV
From: William Blischke, President, California State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association, CSU ERFSA

“I am writing on behalf of the State Council and members of CSU-ERFSA. Our organization works to both further the interests of the CSU and support the financial interests of our members. Key among these interests are...”
the retirement benefits administered by CalPERS.

While we are fully supportive of CalPERS’ efforts to restore the Public Employee Retirement Fund to 100% funded status, solutions should not unreasonably increase the fund’s level of risk and must not expose the portfolio to uncertainties that might jeopardize the retirement security of its members. A new and untested approach that did not perform to expectations would require increased contributions from the state, public schools, and participating public agencies. The resulting political and economic pressures could ultimately undermine the viability of our existing defined benefit pension system. The expected benefit to the overall fund value of the proposed private equity expansion is, at best, modest. It does not justify its risks and uncertainties.

Our primary objection to the current private equity proposal is its inherent uncertainties due to lack of transparency and accountability for all affected parties. We are also concerned that it requires levels of management compensation that would be secret and exceed levels allowed by California law. Arrangements of this kind made behind the scenes would encourage covert activities leading to publicly-aired scandals that would have a devastating impact on the integrity of the Public Employee Retirement Fund itself.”

IN MEMORIAM

Jay S. Berger (Real Estate) passed away recently. Jay joined the business faculty of San Fernando State College in 1965 as a member of the Business Law and Finance department where he started the option in Real Estate. He was one of the earliest scholars in academic real estate, and his practical and theoretical understanding of this area helped him to continue promoting an understanding of real estate principles throughout his career, including publishing editorials in the Los Angeles Times on related topics. Jay was responsible for hiring many of the original faculty members for what became the Finance, Real Estate, and Insurance department and was the founder of the Real Estate Center at CSUN. Through his professional connections, CSUN developed strong ties with the California Department of Real Estate and the local professional associations, helping the program become nationally known for the quality of its applied research and education. Jay is well remembered for his outstanding teaching and his wry sense of humor. He began his FERP in 1997 and fully retired in 2000. He is survived by his wife and son.

John Fodor (Health Sciences) died in Santa Barbara, California on March 30th, 2019. John was born in California, but his parents came to the U.S. from Hungary, and he was raised within the Hungarian tradition and language. In his later years he often reverted to speaking in Hungarian. John is the only member of his immediate family to graduate from college and earned a doctoral degree from UCLA. Throughout his tenure as a faculty member and administrator in the Health Sciences and Instructional Technology fields at Cal State Northridge, John wrote many textbooks and published numerous papers. He traveled extensively as a consultant with the world health organization. Much of his work was in Nepal, and he also worked extensively with colleagues in Japan and Israel. In his later years, as an emeritus faculty at Cal State University, he published a health guidance book for the aging population and monthly health education newsletter. In addition, he hosted a website with up-to-date well researched health basics. After a very active, busy, and productive life, we are grateful that he now rests in peace. He is survived by five children, and six grandchildren, as well as eight great grandchildren. His beloved wife Mary preceded him in passing. A celebration of life is planned on June 8th in Santa Barbara. RSVP to Julie Fodor: julsafl@gmail.com.

Betty J. Bailey (Education) passed away November 30th, 2018 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, her home for more than 30 years. She was born in Marysville, California in 1923. Her family was artistic and creative - playing music in the local bandstand, creating and selling custom furniture, and raising commercial orchids.

She married Myrl K. Bailey, an Air Force aviator, and they were stationed in England, Germany, New York, Japan, and Oklahoma, to name a few of many assignments. Betty completed her Bachelors and Masters degrees at Oklahoma State University and then moved to Los Angeles to become a professor at California State University, Northridge, enjoying her profession for over 25 years. Betty lived her 95+ years traveling the world, teaching, volunteering, gardening, reading voraciously, playing Scrabble and cards, and creating beautiful artwork. She is survived by her son, her daughter, and three grandsons. She was loved and will be missed.

Veronica D. Elias (Sociology) passed away in Sherman Oaks, California, in February, 2019 at age of seventy-nine after struggling with pancreatic cancer. She graduated as an Outstanding Undergraduate Psychology Major at Southern Illinois University and received her Ph.D in Sociology at Indiana University where she was a research associate at the Kinsey Institute. She taught at CSUN from
1970 until retirement in 2004. With her husband James Elias (also a CSUN sociology faculty member) she helped found the Center for the Study of Sexuality at CSUN. Her research included numerous articles on sexuality and she was a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

Ronnie was a much loved teacher who took a personal interest in helping her students succeed. She chaired the Minor in Human Sexuality Program, and was the Director of the CSUN Center for the Study of Sexuality. She was an active member of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality in many capacities, including serving on the Committee for establishing standards for Sexuality programs throughout the United States and Canada, and was a Consulting Editor of the Journal for Sex Research. She was also known by her sociology colleagues for her wonderful hosting of department holiday parties. Her love of flowers, especially roses, was demonstrated in her lovely garden. Ronnie is survived by her husband Jim, her son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

REPORTS FROM PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

Bob Gohstand and his wife Maureen
March 15th:
Back to the USSR...with Kodachrome!

Following a gracious introduction by Mark Stover, Dean of the Oviatt Library, to one of the library’s strongest friends and ARF’s valued member, Bob Gohstand, Bob kept us captivated for almost two hours on that Friday. He indeed took us “Back to the USSR,” and he did it with Kodachrome and paper. Bob had, over the years of the Soviet Union, collected political posters that provide an extraordinary history, indeed political, but also social and cultural. Three of the four walls were covered with a generous selection of these posters, and those of us gathered in the Ferman Presentation Room—a significant audience, ARF members and others—were able to browse them both before and after Bob’s talk, and he was there to answer our questions and share stories.

But what held our attention for that time between these opportunities for browsing were Bob’s slides—mostly Kodachrome that he had taken himself, residing now in slide carousels, shown with a slide projector without a hint of laptop or Powerpoint or other trending technology, and he accompanied these with stories—of his impressions, experiences, discoveries, and memories. Having been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship, Bob first went to the USSR for the year 1966-1967, under the auspices of the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), where he would engage in the research for his UC Berkeley dissertation, The Internal Geography of Trade in Moscow from the Mid-Nineteenth Century to the First World War. And he continued to visit the territory, even as its name changed, yearly—occasionally alone, or with his sister and Maureen, his wife—through the 1990s, for scholarly work, and then, just because. It was from Bob’s wealth of experience and insight—as well as the extraordinary number of his wonderful slides—that we benefitted on this Friday afternoon. Sharon Klein

Field Trip to the Getty Villa:
Pat Nichelson and Alyce Akers
Enjoying the Getty Museum

On Wednesday, April 10th, just under thirty of our ARF members ventured forth from CSUN and other parts into the past. We gathered at the extraordinary site of the Getty Villa Museum for what was one of those perfect Southern California (…virtually Mediterranean…) days.

Once again, the District 12 Office of the Los Angeles City Council (with Council Member Grieg Smith the current representative) graciously responded to Alyce Akers’ request, on our behalf, to continue their sponsorship of a bus for ARF members, and a significant group rode together, taking advantage of this valued service. Others, arriving by car in small groups, joined and sat basking in the sun and taking in the splendor of this structure and what it had to offer.

At 11:30, we were introduced to our exceptional docent, who announced that she was 86 years old, and for our pre-arranged tour, was ready to lead us around to her favorite architectural, artistic, and culturally fascinating spots. That she did, and her narratives for each of these were sparked with humor and stories, drawing our attention to the details contributing to the almost overwhelming opulence of this first century CE villa (modeled after—and with some objects from—the Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum), including the dedicated preservation and care for its features, along with the faithfulness to what belonged to the millennia of Western antiquity represented in the museum (the Villa museum describes its Greek, Roman, and Etruscan artistic holdings as spanning millennia (6500 BCE to 400 CE…at least). Our
Among the 100 ARFers who formed the SCCARF (Social Cuisine Club of Aging Retired Friends) in 1980, thirty-three gathered in Beto’s Italian Bistro at 2325 Kuehner Drive, Simi Valley. Beto’s serves a profound range of Italian dishes, with generous portions and frugal prices, proving a fitting place to hold the celebration. Not surprisingly, beans and “shreddies” (fried onion rings), both perennial favorites, filled many a plate. For entrees, ribs and tri-tip were common choices. One “adventurous” diner elected the petite sampler (beef rib, baby back ribs and barbequed chicken) and reported the food abundant “enough for another meal at home.” As evidenced by the doggie bags lugged out at meal’s end, most others also found the food to be plentiful. But, as always, it was the company and great discussions that drew us all back for more. A hundred times now, it turns out. (Bonnie Faherty)

TRIBUTE TO Jim Dole

For over eighteen years, our friend and colleague, Dr. Jim Dole, has been the godfather of the monthly meetings of the Social Cuisine Club of ARF (SCCARF). The March 2019 event was the 100th of such events, or as Jim dubbed it: “our centennial.” Attendees were encouraged to wear hats that were popular around 100 years ago. We had two cowboy hats, a newsboy and a Victorian lady, and one that looked suspiciously like a rain hat.

Jim provided a bit of history for this esteemed collection of retirees. A list of all one hundred venues was shared. We found some no longer exist! Kinnara Thai, where just seven attendees founded the group, takes the prize with four visits! Attendees feted Jim with a small cake adorned with “100!” and a certificate attesting to his commitment to culinary adventures. We forgot to sing “for he’s a jolly good fellow” but this will serve as our virtual “THANKS” for all of Jim’s hard work and gracious guidance. All joined in the wish for a long life for Dr. Dole and SCCARF dinners! Bonnie Faherty.

The Monday Film Group met on Feb. 18th at the home of Elizabeth Schneider in Northridge. Two films were discussed: Stan and Ollie, a biopic about the later career of the iconic comedy duo, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, and a slice of life biopic about an important gender discrimination case by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who later became a Supreme Court Judge.

The critically acclaimed Stan and Ollie (93% on Rotten Tomatoes) featured actors Steve Coogan as Stan and John C. Reilly as Ollie, who flawlessly recreated the beloved comics’ stagecraft, partnership and relationship. Their comedy sketches, coming out of vaudeville, could seem a bit corny to a jaded 21st century audience, but one could see how their innocence and sweetness won over audienc-
es both in US and abroad. The film shows the love and challenges of their friendship, and the poignancy of the passing of time as newer acts, such as Abbott and Costello, arrived on the scene and overshadowed them. The group enthusiastically rated the film at 8.5.

On the Basis of Sex, starring Felicity Jones and Armie Hammer, follows the inspiring story of how Ruth Bader Ginsburg, teaming with her husband, Marty, overturns a century of gender discrimination as they bring a groundbreaking case before the U.S Court of Appeals. The acting was excellent and the rating was 8.5. Some in the group had also seen the documentary on Ginsburg’s life, “RGB,” which stimulated a spirited discussion of experiences of group members in the 50’s and 60’s, an era when discrimination toward women was rampant. The documentary provided a fuller picture of Ginsburg’s life and care. Elizabeth Schneider

BOOK GROUPS

Wednesday Book Group

In February our group discussed Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books by Aaron Lansky. The subtitle tells of the efforts of the author and friends to find, collect, and preserve books written in Yiddish. Because in the early 1980s most Jewish immigrants from Europe were aging and dying and their children usually didn’t speak Yiddish, Lansky realized that much of Jewish culture would be lost if these people’s books could not be saved. Some books were written by well known Yiddish authors like Isaac Bashevis Singer and Sholem Aleichem; others were religious texts, books by less recognized writers, or novels in translation. Since Yiddish is a secular language, these books reflect a legacy of political activism more often than religious themes.

Sometimes Lansky would hear about families and organizations whose Yiddish libraries they could have — provided he could pick them up the next day before the elderly couple moved out of their apartment or a dumpster was scheduled to be emptied. Because Lansky was living in Amherst, Massachusetts, these last-minute notices precipitated many night drives in rented or borrowed trucks to New York City and elsewhere, where books in cartons and loose books had to be carried downstairs from apartments and offices sometimes in the rain. Nearly everyone who donated books pressed Lansky to sit down and, over tea and often in tears, listen to how they loved their Yiddish books and how glad they were that the books were going somewhere they would be appreciated. The first half of Outwitting History has many endearing stories of how such books were collected.

As word spread, the author became a sought-after speaker at Jewish organizations. Ultimately he was awarded a MacArthur genius fellowship. Because Jews had migrated to many countries around the world in search of a safe place to live and brought Yiddish with them, Lansky’s mission became international. Some of Lansky’s Yiddish books were given to libraries in former Jewish settlements in Eastern Europe and Russia that needed Yiddish books to revive their own lost connections to this supposedly dying language. But most of the collection is now stored or displayed in the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, in a building especially designed to represent a shtetl, a village once home to European Jews. One of our members has visited that Center and was very pleased and impressed by it. Our group admired the vision, leadership, and accomplishment of Lansky but felt the middle of the book dragged because the many collecting stories became repetitious. Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin.

Science Book Group

On February 20th the group met in the Oviatt library in the Dean’s conference room to discuss The Undoing Project: A Friendship That Changed Our Minds, by Michael Lewis, 2017.

We agreed that The Undoing Project was an interesting and enjoyable read that gave us quite an insight in the relationship between two brilliant psychologists who, although of very different personalities, managed to have a long extremely close intellectual relationship resulting in fascinating insights into human judgement and decision making. The title of the book refers to Tversky and Kahneman’s challenge (or undoing?) of the long accepted belief in “rational man”. Since the group includes several economists, this led to a very intense and interesting discussion. Heidemarie Lundblad

At the March 20th meeting of the book group we discussed Spying on Whales: The Past, Present and Future of Earth’s Most Awesome Creatures, by Nick Pyenson. Overall, we enjoyed the book and were impressed with a number of whale characteristics that are not widely known. Whales are the largest animals in history, including the dinosaurs. The number of different whale species is large. They inhabit all oceans on the planet. And that they were once land animals is interesting and maybe a bit of a surprise. Evolution has done an amazing job. Also interesting is the work that paleontologists have to do to research the origin and history of whales. Roughing it at fossil sites and handling large skeletons present many challenges. William Hosek

For the April 17th meeting the group selected Leonardo da Vinci by Walter Isaacson. The author of the bestsellers Steve Jobs, Einstein, and Benjamin Franklin brings Da Vinci to life in this exciting new biography. A report will appear in the next newsletter.
The ARF Memorial Awards provide $2,000 to each of four CSUN graduate students in recognition of outstanding scholarship exemplified by their graduate projects. The award winners will honor us with a short presentation of the nature and goals of their projects. An alphabetical list of the 2019 Awardees are:

**Chelsea Brisson (Biology),** “The Effects of Bacteria on the Physiology of Symbiotic Coral-associated Microalgae.” Bacteria play an important role in the health of coral. Bacterial community impact the physiology of different genotypes of *Breviolum antillogogium*. Temperature impacts the growth rate, photosynthetic rate, respiration, photosynthetic efficiency, nitrate, and florescence in microalgae that grow within different bacterial communities. Does high abundance of specialized bacteria increase fitness under ambient thermal stress environments (i.e. global warming)?  

**Advisor – Dr. Casey terHorst**

**Meaghan Clark (Biology),** “Tasting the rainbow: Geographic Variation in Palatability and Color Pattern in Red-Eyed Treefrogs.” Red-eyed tree frog colorization varies throughout Costa Rica. Bright color patterns are linked to toxicity in many organisms. Previous studies suggest colorization is related to unpalatability, and therefore provide a survival defense mechanism. Vinegar flies have been found to be an effective proxy for a red-eyed frog predator and are used to explore color impact on food selection. Natural selection by color could indicate color pattern drives evolutionary diversification.  

**Advisor – Dr. Jeanne Robertson**

**Rachel Hohn (Geology),** “Assessing Remediation Efforts at the Abandoned New Idria Mercury Mine, California.” Mercury extracted from ore deposits supported gold mining operations throughout the 1900’s in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Remediation of waste piles from the New Idria Mercury mine reduced acid mine drainage but has failed to eliminate mercury contamination in the local San Carlos creek. Inorganic mercury converted to monomethylmercury by anaerobic bacteria entering the creek results in wide spread mercury contamination downstream; further remediation appears to be required.  

**Advisor – Dr Priya Ganguli**

**Alvin Miranda (Mechanical Engineering),** “Applied Autonomous Mobile Robotics for the Mapping of Planar Structures Using Lamb Waves.” Advanced composites for aircraft structures reduce fuel consumption, emissions, operational costs and increase aircraft payload capacity. However, compared to traditional aluminum-based structures, composite structural defects are more challenging to detect. An autonomous mobile robotic detection process, utilizing lamb waves, has the potential to efficiently survey composite structures for localized defects developing over structural lifetimes.  

**Advisor – Dr Cristoph Schaal**

Please join us in honoring these outstanding CSUN student scholars. You will be amazed at their accomplishments, intrigued and enlightened by their presentations, and delighted to experience the rewards of your generous support of the ARF Memorial Awards Fund!

Brunch will be served buffet style at 10:00 AM; the cost, including tax and tip, is $20 per person. If you plan to attend, please detach and return the completed form below to the address indicated, with your check, payable to ARF, by Friday, May 3. [Questions? just email me sharon.klein@csun.edu ]
**ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2018—2019**

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**ARF NOTES**

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY**

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