

ARF NOTES

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**President's
Message:
Cynthia
Rawitch**

Happy Vacation, ARFers:

It seems a bit strange to wish a good vacation to retired folk, but summer has been my vacation from “the usual” for just about forever. I think it might be the same for most of you. Since my earliest school days--and I assume yours as well--my life has run on a September-to-June calendar. The New Year starts on Labor Day and finishes in late June as the bell rings and school is dismissed for the summer.

So, I hope all of you are enjoying your vacation. The crucial question, however, is: “Will I See You in September?”

Most of you likely remember that 1959 song by The Tempos. If you don't, Google it. Even better, ask your favorite AI app. Don't have one? Don't even know what it does? Ah, then I **really** need to see you in September when **ARF's** first speaker, Helen Heinrich, will demystify AI and

enlighten us all on how it impacts our present and our future.

Helen is just the first in a series of interesting speakers, including Bob Rawitch (a very distant relation) who in October will ask the question: “Is there too much free speech in America?”

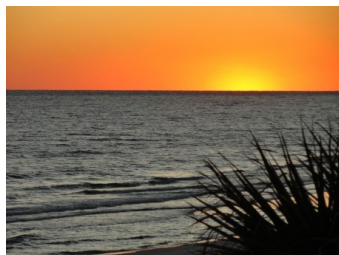
They are just the start of a great 2025-26 **ARF** year. We are bringing back—by popular demand—the “Glad the Holidays are Over” banquet in January and the brunch-before-speaker Fridays. Program chair Pat Miller is working on the perfect destination for our annual field trip in April.

The easiest part you can play is attending these events and more—in person or on Zoom. Even better, bring a friend, especially someone who should be in **ARF** but hasn't gotten around to it. As one of my sons often urges people, “Get it off your bucket list and onto your ‘To Do’ list.”

In the meantime, have a wonderful, relaxing and healthy summer.

Cynthia

P.S. I have run out of photos of my dogs, my kids' dogs and guest dogs, so you are stuck this year with photos of me. CZ



IN MEMORIAM

Al Baca
(Professor Emeritus of Modern and Classical Languages and Literature), who also served as both Faculty President and statewide academic senator, died late last year. He was 94 years old.



Born in New Mexico in July 1930, Al earned his B.A. (1953) and M.A. (1958) from UCLA and his Ph.D. (1965) from the University of Southern California. He was hired as an assistant professor in Fall 1962, when CSUN was San Fernando Valley State College. In addition to his years as faculty president (1990-1992) and as CSU statewide academic senator (1986-1989), Dr. Baca was a founding member of the University Club. He joined **ARF** after his retirement in 1997 and was a continuing member until his death. Dr. Baca was also a lifelong supporter of Living Latin programs, in which participants communicate using spoken Latin.

A memorial service was held for Al in November 2024, where friends, colleagues and former students gathered to celebrate his life and legacy. He was described as a remarkable man, wonderful, complex, caring, brilliant and deeply funny. *Cynthia Rawitch*



James B. Cunningham, Department of Secondary Education

James Cunningham, Professor Emeritus of Secondary Science and Technology Education, was born in February 1938 and passed away on April 4, 2025 at age 87. He spent his early years in Humbolt, Iowa, and then moved with his family to Bremerton, Washington. Jim earned a BA in 1961 from Western Washington State University and after graduation taught high school science and mathematics. His graduate degrees, the M.S. in

1966 and Ph.D. in 1970, were awarded by Syracuse University in Science Education.

Jim began his career as a professor in the fall of 1970 at San Fernando Valley State College -- soon, of course, to become California State University, Northridge. He supervised science student teachers, led student teaching seminars, and taught Methods of Teaching Science. In the 1980's and 90's, he also helped develop and taught educational technology classes for credential candidates across subject areas, as well as classes in the Secondary Education (SED) master's program in Educational Technology. Jim served as the SED Chairperson from 1995-2004, leading the Department through budget challenges and important accreditation processes with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. At other times he served as Director of the Credential Evaluation Unit in the College of Education and as a Fellow in the CSUN Center for Teaching and Learning. Another legacy: for many years he was a Co-Director of the Summer Academic Enrichment Program, at that time a six-week summer school program for up to 500 area students in grades 6-12 with classes held on the CSUN campus. In the heat of a Northridge summer, Jim could be seen directing middle-schoolers from one class to the next or checking in on his walkie-talkie with one of the other faculty co-directors, first Christine Smith and David Bidna, and later Bonnie Ericson. SAEP is still offered each summer on the CSUN campus, though cell phones replaced the walkie-talkies quite some time ago.

Additionally, Jim made significant contributions to the fields of secondary science and computer education with his publications. With Norm Herr he co-authored two well-regarded and popular books for teachers, *Hands-on Physics Activities with Real Life Applications: Easy to Use Labs and Demonstrations, Grades 8-12* (1994) and *Hands-on Chemistry Activities with Real Life Applications: Easy to Use Labs and Demonstrations, Grades 8-12* (1999). Among his other texts, he published *Using SPSS Statistics: An Interactive Hands-On Approach* (2011, 2nd ed. 2015) with co-author James Aldrich.

Outside the professional realm, Jim was a small plane pilot who loved flying, and he was known for his lovely Irish tenor voice, with which he serenaded many a department member at a birthday or retirement gathering. After his retirement, Jim was active in **ARF** and enjoyed traveling. He continued to live in Chatsworth and was regularly in contact with colleagues and friends in the area. He remained in good health until about a year ago, when he was diagnosed with a benign brain mass, and ultimately died of pneumonia and a heart attack. Jim Cunningham was devoted to science and technology education and had a respected profes-

sional career that was of great benefit to CSUN credential candidates, master's candidates, and fellow faculty. He was a good and generous friend. He is survived by son Randy Cunningham of Bremerton, WA, and a celebration of life took place on June 28 at the home of Christine Smith. *Submitted by Bonnie Ericson*

Dorena Knepper (University Administration) was a long-time director of Governmental Affairs at CSUN, perhaps best known for her lobbying in Sacramento on behalf of CSUN and the CSU.

Born in November 1943, Dorena died on April 13, 2023. She was a member of **ARF** from the date of her retirement in 2005 through 2022, and served as **ARF** president for 2009-2010. According to a 2006 article in the *Daily Sundial*, Ms. Knepper worked for CSUN for more than 30 years. Among her numerous efforts in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., she worked on the reauthorization of the federal Higher Education Act and lobbied the state to allow CSUN to offer doctoral degrees in audiology and physical therapy. She also helped to establish a voting precinct on the CSUN campus in 2001. At that time, it was the first and only on-campus voting venue in the CSU system. Dorena started the Legislative Aides Association and volunteered for the United Chambers of Commerce, serving as its chair.

After retiring, she volunteered her time and experience at the Huntington Library and Gardens, teaching children about plant care and leading tours of the gardens. *Cynthia Rawitch*



Warren Campbell
(Public Administration)

Warren taught undergraduate courses and courses in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, which he also co-directed for a time. He

died on April 2, 2025 at the age of 100.

Born in 1925, Warren earned his Ph.D. from Stanford University and attended the London School of Economics on a Fullbright Scholarship in 1951-52. He joined the San Fernando Valley State College faculty in 1961. In 1971, he helped found the Urban Studies and Planning Program (now Department), of which he later became chair. Warren continued to teach in the MPA program long after he retired, teaching his last class at age 95.

Dr. Campbell also was active in local government and politics, including 11 years on the Fair Housing Council and chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals under Mayor Tom Bradley.

Prof. Lawrence Becker recently noted that Warren "was just the most kind and supportive colleague... I was fortunate to get to know him as a friend." *Cynthia Rawitch*



BOOK GROUPS

The **Wednesday Book Group** recently read and liked Louise Erdrich's *The Night Watchman*, a novel set on a North Dakota Indian reservation in the 1960s. To complement that book, we decided to read about urban Indians in *There There*, a novel by Tommy Orange set in Oakland, California, where the author was born and grew up. Some of you may recognize the book's title as taken from Gertrude Stein's saying about Oakland, "There is no there there," although readers may not be sure exactly why Orange chose that title.

The dozen characters in *There There* are quite a contrast with most of those in *The Night Watchman* in that their family connections are often blurry or unknown, their identities as Indians are typically weak, their lives are unorganized, and their goals hardly exist – except for the group of men who have loosely planned a robbery of a big pow-wow's dance prize money. Most of the plots follow aspects of people's daily lives and interconnections, with guns and alcohol playing big roles in the lives of men. There is no talk about education or better jobs as ways to improve one's life. Most people seem lost, with renewed connections to family and close friends the only occasional positive sparks. One young Indian boy wants to dance in his Indian regalia, but when he asks his mother or others to explain the dancing and drumming and what is essential in his and their Indianness, the adults are stymied. They don't have any answers.

Orange is a talented writer, and his characterizations are well drawn. We all had trouble remembering the characters and keeping the plot clear, but the many accounts of people's lives are overwhelmingly sad. Although in the 1960s Indians came to cities for better jobs and were encouraged to do so by the federal government, this book shows virtually no economic progress or hope

among the Indians.

Doris Kearns Goodwin's *An Unfinished Love Story, a Personal History of the 1960s*, was the Wednesday Book Group's next reading. The history in the title refers primarily to Dick Goodwin's political career as a highly valued speechwriter and advisor for Democratic presidents of the 60's, but the book also covers Doris Kearns' political activities, especially as a close confidant of LBJ. With their shared love and activism concerning presidential politics, Doris and Dick married and had a family. The book is organized by their much later discussions of memories stirred by probing through the many boxes of Dick's papers, drafts of speeches, and photos from the 1960s. The book is a deeply personal and insider story of leading Democratic personalities and struggles in those days,

The book and the details of Dick's life took us back to the early excitement of our emerging political awareness during the 60's. We recalled the promise of JFK's ambitions, derailed by assassination and then surprisingly fulfilled by the complicated person of LBJ, followed by the sad tragedy of our involvement in Vietnam. Dick Goodwin was a part of the campaigns, and the inner circles and as a speech writer for JFK, LBJ, Eugene McCarthy and RFK he was the articulator of policies as well as author of some inspiring sentiments. Let us not forget Doris was the biographer and listener in chief of LBJ. Doris and Dick were also the disloyal intimates who could not support LBJ on Vietnam.

We loved the actual reading of the book. Doris is a wonderful storyteller, and her details of many personalities are revealing, especially for those of us who lived through the bittersweet times of the 1960s.

Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin

Science Book Group

On June 23, 2025 the Science Book Group met to discuss the books *Waste Wars: The Wild Afterlife of Your Trash* by Alexander Clapp, and *The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves* by Matt Ridley.

After the passage of the Environmental Pesticide Control Act, U.S. companies began shipping south thousands of tons of stockpiled chemicals whose use had been outlawed or were deemed too expensive to dispose of properly. The rest of the developed world followed; shipping asbestos, contaminated mining tailings, polychlorinated biphenyls, hydraulic fluids, infectious hospital waste, and sewage sludge to the south. In 2019, after 50 years and millions of tons shipped, the Basel Convention and its amendments finally outlawed the movement of hazardous waste from rich to poor countries. Unfortunately, the U.S. did not sign the agreement. In the meantime, a new iteration of the global waste trade developed in which

poor countries buy our trash in the hope that it might lead to economic opportunity. Hence, economically desperate workers face terrifying industrial dangers dismantling ships on beaches in India, Turkey, and Pakistan while villagers in Java dry plastic bags to bale and burn in tofu and cracker factories, and rare metals are extracted by hand from donated computers, keyboards, and monitors in Ghana.

In the tradition of muckraking journalism, Clapp exposes exploitation in business and the weakness of international institutions as sovereign nations free-ride on international efforts to control such waste while corrupt local officials exploit the trash for private gain. That said, the reading group thought Clapp's presentation was a fair description of the problem rather than sensationalized. For example, Clapp points out that most steel and paper are recycled, and recycled materials are environmentally less costly than natural extraction. Additionally, the Javan community of plastic pickers experienced an improvement in their circumstances, at least temporarily, compared to their previous reliance on rice processing. The human costs of exporting trash, however, are extreme and fall on the poorest among us.

In our June book, Matt Ridley emphatically tells us to stop being pessimistic about the state of the world. His reason? As *Homo sapiens* we owe our success to our innate characteristics that allow us to foster trade. Human trade, even in its earliest forms, shows rare objects made from far-way source materials suggesting not only the movement of goods through many commercial links but also the movement of ideas. According to Ridley, "one word will suffice to explain this conundrum: exchange (269)." Exchange, he says, is the key to prosperity over the course of human history, not science, money, patents, governments or anything else. As long as ideas are allowed to move freely they will inevitably mate, mutate, and produce innovations that will drive economic growth and improve the quality of life. Indeed, human lives have improved dramatically—in terms of lifespan, nutrition, literacy, wealth and other measures—yet, human history is filled with predictions of a bleak future, many of which Ridley shows were ultimately unjustified.

The Science Book Group agreed that free trade and exchange is key to economic growth, that pessimism is too common and that many are overly concerned with potential problems, but we also agreed that Ridley's reading of history was too simplistic. For example, he gives short shrift to slavery in producing the base wealth of many societies, including the United States. He cele-

brates declining air pollution emissions in the U.S. but does not acknowledge that much of this has come about because of government regulations based on publicly funded science. He also fails to acknowledge the development of institutions such as banking, insurance, the courts, and those which produce public goods such as public health, safety, infrastructure, and an educated public. In discussing Africa, he says that “aid doesn't work, hasn't worked and won't work,” but fails to acknowledge health improvements, driven by aid, have been a major factor in slowing population growth, which has led to economic growth. He acknowledges that global warming is man-made but characterizes concern as another instance of unfounded pessimism. Such statements made the group worry about the lack of pessimism. What's wrong with empathy and compassion or worrying about and guarding against threats that might become real, large problems?

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16 at 1:30pm. The assigned book for is: *Shape: The Hidden Geometry of Information, Biology, Strategy, Democracy, and Everything, Else* by Jordan Ellenberg, 2021, 472 pages, Penguin Press.

The book selection for August is: *A Series of Fortunate Events: Chance and the Making of the Planet, Life, and You* by Sean B. Carroll, 2020. Princeton University Press. Submitted by Martin Saiz



SCCARF REPORT

SCCARF is back after a short hiatus! A group of 14 met at Blue Table Restaurant in Agoura Hills for a delightful patio dinner on Tuesday, June 24. Those attending commended the warm and wonderful service, and they were also very pleased with the quality of the various dishes ordered. The salads were described as fresh and tasty and the pizzas and cheeseburger as exceptional. One diner noted, “The Ajillo shrimp was one of the best things we have ever eaten! And the staff person generously shared the name of the spice mix they use in the preparation!” As always, the highlights of this SCCARF gathering were the conversations. Hosts for the evening were Bonnie Ericson and Dan Blake. *Bonnie Ericson*

2025 ARF Memorial Graduate Awards

ARF's Memorial Awards recognize excellent scholarship and provide financial support for graduate student creative activities that are required as part of a master's degree program. This year, applications were received from 9 departments across campus. Four awards of \$2500 each were awarded. Awardees presented their work at the **ARF** Memorial Brunch in May. Here are short biographical sketches for each student and their project abstracts.



Nataly Barragan (Chicano Studies)

Advisor – Martha Escobar

Bio - Nataly Barragan was born and raised in the city of Pacoima. She graduated from CSUN in 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and is currently pursuing a Master's in Arts degree in Chicano/a Studies. She plans to pursue a career as a professor of Chicano Studies at the community college level and possibly pursue a PhD and teach at CSUN. Nataly's hobbies include being in nature, weightlifting, dancing, and watching

Steelers football. She is also a grassroots community organizer in Pacoima, focusing on direct action, movement building, and restorative justice. As a systems-impacted impacted person, Nataly saw the systematic factors that directly shaped her experiences with police and the carceral system. Her research focuses on criminalization of vulnerable populations, their survival tactics, and the community care needed to persevere through this injustice.

Abstract: "Abolitionist Mothers Disrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline"

My thesis consists of connecting with mothers who have experienced their children's schools as carceral spaces and documenting their testimonios. It analyzes how these mothers employ abolitionist theoretical frameworks to build alternatives in the school system for the betterment of their children. Barragan conducts interviews with six mothers and analyzes their experiences navigating and collaborating with the school system through the lens of feminist abolition theory. The study explores how these mothers center radical community care and well-being over punitive and carceral approaches. The research is guided by the following questions: *How do mothers who identify as abolitionists interact with school representatives to protect their children from carceral violence? What do these efforts reveal about the potential to challenge the school-to-prison pipeline and transform educational experiences for children?* Through these interviews, Barragan seeks to uncover the techniques, tools, and resources these mothers use to advocate for their children and to resist carceral educational practices. The ultimate goal is to develop a resource, such as a digital toolkit, that can be shared with other mothers facing similar challenges, providing guidance and support in their advocacy efforts.

Denise Berg (Geophysics)



Advisor – Scott Hauswirth

Bio: My dream is to become a university professor with her own research lab who studies water contamination after natural disasters or warfare, while also mentoring the next generation of scientists. I aim to create a research environment where students can engage with real-world processes and issues, develop critical thinking skills, and contribute meaningfully to addressing environmental challenges. In my free time, I love yoga, hiking, making jewelry, collecting rocks and gardening.

Abstract: "Natural Oil Seeps in Southern California Watersheds: Evaluating Contaminant Releases"

Naturally occurring oil seeps can be found throughout California watersheds. Though natural, seeps introduce harmful contaminants to the environment, such as trace metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Although the consequences of oil-releases on marine ecosystems have been well studied, research on terrestrial seeps in stream habitats remains limited. I am analyzing water, sediment, and oil samples from four oil seep-impacted sites in Southern California to characterize the influence of these structures on watershed hydrology and chemistry (hydrochemistry). I hypothesize that oil seeps near or within stream channels introduce metals and PAHs to water and sediments, and that oil-saturated sediment physically alters water-sediment interactions, limiting oxygen replenishment in porewaters. As oil-consuming microbes deplete oxygen in the sediment, the tendency of many metals to stick to particles changes, and they are released into the overlying water. To test my hypotheses, I am quantifying trace metal and PAH concentrations, along with nutrients and organic carbon, upstream and downstream from oil seeps across multiple field sites.



Gabrielle Halim (Psychology)

Advisor – Yolanda Vasquez-Salgado

Bio: I was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia, and have spent the past eight years living between Jakarta and Los Angeles. A fun fact about me: I was formally trained in fine arts and enjoy creating surreal graphite drawings inspired by artists like Joan Miró and Max Ernst. Outside of art, I love

exploring new places and cuisines. Professionally, I see myself as a researcher, educator, and consultant. My interests center on the intersection of biology and psychology, with a focus on understanding the psychosocial determinants of health and translating evidence-based practices into interventions and social policy.

Abstract: “Cultural Mismatch and Internalizing Symptoms: The Role of Cultural Harmonization”

The transition to college involves significant developmental and ecological shifts, often heightening vulnerability to psychopathology. Prior research links home-school cultural value mismatch - a mismatch between interdependent family obligations and independent academic demands - to heightened anxiety and depression (internalizing symptoms), yet little is known about factors that may mitigate this relationship. Guided by bicultural competence theory, this study examines cultural harmonization, the ability to balance both familial and academic responsibilities, as a potential moderator. Using a two time-point design, this study will examine whether students who fully harmonize these demands exhibit lower internalizing symptoms compared to those who prioritize one domain or struggle to balance both. Participants are healthy first-year students from historically marginalized backgrounds enrolled at Hispanic-Serving Institutions in Southern California. Validated measures and sequential multiple regression with moderation analyses will test main and interaction effects, controlling baseline symptoms and relevant sociodemographic variables. Preliminary cross-sectional findings from Time 1 ($N = 593$; 92% Latinx; 94.8% first-generation college students) suggest that cultural harmonization significantly buffers the negative impact of mismatch on internalizing symptoms. Findings will inform interventions aimed at supporting students' mental health, contributing to broader efforts to reduce educational inequities and improve college retention among historically marginalized, first-generation college students.



Seth Sangalang (Psychology)

Advisor – Jill Ranzini

Bio: I am a first-generation college student and received my BA in Psychology at CSUN in 2024 and have continued working towards my MA in Psychology, expected in 2026. At CSUN I have been actively involved in research in the Psychology department's laboratories – (1) Neuropsychology, Dementia, and Multicultural Research, (2) Psychometrics, Research, and Evaluation Promoting Adaptation, Resiliency, and Education (PREPARE). I also spent 8 weeks over the summer in the Banks Lab, Department of Neurosciences, UCSD, San Diego, CA. I have presented 8 poster sessions at Psychotherapy conferences and am first author on one published paper.

Abstract: “The factor structure of an adapted ARSMA (Acculturation Rating Scale for Mexican Americans)”

Accurate tools for measuring adaptation to a new culture—a process termed as acculturation—is essential for understanding psychological and health outcomes among Hispanic/Latino individuals. This study evaluated the psychometric properties of an adapted version of the Acculturation Rating Scale for Mexican Americans (ARSMA; Cuéllar et al., 1980) using confirmatory factor analysis. This scale was modified in order to be used with a broader Hispanic/Latino population and was administered to a sample of 323 college students and adults. The final measurement model (constrained to measure four factors of acculturation) indicated good fit to our data: $\chi^2(125) = 200.811, p < .00$, CFI = .948, RMSEA = .043, 90% CI [.032, .054], and SRMR = .051. Modifications to the scale included the dropping of two items, and the inclusion of three residual covariances and a cross-loading. In addition, significant correlations among the adapted ARSMA factors were observed. These findings suggest the adapted ARSMA is a valid measure of acculturation among diverse Hispanic/Latino populations.

ARF Awards Committee - Robert Kiddoo (Accounting and Information Systems), Sandra Jewett (Chemistry), Carrie Saetermoe (Psychology), Timothy Fox, committee chair, (Mechanical Engineering).

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