

ARF NOTES

Publication of the Association of Retired Faculty
California State University, Northridge



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WEBSITE: <http://www.csun.edu/arf>



President's Message: Cynthia Rawitch

She's baack! (My husband's suggestion this morning as I sat down to write.) And I am happy and honored to be back as the **ARF** president for the 2025/26 year.

Pinned to my dress in a part of the above photo that you can't see, is a child-sized image of "the cow jumping over the moon." While I don't remember that age or when the photo was taken, the cow pin brings back wonderful memories, as did my search for photos to use this year.

At our ages, memories are wonderful. Memories not only of family and friends, but of our CSUN years, our special students and special colleagues; memories of how the campus looked when we first arrived and how it looks now.

To start **this** year, however, we are looking toward the future.

At the first of our monthly brunch meetings, on September 12th, we look at Artificial Intelli-

gence, which has become our future with astonishing speed. Then, in October, the speaker series examines, "Is There Too Much Free Speech in America?"--a controversial question for today as well as for tomorrow.

I hope you will join us for these presentations, in person or on Zoom. If you can, bring a friend, colleague or future member of **ARF**. We are delighted to meet future members and to entertain new ideas. Speaking of new ideas: What would you like to see our association do? What do you wish we were doing that we aren't (yet)? Are there interest groups you would like **ARF** to sponsor (with your help, of course)? New speakers for our monthly(ish) meetings? New activities we might engage in as a group? Is **ARF** overlooking some thing or some issue we should be involved with?

We recently were described as the best, most active retired faculty group in the CSU. With our new and wonderful Board of Directors, we hope to continue living up to that description.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in just a few weeks—in person or on Zoom—in the refreshing(?) late summer days of the San Fernando Valley.

Take good care,
Cynthia



NEWS FROM CSUN

The Return of the Faculty/University Club!

The Orange Grove Bistro (previously known as the CSUN Faculty Club/University Club) at CSUN was recently closed and demolished. In 2024 the ARF Board created a task force, now called the *ARF Faculty Club Task Force*, to investigate the history of the CSUN Faculty Club and to suggest ways to replace the functionality of the “Faculty Club/University Club” on the CSUN campus. Along these lines, the task force has drafted a motion (see below) for consideration by the ARF Board and ARF members that supports the “reestablishment a University Club on the CSUN campus”. The Board has recently approved this motion and brought it to the **ARF** Annual Business meeting on June 7, 2025, for consideration, where it was approved unanimously.

ARF FACULTY CLUB MOTION:

"In light of the demise of the long-existing Orange Grove Bistro (aka CSUN Faculty/University Club) and because faculty/staff clubs are a common and traditional element of college and academic life, the Association of Retired Faculty proposes the reestablishment of a Faculty/University Club on the CSUN campus. A CSUN University Club would provide a venue for campus community interaction, the extension of hospitality to guests and potential donors, the staging of special faculty/staff events, and would thereby enhance the strength and character of the CSUN community.*

In requesting that action be taken to reestablish this dedicated University Club space, the following specifics could be considered:

Faculty/staff could gather for sharing food and libations (beginning with lunch two or three times a week on a set schedule for example, between 11 am and 2 pm midweek, then expanding the days of

operations as patronage warrants),

Faculty would have a dedicated space for interdisciplinary interaction and sharing of ideas and research,

CSUN Development Officers could host potential and existing donors and the family members of students,

CSUN as well as community-wide meetings and events could be held (this could be a source of income and would follow the time-honored tradition of hosting which was an integral part of the Orange Grove Bistro), and

This facility would be most welcoming and reflective of the nature of CSUN if it were a space with access to natural light and air with a patio usable when the weather is appropriate.

The Orchard Conference Center could be considered as a possible venue."

**Most university campuses have space dedicated to Faculty Clubs (e.g., Sonoma State; San Diego State; UCLA; U.C.Berkeley.)*

University Club Task Force: Bob Gohstand, Daniel Blake, Patricia Miller

Soraya

Opening weekend at the Soraya is coming soon. Check their website for details and programs. And.....enjoy a boosted ticket discount when you purchase a membership before opening night, Saturday September 13th. From Dance programs to Randy Newman to Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish, there are programs to appeal to a wide range of tastes and ages.

Trader Joe

From the Orange Grove to The Soraya, from the University Library to the squirrels that love to roam all around the campus, famous CSUN landmarks are featured in murals painted by students for the new Trader Joe's grocery store that just opened near campus. On opening day, July 21, CSUN Department of Art and Design Chair Samantha Fields and some of the art students arrived early to see the framed works that grace the walls above the cold cases and the wine section,

just opened near campus.

Program Committee Report , By Pat Miller

The summer flew by at warp speed, and I trust it was filled with adventures for each of you. The Program Committee and I are looking forward to a new **ARF** season and your participation.

Let me begin by highlighting upcoming events so you can save the dates early and plan on joining us:

Friday, September 12, 2025, the ARF Speakers Series and Brunch/Lunch resumes from Noon till 2:30 pm. This presentation focuses on Artificial Intelligence. Our speaker will be Helen Heinrich, Associate Vice President for Academic Technology. Dr. Heinrich has been tapped to serve on a state workgroup that will guide the responsible use of artificial intelligence in California public schools. By July 2026, Dr. Heinrich and her colleagues on the state workgroup must develop a model policy for responsible and beneficial AI use for both students and educators. They must submit a report to the state legislature on their findings by January 2027. Their work will focus on addressing academic integrity. Dr. Heinrich has also steered the use of emerging AI tools, including serving in the CSUN AI task Force.

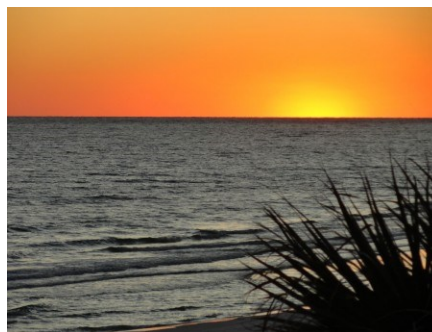
We hope you will join us for this very timely presentation.

Friday, October 10, 2025 – **ARF's** very own Bob Rawitch will be sharing his insights on the First Amendment. More details to come via email.

January 17th, 2026—The **ARF** Board and the Planning Committee are investigating the revival of the “Glad the Holidays are Over Banquet” tradition. We are looking at several venues and ask that you mark your calendars for Saturday, January 17th. Final details forthcoming. We look forward to seeing you and sharing for fun, food, libations, and lively conversation.

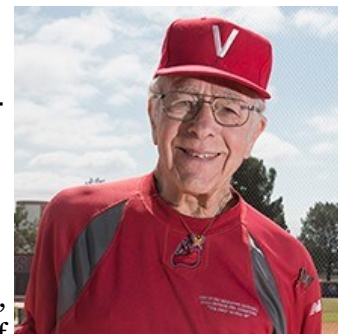
The complete **ARF** Calendar, approved by the board, was emailed to the membership in late August. Do keep it on hand as it does list all event dates and times. The complete calendar will also appear in the November issue of **ARF Notes**.

Cheers and see you soon.. Pat



IN MEMORIAM

Stanley Charnofsky (Educational Psychology and Counseling)



Stanley Charnofsky, Professor Emeritus of Educational Psychology and Counseling, had a long and varied career. He was a professional baseball player in the 1950s. In the 1960s Stan became a successful Matadors' baseball head coach [1962-1966] at CSUN. Later he became the Director of the CSUN Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). In the 1970s Stan joined the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling. Throughout his career, he was an academic leader at CSUN and in his field of study. Stan died on December 29, 2024, at age 93.

In 1968 Stan was the Director of the CSUN Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) when he helped mediate the student protests of November 4, 1968. He also founded and coordinated the Marriage, Family and Child Counseling Program (MFCC) in 1970. In 1983 Stan founded the Center in Educational Psychology's Workshop Program. Over many years, he served as the chair of the Educational Psychology and Counseling Department.

Stan supported and mentored students throughout his career, both in the Educational Psychology and Counseling Department, EOP and as a Matador baseball coach. He received a CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award in 2016, and in the same year was inducted into the CSUN Athletics Hall of Fame. He retired from CSUN in 2020.

Stan was a prolific author who published textbooks, nonfiction books, novels, and articles. He was active in the Association of Humanistic

Psychology (AHP), an organization that “emphasizes positive aspects of human nature.” He was on its Board for over 20 years and served as its President. He was a consulting editor of the AHP Perspective newsletter and helped organize regional conferences. One additional interesting fact about Stan: he loved butterflies, especially the monarch butterfly, and “he was known for wearing a butterfly pin on his shoulder.”

Diane Schwartz



Robert Hiebert (Kinesiology)

Robert Hiebert, Professor Emeritus of Kinesiology, was a successful and highly regarded baseball

coach and Athletic Director at CSUN. He died on June 19, 2025, at the age of 83. He served as head baseball coach at CSUN [1967 – 1984]. Under his coaching, CSUN won two NCAA Division II National Championships in 1970 and 1984. Hiebert was the CSUN Athletic Director from 1977-1995. He became Commissioner of the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) in 1987 and held that post until 2013.

Robert received his B.A. and M.A. from the San Fernando Valley State College (now CSUN). While a student at Valley State, Robert played on the Valley State baseball team, and was named Matadors' Athlete of the Year in his final season. After college, Robert went on to play professional baseball with the Los Angeles Angels organization. Hiebert returned to CSUN to make his career as a baseball coach and Athletic Director, and was named National Coach of the Year in his final coaching season. Hiebert was inducted into the CSUN Athletics' Hall of Fame in 1998 and later into the CCAA Hall of Fame. In January 2025 CSUN renamed the CSUN home baseball field for Robert J. Hiebert Field.

Robert retired from the CSUN Kinesiology Department in 1997 and was a member of the Association of Retired Faculty (ARF) from 1999 – 2025.

Diane Schwartz

John Irving, Professor of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, was born in Oakland, California, on January 14, 1932, and died on July 8, 2025. A teacher of German at CSUN for more than 40 years and a long-time member of ARF, he joined the faculty of San Fernando Valley State College in 1961 and retired in 1999. A picture of John will be included in the next issue of *ARF Notes*.

John graduated from Stanford in 1953. There, in addition to excellence in academics, he was a member of the university tennis team. He enlisted and served in the US Army for three years and attended the Army Language School in Monterey, which set the course of his future pursuits. Stationed in Germany, he travelled extensively in Europe, picking up languages along the way. He was a polyglot, fluent or proficient in German, French, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Japanese, Russian, and Hungarian. After his service in the military, John pursued graduate studies at UCLA, receiving an MA in 1959 and a PhD in 1964, with a dissertation on Goethe. There he met fellow graduate student and Holocaust survivor, Halina. They were married in 1958 and had two sons, Eric and Will. Halina died in 2021, a week before their 63rd anniversary.

Over his career, John taught, in addition to German language and literature, Foreign Literature in Translation, Humanities: Cultural Eras, and Classics: Greek and Roman Mythology. Considering the breadth of his knowledge and expertise, I think it's safe to say we shall not meet his like again.

We were all in our twenties when we first met and became fast friends. Weekends were fun-filled parties where we discussed foreign films, the theatre of the absurd, everything avant-garde, Sartre, Camus, Thomas Mann—you name it. We had a wonderful weekend in Ensenada, and roughed-it camping with fresh sauteed abalones in the California Coastal Mountains. As William Wordsworth exclaimed in *The Prelude*: “Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very Heaven!” John and Halina were my close friends and their passing leaves me with a heavy heart. *John Clendenning*



BOOK GROUPS

In July the **Science Book Group** read and discussed *Shape: The Hidden Geometry of Information, Biology, Strategy, Democracy, and Everything Else* by Jordan Ellenberg. In August we discussed *The Talent Code: Greatness Isn't Born. It's Grown. Here's How* by Daniel Coyle.

As its title implies, “*Shape*” underpins everything from strategy to democracy. Indeed, the book is enormously far-reaching with chapters highlighting how geometry can explain topics as varied as data science, evolution, social networks, human consciousness and even provides a solution to political gerrymandering. Ellenberg’s clear writing uses analogies, historical anecdotes, and personal experience to make reading about math a pleasant experience. For the non-mathematician, the book expands the reader’s appreciation of geometry and the life of a mathematician. Much of the book chronicles the life’s work of geometers making careers proving centuries-old conjectures that seem obvious to the rest of us. “Math is hard” Ellenberg says, lamenting that “it’s hard to settle for a non-proof once you’ve really familiarized yourself with the genuine article.”

The book’s range, and Ellenberg’s attempt to build from the basics, give insights into how geometry can offer insights into how the world works while giving credit to the likes of Henri Poincaré, Fibonacci, and Paul Erdős, but often leaves the reader wanting more focus and less detail. Still, if you are interested in Virahanka-Fibonacci sequences, golden ratios, eigenvalues, tree-solutions to checkers, minimizing the spread of viruses, evolution, gerrymandering, and your Erdős-Bacon number, this book might be for you.

In our very readable and entertaining second book, journalist Daniel Coyle translates the *Talent Code*. Focusing chapters on practice, motivation, and coaching Coyle develops a theory of super achievement by visiting tiny “hotbeds” that regu-

larly produce colossal talents, a baseball program in the Dominican Republic, including a Soccer clinic in São Paulo, an inner-city school in San Jose, CA, a run-down music academy in the Adirondacks, and an impoverished tennis club in Russia. The good news is, as the title declares, greatness in sports, music, science, art or anything, “isn’t born, it’s grown.” The key biological is myelin formation, an insulator of nerve fibers that makes electrical impulses faster and stronger and grow in layers as we develop mental and physical skills. The not good news is the elixir that grows myelin and leads to super achievement, according to Coyle, is copious amounts of practice, motivation, and coaching. He thus confirms the “10,000-hour principle,” a rule that suggests that 10,000 hours of deliberate practice are needed to achieve mastery in any field. Yet, as Coyle’s investigation shows, the formula also requires motivational fuel in the form of energy passion and commitment coaching and master should join our group and read our October selection: *Why We Remember: Unlocking Memory's Power to Hold on to What Matters* by Charan Ranganath, 2024, 304 pages, Doubleday. Submitted by Martin Saiz

The Wednesday Book Group.

Our group enjoyed *The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook* by Hampton Sides. The book is a lively history of Cook’s third voyage to the Pacific in hopes of finding a northern sea passage across North America. The author derived his account primarily from Cook’s own journals, diaries of shipmates, and native oral histories. In 1776 two ships and a crew of 180 sailed from Britain, rounded Africa, and stopped in New Zealand. Then, off to beautiful Tahiti, where Cook had been before and the sailors were welcomed. Cook accomplished one of his goals --- returning a young Tahitian man, who, two years before, had asked to join a previous expedition and had been enjoying living in London as a popular celebrity and curiosity but was now homesick. After a few months, the expedition headed north, unexpectedly finding several large islands not shown on Cook’s charts. These were the Hawaiian Islands, where the men were welcomed and spent several weeks. Finally, the ships passage, exploring much of the foggy coast of Alaska without success.

As well as running a ship and crew, Cook was an exceptionally good navigator. Moreover, he had on board one of the first clocks sufficiently advanced to enable a more accurate calculation of longitude. Prior to that invention, many ships had foundered because their estimates of east-west location had been wrong. Cook, following his own hunches while building on a host of older theories, had put in place an astoundingly efficacious system of preventing scurvy, which usually killed half of the crew on voyages of this era.

In recent years Cook in particular has come under attack as part of a criticism of empire. He is criticized as an agent of destruction of culture and evils stemming from the introduction of alcohol, disease, guns, sex, etc. Sides suggests that these are complex issues, possibly more properly due to later visitors, and tries to present the evidence rather than assign blame. Cook was somewhat enlightened. He wanted to respect the customs of the native peoples he encountered but was also flawed—a mix of boldness, brilliance, taciturnity, cruelty and even, perhaps, personal decline—a change in Cook's personality, for unknown physical or mental reasons.

We all liked the book and were caught up in the danger and success or failure of this bold adventure. We recommend it to everyone, especially those interested in the age of sail. It fits with our earlier enjoyable reads *Two Years Before the Mast* and *The Wager*.

Alice Munro, a well-known Canadian short-story writer, died in 2024. We decided to try out her first big success, *Lives of Girls and Women*. This 1971 book is labeled as a novel but really seemed to us a collection of closely related short stories, progressing through time with a growing set of characters. All the stories take place in a small town in western Ontario in the 1940s and early 1950s, very much like the town where Munro grew up.

The author explores people whose lives seem ordinary on the outside but who vary a great deal in their values, lifestyles, personalities,

goals, and histories. Each story has its own plot, and all are detailed and distinctive, with titles that give nothing away. In some, Munro is the teenager Del Jordan, who has precise and critical opinions about her parents, her schoolmates, teachers, and other adults.

All the stories are interesting and engrossing, but the final two stories may be best at building tension. The first follows a young girl's awakening sexual curiosity as a middle-aged man makes his advances. The second takes place at the end of high school where Del, out of curiosity, attends a religious revival meeting. While there, she meets a compelling but different sort of young man with whom she has her first romance.

We enjoyed these stories and their characters a great deal – in part because the author conveys so well the complexities of people's hopes and disappointments and their thoughts and feelings about themselves and others. The author's skilled development of characters reminded us of other "small town" authors like Willa Cather and Elizabeth Strout. We were not surprised to learn that in 2013 Alice Munro had been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. *Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin*



SCCARF REPORT, by Sandy Jewett

On July 22nd, thirteen SCCARFers enjoyed a fun and delicious time at Buon Gusto in Mission Hills (15535 Devonshire St., Mission Hills, CA 91345, 818-893-9985). Easy to find, the restaurant is located in a small strip mall just a little east of the 405 Freeway on the north side of Devonshire. There are some parking spaces near the restaurant and much more parking east nearby in the Vons parking lot with an easy walk to Buon Gusto. The group rated the restaurant at 4.5. Trip advisor rates this restaurant at 4.7. The comments were: a lovely Italian restaurant, delicious veal marsala and chianti, wonderful conversation, eggplant a bit overcooked but otherwise a very nice evening. "When you go, bon appetit, may your fork be faster than your neighbor's!"

Phil and Shirley Hansen 2024-25 Scholarship Awardees

The Phil and Shirley Hansen Scholarships are awarded to selected undergraduate and graduate students in a degree or credential program in the CSUN Michael D. Eisner College of Education. Their purpose is to recognize excellent scholarship and superior achievement, and to provide financial support for students' academic activities. Funding for these scholarships was gifted to CSUN through a bequest to the Association of Retired Faculty by Phil Hansen, a twenty-two-year member of CSUN's Department of Special Education, and his wife, Shirley, an educational psychologist. A committee of retired faculty chaired by Beverly Cabello evaluates applications. This year 14 awards of \$3,000 each were given to the students pictured below:



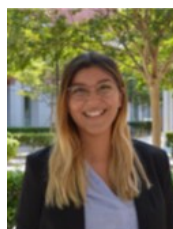
Dylan Altman

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Ed.D., Educational Leadership



Kaitlyn Bigman

Educational Psychology and Counseling
M.S. School Psychology



Monica Campos

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
M.A., Higher Education Leadership



Edgar Diaz Reyes

Secondary Education
M.A., Secondary English Education



Pete Dymock

Educational Psychology and Counseling
M.S., Marriage and Family Therapy



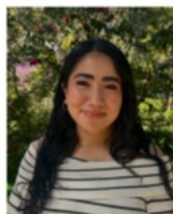
Austen Gage

Educational Psychology and Counseling
M.S., Marriage and Family Therapy



Fiona Gao

Educational Psychology and Counseling
M.S., School Psychology



Arlene Garcia

Educational Psychology and Counseling
M. S. School Psychology



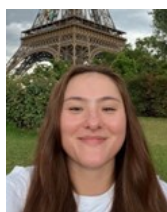
Julia Jensen

Educational Psychology and Counseling
M.S. Marriage and Family Therapy



Cherry Lai

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Ed. D. Educational Leadership



Jazmine Macdonald

Educational Psychology and Counseling
M.S. Marriage and Family Therapy



Mayra Rodriguez Perez

Educational Psychology and Counseling
M.S., College Counseling and Student Services



Alexandra Sanchez

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Ed.D., Educational Leadership



Ryan Shen

Deaf Studies
B.A., Deaf Studies

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