

# ARF NOTES

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Pam Bourgeois

Here we are in March, and we have enjoyed so many experiences because of **ARF**. We gathered for a lovely feast and lively jazz trio at our annual post holiday banquet in January. We have been intellectually stimulated by speakers on a variety of topics: going behind the scenes in the ground-breaking film, *The Graduate*; using sustainability principles to find ways to spread our resources around for the benefit of all; and understanding the ancient art of alchemy and its contributions to modern science.

Our February speakers, Dr. Denise Sandoval and Dr. Yreina Cervantes, professors and artists from Chicana/o Studies discussed their latest works. One of Denise's areas of expertise is curating exhibitions of the art of the low riders, an art form that claims the streets for its gallery space, and that projects not only aesthetic meaning and value, but one that is also culturally and politically articulate. The pictures of the Chevys turned into works of art and political/cultural statements were exuberant.

Dr. Cervantes talked about her role as an activist, a new word for many of us, a portmanteau joining the idea of the artist and the activist. Yreina emphasized her commitment to creating social change and understanding through her art, particularly by mentoring young artists in the community. Many of the photos of her pro-

jects around Los Angeles showed her working on community murals with many of these local artists. The audience enjoyed the art projected on the screen in all its color and vibrancy, and participated in an engaging discussion with these outstanding artists.

If you haven't had a chance to attend any of these programs yet this year, I encourage you to attend our March program featuring Dr. Hillary Kaplowitz, an expert on technology and education. And in April, I hope you can ride the bus with us for our field trip to the Central Library DTLA. Head Librarian John Sabo will be joining us for some conversation. Sharon Klein has researched lunch possibilities in the area.

With our May brunch honoring four graduate students and their projects and our annual picnic in June, there still many opportunities for you to enjoy your **ARF** membership with colleagues this season. I encourage you to join us!

Pam Bourgeois, **ARF** President

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## NEWS FROM CSUN

### CSUN FACULTY SENATE MEETING, December 5th, 2019

#### Selected Items from the Agenda:

**Announcements:** The search for a new President has begun. It is expected to be completed by the end of Summer 2020.

**Action Item:** Culminating Experience Policy. Some departments or programs, if they choose, may allow students to switch from one culminating experience to another. (For example, from comprehensive exam to a project or thesis). This policy was approved by the Senate.

**Resolution on Quantitative Reasoning:** It was MSP that the Faculty Senate of the CSUN oppose the fourth year of quantitative reasoning requirement under consideration by the CSU Board of Trustees. The rationale was that this additional requirement for admission to the CSU would disadvantage high school students who come from under-resourced and underserved communities.

**Update from Board of Trustees:** (Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

*After months of discussion and dissection, the CSU Board of Trustees voted to move forward on a plan to require a fourth year of quantitative reasoning for admission.*

*The revised plan delays a final vote until 2022 and includes a third-party, independent analysis to study the impacts on students, specifically those whose high schools don't offer enough math, science or computer science courses. Adding an analysis may have been in response to the introduction of [Assembly Bill 1930](#), which would require more transparency and independent study of CSU policy changes.*

*As they have done for months, education leaders – including CFA members – spoke at the Board's January 29th meeting in opposition to the fourth year requirement.*

**Note:** In the California section of the *Los Angeles Times*, February 17th, 2020, there is an article by Sandy Banks on the CSU plan to require this fourth year of quantitative reasoning. The article is paired with an interesting article on New Generation Science Standards in California public schools.

**Pending Business** –There was a motion made that “Any Student Learning Outcomes for an ethnic studies requirement at CSUN will go through the CSUN Ethnic Studies Council.” This motion was tabled until another time.

**Agendas and minutes of the Senate are posted at:**  
[www.csun.edu/senate](http://www.csun.edu/senate).

*Report by Diane Schwartz, ARF representative to the Faculty Senate.*

### Provost Mary Beth Walker's Student Success Series

**On February 17<sup>th</sup>**, Sumun Pendakur, Chief Learning Officer and Director of the USC Equity Institutes at the USC Race and Equity Center, gave a talk, ***Inclusion Isn't Accidental: Purposeful Strategies for Belonging***. In this interactive talk, Dr. Pendakur presented a multi-part framework for the way we approach our work, as educators and as designers of the learning environment. Blending story and skill-building, she explored the possibilities of imagining and taking action, in ways that transform practices, the experiences of students, faculty, and staff, and the institution itself.

Please note future **Provost's Student Success Series** sessions for **Spring 2020**:

**Date: March 10, 2020**

Topic: More Practical Strategies for Supporting Student Success

Time: 2:00-5:00 pm including Reception

Location: TBD

**Date: April 16, 2020**

Topic: Celebrating Student Success

Time: 2:00-5:00 pm; Awards, Reception, and Celebration

Location: TBD

For questions or additional information, please contact the Office of Student Success at 818-677-3200.

## ARF PROGRAMS

### Annual January Banquet



**Pam Bourgeois, current ARF President, and John Clendenning**

Indeed, January 11<sup>th</sup> was, thank goodness, after the holidays, but early enough in the bright, shiny, and new year for us to continue celebrating the onset of 2020, and to wish each other the best it would have to offer, as we raised our glasses-- And raise our glasses we did, first in Lamb's lounge, over lovely cheese, crackers, and fruit, and then over a fine dinner, prepared and served masterfully by the Orange Grove Bistro staff. A relatively intimate group, with about 50 ARF members attending, we adopted a clubby atmosphere, with the jazz trio, Taylor Blake (powerful saxophonist--and a CSUN freshman!) [Antonia Barton](#) (trumpet and vocalist extraordinaire, a former CSUN student), and Dan Kwak (master of the OGB piano, about to graduate),

playing and singing in the dining room as we continued to nibble at dessert and sip coffee, tea, and... yes...just a bit more wine.



**Dave Perkins, celebrating his birthday at the banquet**

After all, we had to toast the history of the Orange Grove Bistro, and bid it farewell, as this year's TGTHAO Banquet may have been the last one to be held in the OGB. With the Bistro in our hearts, we'll look forward to new venues, where we'll continue to come together to celebrate--both the spirit of the holidays, and that they are over! Plans for the construction of a hotel on the CSUN campus, which will include a restaurant, are still not finalized.



**Former ARF Presidents Alyce Akers and Pat Nicholson**

*Text by Sharon Klein, Banquet photos by Ginny Lussier*



## ARF Talks, the February Program



**Speakers**  
Yreina  
Cervantes  
and  
Denise  
Sandoval

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, that second Wednesday of the month, after joining us for lunch, Professors Yreina Cervantes (emerita) and Denise Sandoval, from CSUN's Department of Chicana/Chicano Studies, led us in conversation under the title, "Chicana Artivism and Decolonizing Aesthetics: Bridging Academia and Community." Professor Cervantes is [a celebrated artist herself](#), and she discussed her work in media and genres, ranging from muralism and painting, to serigraphy, lithography, [film-making](#), and altar building. She provided both glances at her extraordinary work and insights about her engagement with students--in and beyond the classroom, which will continue even as she begins her retirement.

Professor Sandoval took us into the world of lowrider art, combining the role that this plays in the community, the revelations that digging into the artform provides, and the various perspectives she has taken, both in the [curating she's done](#) and continues to be invited to do. She also continues to do writing and editing, with both Luis J. Garcia, Los Angeles' 2013 poet-laureate, (recently author of *From our land to our land*), culminating in the book [Rushing waters, rising dreams: How the arts are transforming a community](#), and with CSUN colleagues in 2016 a set of essays addressing the

challenges of ethnic studies curricula.

## ARF Programs: March, April, and May

And in March (the 11<sup>th</sup>) we anticipate Dr. Hillary Kaplowitz's talk, inviting us into the world of CSUN's trajectory along the paths of academic and educational technology--what's "now," and what we might expect as new! April 8<sup>th</sup> will take us to the Los Angeles Central Library. There will be more information for both events...check your email (and for those who have requested it, USPS mail), and as always, keep that first Saturday in May open--May 9<sup>th</sup> this year--as we celebrate our 2020 Memorial Graduate Student Project Award recipients. *By Sharon Klein*

## ARF Scholarship Committee

And speaking of the May 9th lunch, thanks and recognition to the Committee that every year reads and evaluates dozens of applications for the **ARF** Graduate Student Project awards. These applications are from graduate students at CSUN, and describe their current research or projects leading to a degree. This year we are awarding four scholarships of \$2000 apiece. The committee this year consists of Tim Fox (Chair), John Clendenning, Jim Dole, Ginny Lussier, and Gary Robb. We are also beginning a project to gather information about the **ARF** scholarship winners over the past 25 years. If you know anything about previous winners (e.g. as a faculty advisor) please contact Tim Fox (tim.fox@csun.edu.) *By Ann Perkins*



## Wednesday Book Group

For December the Wednesday Book Group discussed *The Boat Runner* by Devin Murphy. It was a special treat for our group to talk live with the author via Skype

and iPhone. We loved this because it gave us a chance to ask him questions about various aspects of the book, as well as hear about his experiences and work habits.

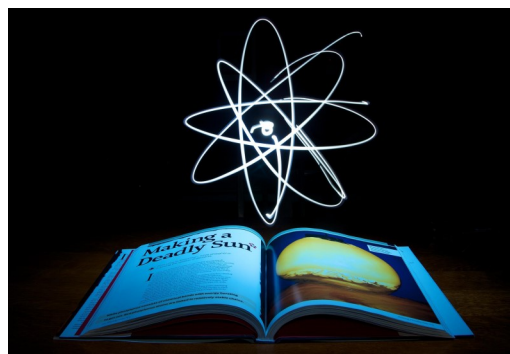
After years working on various merchant ships and other adventurous jobs that might prepare a young man to be a writer, the author was inspired to write a story about part of his family's history. His mother, who was born in 1942 in Nazi-occupied Holland, had memories, stories, and some records, which fascinated him. With those as inspiration plus a lot of experience and historical research, Murphy spent over ten years preparing and refining this novel.

This book is the tale of Jacob Koopman, a Dutch boy who grows up in the 1930's and then is drawn into the horror and chaos of WWII. Jacob, his family and all the community are uncertain as to how to understand and deal with the invasion and occupation. The characters confront situations where moral choices are difficult and confusing especially to young Jacob, some of whose choices many of us found disturbing. The book is exciting and moves along at a fast pace, including some action off shore, which gave Murphy a chance to use his knowledge of seafaring.

Devin Murphy is a professor who teaches creative writing. He has written a second novel as well as sixty shorter pieces published in a range of literary publications. A significant theme of his work is that stories drive and create meaning for our lives. We all loved *The Boat Runner*, a page turner and best seller here and in Holland. We were delighted with the author's charm, candor and willingness to talk to our group. By Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen



Devin Murphy



## Science Book Group

Attendees of the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the book group were: Adam Gifford, Phyllis Russell; and Heidemarie Lundblad. Diane Schwarz was excused because she had to assist treasurer Dan Blake.

We discussed *The Fate of Food: What We'll Eat in a Bigger, Hotter, Smarter World* by Amanda Little. Little's book provided us with an interesting and thought provoking view of some of the issues related to the food supply for future generations. The book addressed the problems caused by climate change, soil degradation due to industrialized agricultural practices (excessive chemical use), and over plowing leading to massive soil erosion. However, the book also gave us insight into a variety of measures that are either already being used or in the experimental stages to address these challenges. Some are a bit esoteric and so far too expensive to help feed the masses (e.g., micro salad greens grown on fabric in warehouses; organic vegetables and meats). At this point they are too expensive for mass consumption, but in the future they may provide some of the necessary solutions.

Our selection for discussion on February 19<sup>th</sup> is *The Deep History of Ourselves: The Four-Billion-Year Story of How We Got Conscious Brains*, by Joseph Ledoux 2019.

In *The Deep History of Ourselves*, LeDoux argues that the key to understanding human behavior lies in viewing evolution through the prism of the first living organisms. By tracking the chain of the evolutionary timeline he shows how even the earliest single-cell organisms had to solve the same problems we and our cells have to solve each day. Along the way, LeDoux explores our place in nature, how the evolution of nervous systems enhanced the ability

of organisms to survive and thrive, and how the emergence of what we humans understand as consciousness made our greatest and most horrendous achievements as a species possible.

And for March we have selected *Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams*, by Matthew Walker PhD, 2018. The first sleep book by a leading scientific expert - Professor Matthew Walker, director of UC Berkeley's Sleep and Neuroimaging Lab - reveals his groundbreaking exploration of sleep, explaining how we can harness its transformative power to change our lives for the better. Sleep is one of the most important but least understood aspects of our life, wellness, and longevity. Until very recently, science had no answer to the question of why we sleep, or what good it served, or why we suffer such devastating health consequences when we don't sleep. Compared to the other basic drives in life - eating, drinking, and reproducing - the purpose of sleep remained elusive.

The future dates for 2020 are April 15<sup>th</sup>; May 20<sup>th</sup>; June 17<sup>th</sup>; July 15<sup>th</sup>. By *Heidemarie Lundblad*.

The **Monday Film Group** met on January 20, 2019 at the home of Bob Hanna. The Club discussed



the films *Uncut Gems* and *Knives Out*.

*Uncut Gems* follows Howard Ratner, a New York City jeweler and compulsive gambler, as his life descends into total chaos. The group generally agreed that both the many technical aspects of the film and Adam Sandler's role as Ratner were well executed. However, the film had a weak plot with a very limited dialogue

which seemed to rely heavily on the use of expletives. The group felt that the difficulty of watching the decay

of a single character's life was so depressing that several club members had to restrain themselves from walking out of the film. Despite some of the film's positive technical aspects we generally agreed that this was a poor film and hope that in the future we could take steps to avoid subjecting ourselves to such bad creations. The rating by the club members of *Uncut Gems* was 4.8/10.

*Knives Out* is a mystery story that surrounds the apparent suicide of the wealthy patriarch of an extended family. Daniel Craig does an excellent job as Benoit Blanc, a Private Detective, hired by unknown family member to investigate the death. The movie is set in a large mansion complete with the appropriate "gargoyle statuary" to emphasize that this is indeed a mystery story worthy of the likes of Agatha Christie. There were numerous excellent performances by a famous supporting cast. We all agreed that the performance by newcomer Ana de Armas, as Marta the patriarch's nurse, was exceptional. A few of us thought that Daniel Craig's southern accent was a bit out of place. However, we all really enjoyed the film. Several of us kept thinking, during the film, of it as a game of Clue complete with a library and lots of knives around. The overall rating by the group members for *Knives Out* as 8.0/10.

For the month of February, the club plans to discuss the two films: *Little Women* and *1917*. By *David Schwartz*



**SCCARF**  
(SOCIAL  
CUISINE  
CLUB OF  
ARF)

I promised that we SCCARFers would have an adventure at January's event, and I was right. I certainly did! The group, 24 strong, met at *Chi-*



o’s *Peruvian Grill* in Woodland Hills and sampled a wide variety of Peruvian cuisine. I was a little worried that service might be slow since only two servers were working, but after a short wait the food began appearing at the tables in a steady stream until we were all served. But, as usual, prior to the food’s appearance most folks were so involved in conversations with friends that no one seemed bothered by the minor delay. The first selections delivered were entrée salads and I knew right away why we had to wait. They were large and scrumptious looking and must have taken quite a bit of time to put together. These were quickly followed by many scrumptious selections—from pollo a la brasa (rotisserie chicken) and lomo saltado (beef strips) to tacu tacu (rice and bean mixture) and pulpo a la parrilla (grilled octopus). I heard good reports from colleagues and friends when dinner was over: all seemed pleased with the evening. I went home pleased! *(Ken Jones)*



### Emeriti Activities

**Ann and Dave Perkins (Library)** spent two weeks in Alaska in August, visiting children and 5 grandchildren, ranging in age from 9 months to

19 years old. We rented a house on the Kenai Peninsula, and all (except the baby) enjoyed salmon fishing. It was fun watching the Alaska residents



who are allowed to fish by dip netting. There were dozens of people out

in the Kenai river with their nets. Dave had fun catching a 26 lb. salmon (with the traditional rod and reel), and also caught pneumonia, which was not so much fun! After 6 weeks mostly lying down, he is fully recovered. I would encourage all of you to get flu and pneumonia shots—they don’t always prevent getting sick, but they usually lessen the severity of the illness.

### Editor’s Note:

I know that many of you take interesting trips, do volunteer work, and are still doing research and earning recognition in retirement. I would like to hear about these activities for the *Emeriti News*. For this issue, lacking other material, I had to resort to putting in a description of one of my trips! Also, if you have other suggestions for articles or topics, please let me know. I’ve been editing the *ARF Notes* for over 15 years, and could use some fresh ideas.

2019-2020 **ARF** Members who are not in the 2019-2020 Directory as of 2/15/20

Fonosch	Gail	Family and Consumer Sciences
De La Vega	Aurelio	Music
Spector	Cheryl	English
Okazaki	Carolyn	Counseling Services

## ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2019—2020

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### ARF NOTES

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY**

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