

# ARF NOTES

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**President's  
Message: Pat  
Nichelson**

**All the ARF Executive Board members and I wish you a happy and healthy 2017-2018.** This Fall the first **ARF** Presentation will be at the Bistro on September 13th, 2017 at **1:00** pm. It will be a meeting with CSUN's CFO Colin Donahue, Vice President for Administration and Finance. Colin will talk with us about the demolition of the Bistro (sometime in 2018) to make way for a campus hotel. He and his staff want to discuss alternative spaces for **ARF** activities, especially during the bustle of hotel construction. The CSUN Orange Grove Bistro, formerly the University Club, and, before then, the Faculty Club (which was partly built by faculty and staff) has been the home for countless **ARF** and other faculty gatherings. With its accessible parking and its comfortable memories, the Bistro has been an ideal place for retired faculty to gather. Losing the Bistro will create a serious predicament for the Association. So we will be busy this year seeking suitable and accessible sites for 2018-2019 and beyond. Thankfully, **ARF** leaders Alyce Akers, Robert Kiddoo, Ron McIntyre, and Richard Ruggiero have already taken the lead by meeting with the administration and by arranging this important conversation. Please join with us on September 13th.

Involvement with **ARF** is rewarding. For instance, you rejoin old friends and even meet faculty you never knew before. We have a dinner series called **SCCARF**

which visits fine eateries around the San Fernando Valley and beyond. **SCCARF** translates as '*Congeniality is our most Important Product.*' If you would like to be on the participants' list, contact Jim Dole ( [jim.dole@csun.edu](mailto:jim.dole@csun.edu)) and you will be invited to brilliant meals. Also, examine our diverse interest group reports in this issue of **ARF Notes**. How about a reading club? Do you enjoy analyzing films? Is your game Pinochle? This last Spring I was happily overwhelmed by our bussed visit to the Nethercutt Collection of restored American automobiles and musical instruments. I'm not musically literate and I don't think about cars, but once again **ARF** stretched my horizons.

Involvement with **ARF** is also your personal gift to the common good. You help students with scholarships through our fundraising, you take part in intellectual and cultural conversations important to colleagues, and you promote fellowship within your retirement community. You can also advocate for retirees' interests at the campus and state levels. Plus, it is all a lot of fun!

Let me focus finally on our 2:00 p.m. Wednesday Speakers' Series. After our meeting with Colin Donahue in September, in October historian John Broesamle speaks on American presidencies (*there's a current interest!*).

In November geographer Robert Gohstand gives us a look

at life in Late-Soviet Russia. In February nutritionist Terri Lisagor tells us about her volunteer medical work in impoverished countries, and in March journalist Cynthia Rawitch reports on "Fake News" (*uh oh!*). These **ARF** conversations are more than interesting, they are memorable. If you haven't been to one, come and see. This year most of the sessions are in the Bistro!

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**Association of Retired Faculty  
Program and Speaker Schedule, 2017-18**

<b>Date*</b>	<b>Speaker/Event</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Time &amp; Location</b>
September 13th, 2017	Colin Donahue, Vice President Admin & Finance / CFO, CSUN	Campus Planning	1:00 PM* ( <b>please note time change</b> ) Orange Grove Bistro
October 11th, 2017	John Broesamle, Profes- sor emeritus, History, CSUN	What does the Trump administration tell us about ourselves	2:00 PM Orange Grove Bistro
November 8th, 2017	Robert Gohstand, Pro- fessor emeritus, Geography, CSUN	Back to the USSR: A Nostalgic Look at the Old Soviet Union	2:00 PM, Presentation Room, Oviatt Library
December	No meeting or program		
January 13th, 2018 (Saturday)*	Annual Thank-God-the- Holidays-are-Over Ban- quet	Entertainment TBD	6:00 PM no-host bar 6:45 PM dinner Orange Grove Bistro
February 14th, 2018	Terri Lisagor, Professor, Family & Consumer Sciences, CSUN	International Humani- tarian Work	2:00 PM Orange Grove Bistro
March 14th, 2018	Cynthia Rawitch, Pro- fessor emeritus, Journalism, CSUN	"Fake News" and other Issues in Journalism	2:00 PM Orange Grove Bistro
April 11th, 2018*	Field Trip	Huntington Library or Jet Propulsion Lab	Time & Transporta- tion TBD
May 12, 2018 (Saturday)*	Annual ARF Memorial Graduate Project Awards	Presentations by Awards Recipients	Time TBD Orange Grove Bistro
June 2, 2018 (Saturday)*	Annual Picnic / General Meeting and Election of Officers		TBD

\*Events are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm unless other-  
wise noted

## CONSTITUTION DAY AT CSUN

Please join us Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am at the University Club/Orange Grove Bistro for an annual program celebrating Constitution Day. This year we will examine conflict that arises between presidential and Congressional powers. Our speakers will discuss how this process has evolved over the decades. Panelists are history professor James Sefton, CSUN; and Dr. John Evans, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. Free continental breakfast is included. There is no charge to attend, but RSVPs are required by Wednesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> to Melaine.pemberton@csun.edu, or call 818 677-7131. *Caroline Miranda, Public Relations Project Manager, Tseng College, CSUN.*

## REPORTS FROM PREVIOUS PROGRAMS

### ARF Awards Luncheon

On Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 40 **ARF** members and guests gathered to celebrate the **ARF** Memorial Graduate Award winners for 2017 at a CSUN Bistro luncheon. Nancy Owens chaired the **ARF** committee of retired faculty from diverse disciplines who reviewed a record number of applications. The members of the **ARF** Memorial Award Committee for 2017 were Jim Allen, Dan Blake, John Clendenning, Sandra Jewitt, Nancy Owens, and Phyllis Russell, who spent much time and effort deliberating on the 39 applicants from 18 different departments. The board would like to thank all of them for volunteering for this difficult Task.



The graduate students did a wonderful job of presenting their research projects to the audience, with accompanying power point, and a question-answer period following each

presentation. The students' academic advisors were also present to honor their young scholars.

The awards went to: (left to right in the picture)

*Charlie Seibert*, Biology, for her project on activation of PSA to enhance degradation of aggregate prone proteins.

*Chelsea Carter*, Psychology, for her research on workplace conflict among board certified behavior analysts.

*Thomas Look*, Physics and Astronomy, for his research of many-body localization and time crystals for interacting systems with quasiperiodic fields.

*Madelynn Esquivias and Leila Salarpour*, Family and Consumer Sciences, for their project on functional apparel design for adolescents using insulin pump therapy. *Alyce Akers.*

### Annual June Picnic

Sixty **ARF** members attended the Annual Picnic and General Meeting held on Saturday, June 3rd, 2017, at the home of Professor Juan Oliva. Participants enjoyed a repast of salads, sandwiches, dessert and drinks while visiting with colleagues and friends. At the business meeting, members approved the minutes of June 4th, 2016 (Meg Holzer) and heard the Treasurer's report (Dan Blake) and Membership report (Diane Schwartz). The 2017-2018 board was elected (the board members are listed on page 8 of this newsletter) and the **ARF** Constitution was amended as proposed (see the final changes approved on the **ARF** webpage). A big thanks goes out to Paul Kirk and Mary Finley for entertaining members with their accordion duet, and to Juan Oliva for once again hosting our event in his lovely home and backyard. *Alyce Akers.*

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Colin Donahue's presentation on September 13<sup>th</sup> and our discussion with him will be exceedingly relevant to the health of **ARF**. By the end of the 2017-2018 academic year, the Bistro will be demolished in order to make way for a campus hotel. Colin has cordially agreed to meet with us to describe the university's plans and to hear our ideas and concerns. In this academic year (2017-2018), a pressing issue surely will be planning for **ARF** activities to take place during the months of demolition. Colin's office has some ideas about affording us space(s) in the future, but we don't know about the next two years. The great prob-

lem, in my view, is to find locations that are easily accessible: as an association of retired people, we need handy parking. We have members who come to meetings in walkers, and the campus has never had great (easy-access) parking for non-curricular events. Even parking arrangements for disabled drivers have become more problematic across the campus. Please plan to participate in this session, for it could be vital to what you and I can do with and for our colleagues in the future.  
*Pat Nichelson.*



## IN MEMORIAM

**Charles Bearchell (Marketing)** died on Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. He was a long-standing member of the CSUN Marketing Department who came to CSUN (San Fernando Valley State College) in 1965. Chuck earned his B.S. in 1959 and M.S. in 1962 from San Francisco State University (then S.F. State College), and received his Ph.D. in 1970 from Northwestern.

Many faculty and staff knew Chuck through his years as the Dean of Graduate Studies where he served us and students with great competence, friendliness and good cheer. An Emeritus Professor of Marketing, Chuck was a member of the Association of Retired Faculty. He was an encourager and always ready with a funny line.

In his retirement years I had the good luck of bumping into him a few times in the parking lot at Whole Foods, Porter Ranch, as each of us earnestly searched for his own car. Happy moments of laughter! A memorial service was held on July 28<sup>th</sup> at the San Fernando Mission Church. He will be interred near his wife Ursula. *Reported by Robert Kidoo.*

**Judy Bennett, wife of Jim Bennett (Business Communication Information Systems)** died on June 17<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. She was prominent on her own in the CSUN Wives' Club, and often joined her husband Jim at ARF events and other university activities. As a teacher of English at Nobel Junior High School, she also had several CSUN professors' children in her classes. Our sympathies go out to her husband Jim and to the entire family. A memorial service was held at Knollwood Methodist Church in Granada Hills on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Christie Logan (Communication Studies)** passed away on July 25<sup>th</sup>, after a long struggle with painful joint disease, a lung transplant which was successful for a brief while, and finally with a fast growing cancer. She died at her home in hospice care with Jim Hasenauer (Communication Studies),

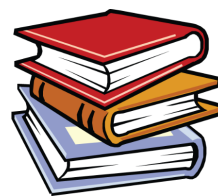
her husband and generous caregiver, by her side. In Jim's words:

*"At 3:53 AM on 7/25/2017 my beloved Christie passed. Now all that beautiful energy is going back into the universe. Her body is going to UCLA Medical School. We met in Fall 1973, married in Fall 1977. She was an extraordinary partner. Even in her last days, we had talks filled with happiness and laughter. I am so glad her struggle is over."* Tributes from her colleagues refer to her as a powerful and creative educator, director, writer, feminist and a warm and caring human being. She was considered a dear friend and mentor to many, an incredible teacher, and an inspiration to all.

Christie's Memorial/Celebration of Life will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 4-7 PM at the Orange Grove Bistro at CSUN. Please spread the word to others who loved Christie. RSVP and Questions to [kathryn.sorrells@csun.edu](mailto:kathryn.sorrells@csun.edu); or call (818)677-2853.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations can be made to the Department of Communication Studies (Performance Ensemble) in Christie's name.

**C.T. Lin (Mechanical Engineering)** died on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 after a long illness. "C.T. was truly a teacher's teacher, an amazing scholar, and above all a wonderful human being. His pleasant and easy going demeanor, ready smile, and courage and determination have inspired thousands of students and all those who were fortunate to work with him. Our sympathies and best wishes go to his family." *S.K. Ramesh, Dean, Engineering and Computer Science.*



## BOOK GROUPS

In May the **Wednesday Book Group** discussed Thomas Mann's short novel, *Death in Venice*. The main character is a noted writer, Gustav Aschenbach. Suffering from uncertainties about his life and profession, he decides to take a vacation in Venice. Settling in for several days of relaxation close to the beach, he sees another hotel guest -- a perfectly beautiful boy of about fourteen, Tadzio. Most of the rest of the novel concerns the writer's interest in and, finally, obsession with the boy. Aschenbach increasingly fashions his days in order to see the boy on the beach and in various parts of the city. Writer and intellectual that he is, he sets his

desire and interest in the boy in the context of classical Greek writings about love, beauty, and morality. The reader doesn't know until near the end if or in what way Aschenbach will meet the boy directly or whose death is referred to in the book's title. Throughout the story there are occasional incidents that may be merely color or texture for the story, though we wondered if they were intended as omens of deeper significance. Underlying the whole book is the juxtaposition of the disciplined, dutiful life (Apollonian) and the emotional, sexual and spiritual life (Dionysian). Members of our group differed in their enjoyment of the book. The novella's explicit focus on an older man's obsession with a beautiful boy led to a lengthy discussion of pedophilia, ephebophilia and the Catholic Church. While many of us who had been to Venice found Mann's depiction of the city a pleasure to read, several of us felt the more philosophical discussions were difficult to sympathize with or even to follow. Considering that our most recent read was over 600 pages long, we all appreciated that this had only about seventy pages.

*The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* was our June reading. The author, Jeffrey Toobin, is a lawyer, long-time Court watcher, and journalist, often writing for *The New Yorker*. Based mostly on interviews with justices and over seventy-five law clerks, this 2007 book does indeed give the reader an inside view of the justices' legal backgrounds and viewpoints, their personalities and interactions with each other, and their life styles off the Court. With respect to personalities and interactions, it was a surprise to us that Clarence Thomas is the most liked and adored justice. He lunches and talks with the clerks of all the justices and has helped some of them through hard times. The opera friendship of Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg was well known, and Stephen Breyer and Sandra Day O'Connor grew to have a close friendship interrupted only by the handling of Bush v. Gore. Anthony Kennedy has long enjoyed discussions and conferences with judges in other countries; he has brought an international perspective to the Court. O'Connor, while from a conservative background, believed in middle-of-the-road decisions and was often the swing vote. Scalia, while brilliant, was not able to lead a conservative revolution on a Court that had a large majority of Republican appointees.

The book's main coverage is from about 1990 through the arrival of Samuel Alito on the Court, although Toobin does dip into earlier years to explain trends, such as the Reagan-era roots of the reaction to the liberalism

of the Warren Court and the apparent liberalism of many law schools. That conservative trend was epitomized by the creation of the Federalist Society, with Scalia an early mentor, and the "originalist" viewpoint as to how the Constitution should be interpreted. After being disappointed in David Souter's role, conservatives derailed the candidacies of Alberto Gonzalez and Harriet Miers, whom Bush had nominated. Nowadays, Republican nominees must have a paper trail to almost guarantee their future behavior on the Court.

Many cases have pitted conservatives against liberals on the issues of abortion, federalism versus states rights, and the death penalty. One lawyer, Jay Sekulow, a name not familiar to us, won key cases by reframing separation of church and state issues as freedom of speech (e.g. public displays). The 2000 Bush-Gore vote count dispute is also described but focuses mostly on the procedural issues, only afterward referring to the damage done to the trust and comity of the Court. All of us found the book very interesting and enjoyable, although Toobin's accounts of complex cases were sometimes hard to follow. We agreed that we would like a new book that would include the more recent arrivals -- Elena Kagan, Sandra Sotomayor, and Neil Gorsuch. Perhaps Toobin is waiting until he can have something substantial to say about how Gorsuch plays out on the Court. *Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen*

On May 17<sup>th</sup> the **ARF Science Book Group** discussed *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, by Yuval Noah Harari. The attendees found the book very interesting. I especially appreciated that Harari not only had a very interesting story to tell but told it in an engaging, quite lively manner. *Adam Gifford*.

The meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> was hosted by Linda Jones. A special thank you to Linda for not only hosting today's meeting but volunteering to host the Science Book Club from now on! We discussed *Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst* by Robert M. Sapolsky, and as always our discussion was far ranging, most of it actually related to Sapolsky's book. There was general agreement that the length of the book made this a rather daunting assignment. We also agreed that the first half in which he discusses what science has (so far) discovered about the underlying genetic biology of our brains was challenging but very interesting. Sapolsky stresses that although genes greatly influence our behavior, environmental

factors also have critical effects. I found it particularly enlightening to read that the brain of a transgender person really is “wired” for the gender s/he identifies with, rather than the one on the birth certificate.

The selection for July 19<sup>th</sup> was *How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking* by Jordan Ellenberg. Although Ellenberg’s book did require a little mental heavy lifting, most of us found a number of interesting, thought provoking bits in the book. Ellenberg writes very well – especially for a “geek”. Some of the subjects were good reviews for the math some of us had not thought about in quite some time. It never hurts to be reminded that “correlation does not necessarily equal causation” and that the famous “Laffer curve” seems to assume erroneously (?) that a curve is a straight line.

On August 16<sup>th</sup> the group discussed: *The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness*, by Sy Montgomery. A report of the discussion will appear in the next newsletter. *Heidemarie Lundblad*.

The selection for September 20<sup>th</sup> is *Grunt* by Mary Roach. Roach explores the science of keeping human beings intact, awake, sane, uninfected, and uninfested in the bizarre and extreme circumstances of war.

Upcoming meeting dates are September 20<sup>th</sup>, October 18<sup>th</sup>, and November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## SCCARF REPORT

On May 21st SCCARF members enjoyed "new American" cuisine at Angel City Cafe, an unassuming but delightful neighborhood gem on Ventura Blvd in Woodland Hills. As in our earlier visit to this bistro several years ago, we found the menu to be varied—American, international, seafood, and a lot more—all the



dishes flavorful and creative. Clearly, the chef has a passion for food. Moreover, tipplers who brought their own wine unexpectedly gained mightily, for the corkage fee on Wednesdays turned out to be zero, zilch, zippo! Thus, a triad—wine, delightful food, savings—made for a sweet and inexpensive evening of togetherness. *Rita Streimer*.

June 13<sup>th</sup> found a gaggle of SCCARFers dining ‘neath a glorious copse of oaks at the edge of a goose-and duck-laden pond. The venue? Lakeside Restaurant and Lounge at the edge of Encino State Historic Park. Previously unknown to all but a handful of the twenty gastronomes in attendance, the eatery’s ambiance and the Goldilocks weather (not-too-hot, not-too-cold, just right!) garnered mostly rave reviews: “Wonderful setting on a perfect evening”; “...ambiance was perfect”; “A lovely location”; “...ducks, birds and geese (and a water fountain lake (too).” For most diners, the fare proved enticing: “The mussels were yummy”; “Lobster-mango salad very refreshing”; “Cold gazpacho!”; “A fantastic, scrumptious pork chop paired with spinach and sweet potato fries pleased my palate”; “Many choices of food, all delicious”; “... dining experience ... was fantastic. A real find.” But one attendee offered a less mellifluous refrain: “My dinner (lamb stew) was good, but not great.” For those who tote their wine, a steep corkage fee can be a drag, but one wine aficionado exuded that her decision to bring a bottle to share “turned out to be a good plan even with the \$20 corkage fee.” Proving, once again, that sharing a bottle of vino with the right companions—“great company under the Encino oaks,” intoned another attendee—can truly make an evening. Don’t believe it? Join SCCARF’s next culinary excursion and see for yourself. *Jim Dole*.

SCCARF had an exceptional dinner planned at the 88 Steakhouse and Grill by Katsu-ya in Northridge for the July outing. Unable to join us on July 11th, Dorena Knepper and Earl Weiss enjoyed a fine dinner there on Friday, June 30th. To quote Dorena, “The good news is that the service was wonderful and the food was out of this world....The bad news is that tonight was the restaurant's last night! It's closing after tonight!” I was SCCARF’s host for the month and my reaction was, “WHAT?” @#\$%^&\*+! I had just confirmed our reservation the day before! Dorena, THANK YOU! Without your information, we might have had 24 lost souls standing at a door that would never open? Sooo, what to do? Only 10 days away! After a scramble, Jerry of the Mandarin King Restaurant provided space for us and we were off for another culinary adventure on schedule. Though not what was originally planned, no one was disappointed, for Jerry provided us with a slew of dishes, family style, each selected to showcase the restaurant’s premiere dishes and the chef’s skills. All were excellent—the Crispy Fish, the Mandarin Soft Noodles, Kung Pao and several unnamed dishes—and everything was eagerly consumed by the 22 intrepid diners who would not be deterred by the unexpected change in location.

When sated, everyone departed stuffed to the gills, all with doggie boxes plumped high with excess food. The frosting on the cake was that SCCARF could pay the bill, leave a generous tip and still have an extra \$40.00 to contribute to the ARF Scholarship Fund! PEOPLE, see you next time! *Bob Kiddoo.*



The **Monday Film Group** met on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the home of Joyce Linden. The Club chose the films *T2 Trainspotting* and *Beauty and the Beast* for discussion this month.

*T2 Trainspotting* centers on the evolution of the relationships among four Scottish men over the 20-year period since they first appeared as characters in the original film. The characters' history with drug addiction and criminality is realistically portrayed. The central character Mark, played by Ewan McGregor, returns to Scotland after a 20-year absence and reconnects with his "old pals" Sick Boy, Spud and Begbie. Although Mark has "apparently" gone straight his pals seem to be their old difficult personalities and have retained their feelings about Mark's theft of some ill-gotten gains that the group had been holding 20 years previously. The group generally agreed that both the cinematography and the acting were good. However, the overall reaction to the film was mixed and it was given a rating of 7.6 out of 10.0. The group also discussed *Beauty and the Beast*. For a discussion of this film, see the **Tuesday Film Group**. For the month of May, the Club planned to view and then discuss the two films *Their Finest* and *The Lost City of Z*. *David Schwartz.*

The group met again on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the home of Robert Hanna. The Group had chosen the films *Wonder Woman* and *Snatched* for discussion this month. *Wonder Woman* is an unusual film that exceeded the expectations of the entire group. The first part of the film is devoted to the "origin story" of Wonder Woman and is filmed with breath taking views of the Mediterranean island of her childhood among the mythical Amazon Women. Gal Gadot, who plays Wonder Woman, does such an exceptional job that that most club members were forced to suspend their disbelief in the reality of this compassionate DC Comics character. The group's general feeling was that this film would be uplifting to all young people who see it and that this would be particularly true for young women. The

mandatory "martial arts" fight scenes were well filmed but a few of the club members felt that they could have been toned down a bit. The club gave the film an overall rating of 8.8 out of 10.

*Snatched* is a conventional comedy film depicting the trials and tribulations of a mother and daughter who are kidnapped at a South American resort. The main characters are played by Amy Schumer and Goldie Hawn. Although the film's relatively predictable script did not do justice to the capabilities of these two fine actresses it did lead to laughter by most members of the club. The two supporting roles as potential rescuers played by Wanda Sykes and Joan Cusack were very funny but might have been even better with a more significant script development. Most of the club agreed that the "accidental" killing of some of the adversaries detracted from the film and that the film would have been better if it eliminated the explicit deaths of these characters. On the whole the club felt that the film was OK but definitely not exceptional and gave it an overall rating of 6.3 out of 10. For the month of July, the group planned to view and then discuss the two films: *Megan Leavey* and *Baby Driver*. *David Schwartz.*

The **Tuesday Film Group** met on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the home of Joyce Linden to discuss *Beauty and the Beast*. We found it beautiful and entertaining. This live action remake is faithful to the original Disney cartoon version, down to Belle's flowing, sparkly yellow gown and an independent female protagonist who is not only fearless and intellectual but dares to be different and is open to new experiences. The basic theme is: Look beyond the surface as beauty is only skin deep. While the Beast, who originally imprisons Belle, looks intimidating and scary, his rough exterior is a facade. Originally a prince cursed for his vanity to hide away as a beast in an enchanted castle, this hulking, wolf-like being evolves at the prodding of various dancing teapots and household gadgets, plus Belle's effervescent presence, to reveal a kind, gentle, intelligent soul who just wants to be loved and loving. Belle and the Beast bond over books, and after some dramatic twists and turns she frees him from the curse and ... voila! A prince emerges. Happily ever-after commences in the palace, but frankly two of us **ARFers** thought the prince was disappointingly small. We liked that big, hulking, sexy beast. Or we could like the actor who plays "Thor" to emerge as the Prince. In one previous *Beauty and the Beast* version starring George C. Scott and Trish Van Devere, the transformation has Belle asking "Where's my beast?" Overall score 8.2. *Elizabeth Schneider.*

## ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2016—2017

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### ARF NOTES

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY**

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