

ARF NOTES

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California State University, Northridge



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PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE:

CATHY JEPSON

The Executive Board Members and I wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous 2019. My hope is that you had a wonderful Holiday Season! Although the Board normally doesn't meet during December, the ARF program committee met to finalize the logistics of the upcoming "Thank Goodness the Holidays are Over" (TGTHAO) banquet.

All ARF members (and guest(s)) are invited to attend this banquet on Saturday, January 12th, 2019 at the Orange Grove Bistro (University Club/Faculty Club). Festivities will begin at 6:00 pm. with a no-host bar, appropriate nibbles, and stimulating conversation. We will be seated for dinner at 6:45 pm. If you would like to bring your own wine, please feel free to do so; there is a \$6.00 corkage fee.

We will also have a silent auction at this banquet. It will open at 6:00 pm (during the cocktail hour) in the President's Lounge, and bidding will close at 8:10 pm.

Reservations for the banquet are, of course, required. There is a registration form for the dinner on the last page of this issue of *ARF Notes*.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our numerous events during 2019. Cordially, Cathy.

Of Special Interest

On Wednesday, December 12th, 2018, the first day of finals, it was announced that there were threats of violence against the University. Because of the recent vandalism on campus, many faculty canceled and rescheduled their examinations.

A lot of students also stayed away. Fortunately, nothing happened. **President Dianne Harrison** issued the following memo on the Campus situation:

"While law enforcement does not believe there is an imminent threat to campus, I recognize the extreme stress and anxiety the recent threats of violence have caused our community.

To further ease the anxiety students are understandably experiencing that may affect exam performance, finals on Wednesday, December 12th, will only be offered in alternative formats. For final exams on Thursday, December 13th, through Tuesday, December 18th, faculty will provide alternative exam format options and accommodate students who are not comfortable coming to campus. Students should contact their instructors to request alternative arrangements. Any student requesting such an accommodation will not be subject to any instructor-imposed penalty. This decision was made in consultation with CSUN's Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The campus will remain open during the remainder of the semester. Employees concerned about reporting to work should contact their supervisors.

CSUN Police and partner law enforcement agencies continue to investigate the threats and maintain their increased patrols across campus. Anyone with any information should contact CSUN Police immediately at 911 or 818-677-2111. Hate has no place on this campus, and we are working to bring any perpetrators of these cowardly acts to justice. We are resolute in our duty to not allow these threats to derail our students' education. We make these accommodations entirely in the interest of our students and their success. I appreciate the dedication of faculty and staff who have exhibited extraordinary flexibility and empathy in service of our students, as well as the tireless work of CSUN Police. I ask everyone to come together as a community, supporting one another through this difficult time."



NEWS
FROM
CSUN

 Emeriti News

Student Filmmaker Wins Award

Dilek Ince knew in middle school that she wanted to be a storyteller when she grew up. By high school, she knew she wanted to tell her stories through film. Once she graduated, Ince packed a solitary suitcase, boarded a plane in her native Turkey and headed to Los Angeles – the land where movies are made.

Ince, who graduated from California State University, Northridge in August with a bachelor's degree in film, took a huge step forward today in cementing her career as a filmmaker. The Directors Guild of America Student Film Awards has given Ince's senior film project, "Amal," its Jury Award in the category of Outstanding Women Student Filmmakers.



Dilek Ince

New Book Published on CSUN's History

The first official pictorial history book since the early 1990's on California State University, Northridge was recently published, depicting the University's meteoric rise and growth from its founding in 1958 to the present day.

Ellen Jarosz, head of CSUN's Special Collections and Archives, and Stephen Kutay, digital service librarian, authored the book, *California State University, Northridge (Campus History)*, to showcase the University's history over the course of the past 60 years. Kutay and Jarosz said they wanted to bring the student experience into perspective, and to represent the daily facets of the CSUN community. "It was interesting to learn how the University came into its own, growing quickly from a satellite of Los Angeles State College, to a University," said Kutay. "The student body became more diverse over the years. It took this amount of time, in my opinion, to build the culture we have today."

The CSUN for Life Award, given to non-alumni who have championed the University, was presented to **Bonnie Faherty (Health Sciences)** and husband Edward Feldman. Faherty has earned four academic degrees, and Feldman two — all from universities outside of CSUN. However, they have taken CSUN into their hearts and have been devoted to serving the University, particularly its Department of Nursing and the Office of Government and Community Relations. Faherty taught at CSUN from 1997-2001 and later was awarded a Volunteer Service Award from the Nursing Alumni Chapter in 2008. She is an associate professor emerita in CSUN's Department of Health Sciences. Faherty and Feldman are members of The Dean's Circle for the College of Health and Human Development, and both are members of the President's Associates. Together, they have given to students, CSUN's Department of Nursing, and the Delmar T. Oviatt Library, among other areas on campus.

Influential educator, cancer researcher and CSUN stalwart **Steven Oppenheimer (Biology)** has impacted countless lives not only through his research, but also the education and mentorship he has provided for thousands of students — many of whom have gone on to make their own impact. Oppenheimer began teaching at what was then San Fernando Valley State College in 1971 and has received dozens of accolades in his five decades of teaching, including one of the highest honors in the country for an educator.

On Jan. 6, 2010, he was honored with the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, and he received the award from President Barack Obama at the White House. He also had the opportunity to meet with President Obama and the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology about issues in science and education. Oppenheimer deflected the attention to others in his acceptance speech, first recalling the University's achievement in 2016 of being named by the journal *Nature* as one of North America's top 25 institutions for science. "To be on the *Nature* list is mind-boggling," Oppenheimer said. "When I saw this and saw CSUN, and saw no other CSUs and no UCs [on this list], I was flabbergasted. That's not only [credit to College of Science and Mathematics Dean] Jerry Stinner's tremendous work, but the work of great chairs of the biology department and other departments. We also have great faculty. We hired so many new faculty, and they played a role in this. But the key is the students. So many great students. They're

the ones who do the work. I always say, ‘They do the work, I tell the jokes.’ Working with the students is what I love to do.”

Diane Schwartz (Computer Science) has suffered a stroke and is hospitalized at Kaiser Sunset. She is making good progress, but is not receiving visitors at this time. Cards may be sent to: 19804 Mariposa Way, Porter Ranch, Ca., 91326.



In Memoriam

F. Harold Giedt (University Counseling Services) died recently. We extend our sympathies to Harold’s beloved wife

and our fellow **ARF** member, Helen Giedt, emerita professor of Psychology.

In 1967 Harold, a clinical psychologist, became part of the faculty of then San Fernando Valley State College as a Professor in the University Counseling Services. He earned his Ph.D. in 1951 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and was a Licensed Psychologist in California with a Diploma in Clinical Psychology from the American Board of Professional Psychology. His professional work on and off campus was valued.

Harold played a crucial part in the phenomenal growth of CSUN’s Counseling Center. A kind and wise counselor, psychotherapist and mentor to hundreds of students, staff and faculty, he also was a key member of CSUN’s distinctive internship program that provided training and experience to resident M.D.s in psychiatry, to graduate trainees in psychotherapy and to social workers from around the region, as well as to several CSUN faculty and staff who joined this intensive year-long program to improve their understanding and skill as mentors. He was genuine, soft-spoken, and also fun, with a smile that warmed all.

Harold was the son of American missionaries in China and spoke fluent Chinese, which led to his involvement with CSUN’s China Institute. He met with visiting Chinese scholars and students, and led trips for groups of psychologists to China where they met their counterparts at Chinese universities.

Harold enjoyed travel both in the U.S. and Europe, and was an ardent sailor serving twice as commodore of the San Fernando Sailing Club. In retirement years, he joined several groups devoted to writing, and self published his Memoirs, describing his parents’ experience as missionaries, his schooling in Shanghai, and his service as a Marine in China.

Harold’s wife, Helen, writes that she has received a great many notes of sympathy, expressions of friendship, and acknowledgements of his contributions to the University. Sharing these with their children, Kathy and Gordon, helped to deal with the suddenness of his death.



Don F. Kirchner (Marketing), died on November 10th, 2018 in Thousand Oaks, CA. He was preceded in death by his wife, Cecile, and a sister and a brother. Don received degrees from Michigan State University,

University of Detroit and UCLA, and served proudly and honorably in the U.S. Air Force in Korea.. He spent most of his teaching career as Professor of Marketing at California State University, Northridge, and was past Chair of the Marketing Department. He was, above all, a devoted teacher with a passion for encouraging his students to attain their best and highest career goals. In retirement, he greatly enjoyed many years serving as a docent at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. Don was a generous man who loved God, his wife, his country, and his dogs (especially Lola, who was with him through his retirement years). He is fondly remembered and especially missed by his many nieces and nephews.

November ARF Program

Sharon Klein and Harold Goldwhite



November 14th was a busy afternoon! During and just following lunch, our Silent Auction was held, with a varied and lovely selection of items—most crafted by **ARF** members. These pieces brought in well over \$1,000, to be added to the Memorial Graduate Student Projects Awards fund. Thank you to the artists as well to all those who bid—particularly those with the winning bids! Harold Goldwhite, emeritus professor of Chemistry at CSULA and Executive Director of ERF-SA, provided an intriguing and deeply informative talk that combined a history of well over a century of detective fiction and its use of forensic methods deployed to unveil the perps, from Sherlock Holmes to what we all have read and watched recently.

Dr. Goldwhite covered a wide ranging swath of the genre—including a variety of different sub-genres. Reminding us that Edgar Allen Poe invented the “detective story,” with “The Murders in the Rue

Morgue” in 1841, it was most probably Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes who first used the fingerprint—a bloody one—in *A Study in Scarlet* (1887). Intriguingly, the introduction of the various forensic methods in actual police work were anticipated by the creators of the fictional sleuths (where often, the police were written as only marginally competent, typically bested by their private counterparts). Dr. Goldwhite introduced us to Dr. Edmond Locard’s rule of transference, generalizing that in every crime scene, there will be something introduced to it by the guilty party, and something removed by them—both sides of that coin introducing anomalies that contribute to the resolution of the mystery.

He then guided us through such figures as Alfred Swayne Taylor, often called “the father” of British forensic science. He was a toxicologist, and one of the earliest scientists to testify in criminal trials. Also important in this genre were R. Mark Austin, and his character Dr. Thornkyke, who solved crimes from 1907 through 1942; Arthur Morrison and his character, Martin Hewitt; and Professor Augustus S.F.X. Van Dusen., the creation of Jacques Futrelle. Tragically, Van Dusen’s creator, Jacques Futrelle, died at 37, on April 15th, 1912...on, yes, the tragic maiden voyage of the Titanic. The talk was exciting and enlightening as well as lively—seasoned with Dr. Goldwhite’s dry humor, and topped off with the information that Occidental College holds one of the largest collections of first edition mysteries from writers across two centuries, a collection donated to that library by Ned Guymon, himself a mystery fiction writer and first edition collector.

In addition to this area of inquiry, Dr. Goldwhite’s longtime affinity not only for his field of organic chemistry but also for the history of chemistry itself, took him into the history of alchemy, which, it turns out, plays a significant role in the history of science. He has co-authored several books, and teaches a course at CSULA on the history of chemistry. *Sharon Klein.*



Book Groups

The **Wednesday Book Group** read Mohsin Hamid’s *Exit West* for our September meeting. The author was born in Pakistan

in 1971 and earned degrees from Princeton (summa cum laude), where he trained under Joyce Carol Oates and Toni Morrison, and Harvard Law School. He found corporate law boring and worked as a management consultant to pay off student loans, but ultimately preferred writing. He returns regularly to Pakistan, especially to write, but has lived in the U.S. and Britain for years at a time, which helped him write this captivating novel of the lives of contemporary refugees. Most of our group liked this

book, several rating it four or five on a scale of five.

Exit West follows a young man, Saeed, and his girlfriend, Nadia, as they and others in an unnamed country (perhaps Syria) cope with the increased fighting between militants and the government. Saeed is close to his family, conservative, and fairly religious, whereas Nadia is much more a free spirit. After Saeed’s mother is killed, they take a chance and pay someone to smuggle them out of the country. They end up in a large refugee camp on the Greek island of Mykonos. This is the first of several escapes, next to London, and last to a makeshift tent camp in Marin, California (actually now a small unincorporated part of Marin County), all through mysterious black doors. These doors are a device that allows the author to avoid explaining how these moves actually take place as he prefers to concentrate on how Saeed and Nadia and their relationship evolve. Hamid is especially good at exploring with a graceful, light touch the changing interior lives of Nadia and Saeed -- the snippets of thoughts and feelings as each deals with change and adjustment and meets different people, including a few they are very much attracted to. But the author suggests a future -- one of social upheavals following the large numbers of refugees settling in Western countries, including tensions between natives and newcomers, and in the long run, small and slow changes in both newcomers and host societies. Yet, despite huge disruptions and uncertainties, individuals retain a thread of hope that enables them to survive.

The **Wednesday Book Group** met again in October to discuss *Disgrace* by J. M. Coetzee. Coetzee is a white man born and raised in South Africa though now living in Australia. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature as well as the Booker Prize twice, once for this book. This novel deals with matters of social justice in South Africa after strict white control and apartheid ended and the country officially became a multiracial democracy in the early 1990s.

The story of *Disgrace* features David Lurie, a divorced, middle-aged professor of communication and English literature in Capetown. He seduces/coerces a naive undergraduate and is soon exposed and brought before a university committee. Perhaps believing himself to be a modern equivalent of Byron, Lurie does not defend himself against the charges and subsequently is fired.

Hoping to find a new life, Lurie goes to visit his lesbian daughter who has a small farm in the countryside where she grows vegetables and trains dogs. In contrast to her intellectual upbringing she is opting for a simpler life. After a while they both begin to accept some sort of adjustment to one another in the new setting. Then one day some men ask to use the phone and once inside the house rape Lucy, set Lurie on fire and kill Lucy’s

dogs. Lucy is depressed, apathetic and refuses to report the incident. The relationship between Lurie and his daughter becomes more and more strained, as they have markedly different notions of how to deal with their lives in the aftermath of this terrible deed. There is a neighboring farmer, Petrus, a sometime employee and aspiring landholder whose role in the incident is unclear. Since the rapists and Petrus are black while Lurie and his daughter are white, we are left to wonder over the political and practical implications of the incidents. As South Africa is being newly reshaped with regard to the meaning of race, many people struggle to find their direction and place in the new society.

Several members of the group strongly disliked the book, though we all felt the writing was quite good—in spite of some ambiguity about what actually happens and the lack of particularly likable characters. The reader is drawn in and the conflicts that the characters suffer are quite real. There were also a few members who very much liked the book. Hence we refrain from any particular recommendation or endorsement. *Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin*

Science Book Group

The meeting of November 28th which took place in the Oviatt Library Dean’s conference room was attended by Phyllis Russell, Adam Gifford, Elzbieta Trybus, and Heidemarie Lundblad.

We discussed *Who We Are and How We Got Here: Ancient DNA and the New Science of the Human Past*, by David Reich. 2018. Reich’s book provided fascinating information about human development after various groups moved out of Africa. The DNA research findings support the conclusion that several migrations came out of Africa but also that some return migrations occurred. Most research has been focused on Europe primarily because (a) initial research efforts were driven by Eurocentric interests; (b) availability of major research facilities and (c) reluctance by some countries (e.g. China) to permit export of ancient DNA samples or indigenous groups (e.g. US First people) to permit any DNA research. A particularly fascinating result of ancient DNA research is the discovery that there were several early contemporary groups such as Neanderthals and Denisovans with whom Sapiens interbred. In the later parts of the book, Reich starts to explore the possibility of determining more or less direct relationship between specific genes and cognitive abilities. To quote old Roman world maps “Hic sunt leones” – meaning we don’t know what is out there but it looks dangerous.

For our next meeting on December 19th we will discuss *Homo Deus* by Yuval Noah Harari, which will lead us into speculation about the future of humanity or what

will be the next version of “Homo.”

On January 16th we will discuss a book recommended by Sandy Jewett (and we would love to see Sandy again!): *Fly Girls* by Keith O’Brien – all formats available. This is the untold story of five women who fought to compete against men in the high-stakes national air races of the 1920s and 1930s — and won. *Heidemarie Lundblad.*



Film Group

The **Monday Film Group** met on October 22nd, 2018 at the home of Diane and David Schwartz. The Club discussed the films *A Simple Favor* and *A Star is Born*.

A Simple Favor is a complex mystery story depicting the events surrounding an attempt at a life insurance swindle done by faking the death of Emily, played by Blake Lively. Emily is an incarnation of evil who dupes naïve Stephanie, played by the Anna Kendrick, into facilitating her plot. Both Lively and Kendrick do an excellent job at portraying their characters and are well supported by Henry Golding who plays Emily’s husband Sean. Our group particularly enjoyed the comedic performance of Andrew Rannells who plays Darren, one of the local “mom’s”. The “mom’s” as a group are almost a “Greek Chorus” and were themselves quite enjoyable. The filming was bright and well done but overall, we did not view the film as exceptional and the overall rating by club members for *A Simple Favor* 7.5/10.

A Star is Born was well-liked by all our club members. Just the fact that it showed that Lady Gaga, who played Ally, can act, and Bradley Cooper, who played Jack, can sing was very impressive to all of us. This fourth remake of the classic story of the rise of Ally with the fall of Jack was well re-cast into the current time. The supporting role of Bobby was well played by Sam Elliot and overall the film was a joy to watch. Some of our members felt that it was more like going to a concert than watching a movie! The depiction of the personal struggle of the two main characters in dealing with their careers was exceptionally well done. The overall rating by the club members of *A Star is Born* was 9.2/10.

The **Monday Film Group** met again on November 19th, 2018 at the home of Bob Hanna. The Club discussed the films *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* and *The Girl in the Spider's Web*.

Can You Ever Forgive Me? depicts the true story of author Lee Israel's forgery and sale of 400 letters purported to have been written by famous literary figures such as Dorothy Parker. Israel is played by Melissa McCarthy and her companion in crime Jack Hock is played by Richard Grant. Both give excellent convincing performances. The film is set in the literary world of New York City and was so surprisingly interesting that it greatly exceeded the expectations of our club members. In particular the depiction of the main character's evolution towards self-realization captured our attention. Probably the high point of the film is Israel's "apology" to the judge during her trial for her crimes. The overall rating of the film by club members was 9.2/10.

The Girl in the Spider's Web was a disappointment to our group. The film is a sequel for the previous films in the *Dragon Tattoo* series but it just did not reach the level of the previous films in the series. Even with the solid performance of Claire Foy as the main character, Lisbeth Salander, the film just lacked coherence. The scenes just did not flow together very well, the background story was lacking a good connection to the previous films in the series. The film was very dark and a bit creepy. Furthermore the technical details associated with the central "software theft" were unsound. The overall rating by Group members of *The Girl in the Spider's Web* was 5.7/10. For the month of December, the plans to discuss the two films: *Green Book* and *Widows*.

David Schwartz



SCCARF Report

SCCARF members were one for two in a contest with man-made disasters in October and November. A dinner scheduled for November 23rd at the Café Bizou in Agora Hills had to be cancelled when an airplane crashed on the 101 Freeway closing the freeway for several hours around the scheduled dinner time. Ginny Lussier called the restaurant

to get their location and they told her about the problem. She then emailed SCCARF members. After a conversation about what to do Pat Nicholson and Larry Caretto decided to call all members and tell them that the event was cancelled and would be rescheduled. A week before the rescheduled event on November 13th, the Woolsey fire broke out and the 101 freeway was again closed, this time for a few days. Fortunately for SCCARF members the area around Café Bizou was accessible on the scheduled date, and the seventeen SCCARF members who attended enjoyed the variety of good food at this restaurant. The Agoura Hills restaurant is not so well known as the location in Sherman Oaks, but both restaurants have the same menu and the same two-dollar corkage fee. *Larry Caretto*

On December 6th, twenty-two SCCARFers spent a pleasant evening at *Shamshiri Grill*, a Persian restaurant in Northridge. As usual, the conversation was lively, and all diners seemed pleased with the variety of Persian dishes. Many members ordered the delicious shish-kababs and excellent basmati rice. Dessert proved special, too, with several SCCARFers opting for traditional Persian ice cream. This mouth-watering concoction is created by adding rosewater, saffron, pistachio, and cream to vanilla ice cream. A perfect way to end a perfect meal. Since the portions were very plentiful, many SCCARFers left the restaurant with enough leftovers for a couple of days! (*Cathy Jeppson*)

A Peaceful and Happy Holiday Season to you All!



**The Annual ARF
Thank-Goodness-the-Holidays-Are-Over Banquet**

All **ARF** members (and guest) are invited to attend our annual banquet on **Saturday, January 12th, 2019 at the Orange Grove Bistro (University Club/Faculty Club)**. Festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a no-host bar, the option of bringing our own bottles of wine (with a \$6.00 corkage fee), appropriate nibbles, and stimulating conversation. We will be seated for dinner at 6:45pm

And! From 6:00-8:15 those who could not attend the November 14th Silent Auction in support of the Memorial Scholarship and Graduate Project Awards Program will have the chance to bid on a selection of Auction items!

So:

No-host cocktails at 6:00pm

Dinner at 6:45 p.m. Silent Auction from 6:00-8:15

Reservations are, of course, required

Please make your reservations soon!

They must be received no later than January 4th, 2019.

Jazzing our program up will be guitarist Keelan Walters from the CSUN Jazz “A” Band who, with his quartet, will provide us with a bit of a jazz concert and some conversation about the music as well, should we wish.

Reservations:

Please complete the form below and **mail it along with the required check to the ARF address:**

Association of Retired Faculty, P.O. Box 280578, Northridge, CA 91328-0578

We need these to arrive by January 4th, 2019

I/We plan to attend the January 12th 2019 dinner at the Orange Grove Bistro and would like the meal choices selected. (Each entrée comes with a salad of mixed baby greens, candied pecans, and goat cheese with balsamic vinaigrette; bread; coffee, tea, or lemonade; and a choice of dessert). ***Dinner prices include service, tip, and tax***

Member Name for name tag: _____

- Prime rib with horseradish cream sauce, polenta, and green beans (\$43)
- Seared salmon filet with leek beurre blanc, polenta, and green beans (\$39)
- Vegetables on polenta with portobello mushrooms and green beans (\$30)

Dessert: Cheesecake with berries or Chocolate volcano cake

Guest Name for name tag: _____

- Prime rib with horseradish cream sauce, polenta, and green beans (\$43)
- Seared salmon filet with leek beurre blanc, polenta, and green beans (\$39)
- Vegetables on polenta with portobello mushrooms and green beans (\$30)

Dessert: Cheesecake with berries or Chocolate volcano cake

I am enclosing a check **payable to A.R.F.** for the total sum of the dinners I've chosen: \$_____

Phone # in case we have a question about your selection(s): _____

ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2018—2019

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ARF NOTES

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

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