

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: JOHN CLENDENNING

ZOOM!!! Here we go again. While most of us long for a return to maskless normalcy, we must plan to meet remotely for at least part of the year. Our beloved Orange Grove Bistro (first called the Faculty Club) is now an empty shell awaiting demolition. And with the campus officially closed we have no place to call home. The new Orchard Conference Center may open in January, but its operations have been outsourced to Chartwell with whom we have not yet established a working relationship.

So much for the dark news. On the brighter side ARF continues to flourish. Our membership is stable and may grow. Please take a moment to reach out to fellow retirees and urge them to join ARF. We have a lot to offer for a modest annual fee: friendship, intellectual stimulation, a vital connection to the university, and more. **A membership application form is on page 3 of this newsletter.**

The Executive Board has many of “the usual suspects.” We are pleased to welcome back Ron McIntyre—former President, now Vice President and President Elect. Welcome also to Cynthia Derochers, Member-at-Large.

The ever resourceful Sharon Klein is planning exciting

programs in 2021/22. Possibilities include (1) a conversation with the new University President Erika Beck, emphasizing her vision for the campus, (2) a talk on sustainability and climate change, and (3) the social/psychological effects of COVID on isolation, loneliness, and alienation. Other possibilities will be forthcoming. If you have an idea, send it to Sharon.

ARF continues to lend support to our talented CSUN students through the College of Education Hansen Scholarships and the ARF Memorial Graduate Projects Awards.

With the return to indoor restaurant dining and optimal vaccination, we plan to restart SCCARF. Book Groups and Film Groups continue on Zoom for the time being. Anything that will help to make ARF a vehicle to promote vitality and fellowship.

So while we may have to postpone our annual banquet, our memorial awards brunch, and our annual picnic, we will remain active and optimistic. My main goal as President this year is to open up and bring us back to normal. As Sonny says in *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*: “All will be the best in the end; so if all is not the best, it is not yet the end.”

John Clendenning

ARF President, 2021-2022

Editor's Note:

Over the past year, an ARF committee (Cathy Jeppson, Tim Fox, John Clendenning, Ginny Lussier, and Ann Perkins) has been working hard to improve our procedures for obtaining information about deceased Faculty, and for writing Remembrance Articles for the newsletter. If you know of any colleague who is recently deceased, please notify the ARF past president Tim Fox (tim.fox@csun.edu), and he will initiate the process for obtaining information as outlined in the ARF Bylaws, soon to appear on our Web Page.

**CSUN Association of Retired Faculty
ARF Projected Program Schedule 2020-2021**

Date	Event/Speaker	Time and Location
9/08/21 or 9/10/21	Dr. Kristen Walker from Marketing will talk to us about what privacy means in the age of so many “smart” (devious?) devices, especially what’s become of it during the pandemic... what <i>does</i> our refrigerator know about us?	2 PM Zoom (or hybrid)
10/13/21	CSUN’s President Dr. Erika Beck—Welcoming everyone back! Even during the pandemic, she took time to listen... We look forward to meeting and talking with her!	2 PM Zoom (or hybrid)
11/10/21 or 11/12/21	Guest Lecturer: TBA	2 PM Zoom (or hybrid)
	The VERY BEST to everyone during the December holiday season; we hope that the pandemic will have subsided sufficiently to permit the gatherings of family and friends that make the holidays celebratory, and we wish everyone a 2022 with good health, no rogue viruses, and with novel experiences that we can greet enthusiastically!	No programming in December
Saturday, January 15, 2022	We are hoping and planning for a “3-D” banquet, with as many of the trimmings as we can muster—and with all of our celebratory spirit and comradery—	TBD
2/09/22 or 2/11/22	Dr. Terri Lisagor There’s much for Terri to share, in particular, her most recent experiences bringing dental care to such areas as Jenkins, KY, through the Global Dental Relief program. https://www.globaldentalrelief.org/	2 PM, Colleagues’ Room
3/9/22 or 3/11/22	Joining us will be Dr. Claire White-Kravette, CSUN professor in Religious Studies, whose general area is evolutionary psychology, with focuses on a range of topics, including the cognitive science of religion, belief, and faith (she wrote the book!)In the context of the pandemic, she has also been looking closely at issues related to loss and grieving.	2 PM, Colleagues’ Room
4/13/22	Field Trip We will be talking about this more, about whether it will be virtual, or an actual outing. Suggestions for either are, as always, more than welcome	
5/14/22 (Saturday)	ARF Memorial Graduate Student Project Awards Brunch Presentations by Award Recipients... With the future uncertain, this event, too, may change its shape as we draw near.	TBD
6/4/22 (Saturday)	Annual Picnic/ General Meeting and Election of Officers... Again...we’ll be planning and watching...with flexibility. Something to look forward to, though!	TBD

CSUN Association of Retired Faculty – Membership Application (Please Print)

_____		_____		_____	
First Name		Last Name		Spouse/Partner	
_____		_____		_____	
Street Address		City	State	Zip	Preferred Phone
_____		_____		_____	
Email address	Year Retired	Department	College		

Please enroll me in CSUN-ARF (Check One):

_____ as a new retiree my first-year membership is free ! _____ My renewal dues check for \$36 (Payable to ARF) is enclosed

* My donation to the ARF Memorial Academic Award Fund is enclosed (Check Payable to ARF) _____

Please mail this form and your check (If appropriate) to: “ARF, PO Box 280578, Northridge, CA 91328”



PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Yes, remaining mindful in the midst of all that’s occupied our minds has been a challenge—certainly no picnic. Oh, and we had to forgo one of those too, didn’t we...hmm... We can’t say that 2020-2021 hasn’t been interesting. But the combination of resilience, comradery, good humor, and the vaccine should continue to see us through...even with the variants. And seasoning this combination is the mindful(!) and tireless work of **ARF’s** campus planning/construction-savvy folks, including Bob Kiddoo and Dan Blake. An up-to-date report on campus facilities will appear in the September issue of **ARF Notes**. Joining the Program Committee (to all of whom go my own sustained thanks), I thank everyone who attended our Zoom events—from our very first steps, with guidance from Hillary Kaplowitz, through our Suffrage centennial celebration and participation in Soraya’s 10-year gala, visits to the LAPL and Mars (**ARF** members get around, eh?), and quests for understanding the “water works” in California, among several other nifty adventures. Thank you all, for flexibility, understanding, interest, and suggestions (please continue with those...they are critically important)!

We have become pretty comfortable with Zoom, appreciating what it offers, but also looking forward to seeing one another in 3D, lunching, picnicking, banqueting, and brunching, not to mention shaking hands and hugging. We, like the campus are in “move slowly, wait and see, and be flexible” mode. With our arms all healed, we can continue to pat ourselves on the back for our collective vaccine rate - planning for coming together if we are all vaccinated will be much less worrisome.

As our prospective program suggests, flexibility is key. With the lecture series, we’re working on the goal of hybridity—the option of in-person gatherings, but with Zooming as an option so we can still “gather” with colleagues who cannot get to campus. We’re working with our speakers’ own preferences, and scheduling the exclusively Zoom gatherings for Wednesdays, with in-person options on Fridays in the Colleagues’ Room. Why there? Why Fridays?

The Colleagues’ Room (on the second floor, elevator accessible, in the Sierra Center), until any of the other possible sites are “people-ready.” We’ll be close to parking (across the street), Friday is the least busy of all the days on campus, both making the parking adventure and access in general, less—even not—daunting. And while, unlike Zoom, the Colleagues’ Room is not near a refrigerator, we hope to have access to our cookies and relevant beverages. And, importantly, all the sessions will remain accessible to Zoom (the “hybrid thing”).

Guardedly optimistic about the Banquet, the Field Trip, the MGPA Brunch, and the Picnic, we’re saving the dates we have so far. Do share recommendations for musical or other entertainment groups, including students; we do have an honorarium budget for that...not large, but there. Take good care, and keep in touch as we move into this new **ARF** season! *Sharon Klein*



IN MEMORIAM

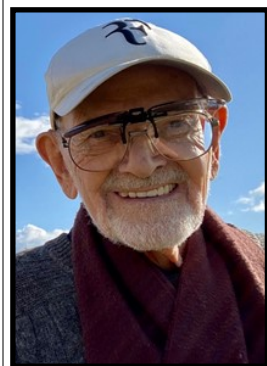
James L. Shanks (Elementary Education) passed away on April 3, 2021, at the age of 88. Born in 1932 in Buffalo, New York, he earned his B. A. Degree at the University of Buffalo in 1954. After completing his military service,

he earned his Ed.D. Degree at University of California, Berkeley in 1969. Dr. Shanks joined the CSUN Elementary Education faculty in 1969, retiring as Associate Professor Emeritus in 1994. He served on numerous Department committees during those years, including Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee and Chair of the Waiver Review Committee.

His interest in students considering teaching careers was demonstrated in his creation of an experiential Academic Internship class for students, which combined paid positions as aides in cooperating schools and attendance at bi-weekly seminars during which school experiences and related projects were discussed and evaluated.

Highlights in his 25-year teaching career were two international teaching experiences: Karachi American School in Karachi Pakistan (1963-65) and International School of Kuala Lumpur in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia (1981-84.) He later conducted a summer workshop for teachers of science in Myanmar (Burma).

Throughout his life, Jim was an outstanding tennis player, becoming a varsity player in high school and college. He continued to play the game at a competitive level until the last years of his life. He was also a skilled craftsman, continually designing and constructing a remodeling of his home. He was a founding member of the ARF Film Group in 2005. *Lee Gassert*



Donald R. Salper (Communication Studies) passed away on April 25 at the age of 91. He is survived by his wife, Constance, and his two children, Elizabeth and David.

Don was born in 1930 in St. Paul, Minn. He received his B.A. at the University of Minnesota and his M.A. at Northwestern, returning to U of M to complete his PhD. He met his future wife, Constance, at Minnesota while directing her in a radio play for KUOM, the University's radio station.

After Don served stateside during the Korean War, he and Connie moved to New York City, where he taught at City College and pursued acting roles. In 1964, with their newborn daughter, they moved to Los Angeles for a Communications Department position at what was then San Fernando Valley State College (the future CSUN), where he taught for nearly 30 years, retiring in 1992. His Communications focus was the Oral Interpretation of Literature, and during his tenure he directed dozens of "Reader's Theater" productions. Dr. Salper also directed several staged productions, including Peter Handke's "Offending the Audience," a show in which the characters do precisely that, and Velimir Khlebnikov's Futurist play "Zangezi," in which he played the title role.

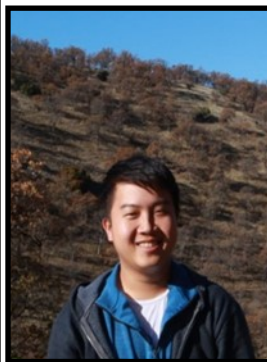
He was always a fan of word play, embracing both the high and low arts of language, from puns to poetry. He served as an associate editor of the Speech Communication Association's *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, as editor of its journal, *Literature in Performance*, and the National Communication Association's *Text and Performance Quarterly*.

He is remembered in the Department as "a supportive and wonderful colleague and friend" and as a man who loved the whimsical, from huge soap-bubble makers to whirligigs to Calder mobiles. He was an avid mobile maker himself, and rarely took a walk in his Northridge neighborhood without picking up leaves, twigs, acorns and flowers to tie together with fishing line into a mobile to give to family and friends.

"Students loved my dad as much as he loved them," his daughter Elizabeth recalls. "His joy for teaching how to read a poem closely and interpret the poem through performance was contagious." His son David remembers, "My dad was always willing to play, with objects, words, people. He just loved exploring things, whether it was the outdoors, or ideas." *Submitted by Cynthia Rawitch*

2021 ARF GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

ARF's Graduate Student Awards, financed by contributions from our members and given in memory of deceased colleagues, recognize excellent scholarship and provide financial support for graduate student creative activities that are required as part of a master's degree program. This year, applications were received from nine departments across campus. Four awards of \$2500 each were granted. Normally, awardees are required to present their work at our annual Spring Memorial Brunch in May. In the absence of this year's brunch, due to COVID-19, we are presenting here the four awardees, in alphabetical order, with the abstracts of their research, a short biographical sketch of each, and their answers to a couple of questions commonly asked by the audience at the brunch. *Tim Fox, Chair, ARF Awards Committee.*



Jeng Hann Chong (GeoPhysics)
Advisor – Dr. Eileen L. Evans

Bio: Jeng Hann was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He transferred to the University of Maryland – College Park in his junior year and obtained a BSc in Geology in 2019. He will be pursuing a PhD at the University of New Mexico in Fall 2021, studying tectonic deformation using satellite imagery and land-based GPS.

He aims to continue doing research related to natural hazards upon completing his studies. He is also interested in science communication and has published several articles as an extern with an earthquake news outlet, *Tumbler*. During his free time, he practices table tennis and enjoys taking landscape photos of new places.

Abstract (“Strain Partitioning in the Pacific Northwest, USA”):

Offshore in the Pacific Northwest lies the Cascadia subduction zone where one tectonic plate, the Juan de Fuca plate, subducts under and deforms another tectonic plate, the North American Plate. Studies have found that the Cascadia subduction zone is capable of generating earthquakes of magnitude 8 or larger. Deformation can also distribute onto crustal faults within the shallow crust of the Pacific Northwest. Some of these crustal faults such as the Seattle Fault and Portland Hills Fault lie underneath metropolitan areas and can generate moderate-sized earthquakes (M5-6). In this study, we sought to understand how deformation is distributed between these crustal faults and the subduction zone using Global Positioning System (GPS) observations and computer modeling. We also tested how different subduction motion affects the activity of the crustal fault. We found that a majority of the crustal faults in the Pacific Northwest are active if the Juan de Fuca plate subducts perpendicular at the trench as compared to an oblique subduction. However, the earthquake potential of crustal faults in the oblique subduction is more consistent with field studies. Overall, our results indicate that deformation is more complicated than often assumed, and deformation is distributed across a few crustal faults in the Pacific Northwest. In conclusion, this research can identify potential earthquake faults in the Pacific Northwest and possibly be incorporated in future seismic hazard models.

Questions:

What have you learned while doing this project that might guide you in conducting future research in your field or about your field in general?

Throughout my research, I have learned about the processes of the subduction zone and earthquakes, especially in the Pacific Northwest. Although my project focuses on using computer models to describe the presence of potentially active faults, I have also learned about the process of performing field surveys and observations to resolve fault activity. This research has guided me to understand the implications of different methods used to study earthquake hazards. I aim to continue working on earthquake research to improve our understanding of seismic hazards by combining geophysical models and geologic observations.

Do you have any significant personal takeaways from undertaking this project that will influence your future?

My research has solidified my interest in doing earthquake hazards research. Specifically, I am interested in learning earthquake processes and how to use the information to improve our seismic hazard understanding. I also am interested in understanding why some earthquakes do not occur on known faults, and some occur in regions with low seismicity. These earthquakes are equally important because people living in those areas are less likely to be prepared. It is important for scientists to explain the science of earthquakes to minimize public misunderstanding of the phenomenon.

Eder Diaz Santillan (Journalism)
Advisor – Dr. Jose Luis Benavides

Bio: Eder Díaz Santillan was born in Jalisco, Mexico. As a child he visited Southern California many times before his family moved permanently to Santa Ana, California. He



graduated High School and attended Riverside Community College before transferring to Cal State Northridge and graduating from CSUN in 2008 with a Broadcast Journalism degree and a minor in Spanish language journalism. He started his work as a weekend on-air radio talent in 2010 for K-Love 107.5 FM. In 2012 he moved to Las Vegas to host the 3pm-7pm Mon-Fri shift on La Kalle 99.3 FM. In 2014 he returned to LA to

produce “El Show de Omar y Argelia” and turned it into the most listened to radio show regardless of language for a total of 7 months. It was the number one Spanish-language morning show for the four years that Eder produced it. As the show’s producer, Eder kept collaborating with CSUN’s Journalism Department. In October of 2016, the show was broadcast from KCSN’s studios and highlighted the many resources that CSUN offers for Latinx students to pursue higher education. The show donated money to set up a podcast studio for the Spanish-language journalism program. In 2018 Eder launched one of the first Spanish language podcasts dedicated to the Latinx LGBTQ community. The podcast is heard in over 90 countries and was one of Spotify’s 100 most-listened-to health podcasts in Mexico for all of 2020. With this project, he earned his master’s degree in Mass Communications. He also has taught for the Spanish-language journalism undergrad program here at CSUN. Eder is currently a content curator at Facebook, is a huge LAFC (soccer team) fan, loves to travel, hike and especially to spend time with his little nephew.

Abstract (“De Pueblo, Católico y Gay”):

According to The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, (GLAAD), LGBTQ+ representation in Spanish-language programming “continues to be rare, despite some high-profile stories.” In 2016 GLAAD released its first ever report on LGBTQ+ representation in Spanish-language media and found then that only 14 of the 516 characters examined were LGBTQ (3%), and only seven of those characters appeared in more than half of episodes aired. Of those, only one character was transgender (Adam, Goodman, 2016). Although the report focuses on Television representation, the findings demonstrate the lack of inclusion of LGBTQ+ identities within Spanish-language media. This research looks at the marginalization of the Latinx LGBTQ+ community in Spanish-language media and answers, what happens when a community that has been marginalized by media, tells their own stories? “De Pueblo, Católico y Gay,” is one of the first Spanish-language podcasts dedicated entirely to the Latinx LGBTQ+ community, and the first to explore how Latinx LGBTQ+ gender and sexual identities intersect with religion and heteronormative-family values. This paper reports on the findings of over 100 interviews and finds that safe spaces created by Latinx content producers allow discourse to be more inclusive. This allows members of the Latinx LGBTQ+ community to share, for the very first time in many cases, the complex intersections of their Latinx LGBTQ+ experience and how this consequently informs their Latinx sexual and gender expression. This project also exposes the emotional and physical trauma that some Latinx individuals, who self-identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, experience when raised with heteronormative family values and institutionalized religion.

Questions:

What have you learned while doing this project that might

guide you in conducting future research in your field or about your field in general?

I have learned that marginalized communities often self-censor themselves when their story is framed by someone who is not a part of their community. The safe-space that I provided by telling my story first in this podcast allowed others to share details of their personal journey that they had never shared with anyone else before. For future research opportunities I want to ensure that everyone has full agency to tell their own story and that I don't frame their story based on my personal experience.

Do you have any significant personal takeaways from undertaking this project that will influence your future?

This project has changed my life. I have dedicated the last 3 years to collecting hours of audio of people who had never before shared their story in a medium. I want to continue to help others tell their story as well in the most authentic way possible. When I worked in radio we screened the callers that would be allowed to participate on air. I never screened a guest for this project. I never said "no" to someone who wanted to tell their story. I believe that this is what has added to the richness and complexity of the stories archived in "De Pueblo, Católico y Gay." The most important takeaway is that no one is more qualified to tell their own story - but oneself.



**Koushik Kosanam (Manufacturing Systems Engineering and Management)
Advisor – Dr. Behzad Bavarian**

Bio: Koushik Kosanam was born and brought up in Andhra Pradesh, Southern India. His father is a Businessman, his mother is an Advocate and his elder sister is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Pharma-

cy. He has been a good student throughout his academic career; he held a 97.8 % in college, and was ranked 7th in the state of Andhra Pradesh. As an undergraduate, he majored in Mechanical Engineering because of his interest in machines. As part of his extracurricular activities, he joined the SAE off-road racing car club's team as a chassis engineer, where he designed chassis and was involved in material selection and fabrication of various components. He participated in five national and two international events and won various awards as part of the team. He performed research and filed a patent on "Novel Filler Materials for Welding of Stainless Steel" to mitigate hexavalent chromium fumes which are carcinogenic in nature, responsible for lung cancer and other respiratory issues for welders and other workers in the vicinity of the welding area. He is currently working at CSUN as a Student Assistant in the Materials and Corrosion Laboratory at the MSEM Department. His goal is to obtain a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering, to acquire technological skills, and to expand his practical knowledge and expertise to develop new green and sustainable materials to meet modern day energy needs. His favorite extracurricular activities are playing lawn tennis, football, and rifle shooting. He also enjoys travelling and reading.

Abstract ("Microbial Induced Corrosion of Concrete"):

In the United States, around 40% of the 20,000 wastewater systems are subjected to Microbial Induced Corrosion (MIC), summing annual repair and reconstruction costs up to \$36 billion, which is a constantly growing threat in aging pipe sewer networks. Microbes convert sulphates and sulfides to Sulphuric acid in the acidic medium which reacts with the $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ (binding agent) and converts it into CaSO_4 , resulting in lowering strength of the concrete and premature failure of the structure. The main objective of the project

is to determine the corrosion behavior of concrete in MIC environment. Concrete of 4:2:1 (Aggregate: Sand: Cement) mixture with 0.5 cement to water ratio is chosen to cast 2-inch x 4-inch cylinders and left for curing for around 2-weeks. Later, weight and compression strength are measured. Further, specimens are dip coated in 5 types of migration corrosion inhibitors. These samples are then immersed in two sodium sulfide solutions with pH of 2 and 6 (pH of the solution maintained by regular addition of H_2SO_4). The effect of corrosion inhibitors on the concrete structures after 180 days will be extensively studied. After the testing period, the samples are weighted to note the percentage of mass change, and compression strength is also checked. It is expected that, compression strength of the coated samples will remain the same, whereas significant degradation is expected in uncoated samples. The percentage of weight change and reduction in compression strength gives the corrosion rate. Hence, effectiveness of the migration corrosion inhibitors will be studied for mitigating MIC.

Questions:

What have you learned while doing this project that might guide you in conducting future research in your field or about your field in general?

This project has given me in-depth understanding about the response of concrete to the corrosion induced by microbial species, the significance of water to cement ratio in determining the compression strength of the concrete, and the role of migration corrosion inhibitors for resisting MIC of concrete. Also, I have had an opportunity to learn typical microstructure characteristics of the concrete and get hands on experience with microstructural characterization tools such as the Optical Microscope and the Scanning Electron Microscope. Finally, I had a chance to develop a mathematical model for determining the factors leading to MIC of concrete.

Do you have any significant personal takeaways from undertaking this project that will influence your future?

Yes, there are many things I have learned from this project which can influence my future. I am studying different corrosive environments and their impact on the on the corrosion and mechanical properties of materials; this information will help me with my Ph.D. research. In addition, we are also planning to submit for publication the research findings in a peer reviewed journal. This project has given me the whole idea of concrete failures and annual costs involved in repairing them. This research gives me, , knowledge about the broad array of factors that must be considered in developing projects.



**Natalie Van Gelder (English)
Advisor – Dr. Katharine Haake**

Bio: Natalie Van Gelder is a graduate student in creative writing and a teaching associate at California State University, Northridge. Her research and writing interests center around the use of speculative fiction to bridge science and humanities fields, specifically using storytelling to foster humanity and empathy in the fields of child psychology and mental health. In addition to writing, Natalie also enjoys

watercolor painting—she is inspired by her childhood and the Mojave Desert where she grew up. Natalie lives with her husband and their many animals in Agua Dulce, Ca. Her academic goal is to pursue an MFA in creative writing, and she often dreams of hiking the Pacific Crest Trail.

Abstract (“Desert Anxieties”): *Desert Anxieties* is an auto-ethnographic hybrid novella that weaves interdisciplinary toposes while exploring my own experiences as an inward child and subsequent struggles with mental illness. As the medical humanities field becomes a more prominent tool in bridging the gap between the arts and the sciences, it is important to investigate and play with different ways narrative stories can be told; interdisciplinary hybridity as narrative medicine is one way to do this and how I chose to write my thesis project. Subjects of focus include desert ecology and preservation, child psychology, family and cultural history, and science fiction. Hybrid elements of photography, footnotes, and technical formats assist in creating a synthesis between storytelling and clinical documentation. The overarching goal of this project is to use my own personal struggles with chronic anxiety and depression as a literary study in how narrative can be used to bring positive attention to the field of mental health while preserving the humanity and dignity of those who live intimately with mental illness. This past year as people in the U.S. have fought through a pandemic, racial and gender-identity inequality, and economic uncertainty, it is essential that the science and humanities fields work together to find novel ways to support one another and the public. Creative writers have a unique opportunity to forge such connections as they tell stories of the people most affected by trauma. The aim of *Desert Anxieties* is to add another voice to these conversations, with the hope of contributing to meaningful and positive change.

Questions:

What have you learned while doing his project that might help guide you in conducting future research in your field or about your field in general?

Through my experience working on this project, I have learned that sitting down with a well-conceived plan is not always the wisest approach. The points at which this project has stagnated have largely been a result of the work itself diverging from the goals and expectations I had set in the beginning. To move past these roadblocks, I had to accept that perhaps the project needed to evolve to progress. This has led to some interesting surprises, even if it also means that the work does not entirely look or feel the way I imagined it would at the beginning. Articles and books that I started with led me to other works that uncovered new ideas that led me in unexpected directions. I’ve learned that by getting out of my own way I learn more about myself, my topic, and the process of research and writing as a whole.

Do you have any significant personal takeaways from understanding this project that will influence you in the future? My biggest personal takeaway is that it is best to remain flexible with process and change my approach when I reach a stage where the project halts. It has been very tricky to balance phases of writing narrative, weaving in research, and revising the project to make all elements work together in meaningful ways. When I started work on my thesis project, I attempted to create solid chapters one at a time, carefully piecing them together as I went. I concurrently wrote narrative, incorporated research, and revised, and this approach sometimes led to me feeling overwhelmed and frustrated. Over the past few weeks, I have largely abandoned this approach and simply started writing stories. Over the summer I plan to dive back into research and use what I uncover to help connect those stories in layered and meaningful ways. This project has largely been a lesson in failing, then getting up the next day and trying things differently. I’m sure that by hitting “dead ends” and adjusting my approach I will learn what works best for me as a researcher and a writer, and take this information with me to future projects.

ARF Awards 2021 Committee: John Clendenning, Jim Dole, Timothy Fox, Leland Gassert, Ginny Lussier

*We gratefully acknowledge the ARF membership donors for 2020-21
Such donations sustain the Memorial Graduate Project Program Awards*

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ARF NOTES

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

P.O. BOX 280578

NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA 91328