

# ARF NOTES

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



VOLUME 34, no. 3

January 2022

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: JOHN CLENDENNING

Happy New Year, Everyone! On behalf of the Executive Board I hope all of you in our retired faculty community were blessed with holidays full of joy, love, and peace. And as we enter 2022, I hope we can keep all of that good stuff flowing. Last year we had to skip the TGTHAO celebration, but now we are planning to go live. Instead of an evening banquet, we are planning a buffet luncheon on Sunday, January 23, at the Orchard Community Center, followed by an optional performance of Yamato Drummers of Japan at the So-roya (formerly the Performing Arts Center). A Promo Code that will allow **ARF** members to buy discounted tickets for this performance will be available soon. Watch your emails for information about how to sign up. I am confident that the luncheon and the drummers will be an exciting event. After nearly two years of hibernation, we will be able to gather in the heart of the CSUN campus to greet old friends and perhaps meet new ones. Of course, to ensure a safe environment, everyone who attends will have to present evidence of full

vaccination.

SCCARF is back. On November 9 a group of us enjoyed a splendid meal and welcome companionship at Toscanova in the Commons of Calabasas. Many thanks to our hosts, Phyllis Russell and Tim Fox. Then on December 7 another group got together for a SCCARF dinner at The Oaks at Lakeside in Encino. Jim and Betty Rose Dole hosted this fete.

The next day we had an illuminating Zoom presentation by Harold Goldwhite on Darwin and Controversy. Harold led us through the essentials of the theory of natural selection, Darwin's voyage on HMS Beagle, his research in the Galapagos, the reception of the *Origin of Species*, and the seemingly unending controversies that accompany evolutionary thought. We understand that Harold will be stepping down from his executive role with ERFSA, but we hope that he will still be available to **ARF** for more of his fascinating science lore.

Despite the horrible things we read in the newspapers and hear over the airwaves—atrocities in high-school locker rooms, senseless shootings in the streets and in the schools, tornados that destroy whole towns, and so much more—I still keep a positive outlook. As Mr. Rogers says we all need three things: first, kindness, second, kindness, and third, kindness. Or as Molly Bloom says, Yes and Yes and Yes.

John Clendenning

## NEWS FROM CSUN

**CSUN FACULTY SENATE MEETING:****Selected items****October 21, 2021**

**Construction:** Work on the Sierra Annex classroom building will begin next month and plans for the Basic Needs Suite in the University Student Union are moving forward.

**Provost's Report (Highlights)** –Mary Beth Walker:

Provost Walker reported that the campus expects that 25% of spring 2022 classes will be on-line or half on-line, with the rest being in-person classes. Last minute changes could be needed due to Covid. She gave an update on student success efforts. We are making progress: graduation rates for FTS and for transfer students are going up. Provost Walker reported that the campus is doing searches for VP Information Technology; Dean of Humanities; Interim Dean of HHD; Permanent Dean of HHD.

**Tataviam Land Acknowledgement:** (Presented by Jose Paez.). A group has been considering ways that the campus might acknowledge the Tataviam people (who originated in the villages and culture of pre-Mission period of the San Fernando Valley and nearby areas) by establishing scholarships; undertaking scholarship on the Tataviam people; planting naïve plants and possibly naming the library after the Tataviam people. There was a discussion, but no action was taken at the meeting.

**Support for CSUN's DACA Students**

A \$150,000 gift from nonprofit The Change Reaction has created an "Angel Fund" at California State University Northridge's DREAM Center that will be used to help undocumented students cover the costs of renewing their status under the federal government's Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

**News From  
the Program  
Committee**

*Please watch for emails!* For our **Annual January Banquet** we are saving January 23<sup>rd</sup>, notably, the afternoon—from noonish on.

A set of balcony tickets is set aside for us to purchase at \$32.00 per ticket (plus processing fees) for a 3 pm concert, "The Yamato: Drummers of Japan." The coming email will include explicit instructions for us regarding the purchasing of the tickets—in the balcony rows E and F. And our deadline for purchase is January 15<sup>th</sup>: a week before the concert. *Watch for email, please.*

Also in the works for that day is a luncheon buffet from 12:30ish to 2:30ish preceding the concert. We'll lunch at the new Orchard Conference Center's dining area, where we're promised a delicious and thematically aligned menu. More details--including the menu and our costs, along with how and when we need to prepay for that--will come. Soon. **But please, hold the date: January 23<sup>rd</sup>, yes?**

Although we know not fully what adventures and challenges 2022 will provide, we do have some pretty nifty **ARF** lectures planned.

On either February 9<sup>th</sup> (on Zoom) or the 11<sup>th</sup> (in the Orchard Conference Center (OCC) and on Zoom), ARF colleague Dr. Terri Lisagor will share her most recent experiences bringing dental care to such areas as Jenkins, KY, through the Global Dental Relief program. <https://www.globaldentalrelief.org/>

And on either March 9<sup>th</sup> (on Zoom) or 11<sup>th</sup> (in the OCC and on Zoom) we will welcome Dr. Claire White-Kravette. CSUN professor in Religious Studies. Her 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.

Our April Field Trip will likely take us back to the Soraya for a "behind the scenes" tour—more to come about that event. The various scholarship committees are at work (the Hansen Scholarship

Scholarship decision meeting took place today), and the Memorial Graduate Student Project Awards committee will swing into action as 2022 takes shape. Perhaps there'll be an in person gathering to celebrate those candidates whose projects are selected for an award. Regardless of venue—face-to-face or virtual—the awardees will be celebrated.

In the meantime, whether you're waiting in line somewhere, or have just poured any sort of beverage to enjoy (today was the centennial of the Bloody Mary, by the way!), you can begin to enjoy some **ARF** lectures (the ones we've succeeded in recording) from the past year. There is no expiration date.

"Interplanetary Excursions" (March 2021...hmmm I wonder how things are on Mars...)

<https://csun.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Embed.aspx?id=bd77719a-275b-4681-94cd-ace80007847e>

Dr. Kristen Walker: "Innovative Technologies and 'infinite data...'" (September 2021)

<https://csun.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=47a19012-3ab8-4edd-8919-ad9d01878679>

A Visit with CSUN's Administrative Leadership: President Erika Beck and Vice-President Colin Donahue. (October 2021)

<https://csun.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=caea5127-b509-4705-a405-adc0017f6ce6>

Evolving Conversations: Looking Back at Darwin: Dr. Harold Goldwhite (November 2021)

<https://csun.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=ea6a67b0-4e6b-4a21-834d-addc018a40cb>

Oh! And while the rain we've had has not removed concern about the drought and its implications, the combination of rain drops and sunlight in this past Tuesday's rain did provide a wonderful moment!



Warmest wishes, as we approach the winter solstice, and the holidays we're looking forward to--a lot has happened this year--to us, around us, and throughout the world, collectively and individually. I'm welcoming the chance to

enjoy celebration and camaraderie!

**Sharon Klein**



## IN MEMORIAM

### **Jon Roger Sloan (Geological Sciences)**

was born July 13, 1944 and passed away November 30, 2018. Jon earned his B.A. in Biology from Cal State Northridge in 1968, the institution to which he would return as a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences in 1983. In between, he earned his Ph.D. in Ecology and Paleocology from the University of California at Davis and conducted two post-doctoral studies at Rice University, separated by a year as a petroleum geologist analyzing data from Alaska.

Jon's outstanding contributions during his long career at CSUN were his dedication to teaching and his love of collecting and studying microscopic marine organisms. He taught a wide range of graduate, undergraduate and General Education courses, particularly



those that emphasized environmental sciences. His favorite teaching moments were taking students on field trips to collect and examine marine life from fish to microscopic organisms. Jon was instrumental in developing collaboration with the Biology Department in marine sciences, which benefited many students over the years.

Jon grew up in Topanga Canyon, minutes away from the beach, and was the iconic California beach boy. No matter what the weather, Jon lectured in shorts, Birkenstocks, and beach shirts. He proudly pinned his favorite written student comment to his bulletin board: "snappy dresser." Jon had a marvelous sense of humor and made great coffee he would share with those who also arrived on campus at 6 am. He spoke with great pride of his wife, Kathy, Biology faculty member at College of the Canyons, his daughter Leah, then a Ph.D. student in marine biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and his son Tyler, just beginning his studies in metal working. Jon entered the FERP program in 2013 and finished it in 2016 when he was named emeritus professor. *Vicki Pedone*

**Donald "Don" L. Rogoff (Accounting)** was born March 21, 1933 in Illinois, and passed away August 19, 2021 at the age of 88 in Northridge,

CA. His is survived by his wife, Judith, one child, an MD living in Princeville, Kauai and three grandchildren. He began his teaching and research career in the Department of Accounting at CSUN in 1977 and retired in 2007 by completing his FERP.

Don received his D.B.A. in Finance in 1964, his M.B.A. degree in 1961 from Michigan State University, and his B.S. degree in 1955 from Miami University, graduating with honors. Both his M.B.A and B.S. degrees were in Accounting.

Dr. Rogoff also received his Certified Public Accountant in 1962 and his Certified Management Accountant in 1972. In addition, he received a National Defense Fellowship in the early 1960's. He began his teaching career at the University of Missouri, Columbia. He came to California and taught at Pepperdine University before coming to CSUN, where he taught financial and managerial accounting for 30 years. During his career, he chaired the Accounting Forum and was an active participant in CELT, the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching.

Dr. Rogoff's primary field of research was the American stock exchange, proxy fight disclosure with its implications and insider trading as a forecasting tool of the stock market. He published in many professional journals including, *Accounting Review*, *Journal of Thought*, *The National Public Accountant*, *Ordinance*, *Management Accounting*, *Commercial and Financial Chronical* and *Journal of Financial Education*. Dr. Rogoff was well liked by his students and will be missed. *Cathy Jeppson*



## SCCARF REPORT

**SCCARF has returned!** Our first outing since February 2020 (November 9, 2021) found 21 SCCARFer's at Toscanova Calabasas for an Italian evening on their outdoor heated patio. Face-to-face conversation for the first time in many months was enjoyed by all. Although Masks and Proof of Vaccination were required, all complied. The food was delicious in a very lovely setting. The Raviola Di Spinaci (Spinach and Butternut Squash) was superb. For those with a seafood interest, the Mare Caldo (Mussels, Clams, shrimp, and Calamari over a Frisee salad) was excellent. Thanks to SCCARFer's generosity, \$100.05 was contributed to the **ARF**

Scholarship Memorial Award Fund. **Tim Fox**

Tuesday, Dec. 7, found 20 friends at SCCARF's second post-pandemic gastronomic fiesta, this time at *The Oaks at Lakeside*, an obscure but delightful outdoorsy eatery in Encino. We dined al fresco on a raised patio overlooking the "lake" on which a panoply of waterfowl continually cruised. Conversation was lively and continuous as long-separated friends exchanged stories. Service was adequate, if a bit slow-paced; the cuisine was pronounced by a few to be "superb," by some "better than average," and by two who had requested linguini with clams to be "inedible." (The clams were returned, the charges deleted from the bill.) The meal ended with several specialty desserts provided "on the house," a bit of graciousness in response to the group's willingness to change its original date at the last minute to accommodate management's unexpected needs. As he readied to leave, one attendee declared the evening, "An extremely pleasant outing. Really nice to see friends again." I offer a hearty second to that declaration! **Jim Dole**



## FILM GROUP

The **Monday Film Group** met remotely on November 15, 2021, via Zoom. The Group discussed the film *Lapsis* and the series *Bosch Season 7*.

*Lapsis* was a surprising low budget "art film" set in the near future and filmed in the State Parks of New York. For some of our members the film initially seemed to be unfocused but managed to gradually grab their attention as the story developed. The film is a commentary/parody on today's "Gig Economy" where, according to Investopedia.com, "large numbers of people work in part-time or temporary positions or as independent contractors." The grueling depiction of large numbers of people trying to string cables between "quantum nodes" in the wilderness make little sense until one realizes that this is a parody of the work life of many contemporary workers. The average rating by the club members for *Lapsis* was **7.2 / 10.0** where the scores ranged from 4.0 to 8.0.

*Bosch Season 7* is the last season of a long running detective series set in Los Angeles. The main character, Detective Harry Bosch, is superbly played by Titus Welliver who has dominated the entire series. Throughout many of the previous seasons most of the major characters were portrayed as relatively un-

flawed “straight arrows.” In this final season the potential flaws in such characters as The LA Police Chief, well played by Lance Reddick, and Bosch’s partner, Detective Jerry Edgar, well played by Jamie Hector, come to light and even Bosch himself exhibited some flaws. They are all shown as subject to failing in portions of their jobs and not always exhibiting forthright behavior towards others. All the club members who saw the series really loved it. One aspect of the series that delighted the group was seeing familiar sights in the filming of our own city. The average rating by the group members for *Bosch* was 9.4/10.0, with scores ranging from 9.0 to 9.5.

The Group again met remotely on December 13, 2021, via Zoom. to discuss the films *Sardar Udham* and *The Harder They Fall*.

*Sardar Udham* was a very difficult film to watch. The film is based on the life of Sardar Udham Singh whose adult life was driven by a desire to seek revenge for the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre which took place on 13 April 1919 and resulted in the death of many unarmed civilians. The film traces Sardar Udham’s life as he moves from India to England and eventually assassinates one of the key figures responsible for the massacre. The acting is excellent, and Vicky Kaushal does an excellent job in portraying Udham Singh. Even given the solid acting and excellent photography, the long sequence which depicts the massacre along with the detailed depiction of the torture inflicted on the main character by the English authorities seemed excessive and overly graphic. Although the film depicted the reality of the heavy hand of England in India, some film group members had great difficulty in watching the film. The average rating by the club members for *Sardar Udham* was 7.6 /10.0 where the scores ranged from 7.0 to 8.0.

*The Harder They Fall* is a “shoot ‘em up western” with great casting and excellent performances. Jonathan Majors did a very good job at portraying Nat Love, the main character. One very unusual aspect of the film was the use of two strong tough female characters, Cuffe, well played by Danielle Deadwyler and Stagecoach Mary, well played by Zazie Beetz. The filming of the mostly African American cast was

extremely well done and the use of many closeups of faces was excellent. Some club members found that the first half of the film lacked plot clarity while the second half served to clarify it. The sets, landscapes, and costumes were excellent, but the film seemed to drag on with some extraneous scenes and the excessive depiction of violence throughout. Some group members found that the violence was so constant that they could not watch some scenes, but others found it easy to ignore. The average rating by the club members for *The Harder They Fall* was 7.8/10.0, with scores ranging from 7.5 to 8.5.

For the month of January, the club plans to discuss *Sang-Chi Sang-Chi* and *The Legend of the Ten Rings* on Prime Demand and *Power of the Dog* on Netflix. **David Schwartz**



**WEDNESDAY  
BOOK GROUP**

In August we read *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams. The book is a novel, although it is grounded in records of the creation of the first Oxford English Dictionary, a. k. a. the OED, a process that began in the 1880s and was not completed until 1928. Each meaning of each word, if it was found to be deserving of inclusion, was accompanied by quotations of earliest and recent usage and clarification of shades of meaning. The dictionary has long been criticized for its narrow criteria for a word’s inclusion. Usually a word had to have been used by men in some scholarly work, rather than in a newspaper. Words spoken by women or common folk were not included.

Esme, the central character, is introduced as a six-year-old who sits beneath the table where several scholars, her father among them, work on entries for the OED. They write words and tentative definitions on small pieces of paper, which are pinned together until reviewed and finalized, a long and painstaking process. Some slips of paper fall to the floor and are taken by Esme, who is intrigued by them, storing them in a trunk in her home until she repurposes

them years later. These are rejected or “lost” words.

As Esme grows up, she too works on the dictionary, visiting the University of Oxford’s eminent Bodleian Library to verify quotations and connecting with people in the printing and binding offices. She develops her own understanding and views and starts to collect more words from less official sources. She befriends actresses, suffragettes, and sellers in local markets — people not connected with the scholarly world of Oxford. There are some great friendships among women and some romance; and both the women’s suffrage movement and the First World War play important roles in Esme’s life.

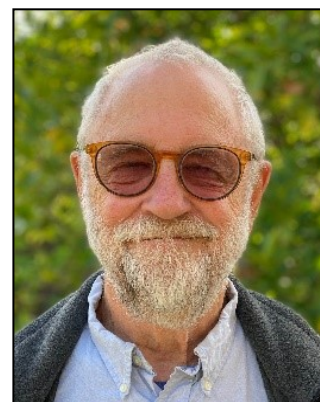
We all liked the story and the telling of it. The characters were thoroughly endearing and the setting was a fascinating time. It’s perhaps tempting to dismiss this book if you have already read Simon Winchester’s *The Professor and the Madman*, which is also a good book. But *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, with its beautifully drawn fictional characters and story, is also a great pleasure. We recommend it to you and other friends.

Jan Eliasberg, a screen writer and director, has written a first novel, *Hannah’s War*, which was the book for our September Zoom discussion. The seed for this book was planted by a sentence in a *New York Times* article of August 7, 1945, on the secret U.S. effort to build an atom bomb: “The key component that allowed the Allies to develop the bomb was brought to the Allies by a female, non-Aryan, physicist.” That physicist was Dr. Lise Meitner, an Austrian Jew. The author’s fictional character of Dr. Hannah Weiss was inspired by Meitner. Both beautiful and brilliant, as any heroine must be, in 1945 she is at Los Alamos, working on the Manhattan Project led by Robert Oppenheimer. There are rumors that there is a spy in their midst, and she is suspected by the handsome spy catcher Major Jack Delaney. Thus begins this adventure story.

Now, a bit of history, based on the very detailed and fascinating 1996 biography, *Lise Meitner: A Life in Physics*, by Ruth Sime. In the 1930s an international research frontier in physics involved the structure of the atom and how bombarding a nucleus with neutrons released various products. Meitner was essen-

tially the leader of a team in Berlin working on this. But due to the tightening of the Nazi’s grip on Jews, Meitner fled Germany in late 1938. Then one of her research team — Otto Hahn, a chemist — published the group’s evidence regarding nuclear fission in January 1939 in *Nature* but left out Meitner’s key role. He did this because of the Nazi order to reject the work of Jews, a handy convenience for a man who wanted the glory of the discovery to be his alone. However, Meitner and her nephew, Otto Robert Frisch, sent a one-page note to *Nature* providing the theoretical explanation behind nuclear fission. That published note was presumably what Meitner brought to the Allies. Hahn later won a Nobel Prize for this work but never credited Meitner.

For much of the War, Allied leaders felt themselves in competition with Germany to be the first to build the bomb and were struggling to find out whether Germany was actually having some success. Although invited in 1943 to join British physicists coming to Los Alamos to work on the atomic bomb, Meitner refused to work on the bomb. As she herself said, “It’s incumbent upon scientists to ensure that their work makes the world a better place.” For Eliasberg to have Hannah work on the bomb seemed an unusual liberty to take with the actual Meitner. We also disagreed about the representation of Oppenheimer’s role in pushing the progress of the project after the German surrender. However, we all liked the dramatic, historical and romantic aspects of this rich, involving story. **Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin**





## SCIENCE BOOK GROUP

### Heidemarie Lundblad, Group Organizer

On November 17th, the group met to discuss *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*, by Scott Weidensaul. 2021. Attendees for this meeting were: Sandy Jewett; Ann Perkins; Adam Gifford; Phyllis Russell and Heidemarie Lundblad.

Although not all members present are avid “birders,” we all agreed that Weidensaul wrote a very interesting and readable book. Scientists’ understanding of how birds can cross immense oceans, fly over high mountains, or remain in flight for months at a time has grown tremendously. While the author spends quite a bit of time discussing the problems caused for migratory birds by human activity, he also shows a number of ways in which birds have managed to adjust to the “human” world and how humans have been able and willing to help. For example, birding groups pay rice farmers to flood the fields only to the appropriate level while birds are moving through the Central Valley of California. Very interesting is also the discussion of improvements in technology (e.g., miniaturization of equipment) that has made it possible to track bird migration through areas inaccessible to man.

The Group met again on December 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss *The Spike: An Epic Journey Through the Brain in 2.1 Seconds*, by Mark Humphries. Attendees for this meeting were Sandy Jewett; Adam Gifford; Elzbieta Trybus; Peter Gabrovsky; Phyllis Russell and Heidemarie Lundblad.

Humphries is a good writer, which helped us to deal with a very technical book about how the brain functions. The skeleton of the book is a single cookie and the 2.5 seconds it takes for a person to see it and to take it. It was fascinating to read how an enormous

number of neurons send and receive spikes beginning with the neurons that translate the different levels of light received by the eye into the image of a cookie and then eventually instruct the hand to grab the cookie. Unfortunately, as the author discusses, current technology is not able to really examine the human brain (mice seem to be the preferred stand in) and thus it will be quite some time before we will be able to investigate more complex issues such as motivation and consciousness.

For the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting we decided to return to animals again and discuss *The Book of Eels: Our Enduring Fascination with the Most Mysterious Creature in the Natural World* by Patrik Svenson.

*“Remarkably little is known about the European eel, *Anguilla anguilla*. So little, in fact, that scientists and philosophers have, for centuries, been obsessed with what has become known as the “eel question”: Where do eels come from? What are they? Are they fish or some other kind of creature altogether? Even today, in an age of advanced science, no one has ever seen eels mating or giving birth, and we still don’t understand what drives them, after living for decades in freshwater, to swim great distances back to the ocean at the end of their lives. They remain a mystery.”*

At the February 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting we agreed to discuss *Water to the Angels: William Mulholland, His Monumental Aqueduct, and the Rise of Los Angeles*, by Les Standiford, 2016.

All meetings will be on Zoom for the time being.. Zoom meeting dates for the academic year 2021/2: 2/16; 3/16; 4/20; 5/18; 6/15; 7/20; 8/17, and all take place on Wednesdays 1:30 pm to 3pm. I will send the link the day before the meeting but it is also at the top of the minutes.

**Heidemarie Lundblad**

## **ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2021—2022**

President	John Clendenning johnclendenning@aol.com	<u>Members-at-Large:</u> Pamela Bourgeois pamela.bourgeois@csun.edu
Past President	Timothy Fox tim.fox@csun.edu	Cynthia Desrochers cdesrochers@csun.edu
President Elect	Ronald McIntyre ronald.mcintyre@csun.edu	Catherine Jeppson catherine.jeppson@csun.edu
Secretary	Cheryl Spector cheryl.spector@csun.edu	Bob Kiddoo robert.kiddoo@csun.edu
Treasurer	Dan Blake daniel.blake@csun.edu	Patrick Nicholson pat.nichelson@csun.edu
Program Chair	Sharon Klein sharon.klein@csun.edu	Joel Zeitlin joel.zeitlin@csun.edu
Membership Chair	Phyllis Russell pkrussell@earthlink.net	<u>Web Master</u> Eugene Turner eugene.turner@csun.edu
Newsletter Editor	Ann Perkins ann.perkins@csun.edu	
Historian	Virginia Lussier ginny.lussier@csun.edu	

### **ARF NOTES**

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY**

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE**

**P.O. BOX 280578**

**NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA 91328**