

ARF NOTES

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: JOHN CLENDENNING

Whoa! Can it be that we have been shut down for two years? Yes, in March 2020 we had to cease all face-to-face meetings and to acquaint ourselves with a newfangled technology: ZOOM. The pandemic has certainly affected all of our lives—in good and not-so-good ways—permanently. And yes, we have all longed to get together personally, in person. I promise you—that will happen.

Things are looking up. We have had one marvelous SCCARF dinner so far and are planning for another this month. Watch for news in your emails—and sign up.

In February we had an inspiring presentation by Dr. Terri Lisagor whose humanitarian team has travelled all over—from Guatemala to Nepal to rural Kentucky—bringing health care, especially dental care, to desperately impoverished areas. Terri's photographic glimpses of people suffering in these areas awakened us to the needs of the poor

worldwide.

And now, Ah! Membership. We are doing well with 200 plus members, but we need to do better. Sad to say, our membership is declining because so many of our beloved colleagues are passing away. This year, in my college alone, we lost Harry Stone, Will Forthman, and Helen Saltman—three unique individuals who made amazing contributions to our lives in this University.

Many thanks to Tim Fox and Phyllis Russell (the dynamic duo!) who have fueled the Membership Committee. Because Phyllis is withdrawing at the end of this year, we need a replacement. Volunteers, anyone?

And let's not forget ERFSA. This statewide organization that represents retired CSU faculty needs to be supported. It lobbies on our behalf statewide. The ERFSA newsletter always contains important information relating to legislation, finances, and health issues that impact on our membership.

Finally, in the area of student development, our major contributions to the University are programs that benefit graduate students: the Phil and Shirley Hansen Scholarship in the College of Education and the **ARF** Memorial Graduate Projects Awards. Thanks to the time the **ARF** Memorial Awards Committee has donated in reading the applications, and the generous monetary donations from the membership at large, these programs continue to flourish. Look for more in the next newsletter.



NEWS FROM CSUN

Students Return to Campus

After a long hiatus, the CSUN campus was filled with life again with the return of in-person classes on Monday, Feb. 14. Below is a partial list of important resources and information to keep in mind. For a full list see the CSUN website under **News**.

Parking – All CSUN parking lots and structures are available for the spring 2022 semester, including the new G6 structure, a 1,500 space structure along Zelzah Avenue at Plummer Street. Parking permits are available through the CSUN portal or the Parking Services Office. Be aware that heavy traffic is expected for the first few weeks of the semester. CSUN's housing and Metrolink shuttles will be available for the campus community during the spring semester.



Library: The library was operating on a reduced schedule until Feb. 14, when it expanded its daily schedule. For updated hours, visit the library's website. Visitors must complete a health screening survey before entering.

COVID-19 Testing – Students and employees who are unvaccinated are required to take a COVID-19 PCR test every week if they will be attending on-campus classes. On-campus testing is free and avail-

able at two kiosks throughout the week.

Daily Health Screening – All students, employees and visitors must complete a health screening survey before coming to campus. The survey can be found on the CSUN website and on the CSUN app. Everyone is also required to complete a self-reporting form if they have tested positive or are exposed to COVID-19.

Dining – the Sierra Center and the restaurants located at the Campus Store Complex reopened Starting Feb. 14. There are also multiple dining options offered throughout campus.

CSUN Professor uses Covid Data to Study How Pandemics Spread

Even as the World Health Organization was declaring COVID-19 a pandemic, California State University, Northridge geography professor Steven Graves said the virus's spread in Los Angeles County was already leaving clues for understanding how such diseases might travel from neighborhood to neighborhood in the future.

Using Los Angeles County as their subject, Graves and CSUN geography graduate student Petra Nichols constructed a series of statistical models that demonstrate that certain neighborhood housing characteristics – including income and ethnicity – made some communities more vulnerable to the virus than others. The information, Graves said, could provide policymakers and public health professionals with vital insight into managing future pandemics.

CSU ERFSA (Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff) is our lobbying organization. Their newsletter frequently has useful information for retired faculty and staff. At the beginning of this year it led to the following chance to save money:

You may be paying an increased Medicare Part B premium, such as the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) due to your income level. If so, send a copy of the entire Social Security notice showing your IRMAA determination and the increased Medicare Part B premium. If there are funds available, you'll see an increased reimbursement credit on your retirement warrant. Send the copy of your notice to:

CalPERS Health Account
Management Division
Attention: Medicare Administration
P.O. Box 942715
Sacramento, CA 94229-2715



PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Terri Lisagor

Well, greetings everyone! It seems that it was just the other day that [Dr. Terri Lisagor](#), Emerita colleague from CSUN's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences spoke to us about her work with the Global Dental Relief (GDR) program, initially in Guatemala, but now in Jenkins, Kentucky. Particularly affecting were Terri's perspectives on this volunteer dental health program and other similar programs, that offer not only services to those in need of them, but also gratifying experiences for the volunteers. She is knowledgeable about a range of programs, in addition to GDR, and is clearly committed both to the organization and its work and to the people it serves. Terri graciously shared her slides with us, and soon they'll be accessible to all **ARF** members, so those who were unable to attend will have a chance to see what Terri discussed. A recording of the talk was made, and although we're having some technical difficulties with it, we're hoping to have it posted, as well.

Speaking of "technical difficulties," our March program is currently seriously compromised. Our scheduled speaker, Dr. Claire White, had to cancel her Zoom afternoon with us. She has generously shared her recent talk on a topic related to what she was hoping to address at our gathering. While we are working on a few possibilities for March 9th, as of this column's drafting, we have not "reprogrammed" this date, and there is a chance we will forgo that Zoom gathering. But please stay tuned; news of developments will come via email.

We are, at the moment, anticipating that our April field trip will take us to the halls, studios, hidden warrens, and other creative spaces—not the least of which is the great hall—of The Soraya Performing Arts Center. Details will emerge; we're not certain what "platforms" we'll use—Zoom, an in-person visit to campus, or a combination of the two, as we all remain, in the wake of Omicron's explosive destruction of our January aspirations, rather cautious about plans and promises...and gatherings. Again, please stay tuned; the Soraya folks are wonderful—as many already know—and we are very happy to be able to work with them.

Cautiously, as well, we are making plans for our May event recognizing the four students who will have been selected as recipients of the Memorial Graduate Project Awards. And whether it is an actual gathering, at the Orchard Conference Center for a late morning brunch and the student talks, or a special issue of *ARF Notes*, we'll be celebrating these graduate students, as well as recognizing this past November's Phil and Shirley Hansen scholarship awardees. Then, in June, perhaps our annual membership picnic. If in person, we would be holding our picnic—as we planned to BTP (Before the Pandemic)—at the Arbor Grill. As details for May and June emerge and crystalize, we'll share them...

By the way, a year ago this coming March, one of our speakers was Dr. Katie Stack Morgan, from JPL, who is Deputy Project Scientist for the [Mars 2020 "excursion"](#) and exploration with the Perseverance rover and helicopter. As the 18th of February, 2020 was the landing date, this past Tuesday's *New York Times* "Science" section featured a detailed article tracing this past year's activities and preliminary findings. Dr. Stack Morgan was mentioned more than once—in the context of particular geological findings; the enthusiasm we experienced when she spoke with us in even more apparent in the article. Some good news. And we are just beginning to build our 2022-2023 schedule.

Take good care—And if you have ideas, thoughts, or points to discuss, please do email: sharon.klein@csun.edu.



IN MEMORIAM

Stephen Gadomski (Civil Engineering and Construction Management) passed away on January 15, 2022. Stephen was a home-grown CSUN professor, receiving both his B.S. (1969) and M.S. (1971) degrees in Engineering at CSU, Northridge, and his Ph.D. (1978) in Geotechnical at UCLA. He started teaching at CSUN immediately after receiving his B.S. degree; became a full professor in 1986 and retired in 2010 after over 40 years of service teaching at CSUN. From 1998 to 2010, he chaired the Department of Civil Engineering and Construction Management. Even during his FERP retirement

years, he remained active in the department as their graduate coordinator.



Stephen also held positions at the Aerospace Corporation and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power during his professional

career and consulted on numerous projects in the Southern California region.

He was a strong supporter and advisor of the CSUN students who participated each year in the National Student Steel Bridge Competition, sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Institute of Steel Construction. In what he described as “quite an honor,” CSUN hosted this annual national event in 2007. He was also a regular supporter of the students who participated in the annual concrete canoe competition.

Dr. Gadomski was responsible for starting the department’s Construction Management program in 2002. From 2003 to 2010, he was responsible for coordinating and supervising the department’s annual golf tournament in support of the Construction Management program.

He received CSUN emeritus faculty status upon his retirement. He also received numerous awards during his career from professional societies, including the San Fernando Valley Engineer’s Council and the American Society of Civil Engineers. He will be missed by all who knew or worked with him during his career at CSUN. *Steven Stepanek*



**Harry
Stone
(English)**

Internationally acclaimed scholar, authority on Charles Dickens, and long-time member of the CSUN English Department, Harry Stone has died. He was 95.

Though born in New York City, Harry grew up, was educated, and spent most of his life in Los Angeles. Having graduated from Fairfax High School he entered UCLA where he earned three degrees: B.A.,

1946; M.A., 1950; and Ph.D., 1955. After teaching for five years at Northwestern University, he joined the Department of English at San Fernando Valley State College (now California State University, Northridge) in 1960. By this time Harry was already a nationally recognized Dickens scholar. Despite the heavy four-course teaching load, he continued to publish dozens of articles and reviews and authored or edited nine books on Dickens. Among these are *Dickens and the Invisible World* (1979), *Dickens’ Working Notes for His Novels* (1987), and *The Night Side of Dickens* (1994). His research was supported by grants and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation (1969-69) the Nations Endowment for the Humanities (1975-76), and American Council of Learned Societies (1970).

In the early years of SFVSC Harry worked tirelessly as a member of the Library Committee to build up our collection in British Literature. By spotting bargains he helped to make our library premier among small colleges, capable of supporting advanced research in this field. Throughout his career, as a member of the Department Graduate Committee, he helped to create and teach seminars and to direct dozens of masters’ theses. He labored—fruitlessly it seems—to make Northridge a major research center, offering doctoral studies in a variety of fields.

It is probably fair to say that Harry Stone was one of a dying breed of professors. For him teaching and service were important, but secondary. First and foremost was his passion for scholarship.

Speaking of passion, Harry was also a passionate collector. As a teenager he began to collect Dickensian memorabilia. The collection grew over the years, so that at the time of his retirement in 1992 it had grown to nearly two thousand items. This is one of the world’s largest and richest collections of its kind. Now Harry’s legacy will live on: the entire collection has been bequeathed to the University Library. *John Clendenning*

William Forthman (Philosophy). In 2021 the CSUN Philosophy Department lost another founding member. William Forthman earned his degrees (A.B., 1954, and Ph.D., 1965) from UCLA and joined the CSUN faculty in 1966. In the 1970s he served as department chair.

At Northridge Will taught a variety of general education courses in philosophy. When the campus instituted a requirement in international cross-cultural studies, he created and taught Phil. 344. Chinese Philosophy. One colleague remembers Will as one who had a broader and deeper philosophic education that most members of his department. He could cite texts like no one else. However he did not use his knowledge by contributing to analytic philosophy. He was more interested in the practical applications

of his expertise, particularly in advancing the contemporary progressive agenda.

Mild-mannered and soft-spoken, Will did not come across as a radical socialist and pacifist. And yet that is exactly what he was. An active and well-known member of Democratic Socialists of America, he represented this organization in the San Fernando Valley and often spoke at churches and other venues on its behalf. An early member of United Professors of California, he was particularly supportive of younger faculty. In the Sixties he was arrested on campus at an anti-Viet- Nam War demonstration, and when Van Nuys Airport was used by the Pentagon to send arms to the Contras in Nicaragua, he picketed the facility.

When Will is remembered today, the word "humanistic" often comes to the surface. As one colleague told me, he was the "conscience of the humanities." *John Clendenning*



BOOK GROUPS

On October 3, the **Wednesday Book**

Group met to discuss *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty* by Patrick Redden Keefe. In the early twentieth century, Arthur Sackler, the oldest of three Brooklyn-born sons of immigrants, had grand visions of his future potential, was creative, and worked hard to develop opportunities. All three brothers became doctors but never practiced medicine. This book is the story of the Sacklers and how they achieved great financial success in marketing pharmaceuticals, often through misleading and shady techniques.

Disturbed by the treatment of mentally ill patients (e.g. lobotomies and crude electric shock therapy) in the post-World War II years, Arthur thought that altering brain chemistry with a pill might work better. He handled advertising for Roche, a small pharmaceutical company which in the 1960s developed Librium, a tranquilizer, followed soon by a very similar product Valium. In order not to cannibalize the Librium market, Arthur had Valium marketed creatively, for example, as a "muscle relaxant" or a pill for "psychic tension", a newly minted mental condition that of course needed their product. Although direct advertising to patients was illegal

in those days, creative descriptions in medical journal editorials and advertising to physicians and popularity with patients led to widespread Valium sales. All this was done with a compliant and uncritical FDA, thanks to the influence of the Sackler family. These medicines very successful.

The book focuses especially on OxyContin, soon developed by Purdue Pharma, describing in great detail the Sackler's development, promotion, and sales of this drug. OxyContin is an opioid in pill form, which many people think has been a key culprit in our country's opioid crisis. The fact that it is a pill allows patients needing treatment for pain to go home earlier and end their stay in the hospital—a potential great benefit but with risks as well. Patients and doctors were told how important pain management is and how there was no danger of addiction if these drugs are given by a doctor. The pattern of asserting that cases of addiction were the fault of "addictive personalities" has continued to be followed by the Sacklers, their highly paid sales representatives, and their advertising companies. Purdue's sales reps were directed to cultivate those doctors who wrote a great number of prescriptions rather than scrutinize them for being possible drug dealers. Not coincidentally, the head of the FDA was hired by Purdue after his retirement. In spite of scapegoating victims and literally no efforts to mitigate the effects of their drug, the family still denies any responsibility for the mass of ruined lives. With their profits over the decades, Arthur and his brothers donated millions to major arts institutions but always made sure the gallery or wing was clearly labeled "Sackler". At the same time, they were always secretive about Purdue and other companies that produced their wealth.

Patrick Keefe is an extremely thorough researcher and a fine, experienced writer. He sticks closely to the evidence yet is able to characterize the brothers and their children convincingly and demonstrate in detail the processes by which the originally cautious medical and government opinions about the drugs were overcome by the Sacklers. Although some of us felt the book could have been shorter, we urge everyone to read it -- or at least the shorter article the author wrote in *The New Yorker* of October 23, 2017.

Some critics consider Henry James to be one of our country's great novelists. After reading James' novel *The Portrait of a Lady*, published in 1881, the **Wednesday Book Group** met in November to discuss the book.

Isabel Archer is an independent and attractive young woman from a well-to-do family in Albany, New York. On the strength of their instant friendship her independent and outspoken Aunt Lydia

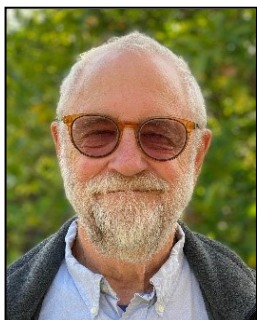
Touchette invites Isabel to come with her to her home in Florence. They first visit Lydia's husband, Daniel Touchette, an elderly banker who lives on an estate in England with his adult invalid son Ralph. In this idyllic and idle world of the wealthy Isabel is loved by both men as well as their neighbor Lord Warburton who proposes to her. Although family and friends tell her this would be a good marriage, Isabel doesn't love him and wants to preserve her independence and not settle down as a wife. Then an American businessman, Casper Goodwood, who had courted her in the U.S., makes his appearance. He too is refused by Isabel. Neither he nor Warburton give up.

Uncle Daniel dies and leaves a significant part of his estate to Isabel so that now she really has the means to be free. One new friend, Madame Merle, is especially cultured and becomes a mentor to Isabel. She meets Isabel in Italy and is instrumental in Isabel's marriage, which greatly changes her life and dreams. An important new character emerges, and Isabel gradually realizes the truth about some of the people in her life.

In their conversations and internal thoughts, the characters reveal what they know and their feelings through James' elaborate but sometimes difficult description of events and internal monologs. Some passages have been admired and highly praised by critics, but it takes a devoted reader to appreciate this. Several of us thought the story moved too slowly and the book was unnecessarily long. As a result, our group found this book to be one of the less rewarding books we have read. *Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen*



Jim Allen



Joel Zeitlin

Group Facilitators and Reviewers

The **Science Book Group** met on February 16th to discuss *Water to the Angels: William Mulholland, His Monumental Aqueduct, and the Rise of Los Angeles*, by Les Standiford. 2015.

Standiford is a good writer and did an excellent job of making the subject of bringing water to Los Angeles, and thus making the enormous city possible, an easy to read and comprehend book. He provided many interesting details about William Mulholland's life. Mulholland was a poor Irish immigrant who,

through sheer will and discipline became the head of the future Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. He has been celebrated and vilified for either bringing the badly needed water to LA or stealing it from the poor farmers of the Owen's valley – depending on the reader's point of view. The politics of "water to the angels" aside, the description of the design and actual construction of the aqueduct was very interesting even for non-engineers. Also Mulholland's skills and imagination in overcoming obstacles which continually arose during construction, as well as his skills in dealing with the workers, were quite amazing. One of the group members was actually born in the Owens Valley, the area where the water came from, and was able to provide some interesting details about life in the area 40 or so years ago. Also included is a chapter on the catastrophic collapse of the St. Francis dam. It was



not clear at the time what caused the disaster and there is even some controversy about that today. What is undisputed is that somewhere between 400 and 600 people died.

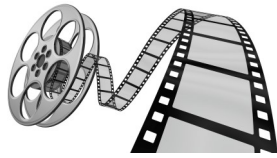
Heidemarie Lundblad

Group Facilitator and Reviewer

For the meeting on March 16th, we agreed to read and discuss *The Consciousness Instinct: Unraveling the Mystery of How the Brain Makes the Mind*, by Michael S. Gazzaniga. 2018.

"How do neurons turn into minds? How does physical "stuff"—atoms, molecules, chemicals, and cells—create the vivid and various worlds inside our heads? The problem of consciousness has gnawed at us for millennia. In the last century there have been massive breakthroughs that have rewritten the science of the brain, and yet the puzzles faced by the ancient Greeks are still present. In *The Consciousness Instinct*, the neuroscience pioneer Michael S. Gazzaniga puts the latest research in conversation with the history of human thinking about the mind, giving a big-picture view of what science has revealed about consciousness."

All meetings will be on Zoom for the immediate future. Zoom meeting dates for the year 2022: 4/20; 5/18; 6/15; 7/20; 8/17. They take place on Wednesdays 1:30 pm to 3pm.



FILM GROUP

The **Monday Film Group** met on January 17, via Zoom. The Club discussed the films *Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* and the *The Power of the Dog*.

Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings was a “kung fu” martial arts film that centered on the interactions of a powerful Chinese Wizard and his two estranged adult children. Although the plot itself had a few problems with clarity and character development the martial arts scenes were very well choreographed. Additionally, the special effects were fun to watch, and the photography was also quite good. Most of the club members enjoyed the realistic San Francisco Chinese family life scenes and, in particular, Awkwafina gave her usual good performance as Katy the girlfriend of the Wizard’s son. Although some of the club members felt that the film was a bit unclear there was general agreement that it was visually entertaining. The average rating by the club members for *Shang Chi* was 7.5 /10.0 where the scores ranged from 5.0 to 9.0.

The Power of the Dog is a dark, complex film. As a measure of this complexity several club members had to view it twice to clarify their understanding. The film centers on the interactions of four characters, the two Burbank brothers Phil and George and the widow Rose Gordon and her son Peter. Probably the most outstanding performances of the film were given by Benedict Cumberbatch as Phil and the young Kodi Smit-McPhee as Peter. Cumberbatch managed to generate the troubled angry character of Phil holding the world in contempt with just his eyes with amazing consistency. Smit-McPhee played the high school age Peter with an aura of a calculating cold-hearted outlook that was quite frightening to most of our members. The cinematography of the film was superb, and the music was impressive. The average rating by the club members for *The Power of the Dog* was **9.1/10.0**, with scores ranging from 8.0 to 10.0.

For the month of February, the Club plans to discuss *The Last Duel* on Prime Demand (\$3.99) and *No Time to Die* on Prime Demand (\$5.99). Submitted by *David Schwartz*.



SCCARF REPORT

Taking a cue from the ominous Omicron reports

broadcast during the early months of 2022, the SCCARF hosts for both January and February opted to not schedule an outing. As Omicron slowly makes its exit, however, we expect things will change for the better.

Assuming the weather and COVID cooperate, the current plan is to once again gather for a culinary adventure in mid-March. Just where has yet to be determined but the search is on. As in our first two outings after the COVID hiatus, group size will be limited to 20, proof of COVID vaccination will be required, and we’ll be dining outdoors. If you are a SCCARFer, check your inbox regularly for the announcement, and respond immediately lest you miss out. If you are not yet a SCCARFer and would like to join the gustatory revelry, a note to me (jim.dole@csun.edu) will get you on the invitation list.

Looking forward to another fantastic repast with friends! (*Jim Dole*)



EMERITI ACTIVITIES

James Allen (Geography). With a good friend, Nancy and I have been taking once a week hikes to nearby spots -- Sage Ranch Park, Limekiln Canyon, O'Melveny Park, or the Westside Beach on Point Dume, this latter preceded by a tasty outdoor lunch at the charming Sunset Restaurant at that Beach. We will soon have a bit of a change for five days -- driving to Nevada's Valley of Fire, an old gold mine, and the Little Alie' Inn, the latter on the Extraterrestrial Highway. In May we will fly with another couple to New Mexico for a trip of about ten days, to many of our favorite places.

Editor’s Note: We are trying to revive the Emeriti Activities section of the newsletter, with reports of your activities, travels, awards and honors, and/or continuing professional contributions post-retirement. Both old and new members will be interested in what their former colleagues are up to, so please send your news to ann.perkins@csun.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you!

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