Teaching, Learning, and Life at Rice

ARRUF’s 2017 fall theme is “Teaching, Learning, and Life at Rice.” ARRUF members have a special take on this theme. Some of us are still teaching courses. All of us are learning, especially through our lecture series and discussions. And, through our affinity flocks we are weaving our lives at Rice in new patterns of collegiality and loyal friendship. The interviews we are publishing in the ARRUF newsletter will illustrate the many ways our lives as retired faculty are being transformed through collaboration and innovation, both professional and personal.

We hope retired Rice faculty and their spouses/partners will gather for a big day on October 5th for the general meeting, reception, lecture, and concert, and join committees to construct new ways to transform traditional retirement!

In light of the troubling events concerning race and political ideology exemplified by the confrontation in Charlottesville, we would like to express our support for President Leebron’s thoughtful and straightforward comments on those and similar events that have occurred in our nation. Certainly Rice faculty members have a responsibility to stress the urgent need for our University to teach and exemplify the core American values of decency and respect for others. While we as retirees and spouses ordinarily cannot use the classroom for this purpose, we must, in appropriate settings, both make our voices heard and exemplify in our actions the bedrock values of our democracy.

Chandler Davidson

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Upcoming Events
Anne Schnoebelen Travels to Krakow, Poland to Continue Research on a Bibliography of Liturgical Music

Anne Schnoebelen, Joseph and Ida Kirkland Mullen Professor Emerita of Music, will travel in early October to Poland, where she will work on a bibliographical project at the Jagiellonian Library in Krakow. The project is the continuation of a large catalogue of a work already available online: A Catalogue of Mass, Office and Holy Week Music Printed in Italy: 1516-1770. Journal of Seventeenth-Century Music Instrumenta, 2 (2014), done in collaboration with Jeffrey Kurtzman, formerly at the Shepherd School of Music and Master of Baker College, now at Washington University in St. Louis.

This catalogue, the first comprehensive work of its kind, contains some 2,400 items of printed liturgical sacred music for the Mass, Vespers and other hours of the Office, and Holy Week from the early 16th to the late 18th century. It represents 40 years of work by both scholars, who visited libraries all over Europe, but especially in Italy, in order to examine an exemplar of all existing prints. Music at that time was printed in part-books (one for each vocal and instrumental category, e.g. Soprano, Alto, Violin) rather than in scores. Over time these part-books have often been scattered over several libraries in various countries, thus requiring many visits to complete the set if possible. Intended for both scholars and performers, the catalogue includes transcriptions of title pages, dedications, dedicatory poetry, tables of contents, liturgical rubrics, performance indications, etc. For maximum help to the user, numerous indices include cities of publication, geographical references, churches, monasteries, composers, dedicatees, liturgical feast days for which special music was written, various kinds of Masses according to their styles or models, publishers, number of vocal parts, and kinds of instruments. Also included are indications of where the copy examined may be found presently.

Because the catalogue is online, it can be added to and corrected in case new materials appear. Professors Schnoebelen and Kurtzman have begun to include the even more vast repertory of non-liturgical music in the form of motet collections published within this time frame. These are vocal works often based on biblical or poetical texts, used in the ecclesiastical services but not officially prescribed. Such free texts often allowed the composer musical possibilities beyond the settings of official texts such as the Mass or Vesper psalms.

Why go to Poland to examine Italian sacred music? The Jagiellonian Library was the recipient of more than 30 unique prints from this repertory, which once belonged to the Berlin Staatsbibliothek and were hidden for safekeeping during World War II. The prints ended up in Krakow. Known to the musicological community since the 1980s, they are a treasure trove of printed Italian sacred music found nowhere else in European libraries. Both Schnoebelen and Kurtzman examined the prints relevant to the Mass/Vespers catalogue there in the late 1980s. In March of 2017, Schnoebelen began work on the motet collections at the Jagiellonian, and this trip will be a continuation of that research.

John Hempel Speaks on Grandparenting

There is no substitute for time in building relationships.

My grandsons Robbie, 12, Connor, 14, and Erik Hempel, 16, spent a couple of weeks with me again this summer at my home in Southgate. This has become a regular event since my wife Edith’s passing in 2013. The time with my grandsons has been a real pleasure for me and is something they seem enthusiastic about repeating.

They now fly in from St. Petersburg, FL each summer. It is a half work, half play visit. They are supposed to be learning the skills of a do it yourself fixer and tinkerer from a reported expert while helping with projects around the house and yard. This year we painted more than half of the house exterior and did a major cleanup of the yard. The rest of the time is for fun: beach, bicycling, canoeing Armand Bayou, plays, the Houston Zoo, Dynamo Stadium, galleries, and the museums. We often eat at home where they help prepare and once in a while, we’ll go out. (Every year includes a trip to Ninfa’s on Navigation.) They enjoy games. Monopoly and Texas Hold’em are favorites. They have a wide range of interests, and we don’t ever seem to run out of possibilities. I never get the sense that I am dragging them through things they would prefer not to do.

John Hempel, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, retired from Rice in 2013. He received his B. S. (1957) University of Utah, M.S. (1959), Ph.D. (1962) University of Wisconsin. His research focuses on the topology of manifolds and associated algebraic problems, primarily in group theory. Now he adds “grandsons’ group” to his focus.
ARRUF member C. Sidney Burrus, the Maxfield and Oshman Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and Dean Emeritus of the George R. Brown School of Engineering will speak at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) in 2018. His trip is part of Rice’s emphasis on leadership in international research and education.

“We must aggressively foster collaborative relationships with other institutions to leverage our resources,” President David Leebron declared in the Vision for the Second Century and the Call to Conversation. “We have perhaps too often been content to be a ‘hidden gem’ rather than a shining beacon.”

Burrus has served on founding boards of several universities across the globe, including Jacobs University (previously International University Bremen, IUB), an international, private residential university in Vegesack in Bremen-Nord in Germany and briefly on one for a university in VietNam.

“These universities look at Rice as a prototype for small, private education,” Burrus says. “I recently retired from the LUMS board,” he explains, “but they are having a celebration in January and I am looking forward to seeing the new developments. This year, we accepted a graduate student who did his undergraduate work at LUMS. It’s good for Rice; it’s good for the student.”

He also traveled to London in August 2017 to speak on the history of filter design at Imperial College. “It amuses me,” says Burrus. “Years ago, they’d ask me to talk about some new finding. Today they invite me to speak on the history of a subject.”

Earlier, in 1975-76 and again in 1979-80, he was a Guest Professor at the University

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of Erlangen in Germany. During the summer of 1984 he was a visiting fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge University, England.

The circuits and algorithms he researches are critical to an international field, and he loves involving students in this broad community. “I'm up to what I've always been up to, but less of it now,” laughs Burrus. “I have been teaching signal processing in Duncan Hall to seniors and first-year graduate students, but this coming spring, ELEC-544, Advanced Digital Signal Processing, will have all grad students. I used to teach what the department needed me to teach, but now I'm teaching courses that interest me.”

Burrus will also teach a new Computer Modeling MLS course in the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies next spring. “In the class, the students will build a computer model of social systems of the world,” he says. As an avenue into computer modeling for these liberal arts graduate students, Burrus is considering readings such as “How Fermi Would Have Fixed It” and “Can We Know the Universe?” from “Science and Its Ways of Knowing” by John Hatton and Paul Plouffe.

Burrus continues to play squash several times a month with Bart Sinclair in the Rice University Recreation Center. “We have the same level of expertise and we make good partners,” Burrus says.

Before joining the faculty at Rice, Burrus received the PhD degree from Stanford University in 1965. Here he has been part of several innovations, including the Computer and Information Technology Institute (CITI), where he served as director from 1992-1998. Now he is the Senior Strategist of OpenStax, formerly called Connexions, a revolutionary repository for free teaching materials for learners around the world. Textbooks suitable for the most commonly taught university courses are free on-line in Open Stax, initiated by walls. A handwoven rug from Saltillo adds a Southwestern touch to mementos of a long career at Rice.

From 1972 to 1978 he was master of Lovett College, where his wife Mary Lee served as co-master and was a significant contributor to Rice, supporting activities

Professor Rich Baraniuk of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The venture has high potential global impact. “OpenStax has changed publishing in that we have open copyright and printing on demand,” says Burrus. “Now, instead of printing 5,000 copies, an instructor can print whatever number is needed, say five books. Furthermore, anytime an error is discovered, it can instantly be changed. No one is stuck with 1,000 copies. It’s made publishing much less expensive.”

He continues his work in Abercrombie Laboratory, one of Rice’s older buildings, situated in what was Rice’s first computer room in the ‘50s. His office is part of what once housed a giant computer called R1. An image of the first integrated circuit, designed by TI’s Jack Kilby, inventor of the first microchip, and a framed digital iteration of Pi decorate his

George Hirasaki’s loyalty to Rice and his research transcends expected norms. “I am living my dream,” says ARRUF member George Hirasaki. “As a PhD graduate student at Rice, I dreamed that one day I would be a faculty member at Rice University. I would spend the final years of my career doing research while teaching the next generation how it is done and travel the world teaching about our discoveries. This year, I spent one week co-teaching at the Delft Summer School on wettability and I lectured and consulted for three days with SINOPEC in Shanghai. I continue to teach the same courses and do the same research as when I was a regular faculty member.”

His passion for research on Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) and Formation Evaluation with Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) matches his love of extreme sports. “I can no longer windsurf in Maui, heliski, and climb the highest mountains but I can still windsurf in Galveston Bay, ski in Jackson Hole, and go hiking in the Alps,” he says. This July, he trekked the “Tour du Mont Blanc” in the French Alps with wife Darlene. They relaxed, sipping coffee in Chamonix after he revisited the site of his climb to the peak of Mont Blanc, the tallest peak in Western Europe.

They live in Bellaire in a Japanese-style home designed by a Rice graduate architect. Before they travel to Japan, they take refresher classes at the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies. “I started school the year after World War II and some students identified me as the enemy and picked fights. I fought them and they did not bother me anymore. Yet because

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The sweeping Shumard Oak in front of Abercrombie Lab was dedicated to Dr. George Hirasaki.

Dr. George Hirasaki’s chemical engineering research team in front of Abercrombie Laboratory.

(above) George Hirasaki – with pilot – discovered that paragliders at Mont Blanc can rise up from launch point. (at left) George Hirasaki windsurfing on the north coast of Maui. Photos by Darlene Hirasaki.
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of that, we stopped speaking Japanese.”

He is the son of the late Tokuzo Hirasaki
and the grandson of K. Kishi, founder of
the Japanese colony in Orange County in
1907. The colonists originally raised rice,
and formed a petroleum company once
oil was discovered on the property.

“My father would sometimes talk with
me when we were alone and he said that
he hoped that one of his children would
grow up to be a diplomat or scientist.
At that stage in my life, I was not very
diplomatic so I inferred that he wanted me
to be a scientist. I believe that he wanted
to be an engineer himself. He worked his
way through college by land surveying
in California. Now I realize that in the
1920s, engineering was not a profession
open to Japanese in California. Thus,
he got a degree in horticulture from UC
Davis because there were many Japanese
farmers in the US. I discovered his college
chemistry book when I was in the 8th
grade. I was doing organic synthesis
before I took high school chemistry. I
dedicated my PhD thesis to my parents.
The next time I came home, he was sitting
in his chair reading my thesis. I asked him
if he understood what was written there.
He said, “Just a little.”

George earned his PhD in Chemical
Engineering from Rice in 1967. His thesis
was awarded the Ralph Budd award for
the best PhD thesis in engineering.

Hirasaki joined the Rice faculty after
a 26 year career with Shell Development
and Shell Oil Company. His research in fluid
transport through porous media ranged
from the microscopic scale intermolecular
forces governing wettability to the
megascopic scale numerical reservoir
simulators for field-wide modeling.

The walls of his office are lined with
books. “Books are like treasures,” he says.
“After I learn the contents, I like to refer
back. I seldom have time to read entire
books but I am reading sections from
books on NMR, wettability, and organic
shales. The last film we were trying to see
while returning from Europe was, “Hidden
Figures,” a story of the early Black women
‘computers’ for NASA as the USA was
competing with the Soviet Union in the
space race.” The film was nominated for
three Academy Awards in 2017, including
Best Picture.

“I also have an industrial consortium
on Processes in Porous Media,” he says.
“A reoccurring theme throughout this
research is the dominance of interfaces
in the determination of fluid transport
processes. Fluids flow through rock
and soil in pore spaces that are on the order of
microns.

One may find the magnetic man in
Room B-245 in Abercrombie Laboratory,
where his graduate students gather to
share their latest findings. He continues
his role as an associate at Lovett College.
He became Emeritus in 2013. “I still teach
the same courses and co-advice with
Webster. George and Riki collaborated in
NMR research when George first joined
the faculty full-time.

Among the honors from industry,
government agencies and professional
societies, he is proud of his election to
the National Academy of Engineers
in 1991. He also received the Lester C. Uren
Award from the Society of Petroleum
Engineers (SPE) in 1989 for distinguished
achievement in the technology of
petroleum engineering. He won the SPE/
AIME Lucas Gold Medal and the Offshore
Technology Conference’s Heritage Award,
both in 2016.

Hirasaki became the president of
the Houston chapter of the Japanese
American Citizen League (JACL) in 2002,
and was instrumental in compiling
an online archive of Southeast Texan
Japanese-American family histories. He
was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun
in a ceremony in 2009 by the Japanese
consulate in Houston. The Order was
established by Emperor Meiji and is the
oldest national decoration awarded by
the Japanese government. Hirasaki was
pleased to discover that his grandfather
received the same award from Emperor
Meiji more than 100 years ago.

Under the snow slope: hikers rope together on the glaciers of Mont Blanc for safety in case
one slips or falls into a crevasse.
Can Rice Be Transplanted?

This is not an agricultural question. It pertains instead to issues pondered in 2007, as Ahmad Durrani, then Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, debated accepting the invitation to become Vice Chancellor of the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), the leading private university in Pakistan. (Vice Chancellor is the equivalent of “president” in Pakistan.) Durrani had been contacted several times about helping its Board expand the young institution. He personally believed that LUMS had great potential for producing the next generations of Pakistan’s leaders.

LUMS’ board of trustees had begun in 1985 to build the institution from their own pockets. They had started with the vision of creating a world class business school on the model of Harvard Business School. Since then, LUMS had expanded by adding a School of Humanities and Social Sciences, a Law School, and, by 2007, a newly launched School of Science and Engineering and several research centers. “The new SSE had been planned and the building was under construction,” Durrani recalls. “There was an advisory board, mostly comprised of professors from MIT, Stanford, Harvard and University of Chicago. There were a few other international members, but the core group was from MIT.” Clearly, the trustees believed in implementing concepts from the United States’ flagship universities. However, the keys to an institution’s success are not always obvious. “There are cherished aspects of Rice University’s structure and culture that have been central to its success. The issue was whether I could introduce them to this growing institution in the country where I was born,” Durrani observes.

Taking early retirement from Rice, Durrani joined LUMS in 2008 as Vice Chancellor. He moved to Pakistan while his wife Neelofer, a practicing physician, and his son, who had just entered Rice as a freshman, stayed in Houston. “I wanted to shape LUMS in a way that would reflect some of the strengths Rice already possessed.” On the ground in Lahore, Durrani began with major changes that would give faculty more time and support for research related to national needs. He centralized and simplified administrative functions across the institution, such as the university’s operating calendar, the treasurer’s office, and the admissions process. He instituted faculty governance councils, a tenure system, and new support for research. Freed from burdensome administrative tasks, faculty had more time for research collaboration, scholarship, and publication.

With a vision for how LUMS’ students could be prepared for future leadership, Durrani transformed the residential housing into a college system much like that at Rice, created a wellness program, a health center, and a sports program. He challenged student groups to compete for funding for service projects, raised money to double the scholarships for students from rural regions of the country, and offered awards for the most successful student service projects.

Naturally, as an engineering faculty member himself, Durrani was especially devoted to the new School of Science and Engineering. He explained, “I asked the board to add a distinguished professor from Rice and nominated Sidney Burrus. As the former Associate Dean of Engineering at Rice, I had observed Sidney’s personality, energy and the wealth of information he carries. I believed it would serve the new school well. Sidney is always thinking and asking creative questions. He also has strong connections to Stanford and MIT, from which individuals had already been appointed to the advisory council, so it was a perfect fit for Sidney.” But adding a single person wasn’t enough. “In addition to Burrus’s appointment, I also recommended that LUMS and Rice sign a Memo of Understanding to exchange students and assist LUMS in developing academic and administrative policies,” Durrani concluded.

Keeping a promise to his family to limit his tenure at LUMS to three years, Durrani returned to Houston in 2011.
Writing a New Role in the Retirement Story

Traditional retirement at Rice has given individual faculty members in the past great freedom. It’s been a good phase of life in many ways, as Ira Gruber, retired Professor of History, reminded us in an e-mail a few months ago. So, what’s the point of becoming involved in ARRUF? The point is embedded in ARRUF’s motto, “Transforming traditional retirement through innovation and collaboration.” Traditional retirement has no collective voice and little power to inspire change. It takes away these aspects of faculty life many people valued most. Most Rice narratives have no role for retired faculty: they vanish in the story. Our job is to make visible what retired faculty are doing now and what they can do, together, in the future.

Your experience and expertise as a faculty member or family member can strengthen ARRUF’s programs and activities when you

1. Volunteer for a committee and shape ARRUF’s future. Join committees on Activities. Membership, Budget, University Liaison, Communication, and other areas (committees will be formed as needed).
2. Reach out to others in projects and programs to build friendships not possible earlier; old interdisciplinary rivalries and issues are PAST. It’s a “do-over” for all of us.
3. Contribute to interdisciplinary understanding that may launch new problem definitions and solutions, in the University or outside it.
4. Co-author resolutions on ethical positions relevant to current affairs.
5. Share personal interests and expertise in book, movie, and policy discussions.
6. Join others in discussions and activities that build new personal capacities. No job demands everything a person is capable of—ARRUF members can learn new things together.
7. Attend and share the fun of the arts, sports, and social activities.
8. Provide the emotional and social “glue” between generations and across other groups in the University. As mentors for current faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates, ARRUF can offer the perspective and support for others stretching their capacities as learners and leaders.
9. Contribute to a University family that strengthens the creative and visionary capacity of every member in their life situations.

Those nine possibilities are only the beginning. No one can predict what YOU will do through being a member of ARRUF. Your potential is too varied and great for any one of us to predict. But organizational theorists are agreed that passion and shared ideas are more powerful than any one person. It is that power that gives innovation and collaboration YOU and ARRUF the potential for transforming traditional retirement. VOLUNTEER AT THE OCTOBER 5 MEETING OR E-MAIL ARRUF@RICE.EDU.

Habitats and Biota of the Gulf of Mexico: Before the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Herb Ward, professor emeritus of civil and environmental engineering and ecology and evolutionary biology and presently a scholar at Rice’s Baker Institute for Public Policy, edited Habits and Biota of the Gulf of Mexico: Before the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill at the behest of BP Exploration and Production, which leased the platform. BP paid for production of the books and the open-access fees.

The books were originally intended to set a baseline to help assess post-spill effects on the Gulf, Ward said. He was approached for his expertise during the early days of litigation. “Their technical people were asked for input because in the assessment of damages, you have to have a baseline. So what was it? Does it exist?

“They started asking really well-known people, and the universal answer was that there wasn’t one,” he said. “There was a study of this and a study of that – all good published papers – but they didn’t serve as a baseline in any way on which to judge the damages.”

Ward, who taught courses at Rice in oil-spill cleanup and is the founding editor-in-chief of the international scientific journal Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, enlisted authors from academia and from environmental consulting firms to write the collection of white papers.

“A job I thought was going to take six months ended up taking six years;” he said.

The editor’s topics include examinations of water quality, plant and animal life in the Gulf, natural oil seepage, sediments, coastal habitats, and commercial and recreational fisheries.

Herb Ward, Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and editor of Habitats and Biota of the Gulf of Mexico: Before the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

The books include entire chapters on sea turtles, birds and animal disease and mortality in the Gulf.
Thomas Haskell

ARRUF members Marty Wiener, Allen Matusow and Carl Caldwell, chairman of the History Department at Rice University, share some of their thoughts on the passing of a friend and colleague.

Professor Thomas Haskell passed away on July 12, 2017, at 78 years of age. With him, the faculty of the History Department and Rice University have lost one of their most important figures: a thought-provoking SCHOLAR, an inspiring teacher, and not least a leader in faculty governance.

Tom was born in 1939. He attended Princeton University, graduating summa cum laude in 1961. From 1961-1965, he served as executive officer of a minesweeper in Japan, and then as a naval advisor in the early years of the Vietnam War. After 1965, he returned to the United States, to enter graduate school in history at Stanford University. He completed his Ph.D. in 1973, with a dissertation on the rise of the professional social sciences in America, a work that remains heavily cited today forty years after its publication in 1977.

Historical scholarship for Tom was a fearless search for truth, no matter how uncomfortable that truth could make people. His first scholarly publication appeared in The New York Review of Books, where Tom, not himself trained as an economist, took on an influential attempt to apply statistical and mathematical methods to the history of slavery in the United States. Tom’s critique was one of the first to show the limits to cliometrics.

Tom led this charge while still an untenured professor at Rice, where he had begun teaching in 1970. His sharp, critical interventions continued. In the 1980s, for example, in a controversial article he attacked the use of statistics to argue for discrimination in a case of employment discrimination against Sears, at the same time criticizing some women’s historians for putting politics above truth. He also took on arguments viewing the anti-slavery movement as a functional defense of capitalism, arguing instead that anti-slavery originated out of a humanitarian ethos inherent in free-market capitalism. The arguments remain important in the field, even where they have been challenged. More important, however, is the ethos underlying the arguments, the notion that the professor of history should seek the truth. This theme came out clearly in a powerful essay from 1990, “Objectivity Is Not Neutrality”: a defense of the search for truth, even if the consequences are tragic, as the justification for the discipline.

The discipline for Tom was not abstract. It was where he worked, it was the professors at the university. He put his money where his mouth was. As chair of the Department of History, as speaker of the Faculty Council, as director of the Center for the Study of Cultures (the forerunner of today’s Humanities Research Center), Tom did the hard, everyday work of promoting the pursuit of truth, of defending the mission of the university, and not least of defending academic freedom. Here, too, he could make people uncomfortable as he raised difficult questions. For more than a decade, he challenged the place of athletics at Rice, which involved a deeper question about the basic function of the university: how it admitted students, how it allocated funds. He played a central role in developing the professor-run process for addressing severe sanctions placed on professors, including terminations: these procedures remain in place today. Beyond the university, Tom served on the nationwide “Committee A” of the Association of American University Professors from 1993-1996, which dealt with that organization’s most basic purpose, the defense of academic freedom.

Tom was equally dedicated to his teaching. His presence in the classroom was intense and demanding—and what serious students wanted. Tom won the George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching five times over the course of his career. “He was recognized by the award of fellowships from the Guggenheim, Rockefeller and Mellon Foundations as well as the National Humanities Center among others,” says Weiner, Mary Gibbs Jones Professor of History.

Tom succumbed to complications related to Alzheimer’s disease. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, his children Alexander Haskell and Susan Khan and their spouses, and six grandchildren. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the three charitable foundations that he named in his will: the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), with its long standing defense of academic freedom; the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

“In 1970, I chaired a search committee of the history department to recruit an American historian,” recalls Allen Matusow, W. G. Twyman Professor Emeritus of History and Associate Director for Academic Programs, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy.

“Among the promising dossiers we considered was one from Tom Haskell. He looked good, but there was a problem. We wanted a new PhD and Tom was still writing his dissertation at Stanford. So I phoned a Stanford historian who was a friend of mine, Bart Bernstein, then a leading new left historian, and asked him about Tom. Bart said that they agreed on almost nothing but that Tom was the best graduate student he had ever taught. We took the chance and made the hire. We never made a better decision.”

“Tom was brilliant scholar,” observes Matusow. “A fine prose stylist and an incisive thinker, his books and essays
earned him a reputation as one of the profession's leading American intellectual historians, a fact confirmed a few years ago when scholars from across the country came to Rice for a symposium to honor Tom on the occasion of his retirement. Many prestigious institutions would have welcomed a historian of Tom's eminence. He loved Rice and never left.”

“Tom belonged here because he was as devoted to his teaching as to his research. Five-time winner of Brown teaching awards, he honed to perfection his survey course on American intellectual and social history. He did not tell jokes in class. He disdained popularity. But he set the highest standards for his students and commanded their respect, even their reverence, by his dedication to his subject and his ability to open new ways to see the world. There was passion in Tom’s teaching too. Once when we were discussing Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement, he confided that he had a hard time lecturing on the subject because he always choked up. The funny thing was, so did I.

“Tom was special in many ways but most of all because of his moral authority. He had integrity, which he never compromised. He was not a campus politician. He was our conscience. If that meant making enemies, he was willing to pay the price. He was leader for decades in the unrewarding fight against the corruptions of campus athletics. He was committed to the American Association of University Professors and its defense of academic freedom. He took on the Rice administration for choosing as 2004 graduation speaker Roberto Gonzales, the Rice graduate and Bush administration official who authored one of the memos arguing the legality of “enhanced interrogation techniques” in the so-called war against terror.

“Torture was Tom’s last issue. For him, America was not merely a place; it was an idea. Torture was the ultimate betrayal of that idea. Mobilizing his remarkable analytical powers, he studied the Justice Department torture memos and eviscerated them. If I were to remember only one moment of Tom’s career, it would be the occasion of the appearance at Rice of John Yoo, the chief legal architect of the torture regime. The one person who stood up in the audience to challenge Yoo was Tom Haskell. For his brilliance, his inspirational teaching, and his fearless commitment to principle, Tom will be remembered as one of the greatest scholars who ever taught in this university.

A memorial service for Tom will be held on October 4, at 4 p.m. at the Rice Memorial Chapel.

Paul A. Cloutier, Professor Emeritus and Research Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Rice University remembers John W. Freeman, Jr.

The Rice community recently suffered the loss of longtime faculty member John W. Freeman, Jr. John served Rice in many ways and in a number of roles for more than five decades. In this brief remembrance, I wish to point out the important role he played in the Rice Department of Space Science in its earliest years.

In September, 1962, shortly after John Glenn became the first American and second human to orbit the Earth, President John F. Kennedy announced to the world from Rice stadium that we would send men to the moon and safely return them to Earth. Soon after, Rice President Kenneth Pitzer established the nation’s first university department entirely devoted to space science. The newly-formed Department of Space Science at Rice began classes and graduate research activities in the fall of 1963, with founding member and chairman Alex Dessler joined by faculty members Curt Michel, Don Clayton and Brian O’Brien. A year later they were joined by Bob Haymes and John Freeman. John had been a graduate student with O’Brien at the University of Iowa under the direction of James Van Allen. That group had built scientific instruments carried by Explorer 1, the first successful U.S. orbital spacecraft launched in January, 1958, which discovered the Earth’s trapped radiation belts named for Van Allen. Thus the inclusion of O’Brien and Freeman in the new Rice department faculty gave Rice a pair of young but extremely competent experimental space scientists.

O’Brien immediately initiated an experimental sounding rocket program for investigations of the Earth’s ionosphere and magnetosphere, with Rice graduate students designing, building and testing a number of small rocket payloads (the Sammy series, named for the Rice mascot) that were successfully launched by NASA. John Freeman, however, had set his sights on the Moon, and in just a few years obtained NASA funding to design, develop, build and test two different energetic particle detectors to be carried to the Moon aboard the Apollo Lunar Excursion Modules and left on the lunar surface. These instruments were designed to discover the charged particle environment on the lunar surface and sample the composition and energies of particles originating from the solar wind and, possibly, from the Moon itself, including atoms and molecules that may be present as part of a very tenuous lunar atmosphere.

These detectors, successfully deployed by the astronauts of Apollo 12, 14 and 15, performed flawlessly, and gave the young Rice Department of Space Science a place on the world scientific stage, joining a very small club of elite universities whose faculty members had directly participated in major space science experiments. In only a few short years, Rice had become a recognized leader in the international space science community. The resulting credibility also helped in our attempts to recruit new faculty and graduate students and to obtain new grants and contracts from NASA and other funding agencies, facilitating further growth and
Don’t Cheer Alone!

Be in the cool seats! There’s a free reserved seat near the 50 yard line at the OWLS’ Opening Home Game for the first six people who reply to ARRUF@Rice.edu!

The Athletic Dept. has made the seats easy to get to: they’re in Section 113, Row 44 (east side of Rice Stadium).

To sign up for the ARRUF Affinity Flock at the Rice Owls Football opening home game on September 23, e-mail ARRUF@Rice.edu or call Diana Heard in the Office of the Provost at 713.348.4026. Tell us who you are and how many will attend. We’ll send you a confirmation.

Tickets for the first six members who RSVP ARE FREE!
Come and cheer with us!

A Grand Opening Night!

Shepherd School Symphony Concert
Evening of October 5

The Dean of the Shepherd School, Robert Yekovich, has invited ARRUF members to launch their concert-going season as guests with accessible, convenient reserved seats at the Opening Night Shepherd School Symphony Concert on October 5th. Reservations must be submitted by September 20th for the 15 tickets in the ARRUF seating row.

Plus, ARRUF members may also attend the pre-concert Shepherd Society lecture by Dr. Walter Bailey. The lecture is in the Duncan Recital Hall, and begins at 7:15 p.m. We hope this treat will entice many ARRUF members who are not yet part of the Shepherd Society to join.

The program features Strauss’s Don Quixote, Op. 35, with Desmond Hoebig as cello soloist; Varese’s Amériques (1929 Version), and Strauss’s Till Eulenspiegel Lustige Streiche, Op. 28. The rollicking motifs of Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks will tempt you to skip on the way home.

To sign up for the ARRUF Affinity Flock at the October 5th lecture and concert, e-mail your reply to ARRUF@Rice.edu. Tell us who you are and how many will attend. We’ll send you a confirmation.

Come experience the opening night Shepherd School Symphony Concert with the Shepherd Society! Attend the General Meeting and Reception in the afternoon on October 5th and stay for a wonderful concert. Make it an ARRUF day to remember. Just as our ARRUF sports fans “don’t cheer alone,” our ARRUF music buffs “applaud together.”

Send us a reply ASAP to ARRUF@Rice.edu or call Diana Heard in the Office of the Provost at 713.348.4026. Reservations must be received on September 20th.

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expansion of the department’s research programs. John Freeman participated in and helped guide that growth process for more than 40 years, eventually serving as thesis advisor for 18 Ph.D. and more than 20 M.S. recipients. He is remembered by his colleagues, staff members and former students as a respected scientist, a dedicated mentor, an innovative teacher and a genuinely nice guy. If one were asked to choose a model for the proverbial scholar and gentleman, John W. Freeman, Jr. would be a great choice.

Patricia Reif, Ph.D. 1975, Professor, Physics & Astronomy, Rice University, remembers John Freeman.

“I first met John Freeman when I arrived at Rice in May of 1971 with a fresh Physics BS in hand. I had been accepted into grad school in both Physics and Space Science, but Space Science had a summer job for me - as a computer programmer for a mission that had just landed on the Moon! Wow! (I’ve been doing space plasma analysis ever since, but that’s another story).

What impressed me about the Space Science department (besides multiple instruments on the Moon) was its energy, its youthfulness, its use of graduate students in important functions like spacecraft design, balloon and rocket instrumentation, and the general camaraderie of the place. Science was being done here. New stuff was being discovered, daily. Science was hard work and long hours, but it was FUN.

And John was a big part of it. His dry humor, gentle nature and willingness to help all students, not just his own, was part of what made him a “Great Guy”. He was not my advisor but we worked together on several papers that are still cited today. In all, he officially trained 18 PhDs, many Masters students, and now a number of “Science grandchildren.” But as Lovett College Master, he reached many, many more.”

He was always involved in outreach and public education, so moving over to lead the Masters in Liberal Studies was a natural transition, and he made a huge impact on many lives there as well. I had not heard previously of his work with water resources in third world countries, but it fits the man and his servant heart and humble nature.

I will miss him very much. Tom and I send our condolences to Phyllis and his children and grandchildren.

ARRUF has received the sad news that David Minter has passed away. Remembrances will be published on the ARRUF Website at a later date and announced as they are published.
A Proust Sonata
Thursday, November 16, 8:00 pm
Friday, November 17, 8:00 pm
Saturday, November 18, 8:00 pm

Enter the creative world of Marcel Proust’s literary masterpiece and the music, paintings, and people that inspired it. A Proust Sonata is a multimedia concert-theater work conceived and directed by Sarah Rothenberg, Artistic and General Director of Da Camera. The production is inspired by Proust’s early 20th century masterpiece In Search of Lost Time and interweaves text, music, and image into an innovative multi-media performance. Pianist Sarah Rothenberg is joined by a Tony Award-winning design team and a cast that includes professional actors and musicians together with students from Rice’s Shepherd School of Music. The music of Fauré, Schumann, Debussy, Chopin, Ravel, Beethoven, and Reynaldo Hahn evoke the author’s themes of memory, lost childhood, fashionable Parisian salons, and the final reclusive years when he withdrew from society to complete his magnum opus.

Lois Chiles Studio Theater
6100 Main St.
Houston, TX 77005
713-348-2787
tickets: moody.rice.edu

First General ARRUF Meeting
Set for October 5, 2017

ARRUF members are looking forward to the first official meeting of all members at 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2017. The Provost’s staff has reserved the Kyle Morrow Room for the meeting, followed by a wine and cheese reception.

How to Contact ARRUF

For questions on Rice issues, email Robert Curl at rfcurl@rice.edu
For questions about ARRUF, email Herb Ward at wardch@rice.edu
For questions about the ARRUF website, email Jim Young at young@rice.edu
For questions about the newsletter, email Consulting Editor Michelle Smith at mediaaware@aol.com

Be sure and visit our website or click here! arruf.riceedu.acsitefactory.com

The day begins at 10 a.m. with coffee, tea, and pastries. Peacock Healthcare Consulting President Julie Peacock will talk to the group beginning at 10:30 on how to choose a health plan that fits retirees’ needs, followed by lunch at 11:30 and a question and answer session plus discussion from noon to 1 p.m. Watch for details sent to you by e-mail.

As many of us who have chosen to remain on the Rice insurance plan (through Aetna) know, retirees’ insurance costs have greatly increased. We hope that Julie Peacock can make the complex decisions involving insurance easier.