



THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED RICE UNIVERSITY FACULTY

Transforming Traditional Retirement through Innovation and Collaboration

ARRUF NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2017

Rice Launches New Retired Faculty Organization, ARRUF

For many years Rice University faculty have worked to create an outstanding community where scholarship, research, and personal achievement flourished. That pleasure can continue. First, although all of us are now retired, we can still be involved in many projects important to Rice University's future success. And second, the University can still be a place for us to enjoy a variety of activities, services, and events. With Provost Marie Lynn Miranda's encouragement, ARRUF has been launched to advance those two possibilities.

The Association of Retired Rice University Faculty will serve the interests of Rice University and the association's members, affirming key Rice values: Responsibility, Integrity, Community, and Engagement. The mission of the Association of Retired Rice University Faculty is to transform traditional forms of faculty retirement through innovation and collaboration. It promotes intellectual and scholarly activities, service, and collegiality among members.

Based on an initial survey of members' interests, we have sketched an initial set of activities to involve both those who are near the campus and those who can participate remotely. Check the fall newsletter or the ARRUF Website for the list of upcoming events and suggest more things we could do. This is the place to find new wind beneath our wings!

First General 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.

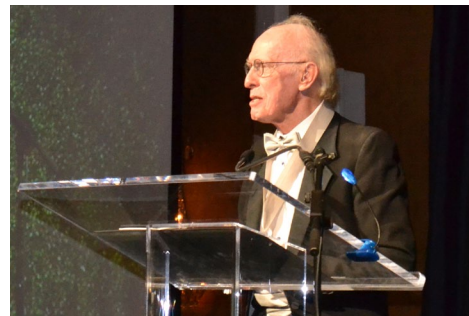
Rice Laureates Neil "Sandy" Havens and J. Dennis Huston honored at 2017 Rice Laureates Dinner

Two ARRUF members were honored at the 2017 Laureates Dinner at the River Oaks Country Club on May 13, on graduation weekend.

Shakespeare scholar J. Dennis Huston won the Gold Medal Award for his 48 years of service at Rice.

English Professor J. Dennis Huston received a standing ovation as he took the stage to receive the Gold Medal Award, the highest honor presented by the ARA. During his nearly 50 years at Rice, Huston influenced the lives of thousands of Rice Owls as a mentor, friend, educator and scholar.

"My wife Lisa kids me that I've never really grown up," says Huston, with a twinkle in his eye. "Rice has allowed me this privilege."



J. Dennis Huston delivers his acceptance speech for the Gold Medal Award.

"My reflection on the great honor of the Gold Medal revolves around the fact that Rice was the absolutely perfect place for me to spend most of my life as a teacher: everything about this wonderful

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ARRUF Welcomes New Retired Faculty

At the ARRUF opening reception on May 10 in Doré Commons at Baker Institute, Ron Sass welcomed the newest members. "Today is also a celebration of the careers of the fourteen faculty members who are retiring this year. Welcome to the ranks of the retired," he said.

Dr. Victoria Arbizu-Sabater, Senior Lecturer,
Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication

Dr. Dagobert Brito, George A. Peterkin Professor, Department of Economics

Dr. Steven Cox, Professor, Department of Computational & Applied Mathematics

Dr. Terrence Doody, Allison Sarofim Distinguished Teaching Professor;
Department of English

Dr. Bruce Etnyre, Professor, Department of Kinesiology

Dr. Robert Hoskisson, George R. Brown Professor of Strategic Management,
Jones Graduate School of Business

Dr. J. Dennis Huston, Gladys Louise Fox Professor, Department of English

Dr. Mary McIntire, Dean, Glasscock School of Continuing Studies

Dr. H. Albert Napier, Professor of Management & Psychology,
Jones Graduate School of Business

Dr. Carl Rau, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Dr. Dean Shank, Artist Teacher of Piano, Shepherd School of Music

Dr. Richard J. Smith, George and Nancy Rupp Professor of History,
James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy Scholar, and Director of Asian and
Global Outreach (Center for Education)

Dr. William Symes, Noah Harding Professor,
Department of Computational & Applied Mathematics

Ed Segner, III, Professor in the Practice,
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

ARRUF Opening Reception at Baker Institute

The Association of Retired Rice Faculty convened for the first time in Doré Commons at Baker Institute. The Office of the Provost Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda hosted the kick-off reception for ARRUF, replete with a lovely cheese, fresh fruit and dessert buffet. Dr. Miranda is the Howard R. Hughes Provost and Professor of Statistics and serves as an Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics at Duke University, the University of Michigan and Baylor College of Medicine.

President David Leebron saluted more than 50 new ARRUF members and spouses, along with current staff members who were on hand to welcome the Emeriti Faculty.

"This is a day that was first proposed well over a year ago," said Ronald Sass, Ph.D., who developed a steering com-

mittee and guided the formation of ARRUF. I had the good fortune to sit with some retired faculty at a holiday party and noticed how many colleagues were not there. What struck me was that I had lost a large part of the fellowship and engagement with my fellow faculty, an experience that was such an important influence on my life and a really central part of the Rice experience I have enjoyed for more than half a century.

"True, I am still on campus at times and I do see some retirees who are also active at Rice. But there are those who were not there and whose ideas and words would be most welcome. I decided then that I would propose that we regain that fellowship, at least in some small part, by establishing an Association of Retired Rice University Faculty. I introduced the

idea in a letter to Provost Marie Lynn Miranda and asked for an appointment to make a formal proposal. I told her that it has recently become clear to me from conversations with many retired faculty that they feel Rice to be remiss in that it has never had a formal organization for retired faculty who may want to retain a measure of involvement benefiting both the University and each other.

"At this point I really should get on my knees and thank Provost Miranda," he said. "It is not an easy thing for me to get back up again so suffice it to say that she has my total gratitude and complete respect. She endorsed my proposal, provided a reasonable budget, dedicated space on campus, gave generous use of her office staff and urged me to form ARRUF as

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Ron Sass, President David Leebron, Herb Ward, and Linda Driskill



President David Leebron with Neal Lane and Steve Baker



Chandler Davidson and Ron Sass



Victoria Arbizu-Sabater, from the Center for Languages & Intercultural Communication with Rice University President David Leebron

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soon as possible. With her help, I formed a steering committee consisting of myself, Linda Driskill, Herb Ward, Steve Baker, Sid Burrus, Chandler Davidson, James Young, and Robert Curl."

"Unfortunately, I more or less immediately became ill and had to pull back on many activities. Linda Driskill suggested that at our age it might be

appropriate to have more than one chair, so the leadership became myself, Linda and Herb Ward. It was a wonderful suggestion and one that I would urge on anyone starting an organization regardless of age or bodily condition. It is especially important for a retirement organization."

"We pressed on, the steering committee met and carried out the tasks

of organizing. Jana Callan, Chief of Staff for the Provost, as well as Diana Heard and others worked hard to help us put in place the organizational infrastructure. I want to thank them all."

The organization's name will grace the glass on the door of ARRUF's home in Room 412 in the Fondren Library. A small celebration event will be held when renovation of the room is finished.



Herb Ward, Provost Marie Lynn Miranda, Linda Driskill, and Ron Sass



Mary Lee Burrus, Joan Rea, Anne Schnoebelen, Jane Chance, and Sid Burrus. The Burrus' attachment to Rice began 67 years ago when Sidney was an undergraduate and then a graduate student. He received a B.A. in 1957, a B.S.E.E. in 1958 and an M.S. in 1960 from Rice. Except for a few years at Stanford, where he received his Ph.D., his and Mary Lee's time has since been devoted to Rice University and its students. They won the Gold Medal in 2007.



Henny Halliburton, Sandy Renovato, Teresa López, Victoria Arbizu-Sabater, Amber York, Barbara Bloughridge, Lisa Guaqueta, Erika De La Garza, and Ellen Norton



Marcia Citron, Jane Chance, and June Ferrill

How to Contact ARRUF

For questions on Rice issues, email Robert Curl at rfcurl@rice.edu

For questions about ARRUF, email Ron Sass at sass@rice.edu or Herb Ward at chward@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



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institution – brilliant and interested students, great friends, theater, intramural sports, and the college system – fit perfectly with my interests,” Huston says. “For me it has been a magical place.”

“This summer, Lisa and I are spending our time entertaining neighbors in Sandpoint, ID, where we will stay until the mid-August, when we return so that I can teach a course in “All of My Favorite Novels” in the Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) program and in “Romantic Comedies in Film” at the Women’s Institute of Houston,” Huston says.

“Because I found *Atonement* such a powerful novel, I have been reading a good many Ian McEwan books, and I have enjoyed *The Innocent* and *Saturday* the most. I also read detective fiction compulsively. Finally, I have been enjoying rereading *Great Expectations* as I get ready to teach it in my MLS course in early September.”

Huston is the recipient of many prestigious teaching awards, including Rice University’s George R. Brown Teaching Award six times. In 1989, he received national recognition as Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation.

“I won the Nicholas Salgo Award four times, most recently in 2016,” he says.

One of the nominators wrote, “His singular voice and electric energy are legendary. In fact, his “Shakespeare on Film” class was so popular among students that it often had a wait list. Huston is an accomplished actor and was a frequent

performer in student productions, most notably in plays by Shakespeare.”

Huston served as Master of Hanszen College twice from 1978 to 1982 and from 1992 to 1998.

He will begin teaching a course in “All of My Favorite Novels” in the Master of Liberal Studies (MLS) program and in “Romantic Comedies in Film” at the Women’s Institute of Houston in the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies. Like Huston, many other ARRUF members, continue to teach courses, mentor graduate students, and pursue the University’s goals through involvement in the Colleges, organizations, and public events.



Captain Neil “Sandy” Havens guides his boat, *The Rising Star*, off Martha’s Vineyard

Neil “Sandy” Havens, Professor Emeritus of Art and Art History, Rice Class of 1956, received a Meritorious Service Award.

“I continue to bask in that glory,” said Havens, leader of the Rice Players for 36 years and the group’s first professional director. “The award was totally unexpected and thusly deeply appreciated. I did receive one reply to the narrative of the video introducing me.” The Texas born thespian joined the Rice Players as a student actor in 1952 and served as the group’s coordinator until his graduation in 1956 and returned to Rice as the group’s first faculty director in 1964. He retired in 2000.

At the Rice Laureates Honors dinner, each awardee was introduced by a one minute video. Havens’ narrative introducing his award emphasized that he listened and gently led.

One of his students, Angela Roberts, Class of 1984, who went on to make her career as a professional actor and director picked up on that description

and wrote, “He listens, befriends, and gently coaches. His incredible talent and skills are undeniable, but his true gift is his gentleness. I have worked with some amazing directors, but Sandy Havens is that rare individual who inspires, and draws out the best an actor has to give in that moment with kindness. I aspire to be more like him. I can’t admire him enough.”

One nominator said Havens touched the lives of students across every academic discipline at Rice. His approach to theater and any other endeavor held up collaboration, consensus, respect, enquiry and commitment as the tools to solve any problem.

With Havens’ arrival, the Rice Players entered an era of artistic ambition in the 1960s and 1970s, staging Houston premieres of innovative works and garnering critical praise. “I loved my time at Rice, doing exactly what I always wanted to do, directing one play after another, pitting ourselves against the great playwrights of the past and the best contemporary writers. Rice Players introduced many modern playwrights to Houston audiences. Here, we could create, innovate and reimagine, and above all, believe we can do it. To be honored for doing what I love is remarkable,” he says.

From his summer home on Martha’s Vineyard, Havens says he and his wife Helen enjoyed a visit from their son and granddaughter on this beautiful island for the 4th of July. He just finished “White Trash” by Nancy Isenberg and “Hillbilly Elegy” by J.D. Vance. “I am about to begin “Golden Hill” by Francis Spufford,” he says.

At the moment, he says he has no current projects. “At my age I don’t even buy green bananas,” Havens laughs.

Many ARRUF members have been honored by the Association of Rice Alumni (ARA) in past years. “These honors are not particularly faculty honors but are given to members of the entire Rice community and even beyond,” says Ronald L. Sass, Ph.D., who has received both the Meritorious Service Award and the Gold Medal. He proposed the creation of ARRUF, and serves as a fellow in global climate change at the Baker Institute and as the Harry C. and Olga K. Wiess Professor of Natural Sciences emeritus at Rice University. He noted, “Several faculty have received honors from the ARA and most are members of AARUF.”



Don’t Cheer Alone!

ARRUF is organizing “affinity flocks” of like-minded members to attend events. **First up, the opening game at Rice Stadium on September 23, 2017 between The Rice Owls and the Florida International Golden Panthers at 6:30 p.m.** Check the next newsletter or the ARRUF web page for details. Come and cheer with us!