



The Association of Retired Rice University Faculty

Transforming Traditional Retirement through Innovation and Collaboration

ARRUF NEWSLETTER – August 2019

ARRUF’s Critical Place in the Rice Trajectory

How many times this summer did you watch President Kennedy, standing in Rice Stadium, declare that we would go to the moon, “not because it is easy, but because it is hard!”? Watch the rockets rise? Some ARRUF members recalled being in graduate school when the Eagle landed.

Some of us remembered also how that event ushered in a new trajectory here as well: Rice University established the first Department of Space Physics in the country, and new undergraduate and graduate programs were created. Patricia Reiff, former colleagues John Freeman and Kurt Michaels, and others were hired.

Now the world seems poised to launch another new era, one of applied AI and increased longevity. We can ask “How will Rice University adapt this time?” ARRUF was launched on the eve of this era, and the Research and Discussion Group will meet the second Tuesday of each month to think boldly (see right). Bob Brito and Bob Curl are studying AI’s effect on employment. Others are planning how to support the new Houston Innovation District’s start-ups as mentors. Join the discussions!

Experience Design!

Professor Maria Oden and our own Dave McStravick will offer insights into famed projects at the OEDK–Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen—at the October General Meeting.

ARRUF members will also get a chance to try out some teamwork games that are used to teach creativity! The October date will be announced soon.

Check events on the ARRUF calendar at arruf.rice.edu

ARRUF Welcomed Ten New Members in May



Stephen Motowidlo, Meredith Skura, Provost Marie Lynn Miranda, Martin Wiener, William Cannady, and President David Leebron

At the Faculty Club on May 7, Provost Marie Lynn Miranda and President David Leebron welcomed newly retired faculty to ARRUF:

Mr. Lars G. Lerup,

Harry K. & Albert K. Smith Professor of Architecture;

Dr. William T. Cannady,

Professor Emeritus, School of Architecture / Civil & Environmental Engineering;

Dr. Andrew R. Barron, Professor of Chemistry;

Dr. Meredith A. Skura, Libby Shearn Moody Professor of English, Department of English;

Dr. Martin J. Wiener, Mary Gibbs Jones Professor of History;

Dr. David Ned Tobin, Lecturer, Jones Graduate School of Business;

Dr. Stephen J. Motowidlo, Herbert S. Autry Professor of Psychological Sciences;

Mr. Walter B. Bailey, Associate Professor of Musicology;

Dr. Steve H. Murdock, Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor of Sociology;

Dr. Wesley A. Morris, Professor of English.

Don’t Miss This Fall’s Tuesday Discussions about:

AI Super-Powers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order – Kai-Fu Lee

“Until about five years ago, it made sense to directly compare the progress of Chinese and U.S. internet companies as one would describe a race. They were on roughly parallel tracks, and the United States was slightly ahead of China. But around 2013, China’s internet took a right turn. Rather . . . *continued p. 2*

The 100-Year Life: Living and Working in an Age of Longevity – Gratton & Scott

“Many of us have been raised on the traditional notion of a three-stage approach to our working lives: Education, followed by work, and then retirement. But this pathway is already beginning to collapse-- life expectancy is rising, final-salary pensions are vanishing, . . . *continued p. 2*



You Can Be an International Student's U.S. Friend at Rice

ORIENTATIONS

Tuesday, September 3, 2019,
5:15 - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 4, 2019,
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

MEET & GREET

Rice Memorial Center/Student
Center Grand Hall:

Tuesday, September 17, 2019,
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

All Orientations take place at the Office of International Students & Scholars - Lovett Hall, Entrance A, room 201. Detailed directions and parking instructions will be sent to you once OISS receives your [Friend Application form](#). Send one now!

In 2018 several ARRUF members applied to be U.S. Friends of new international graduate students at Rice. So valuable were these friendships that some graduate students asked whether their roommates could participate as well. Thanksgiving dinner, coffee at the Pavilion, and being available to answer questions about being a student in the US were highly valued.

You can be an important part of Rice's effort to be a leading international university by making the personal connection with an aspiring scholar or researcher. Today more than ever, we assert that friendship mitigates unthinking fear of strangers and promotes peace for the future.

Fill out a U.S. Friend application online with OISS at oiss.rice.edu.

Read to discuss . . .

*From pp. 16-17 of **AI Super-Powers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order** - continued from page 1*

Rather than following in the footsteps of outright copying of American companies, Chinese entrepreneurs began developing products and services with simply no analog in Silicon Valley. Analysts describing China used to invoke simple Silicon Valley-based analogies when describing Chinese companies—"the Facebook of China," "the Twitter of China"—but in the last few years in many cases these labels stopped making sense. The Chinese internet had morphed into an alternate universe.

Chinese urbanites began paying for real-world purchases with bar codes on their phones, part of a mobile payments revolution unseen anywhere else. Armies of food delivery men and on-demand masseuses riding electric scooters clogged the streets of Chinese cities. They represented a tidal wave of on-line to off-line (O₂O) startups that brought the convenience of e-commerce to bear on real-world services like restaurant food or manicures. Soon after that came the millions of brightly colored shared bikes that users could pick up or lock up anywhere just by scanning bar code with their phones.

Tying all these services together was the rise of China's super app WeChat, a kind of digital Swiss Army knife for modern life. WeChat users began sending text and voice messages to friends, paying for groceries, booking doctors' appointments, filing taxes, unlocking shared bikes, and buying plane tickets, all without ever leaving the app. WeChat became the universal social app, one in which different types of group chats, formed with coworkers and friends or around interests—were used to negotiate business deals, organize birthday parties, or discuss modern art. It brought together a grab-bag of essential functions that are scattered across a dozen apps in the United States and elsewhere.

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018)

Read to discuss . . .

*From **The 100-Year Life: Living and Working in an Age of Longevity** – continued from page 1*

One thing is clear. There will be many pioneers. Neither individuals nor communities nor corporations have worked out how best to support a 100-year life. There are few role models, as even those who live to 100 have rarely expected it. Those alive now have to plan with the expectations of a long life. The younger you are, the more you are likely to experiment. . . . All of us are therefore trying to figure out what will work and how best to support a 100-year life. . . .

We believe a 100-year life is a gift for humanity. A redesigned multi-stage life gives everyone considerable choices and flexibility and it creates the possibility of achieving a better trade-off between work and leisure, career and family, finances and health. However for corporations, and especially their HR departments, all this sounds like a nightmare; companies like conformity, and simple, predictable systems are easy to run and implement. So don't be surprised if large numbers of institutions resist these changes." [universities?]



GETTING THERE: WHEN AND WHERE

We invite you to be part of the Tuesday morning sessions about ARRUF research and these and other readings, starting on October 1st, 10 a.m., in Room 412 Fondren. The coffee and tea will be ready!

As these excerpts make clear, ARRUF's discussions about future trends and possible university responses will be lively, heading into vast new economic, policy, and institutional territory. [Check out a library copy of these books soon.](#)

Scheduled reports on ARRUF members' research activities in the Baker Institute will fold into these.

A New Shelf Life Abroad for Retired Faculty's Books

Directors Clarence Miller and Ahmad Durrani have taken ARRUF's outreach project to a new level of success. On July 8, they transported two pickup loads of books—34 boxes in all—to the Rotary International Books for the World Project in Pasadena. Sarah Frates and Wes Morris contributed the books. Rotarians from across Houston sort all the books for

transport and distribution around the world. Rotarians from clubs abroad request types of books needed by local institutions, schools, and libraries. Houston Rotarians ensure they arrive at the types of places they're needed. As more retired faculty learn of the service, the quantities transported each trip have expanded.

Sending books abroad essentially creates new "shelf life" for these texts. Not all locations have ready access to on-line resources. Additional textbooks can provide sample problem sets and examples for use in classrooms. Novels and non-fiction can educate many communities and reading groups. Get YOUR extra books ready for **Sept. 20.**



2019 Spring GrandArts Lecture



William Camfield and independent scholar Candace Clements

The GrandArts series started strong this spring with a fascinating lecture by Bill Camfield and Candace Clements based on the newly published final volume of a four-volume catalogue raisonné of artist and author, Francis Picabia. The study of over 7000 items will be a key reference for the future. Bill and Candace are two of a team of four scholars who meet in Paris twice annually each year.

Spring 2020 GrandArts Lecture and Tour of the New Rice University Music and Performing Arts Center Set for April 29th!

The spring 2020 GrandArts Lecture has already been arranged, thanks to Anne Schnoebelen. On April 29, 25 ARRUF members will have a lecture by the dean or associate dean of the Shepherd School, followed by a tour of the new Rice University Music and Performing Arts Center. Because at that point the building will still belong to the contractor, the size of the group is limited, and the permission of the contractor is required. However, the GrandArts Lecture is sure to be a big attraction. **Reservations accepted AFTER January 31, 2020.**

Jana Callan, Heather Holley in new positions

Jana Callan, the Provost's Chief of Staff, and Heather Holley, Assistant to Vice Provost C. Fred Higgs, III, have been the magic behind ARRUF's rise for the past two years. Now each has accepted a new position. Jana will administer the new Children's Environmental Health Initiative; Heather will join the Jones School staff. Although we will sorely miss each of them, we wish both of these excellent professionals continued success in their careers at Rice.

ARRUF 2019-2020 Plans

Summer trip to Seville?

ARRUF Director Victoria Arbizu Sabater and her husband moved back to Spain this summer, but she has taken on the mantle of ARRUF Ambassador. She is discussing with counterparts at the University of Seville a trip for ARRUF members and spouses in summer 2020. Do you have a research project that would benefit from collaboration with a Spanish scholar or scientist? Just interested in travel to one of Spain's most vibrant cities? Send an email about your interests to ARRUF@rice.edu, and we will forward it to Viqui ASAP. She will investigate the feasibility of an excursion just for us.

Write on, listen in, have fun! Sept. 20th

DATE CHANGE!! About a dozen ARRUF members will tell you it doesn't get much better than a memoir session when June Ferrill comes to Houston from Santa Fe. Listening to others' accounts of graduate school, tracking down materials across the Iron Curtain, holiday singing with relatives, teaching that first-ever class, the crucial academic job interview, or pitching a department proposal to a provost—WE CAN IDENTIFY (and we're old enough now to laugh). June will be back in Houston for this fall's writers' reunion on Friday, **September 20**, so mark your calendar now for a day speeding down memory lane. Room 412 Fondren.

Highlights for Fall 2019

As we send out this newsletter, we are reconfirming details for Fall Events. There will be more to come, soon. In the meantime, below are some additional highlights from the fall calendar that are confirmed and ready to be placed on YOUR home calendar. More are awaiting some detail we'll add soon and send you as a .pdf and put on the website.

p.m., Fondren 412, also Oct. 18, Nov. 15.

ARRUF in Action

Sept. 3, Tues., 5:15-6:30 p.m., Sept. 4, Wed., 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Orientation for U.S. Friends of Rice International Graduate Students. Office of International Students & Scholars - Lovett Hall, Entrance A, room 201.

Sept. 17, Tuesday, OISS U.S. Friends for International Rice Graduate Students Meet and Greet, Rice Memorial Center Grand Hall, 6 to 8 p.m.

Sept. 20, Friday. Pick-up of books from faculty libraries or nearby homes for the Rotary International Books for the World Project. Contact ARRUF@rice.edu to arrange pick-up times.

Monthly Discussions

Sept. 10, Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. Reading and Research Group on Future Trends. Usually meets the second Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in Fondren 412. Starts September 10 with "Recap Day—Reactions to Paul Irving's PPT from the March Conference"; meets the FIRST Tuesday in October only, Oct. 1; then on second Tuesdays Nov. 12 and Dec.10.

Sept. 20, 1 p.m. Third Friday Books We ♥, starts Sept. 20, 1

Committees need YOU!

We're tempted to drag out that old "Uncle Sam" recruiting poster to emphasize how much ARRUF will benefit if more members join committees and enliven the planning discussions. Whether ARRUF becomes the vital part of Rice University that can help the University adapt to a population distribution weighted with older adults—in its research, curriculum, and community engagement—will depend on how well we continue to participate in its response to the trends we are seeing in population, technology, healthcare, and other fast-changing fields. That means we need many minds and voices, especially YOURS!

As you may know from the spring conference 2019, there are big population and employment changes ahead. And as you've inferred from the driverless cars delivering groceries near Rice, ARRUF is in the technology era.

Please let Clarence Miller know if you are willing to assist with any of the following as a member or co-Chair: Activities Committee, Budget Committee, Membership Committee, Elections Committee, Benefits and Privileges Committee, and University Relations Committee. Send an e-mail to ARRUF@rice.edu

In Progress: Reports on ARRUF Members' Research and Scholarship

Oct.8, **Neal Lane**, Science and Technology Issues at the Baker Institute, October 8, Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Fondren 412

ARRUF Celebrations

Sept. 10, 11:45 a.m., Monthly ARRUF lunch at Cohen House – (reserved tables, member pays, great company is free)

Dec. 5th, *Thursday*, The Holiday Reception and Luncheon – at the Faculty Club, 10:30 a.m.

ARRUF Special Events and Talks

Sept. 27, Friday, Academic Memoir Writers Reunion (group meet once per month Sept – Dec. starts Sept. 27, 10 a.m., Fondren 412, Oct. 25, Nov. 22 November Nov. 20, 3:00 p.m.

Paul Hester, ARRUF member, Visual Arts, "Doing Time in Houston," a show of highlights from the recent exhibition of his photography. November 20, 3:00 p.m. Place to be announced.

NOTES AND COMMENTS: