

Looking Back, Facing Forward in an Era of Accelerated Change

The following article is a report to members preceding the annual meeting of ARRUF on May 3, 2018.

ACTION SUMMARY

Since the Reception that launched the Association of Retired Rice University Faculty in May 2017, the organization has

- formed a committee to report on the benefits and privileges offered to retired faculty throughout the university
- worked with the University's Project Manager to accomplish the renovation of 412 Fondren as a new ARRUF Headquarters, the ARRUF AERIE on the fourth floor of Fondren Library, adjacent to the lounge overlooking the academic quad
- published two newsletters
- sponsored a talk by Robert Patten, Professor Emeritus and internationally famous scholar on Charles Dickens, about his encounter with the Royal Family on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Dickens's birth
- held four workshops on retirement issues and special projects, and
 - Selecting healthcare insurance plans in retirement
 - Choosing retirement residences
 - Writing an academic memoir *Scheduled for March 21, 2018*
 - RightSizing / DownSizing for Life in Retirement (and what to do with all those books)
- and enjoyed a convivial Holiday Lunch.

The Steering Committee looks forward to occupying the new headquarters, holding meetings and events there, and conducting a full schedule of activities planned for fall 2018 (explained later in the report).

2017-2018 Steering Committee

C. S. Burrus, co-Director, Electrical and Computer Engineering

C. H. Ward, co-Director, Civil and Environmental Engineering

L. P. Driskill, co-Director, English

V. Arbizu-Sabater, Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication

S. Baker, Physics

R. F. Curl, Chemistry

C. Davidson, Sociology

P. J. Huston, Center for Computing

A. Schnoebelen, Shepherd School of Music

Former Members

J. Young, Electrical and Computer Engineering

R. Sass, Biology, Founding Chair

Looking Back, Facing Forward in an Era of Accelerated Change

The Association of Retired Rice University Faculty (ARRUF), created by the approval of Provost Marie Lynn Miranda in 2016, offered many retired faculty new opportunities but also a new challenge. The Provost inspired members to acknowledge Rice as the site of many of our most significant experiences and scholarly endeavors: Our intellectual trajectories began or took flight here. But at the same time, she insisted that we imagine a new chapter ahead and envision for ourselves a new definition of retired faculty in a university community. Enthusiasm for the new organization was evident at the reception that launched ARRUF and honored newly retired faculty in May 2017 (see photos). Not content with the limited functions implicit in some retiree organizations' activities, ARRUF members' survey responses ranked highest the idea that ARRUF should reflect "the reasons we became faculty in the first place." However, old definitions that frame "retirees" solely in legal terms of employment do not fully encompass retired faculty members' sense of identity. Exploring new definitions and opportunities for being retired faculty in a University community is now our challenge, facing forward.

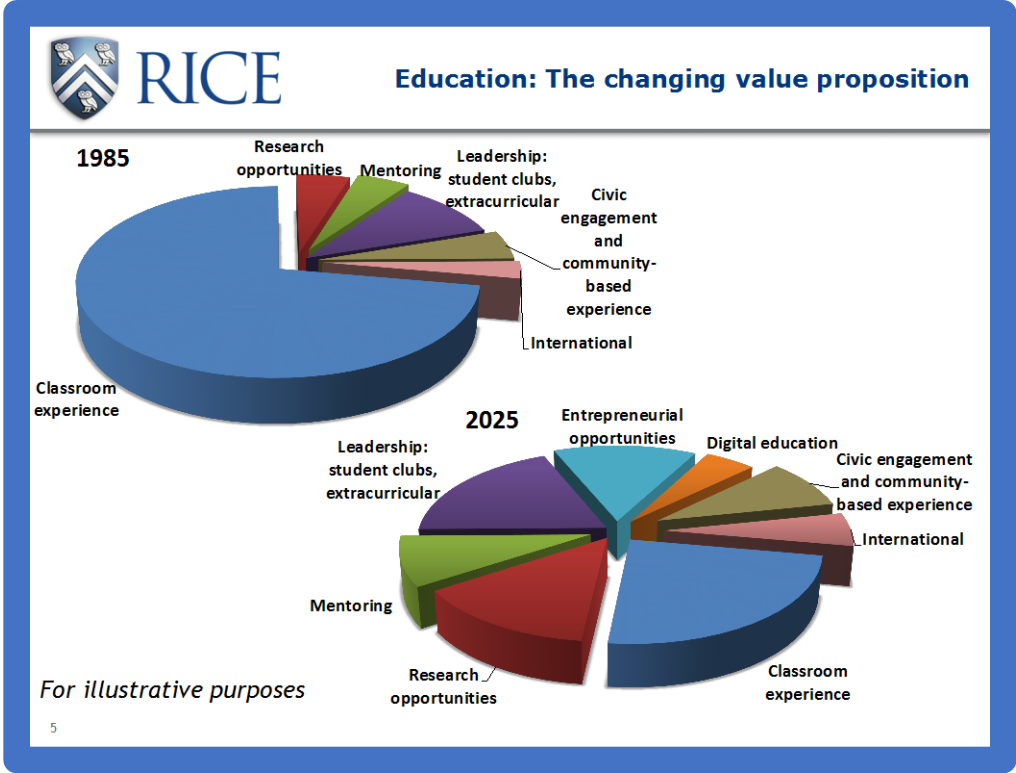


Photos from the May 2017 Reception Launching ARRUF and Honoring New Retirees: (above) Herb Ward, Provost Marie Lynn Miranda, Linda Driskill, Ron Sass; (below) President Leebron, Neal Lane, and Steve Baker; Victoria Arbizu-Sabater and friends.

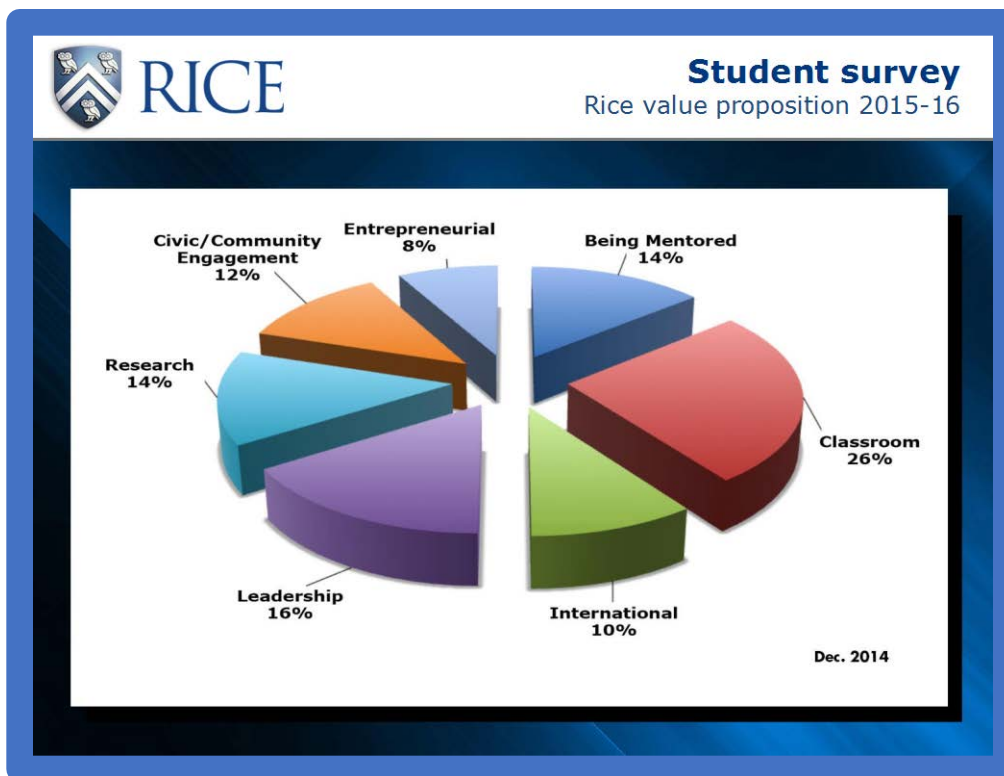
OUR PAST AT RICE AND HOW IT CHANGED

The Rice community has changed rapidly and significantly since most ARRUF members first arrived at Rice. In 1985 what Rice emphasized most to prospective students, the community, and the world, President David Leebron has noted, was the classroom experience. It accounted for about three-quarters of the University's "value proposition." Faculty at Rice were central to that value. However, 1985 was a turning point. Rice chemists Robert Curl and Richard Smalley and Harry Kroto of Sussex

University discovered a third carbon allotrope, C₆₀, which led their being awarded the Nobel Prize in 1996. Their discovery triggered international recognition of Rice as a research leader, and what it meant to be “Rice” shifted. As the following pie charts illustrate, the classroom experience that meant so much in 1985 is expected to represent only a quarter of what distinguishes Rice from its competitors in 2025. And the priorities of students in 2015 were already much like the 2025 view. So today, envisioning the place of retired Rice faculty in the projected value proposition will require taking the long view of our varied intellectual histories and imagining how we can best create value for the University and ourselves going forward. Recalling that the Apple iPhone was introduced only a little over a decade ago and innovation’s pace increases swiftly, ARRUF members must expect to adjust to ongoing, accelerating changes in order to remain effective and relevant as individuals and as an organization advocating for retired faculty.



David Leebron, “Rice’s Future,” Talk to the ROMEO Club, November 2017



David Leebron, "Rice's Future," Talk to the ROMEO Club, November 2017

DISCOVERING WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW

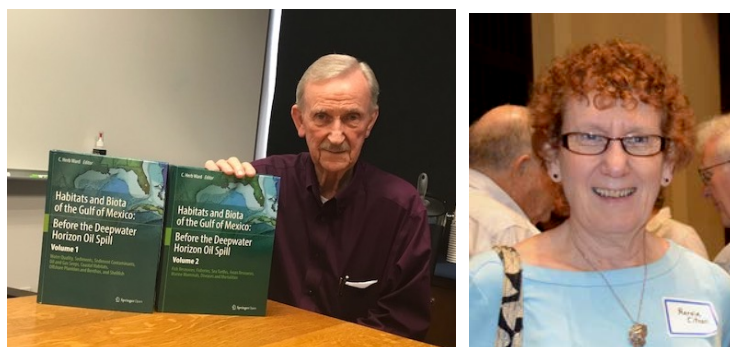
In 2017 ARRUF's first task was to begin finding out what ARRUF members are doing at present and how their passions for discovery and research have developed over time. Our newsletters, available at <http://www.arruf.rice.edu>, present a selection of insights into these trajectories. And in some members' careers, their first innovations were through new technologies and methods, revision of older theoretical paradigms, and creating new maps, such as that first comprehensive survey of the Big Thicket in East Texas by Paul Harcombe, now Professor Emeritus.

Some of us are still creating new resources and even databases, such as Anne Schnoebelen's recently expanded catalogue of a work she and her colleague have already made available online: *A Catalogue of Mass, Office and Holy Week Music Printed in Italy: 1516-1770. Journal of Seventeenth-Century Music Instrumenta*, 2 (2014). She collaborated 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. The scale of this undertaking reveals years of building a comprehensive resource.



Anne Schnobelen newly returned from research in Poland 2017

Similarly, a central intellectual value of many of ARRUF members' recent work is historical or disciplinary breadth. C. Herb Ward, Foyt Family Chair of Engineering and 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 *Habitats 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. Ward was one of the few scholars who could marshal the researchers and produce these volumes. They will guide analysis of the disaster's impact and policy and extraction processes, which will help officials and companies preserve the Gulf in the future.



Scholarship broad and deep: C. Herb Ward / Marcia Citron

Similarly, in *When Opera Meets Film* (2012), Marcia Citron explained the aesthetics of the opera/film intersection. She is the Martha and Henry Malcolm Lovett Distinguished Service Professor of Musicology Emerita. Using categories of style, subjectivity, and desire, she analyzed a diverse array of cases, including the most important works of mainstream film, opera-film, and postmodernist pastiche. Originally noted for innovation, such scholars are now renowned for the depth of their knowledge.

ARRUF member C. Sidney Burrus, the Maxfeld and Oshman Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and Dean Emeritus of the George R. Brown School of Engineering traveled to London in August 2017 to speak on the history of filter design at Imperial College. Afterward, he observed, "It amuses me. Years ago, they'd ask me to talk about some new finding. Today they invite me to speak on the history of a subject."

PAST TO PRESENT: DOCUMENTING OUR INTELLECTUAL TRAJECTORIES

Embedded in these comments, however, is an important clue to the value of retired faculty in University departments and professional organizations in the future. "Retired" faculty may become important departmental and interdisciplinary assets later in their career because of the range of theoretical knowledge, methodological expertise, and international experiences they can bring to the curriculum, research projects, collegial collaboration, and mentoring of colleagues and graduate students.

Documenting this process of maturation as scholars and researchers is a first step to recognizing the potential retirees have for functioning in Rice's value proposition of the future.

The academic memoirs project, led by June Ferrill, Professor in the Practice of Managerial Communications, retired, and Rice University Historian Melissa Kean, will enable participants to launch their own academic memoirs and explain why they studied what they did. Kean needs these memoirs to help interpret the hundreds of thousands of photographs, documents, design models, and materials stored in the Rice University Archives. Members are encouraged to participate in this project and in Kean's other research projects. After all, she admonished the group with fake solemnity in October, "You have to admit that YOU ARE HISTORY!"



University Historian Melissa Kean and June Ferrill; an archival photo from the first Beer/Bike race showing Ron Sass, Biology, and Rod Magid, Chemistry.

TRANSFORMING RETIREMENT AT RICE

Still, many more aspects of ARRUF members' future participation in the University community have yet to be articulated. Among them is participation in University entities, such as the Faculty Senate, the Benefits Committee, the Association of Rice University Alumni, its institutes, international collaborations, and outreach projects. In ARRUF programs, institutional participation is being balanced with emphasis on shared problems and life decisions. ARRUF has chosen to include workshops on decisions made in retirement, such as "Selecting health insurance in retirement," "Choosing retirement residences," and "RightSizing / Downsizing: What to do with your books and more." These are ancillary but important issues. ARRUF's activities and events for 2017-2018 are summarized in the list at the beginning of this article.

Bob Curl and Jim Young formed a critical committee to document existing benefits and privileges afforded to retired faculty and to collect information in a single resource. Their committee has uncovered discrepancies and omissions that should be corrected in the future. They will report on their committee's findings at the May 2018 meeting.

Other activities build a new sense of group identity and celebrate accomplishments, such as the December Holiday Luncheon or the March presentation by Bob Patten on briefing members of the Royal Family on the life of Charles Dickens and being invited to a small reception at the palace in 2012.



Clarence and Hilary Miller and Viqui Arbizu-Sabater; Ron Soligo, Kristine Wallace, and Dale Spence; Anne Schnoebelen, Sidney Burrus and Elizabeth Long. All at the Holiday Luncheon 2017.

LOOKING FORWARD (from on high, yet)!

And now ARRUF members look to the new possibilities of using their renovated ARRUF site at 412 Fondren, adjacent to the 4th floor lounge overlooking the Academic Quadrangle. This renovated space is expected to open in late April. Equipped with new technologies, it will offer new possibilities for mentoring international students and graduate students, holding research project meetings there in the Aerie, plus sharing discussions with others offsite through ZOOM, a video conferencing program.

And in the fall ARRUF will explore other, more intriguing issues, largely unexamined by other universities, such as how retired faculty can be essential contributors to Rice's "value proposition" in the future. **Keep watch for information about a fall conference on just that topic, which will bring distinguished speakers on the emerging longevity economy, university governance, and faculty development.** ARRUF is looking back, embracing our past, and envisioning a new future. Join us!

Contributing to This Report

Activities Committee: Victoria Arbizu-Sabater, Linda Driskill, Clarence Miller, Hilary Miller, Bas Poulos, Hiroko Sato

Budget Committee: C. S. Burrus, Ahmad Durrani, Frank Driskill

Nominations Committee: Steve Baker and Anne Schnoebelen

Membership Committee: Priscilla Huston and Chandler Davidson

University Relations Committee: C. Herb Ward

Photographer and Consulting Editor: Michelle Leigh Smith