



Florida State University

ARFS News & Notes

February 2026

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY & STAFF

Join ARFS!

Annual Dues (June 1 – May 3)

\$10 per person or

\$15 per Household

Make checks payable to ARF and mail to:

Jeff Owens, ARFS Treasurer, 1161 Walden Road,
Tallahassee, FL 323317

PLEASE: Include your name, address, email, and
phone number

ANNOUNCEMENTS

	Time	Event	Location
February 12, 2026	3:00 pm	<i>Così fan tutte</i> (Mozart)	Ruby Diamond
February 18, 2026	10:00 am	Tour of WFSU Radio & TV Studio	1600 Red Barber Plaza
March 18, 2026	11:00 am	Spring Luncheon	Capital City Country Club
April 8, 2026	9:15 am	Tour of the FSU Coastal & Marine Lab	Carpooling from the Alumni Center
June 10, 2026	11:00 am	BBQ	FSU Lake Front (the “Rez”)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS to the next issue of ARFS News & Notes

Have you published an article?
Written a book? Been recognized for
your achievements? Taken an
interesting trip? Volunteered for a
good cause? Done something else of
interest?

How do you spend your free time?
Whatever fascinates you will be of
interest to other ARFS members.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Send a brief write-up (~500 words)
plus any photos to Michael Launer,
chair of the Publications Committee,
at mlauner@fsu.edu.

DEADLINE for inclusion in the
May 2026 issue of News & Notes is
April 30.



REMARKS

President Carol Weissert

(cweissert@fsu.edu)

Happy New Year to all. I hope everyone is back in Tallahassee ready to get involved with your FSU Association of Retired Faculty and Staff. Our annual spring luncheon will take place on March 18th at the Capital City Country Club. These luncheons are always fun and informative. At this one we'll have an opportunity to learn about the exciting plans of the Medical School and FSU Health from Dr. Alma Littles, Dean, FSU College of Medicine.

I also want to highlight two upcoming ARFS campus trips.

On February 18 at 10:00 AM we will visit WFSU TV and Radio on Red Barber Blvd. We will tour the radio and TV studios, as well as the WFSU museum. After the tour, we can have a casual group lunch at the Seminole Legacy Golf Club. Contact me at cweissert@fsu.edu to sign up. We can only accommodate 20 people.

On April 8 at 9:30 AM we will visit the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory, 3618 U.S. Highway 98 in St. Teresa FL. We will arrange car pooling for this event. To sign up, please contact Patricia Martin at pmartin@fsu.edu.

Finally, please mark June 10th for the annual barbeque at FSU Lake Front at 11 AM. This is always a popular end-of-year event. We will hear from students in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).

Your ARFS board is working hard to provide campus trips and opportunities of interest to our members. If you have suggestions, we can use this spring or next year, feel free to contact me at cweissert@fsu.edu. I'd love to hear from you.

Carol S. Weissert
President, ARFS



REMARKS

President-Elect Marshall Kapp

marshall.kapp@med.fsu.edu

Every ARFS luncheon presents a great opportunity for fellowship, fine food, and especially for hearing excellent speakers fill us in about important current activities at our university. I think you will find the presentation at our next luncheon, to take place on March 18, 2026, at the Capital City Country Club, particularly interesting and informative and I warmly encourage you to attend.

We are very fortunate that our luncheon guest speaker will be Alma Littles, M.D., who became Dean of the Florida State University College of Medicine on July 1, 2024, after serving as Interim Dean since February 2023. Dr. Littles had served as Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education and Academic Affairs since 2003. Her extensive professional and community background and her current position uniquely qualify her to talk with us about the exciting things happening at the College of Medicine and FSU Health – and how the emerging collaboration between FSU and Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare is likely to impact both the university and Panhandle residents.

So, please come to this luncheon to socialize with old and new colleagues, listen, ask questions, and learn. And get other ARFS members and potential members that you know to join us that day as well. I look forward to seeing you then.

Marshall Kapp
ARFS President-Elect

ARFS Holiday Party

Carol Weissert – Federalism APSA Awards

ARFS members enjoyed their annual holiday party at the Heritage Room in Dodd Hall on December 17, 2025.

As usual, attendance was high, and the food was excellent. Former Provost Sally McRorie, Jimmy Cole, and his University Relations staff joined in the festivities.



Retiree Travel

Bomb Cyclone, Mounds of Snow, and a Trip to New York City

Valliere Auzenne and Marilyn Young

Vall and Marilyn have been friends for about 40 years and for many of those years they have taken an annual “birthday girls’ trip” to New York City (except for the Covid years and last year when it was actually cheaper to go to Paris!). This year’s trip coincided with the “Bomb Cyclone” that hit the Eastern United States and dumped record snow, ice, and low, low temperatures wherever it went, including NYC.



We are not going to bore you with the details of our nevertheless fabulous trip to NYC; this little essay is about SNOW. Like so many things, snow is a matter of perception. Think of the hyper reaction of Tallahassee residents to the mere possibility of snow coming to our town! If it indeed arrives, miniature snowmen appear! Sometimes people even manage to dress them up! Make-shift sleds are created, and the seven hills become a venue for snow fun.

Still, snow and ice can have a real-life impact, and, remembering the year that Itzhak Perlman could not make it to Tallahassee because of an ice storm, we worried about whether concerts would be postponed or cancelled. Would the museums we hoped to visit be closed? Once we realized we would not be traveling during the storm itself, we were much more hopeful about the prospects for our trip—all the plans we had made and the tickets we had bought.



Retiree Travel

Bomb Cyclone, Mounds of Snow, and a Trip to New York City

Valliere Auzenne and Marilyn Young

As we landed, we could see the extent of the snow. Snow—pristine, undisturbed—is lovely. And there was a LOT of undisturbed snow. Not to mention extremely low—single digit!—temperatures and New York’s ubiquitous wind. Fortunately, as veterans of multiple winter trips to Russia, we at least had the appropriate gear—clothing, coats, and boots.

In addition to the undisturbed snow, there were great manmade mounds of snow—and ice (because of the frigid temperatures)—but the streets were mostly clear. As were the sidewalks, to our surprise (hence, the great mounds of snow and ice). One of our big concerns had been the possibility of ice on the sidewalks and crosswalks; But both had been shoveled and sanded or salted and were relatively easy to navigate.

New Yorkers, not surprisingly, are much more blasé about snow than folks in Tallahassee; it rarely interrupts their daily routine. Even in single-digit temperatures they go about their usual business. So, for the most part, the snow did not affect our trip. The NY Philharmonic was amazing as usual, the ballet was powerful and elegant, and Perlman (with his motorized scooter) made it to Carnegie Hall! All the museums were open, although not as crowded as usual. We visited a couple we had not been to before: JP Morgan and The Frick, and we ate at our favorite restaurants (Il Gattopardo, Russian Samovar, Mozzarella & Vino, and RH Rooftop) along with, for the first time, Tavern on the Green.

Those “great mounds” of snow and ice that had been shoveled or plowed from the streets and sidewalks formed formidable barriers between the walkway and the roadway, but the areas in front of venues and at intersections were accessible and every so often a path had been cleared between the sidewalk and the curb, making it possible to cross the street or board a taxi or Uber.



Admittedly, we took more taxis and Ubers than usual, mostly because of the cold (in the teens and sometimes single digits) and the potential for slippery ice, but the area was walkable for those willing to (or perhaps accustomed) to brave the elements. We even witnessed three workers scraping the crosswalks to keep them clear.

Moreover, to our delight we learned something else about epic snow fall and low temperatures: it makes for a great conversation “ice-breaker!” (no pun intended). Many conversations were held in elevators and entry lines about braving the weather to go to dinner or a concert. “Where are you from?” was a better-than-usual opening line, especially when our response was “Florida” and “California” and theirs was “Australia” or Mongolia.”



Additionally, other than the snow and the temperatures, the weather actually cooperated, providing sunny days for our adventures. Pristine snow is glorious on a cold, sunny day.

Alas, snow does not stay beautiful for long, especially along streets and sidewalks, and while Central Park remained mostly unsullied, those snow barriers protecting the sidewalks quickly became dirty and unattractive. Having seen most of what we had planned to see, it was time to head home to (relatively) warm, lovely Florida and California. Perhaps next year there will be less snow and ice in New York City, a place that evidently knows how to handle severe winter weather.



ADDENDUM – Obviously, we wrote this little essay before last week’s epic snowstorm that dropped about two feet of snow on the city. Thank goodness we took our NYC trip early this year! Still, underscoring one of my observations, even during this once-in-a-generation storm, New York City spread over 140 million pounds of salt to begin clearing the streets and deployed 1200 workers just to shovel crosswalks!



Retiree Publications

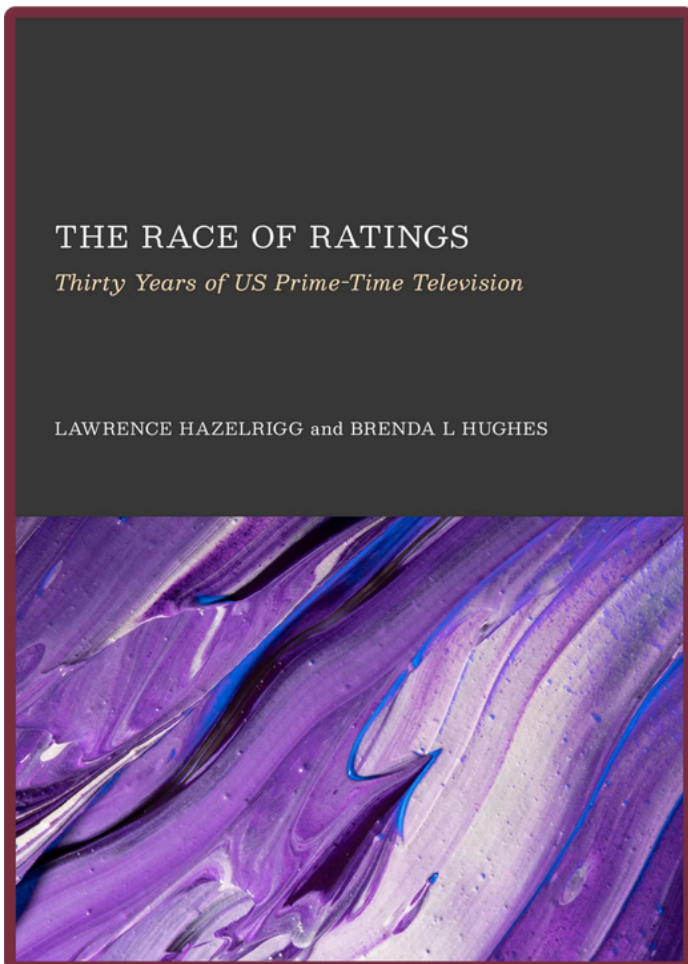
Lawrence Hazelrigg & Brenda L. Hughes – Book Publication

In 2025, the Ethics International Press in England published a new book by Lawrence Hazelrigg & Brenda L. Hughes. Its title is *The Race of Ratings: Thirty Years of US Prime-Time Television*. Hazelrigg is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at FSU. Hughes – who received both her Master's and PhD degrees from FSU – is Associate Professor of Sociology at FAMU, where she has taught since 2004.

This study presents results of an analysis of the time-series of ratings during the lifetime of each of 400 prime-time televised comedies and dramas, 1963-1994, based on more than 13,000 time-stamped observations of show-specific ratings. The research was motivated substantively by one question: Was the process that generated ratings per show uniform across all shows, or was it differentiated by the racial composition of the show's regularly recurrent cast members? The presentation is mathematical, but the various analytical techniques applied in the study are explained in clear and simple terms.

Given the tenor of political rhetoric currently dominant in the US, publication of this work could hardly be more timely.

The publisher is offering a steep discount for a limited time. Interested readers should go to <https://ethicspress.com/products/the-race-of-rating/?INTEGRITY>.



Lawrence Hazelrigg



Brenda L. Hughes

Retiree Publications

Marilyn Young & Michael Launer – Book Publication

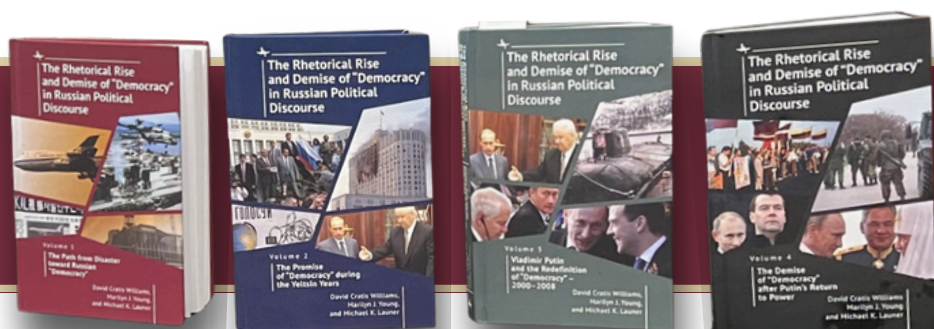
Marilyn Young, Michael Launer, and their colleague David Cratis Williams – recently retired Professor of Communication from Florida Atlantic University – published the final book in their series of rhetorical studies about the fate of democratization in Russia. This collection of essays, entitled *The Rhetorical Rise and Demise of “Democracy” in Russian Political Discourse – Volume Four: The Demise of “Democracy” after Putin’s Return to Power*, was released in November by the Academic Studies Press in Brookline, MA.

The study describes the political process whereby Russia’s president, Vladimir Putin, demonized the people and the country of Ukraine while turning Russia itself into an authoritarian state. Coverage spans the period from 2012 – when Putin returned to the presidency for his third term in office – through the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Three chapters from this volume have appeared in Europe in Russian translation, with a fourth to be published next summer. One of those chapters – Marilyn’s “The Rhetoric of Grievance: From the Munich Speech to Full-Scale War in Ukraine” – will also appear in German translation.

The series of books begins with the 1980s when the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the shootdown of Korean Airlines flight 007, and the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl foreshadowed the dissolution of the Soviet Union. It continues through the Yeltsin years and Putin’s first two terms in office, culminating in his return after the shared “tandemocracy” with Dmitry Medvedev.

During the past year these volumes have been the subject of spotlight panels at both the “ALTA” Argumentation Conference and the annual National Communication Association conference. Copies may be purchased from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Blackwell’s, and directly from the publisher (<https://www.academicstudiespress.com/author/david-cratis-williams/>).



ARFS OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL GROUP

ARFS Trip to the Kennedy Space Center & Morse Museum

From the Publications Committee: More than thirty ARFS members, plus University Relations staff members Jake Aboulhosn and Max D'Ou Rodriguez, participated in a fascinating trip to the Kennedy Space Center on Merritt Island and the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art in Winter Park. The group was accompanied at KSC by Robert Pound, long retired as Chief of the NASA Test Director's Office. Mr. Pound worked at NASA for 28 years. He is also Jake's grandfather.

Like all ARFS out-of-town journeys, this trip was organized by Larry Gerber and his team of stalwart volunteers.

The outing took place January 21–23 and was preceded by a January 15 tour of the on-campus Aeropropulsion, Mechatronics and Energy (AME) Building at Innovation Park.

The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art—which is noted for its Art Nouveau collection—houses the most comprehensive collection of the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany found anywhere, including the famous Tiffany lamps; a significant collection of American art pottery; and fine collections of late 19th- and early 20th-century American paintings, graphics, and decorative arts.

What follows is a collage of comments from members of the group (Jill Adams, Flip Froelich, and Pat Martin), followed by a very small selection from among the hundreds (!!!) of photographs submitted afterwards by Jill Adams, Neil Charness, Max D'Ou Rodriguez, and Flip Froelich. Many more photos are available at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/kQZcD16aDQGLKrhe8>.

On the bus trip down to Cocoa Beach, we watched a documentary on Apollo 11, and on the way home, one on Apollo 17. At the KSC Visitor's Center, we were hosted by Jeremy Graeber, who made a very informative “classroom” presentation to the entire group. Jeremy is an FSU mechanical engineering graduate. His official title is Deputy Launch Director with the Exploration Ground Systems Program.

He assists Artemis Launch Director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson during launch countdown operations conducted from Firing Room 1 in the Launch Control Center.



ARFS OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL GROUP

ARFS Trip to the Kennedy Space Center & Morse Museum

Like the 1968 Apollo 8 mission, Artemis II will fly around the moon to confirm that the spacecraft systems operate as designed with a crew aboard. This launch will be the first since 1972 on which astronauts (from any nation) will be sent into deep space. If all goes well, the plan is to land on the moon again in about two years and leave equipment for future efforts to explore farther into space. The next destination, of course, is Mars.

ARFS members took a NASA bus to the vicinity of the various launch platforms at KSC. In the process, they got remarkably close to the Artemis rocket on launch pad 39B and were able to take photographs from the observation tower at 39C. Several members of the group had brought cameras equipped with sophisticated telephoto lenses, which enabled them to take very sharp pictures of the rocket.

In addition, ARFS was afforded a unique opportunity that was not at all planned when trip arrangements were made back in the fall: In addition to seeing the Artemis II rocket “up close and personal,” a special ceremony commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the Challenger tragedy was coincidentally scheduled that day. Although it was technically open to the public, access was restricted, and very few tourists were able to attend—but ARFS members happened to be in the right building at the right time. The astronauts who perished when Challenger exploded will be “Forever Remembered.”

We owe Jake, Jill, and Larry limitless gratitude for their organizational skills and service to the rest of us. Max was also essential in keeping us going to the right places at the right times . . . and counting heads . . . over and over.

Those of us who were there were fortunate indeed! PS: We were able to meet and spend time with Jake's family, including his mom, dad, grandfather, and grandmother—plus a friend from Britain.

And one last—totally unanticipated—adventure: As we were checking out of the hotel, a fire alarm went off. Some of us walked down four, five, or more floors of stairs along with crying children and people in their PJs. Thankfully, there was no fire!

On the whole, a fine time was had by all involved, and we can't wait for next year's foray.





CHSP Citizen Review Team – Carol Weissert

Make an impact by serving as a CHSP Citizen Review Team (CRT) volunteer

The City of Tallahassee and Leon County have partnered for over 25 years to form the **Community Human Service Partnership (CHSP)**, a citizen-driven funding distribution process. During the previous cycle, over \$9 million was allocated to support the delivery of local human services. The City and County are currently recruiting volunteers to participate in the CHSP process by serving in the important role of a **Citizen Review Team (CRT)** volunteer. CRT members read and score grant applications, attend agency presentations, and make group decisions about funding allocations.

To participate as a new volunteer, please complete the volunteer registration form at <https://www.chspportal.org>.

Grant reviewing will take place in April/May, and agency presentation/deliberation meetings will occur during May/June. To participate as a CRT member, you must attend one of the mandatory training sessions held on March 24 and April 1. Please register to attend one of these sessions by March 23.

For more information about this volunteer opportunity and registration instructions please contact HumanServices@talgov.com or call E'jaaz Abdul-Musawwir at 850-815-0882.



Charitable Activities

Fellows Society

The Fellows Society was established by Dean Nancy Marcus in 2007 to create opportunities for interdisciplinary networking and learning among outstanding graduate students. Marcus, an oceanographer who died in 2018, served as Dean of the Graduate School for 12 years. Prior to that, she had been the Director of the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory. The mission of the society is to develop leadership skills, promote interdisciplinary research, and encourage community service among fellowship recipients. The Fellows Society does not provide direct funding to students, but generous grants from the Graduate School support research opportunities that would not otherwise be available to them. Contributions to the Fellows Society Fund may be made through the FSU Foundation Giving Page at Give.fsu.edu. The Fund number is F07506.

Sliger Award

The Bernard F. & Greta Sliger Presidential Scholarship Fund is an endowed fund that was established in 1989 in order to “provide financial support for outstanding and gifted students attending Florida State University.” Many individuals, including ARFS members and former president John Thrasher, have contributed to the endowment.

Proceeds from the account support Presidential Scholars, enabling recipients to participate in activities beyond the classroom throughout their undergraduate years. Contributions may be made through the FSU Foundation Giving Page at Give.fsu.edu. The Fund number is F06722. An undergraduate speaker at a recent ARFS barbecue expressed thanks to the Sliger Fund for allowing him to attend a national meteorological conference, where he met the head of NOAA and several hurricane experts.



Charitable Activities

Student Support – Southern Scholarship Fund

The Southern Scholarship Fund helps needy students – particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds and those who have experienced homelessness or food insecurity – attend Florida State. ARFS members have supported this worthy cause for many years. Contributions may be made through the FSU Foundation Giving Page at Give.fsu.edu.

The Fund number is **F06147**.

Supporting the University Libraries

At the most recent ARFS Board meeting, Anne Rowe – a member of the FSU Libraries Advancement Board – reported a conversation that she had had with the incoming Dean of Libraries, Dr. Carrie Zebrowsky Cooper. Dr. Cooper, an FSU alumna, previously served in a similar position at William & Mary College and had been on the Advancement Board here until her selection as the new Dean. She is excited to begin her tenure at the beginning of the new year.

As elsewhere around the country, the FSU libraries continually face funding challenges, particularly because the cost of scholarly journals has increased dramatically over the past several years.

ARFS members have always supported the libraries, and year's end is a good time to consider making an additional donation. The FSU Foundation maintains several accounts, including the following:

Library Development Fund	<u>F06478</u>
Libraries Collections Excellence Fund	<u>F06986</u>
Libraries Special Collections Fund	<u>F07711</u>
FSU Libraries Textbook Fund	<u>F08272</u>

Contributions may be made through the FSU Foundation Giving Page at Give.fsu.edu.



Other Local Charities

Other local organizations that always welcome volunteers include the following:

- Alzheimer's Project, Inc.
- Big Bend Habitat for Humanity
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend
 - FSU Pride Student Union
 - FSU Sustainable Campus
- LeMoyne Center for the Visual Arts
- Special Olympics in Leon County

ARFS DUES PURCHASE

ARFS Dues: \$10 per person/\$15 per household

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

E-mail Address(es)

Telephone(s) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks payable to "ARF" [not "ARFS"]. Send this form and your payment to:

Jeff Owens / 1161 Walden Road / Tallahassee, FL 32317

Alternately:

Payment can also be made using Zelle to **jfolso@comcast.net**