



# 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
December 17, 2025	4:00 pm	Holiday Party	Dodd Hall Heritage Room
January 21-23, 2026	-----	ARFS Florida Trip	Kennedy Space Center
February 18, 2026	10:00 am	Tour of the WFSU Radio & TV Studios	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 ARFSmembers.

## 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](mailto:mlauner@fsu.edu).

**DEADLINE** for inclusion in the  
February 2026 issue of News & Notes  
is **JANUARY 31.**



## REMARKS

### President Carol Weissart

(cweissert@fsu.edu)

Thanks to all ARFS members who attended our two fall campus visits and the fall luncheon. Your board is working hard to provide a variety of ways for our group to engage with each other and to learn about programs at FSU.

Two campus events are scheduled for spring – at the WFSU Radio and TV studios (Feb. 18) and at the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory (April 8). A trip to the Kennedy Space Center is planned for January 21–23. Stay tuned for more events in the spring, which will be announced later.

Special thanks to Jeff Owens, ARFS treasurer, who is now providing members a way to pay dues and purchase luncheon tickets electronically. If you'd still like to pay by check you can, but you now have another option.

Thanks to Carol Deloach, Betty Serow, Jill Adams, and Marshall Kapp for staffing the ARFS table at the FSU Health and Wellness Fair last month. We signed up a number of retired or soon-to-be-retired folks for our mailing list. Special thanks to Carol and Betty, who made a table-top display for ARFS and ordered our own ARFS pens. More swag may be coming.

Finally, don't forget to come to the FSU holiday party on December 17 at the Heritage Museum, Dodd Hall.

For many ARFS members, participation consists mainly of attending some or all of the wonderful social and educational events—the luncheons, barbeque, holiday party, campus venue tours, and three-day trips—that are sponsored each year by the organization. Your attendance is much appreciated and truly valued.

Keep in mind, though, that a good deal of effort goes on behind the scenes to make the ARFS portfolio of events happen. The Board of Directors and several standing and *ad hoc* committees work hard so we can all enjoy the benefits of ARFS membership. One of my goals as your president-elect is to provide opportunities for ARFS members to be more directly involved in the workings of the organization as we plan and carry out the details of the year's activities. Accordingly, I am writing to encourage each of you to consider volunteering to serve on a committee or otherwise contribute a bit of your time, talents, and energy to the workings of ARFS. If this invitation and the opportunity for greater participation stimulate you, your leaders would be delighted to hear from you.

To follow up, please feel free to contact me (618-534-1022) or other board members. We will match your interests with the organization's needs and definitely will find a role for you. Thank you in advance.

## Retiree Honors

### Carol Weissert – Federalism APSA Awards

Carol Weissert has received the **Robert Agranoff Award for Federalism Public Engagement** at the 2025 American Political Science Association meeting in Vancouver, BC. The award is presented biannually by the Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations Section of APSA to recognize civic or community engagement by a federalism scholar.

Pictured are Carol and Craig Volden, professor at the University of Virginia and president of the section, at the award ceremony.

Carol retired in 2021 as the LeRoy Collins Eminent Scholar in Political Science at FSU.





## ARFS Campus Tours

### Dedman College of Hospitality Visit

On September 11, a group of ARFS members and their guests visited the FSU Dedman College of Hospitality, located at the University Center.

What a treat!

Dean Don Farr and Assistant Dean Alishia Piotrowski welcomed the group to the college. Mia Ledford-Phillips, Sr Student Recruitment Specialist, and Danielle DiBattista led us on a tour of the facility, followed by an informative presentation on Hospitality College Programs, Internship Opportunities, and Study/Work Abroad Opportunities. What a beautiful setting they have, and the classroom spaces are extremely versatile. The college currently has 600 students in various major, minor, certificate and graduate programs and is hoping to expand enrollment to about 700-750. Given the nationally recognized excellence of their program, the professional placement rate at graduation, and their extensive scholarship opportunities, they like to joke that the Dedman College is the best-kept secret at FSU!

After the facility tour, Chef Zach talked with us about the history, planning, and execution of the Little Dinner Series, a three times a year event. If you've ever tried to attend, you already know that scoring a reservation is harder than getting Superbowl tickets on the 50 yard line. It was great to learn that although series tickets typically sell out within 5 minutes of going online, donor status is NOT even considered so that all of the public has an equal chance to attend.

While Chef Zach and his team Lacey Wallheiser, Katie Harrison, and Aubrey Zurek talked about their roles when preparing students for the Little Dinners, we were enjoying the Afternoon Tea they had prepared for us: cucumber tea sandwiches on black-sesame brioche; bacon, cheddar jalapeño and chive scones; smoked salmon quiche with a parsley-caper sauce; Earl Gray madeleines; almond-lavender cake with white chocolate glaze; and raspberry dark chocolate brownies. Mmmmm.

We really appreciate the generosity of Dean Farr and his excellent staff for spending this time with ARFS members.





## ARFS Campus Tours

### School of Theatre Visit

On October 9th, two dozen ARFS members attended a tour of the FSU School of Theatre and Fine Arts Museum.

Brad Brock, director of the School of Theatre, provide an overview of the Fallon Theatre and its students, where the first musical of the year, *Sweeney Todd*, would open the following week. He introduced professor Chari Arespacochaga, director of *Sweeney Todd*, who provided the group with information about the musical and its staging at FSU. Also sharing information were: Josh Hemmo, the lighting designer; Krista Franco, scenic designer; and Zach Cramer, sound designer.

The second part of the visit was a tour of the “Conversaciones: Latin American Indigenous Art” exhibit at the FSU Museum of Fine Arts. Dr. Kaylee Spencer, director of the museum, provided information about the collection and about the museum.

Here are two of Neil Charness’s pictures. One shows the scenery of *Sweeney Todd* and three speakers: Chari Arespacochaga, Josh Hemmo, and Krista Franco. The second shows the FSU museum director Kaylee Spencer and our members.





## Retiree Travel

### Time for Travel: Stories from Our Members

One of the true luxuries enjoyed by many retirees is the wherewithal (time, money, good health) to travel – to visit places on one’s “bucket list” or to return to places one remembers fondly from previous work or vacation trips.

In this section we present travelogues from three ARFS members: Debbie Satterwhite, Anne Thistle, and Marilyn Young.

We invite all ARFS members to share their personal memories in an upcoming issue of *News & Notes* or in the next edition of the *ARFS Retiree Journal*.

### Debbie Satterwhite – Scotland & Greenland

In May we travelled to Scotland. From Glasgow castle, church, and museum to Stirling Castle and working sheep dogs. We had a chance to see a demonstration, hold the puppies, and assist in shearing the sheep. After a nice stay at a country estate with a wedding in progress....and many folks in kilts....on to the Highlands to cruise Loch Ness, see Caingorms National Park and the Scone Palace. Then to Edinburgh with a day trip to St. Andrews, and a visit to the Edinburgh Castle.

In late July we travelled to Nuuk, Greenland for a Viking Expedition into the NW Passage (on the same ship we’d traveled on to Antarctica and the Great Lakes). Greenland is mainly two mountain chains with a glacier in between. With only 35 miles of roads, most transportation is by ship or air. Flying into Nuuk is challenging – with an airport smaller than TLH and commercial flights only from Reykjavik or Copenhagen and frequent fog. Viking had two cultural ambassadors each from Greenland and Nunavik on board, and we were entertained in Greenland homes and Nunavik with cultural demonstrations of dance, song, dress, and customs at Kaffemiks (coffee-milk, with traditional sweets). While we were entertained in town, the captain brought the town mayor and all the children on board for lunch on the ship.

Homes are made of wood, even though no trees grow in Greenland. Diet is mainly fish and reindeer; other food must be imported by boat or air. Sled dogs are very common, and we had the opportunity to visit them a couple of times. Outdoor activities on board included Zodiac cruises (also for shore landings), kayaking, and rides on special ops boats. We saw whales, polar bears, and icebergs. Travel to the Canadian High Arctic met with ice and cold weather. We were well within the Arctic Circle and had very short nights. Landings there required bear sighters with rifles. And we were very happy that Viking had again provided us with cold weather gear.





## Retiree Travel

### Debbie Satterwhite – Scotland & Greenland



## Retiree Travel

### Anne Thistle – Scotland, Wales, and England

In September, we went on a 14-day "small group" (just 18 people!) Tauck tour of England, Scotland, and Wales. We flew into Edinburgh, where the tour started with a visit to historic Stirling castle (site of the battles portrayed in *Braveheart* and *Robert the Bruce*). The next morning, Holyrood Palace opened an hour early for us and another Tauck group, for a private tour. Then Edinburgh Castle in the afternoon, where they fired a 21-gun salute to mark the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's death.

On the way south to the English Lake District, we stopped long enough to view the ruins of Chesters Roman Fort and to tour the small museum housing the collection of Roman artifacts amassed by John Clayton, savior of Hadrian's wall. He saved it by simply buying up the land it crossed, so that it could be excavated and preserved. During the afternoon, for many miles, we paralleled the wall, which was easily visible from the road.

We stopped for lunch at Castletown House, a (14-bedroom) privately owned farmhouse in Rockcliffe, near Carlisle, between the Rivers Eden and Esk. Our hostess was charming, and her explanations of what it took to run a house that large, the bed-and-breakfast operation that takes up some of the bedrooms, and the surrounding 4000-acre cattle and sheep farm were fascinating. And lunch was delicious!

In scenic Grasmere, on the lake of the same name, we visited Dove Cottage, where poet William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy (and later, in addition, William's wife and three children) lived for eight years, the period when many of his most important works were written. After lunch in a historic local tavern, we were entertained by no less a personage than Taffy Thomas, MBE, Story-Teller Laureate of Great Britain! We returned to our hotel via a boat ride down the length of Lake Windermere and a short ride on a narrow-gauge steam train. Before supper, our tour director was surprised by an up-close demonstration of the amazing herding skills of a local shepherd and several of his well-trained border collies.

Traveling on toward Wales, we made a stop for a private tour of historic Levens Hall and, even better, its huge topiary garden, the oldest in the world. Some of the larger figures date from the original 1694 plantings. The rest of the gardens, of which the topiary occupies only about a quarter, were also well worth the visit. We had lunch that day in Chester, the only town in England that still has its complete perimeter wall. Its magnificent cathedral gave us lots to see and kept us out of the rain until time to meet the bus again.

In Wales proper, we toured Caernarfon Castle, the largest of the chain of castles built by Kings Henry III and Edward I. Our guide was particularly good and painted vivid pictures of castle life, as well as the rise and fall of various Welsh rebellions against English rule. She summed up medieval history as "carnage and sewage."

Back in England, on the way to our next stop in Oxford, we visited Stratford-upon-Avon to see Ann Hathaway's cottage before touring the museum in the Shakespeare Center in the town proper. In Oxford, we got to have dinner in Balliol College, with a couple of graduate students to explain the differences between the British and American university curricula, as well as the differences among the various colleges that make up Oxford. Fascinating for retired academics! Our excursion from Oxford was to tour magnificent Blenheim Palace, long on our bucket list.





## Retiree Travel

### Anne Thistle – Scotland, Wales, and England

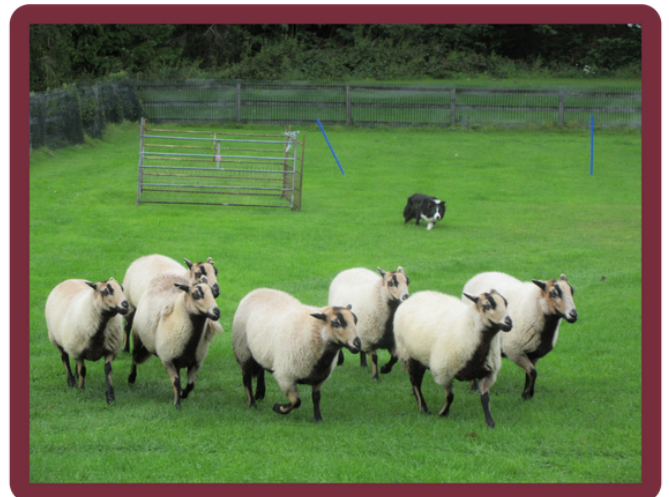
Leaving Oxford, our first stop was Stonehenge, where many changes have been made since our last visit. One still can't walk among the stones (as we did on our first visit years ago), but tourists are now permitted to get much closer to them than was permitted on our second. Coincidentally, shepherds with border collies were working with sheep on the surrounding hillsides.

We then proceeded directly from Salisbury plain, where we stood for an hour in a howling gale, to formal tea at the Pump Room in Bath! My hair was sticking out in all directions, but the tea was great!

Before leaving Bath, we had time to explore the restored Roman baths, on which much progress has been made since we were last there. They are huge! Walking around the city, both on the guided walking tour and on our own, was particularly fun because some sort of Jane Austen convention was just breaking up, and a surprising number of the people in the streets wore period dress.

Between Bath and London, we stopped to tour Hampton Court, Henry VIII's palace. It's also huge. We worried that Donald Trump's visit to London, which coincided with ours, would complicate our logistics, especially if he stayed at the Savoy Hotel, where Tauck put us. Fortunately, he stayed at Windsor Castle instead. In London, we toured Westminster Abbey with a very knowledgeable local guide (in fact all our local guides and docents were excellent), and in the evening, we went to a show. From the eight or so possibilities Tauck offered, we chose *Back to the Future*, which turned out to be at a theater less than a block from the Savoy. Tauck arranged for us all to have a pre-theater dinner in the hotel's restaurant beforehand.

The following day, we strolled next door to Somerset House to see the Courtauld collection of impressionist paintings. That evening, at our festive farewell dinner at the Savoy, the speaker was Carolyn Robb, personal chef for eight years to Prince Charles and his family. She presented each couple with an autographed copy of her cookbook *Teatime at the Palace*.



## Retiree Travel

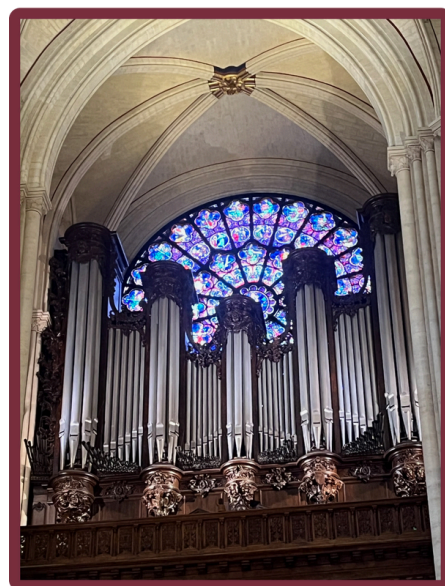
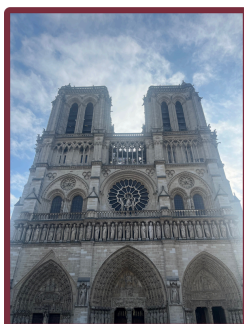
### Marilyn Young – Visit to Notre Dame de Paris

This past February, Vall Auzenne (a retiree from the Film School faculty) and I traveled to Paris for our annual birthdays trip. Normally we would have gone to New York City, but – believe it or not – flying to Paris took FEWER SkyMiles than flying to NYC! One of our primary goals on this trip, besides museums and good food, was visiting the newly reopened Cathédrale Notre Dame de Paris. However, getting tickets to Notre Dame these days is a challenge.

In order to control the number of people in the Cathedral at any one time, they issue free tickets for specific entry times. The problem is the tickets are available no earlier than 48 hours in advance and they go very quickly once they are released. (Kind of like trying to get tickets for the Little Dinner Series!) After several failed attempts, I figured out that they probably released the tickets shortly after midnight. So I stayed up one evening and ...Voilà! Success!

(By the time I returned to Paris in August, my “secret” for getting tickets was all over the Internet. Sigh.)

We showed up at the appointed hour and gained immediate entry to the Cathedral. It is glorious! So much light instead of the dark, stained walls and pillars of old – it is hard to imagine why some would have preferred a return to the way the interior looked before the fire. Everything has been cleaned and/or repainted. The frescoes and friezes are bright and colorful, and the intricate detail stands out. The windows shine with freshened stained glass. The Rose Window and the great organ in front of it gleam. We spent a good 2 hours marveling over the beauty of the renewed interior, and while we were there a Mass began, which meant the great organ burst forth with sound, underscoring the success of those who labored to restore the acoustics of the cathedral. The experience definitely was worth the effort it took to get the tickets, and while the restoration is not yet complete (work remains to be done on the exterior, especially the roof and flying buttresses), the result of all the painstaking labor is a monumental accomplishment.







## 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](https://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](https://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.



## 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 F06478  
Libraries Collections Excellence Fund F06986  
Libraries Special Collections Fund F07711  
FSU Libraries Textbook Fund F08272

Contributions may be made through the FSU Foundation Giving Page at [Give.fsu.edu](https://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 MEMBERSHIP FORM ARFS DUES PURCHASE

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to “ARF” [not “ARFS”]. Send this form and you payment to:

**Jeff Owens / 1161 Walden Road / Tallahassee, FL 32317**