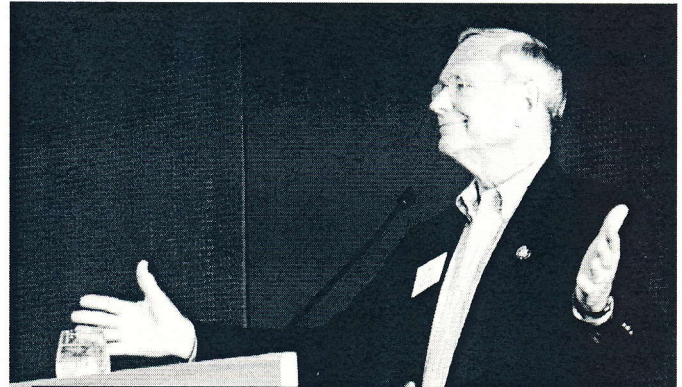


ASU Prime Times

Winter 2009 Arizona State University Retirees Association Newsletter

ASU Retirees Day – February 21, 2009

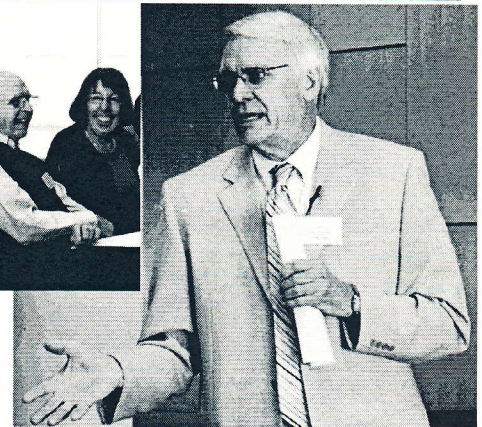
Each year the ASURA sponsors a day of presentations on modern themes. The program is designed to provide diversity of subjects and presenters. This year's gala occasion included presentations on Sudan, Sustainability, the 2008 Presidential Election, the Global Economic Crisis, Architecture and the ASU Biodesign Institute. Congressman Harry Mitchell, the luncheon speaker, spoke about current trends in the new Congress. Approximately 100 ASURA members participated in the Day. The Education Committee: Robert Barnhill, Chair, Sue Blumer, Dennis Ederer, Bruce Mason, Wilma Matthews and Mary Stevens.



Congressman Harry Mitchell was our luncheon speaker. Over the years, he has been a regular and very welcome attendee at our Retirees Day Luncheon.



Steve Happel of the Business College kept a large audience entertained in the Alumni Lounge as they looked for a solution to the current economic concerns.



We were treated to the newly renovated facilities on the second floor of Memorial Union.

ASURA Office, Officers and Committee Chairs

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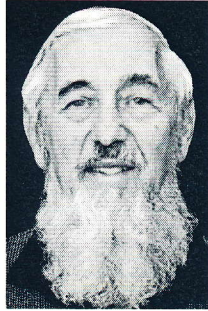
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Open Position
Sr. VP / Provost

News from the Travel Committee

Twenty ASRUA members attended the 7th annual "We Love ASU Collections." Our numbers contributed to one of the highest attendance in years. A good time was had by all. We toured many galleries and collections and learned more about history, culture and natural sciences housed in different buildings on the Tempe Campus. We enjoyed lunch at the new restaurant "Engrained" on the 2nd floor of the Memorial Union. Many commuted by Tempe Orbit free shuttle bus system for the first time. The event turned us into energizer bunnies - going, going, going until we wore out the soles of our shoes but reenergizing our brains. We would like to thank the following individuals who provided lectures: Rebekah Tabah, Arizona Historical Foundation; Karrie Porter Brace, curatorial/museum specialist Luhrs Reading Room; Dr. David Williams, School of Earth & Space Exploration; Dr. Michelle Minitti, Asst. Dir. Center for Meteorite Studies; Meg Hufford, coordinator Mars Education Program; Daniel Matlaga, coordinator Planetarium; Lynn Lucas graduate student with the Institute of Human Origins & Susan Irwin, Interim Director AZ Historical Foundation/Co chair of the event.



On another note individuals interested in a tour of the Global Institute of Sustainability located in the old Nursing Building can arrange a tour anytime. Contact Richard O. Lemon. (480-965-4341) richard.lemon@asu.edu Richard will accommodate groups of 2-15. You will see all the changes to the building.

Check the ASURA web site from time to time for news and upcoming events.

Chair of Travel Committee - Bill Stasi

CANYON de CHELLY

We have had a very positive response to our Canyon de Chelly trip planned for April 13-15, 2009. We have filled all available spots, and have started a "waiting list." It should be an interesting and fun trip. The Itinerary is as follows:

- April 13 9 a.m. leave the Tempe Public Library parking lot. Lunch/tour at La Posada Inn in Winslow (designed by Mary Colter the lodge was built by the Santa Fe and staffed by Harvey girls.) The Inn has been "restored beyond its former glory!" (AZ. Republic 1/4/09)
Tour and shopping time at Hubbell Trading Post
Check-in and dinner at Holiday Inn in Chinle
Presentation -Canyon de Chelly and Navajo Culture
- April 14 Breakfast at hotel
Tour of Canyon de Chelly South Rim in a.m.
Lunch at hotel
Navajo guided jeep-tour into Canyon in afternoon
Dinner at hotel
- April 15 Depart hotel for Hopi Reservation
Visit Hopi Cultural Museum and 1,000 years old Village of Old Oraibi
Lunch at Museum
Travel to Tempe arriving about 6: 30 p.m.

The Price is \$395, per person (double occupancy or \$465 single supplement.) This value package includes round trip travel from Tempe Public Library, 2 nights at the Holiday Inn in Chinle, all meals, all entrance, guides and jeep-tour fees.

Richard Stephens
PO Box 5604
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

Wait List Only

More information and a registration form are available at:
<http://asura.asu.edu/200904CanyonDeChellyTrip>.

Or rich.stephens@nau.edu,
patricia.moore@asu.edu, wstasi@asu.edu
ASURA Office (480) 965-7668

Pat Moore - Chair, Canyon de Chelly tour

Travel Planning

The Travel Committee has been distributing a survey seeking input and suggestions from ASURA members on travel preferences and destinations. The information you provide will help immeasurably in planning the kind of trips and tours and experiences you want. The survey has been distributed by email, and will be distributed at meetings. It is also available on our Web site at <http://asura.asu.edu/2009TravelSurvey>. The terrific prize for returning your survey via mail, FAX or e-mail is a hearty Thank You!

All members are encouraged to provide their email address to the ASURA office to facilitate quick and inexpensive communication. Recent University cutbacks make 'inexpensive' a top priority. Thank you.

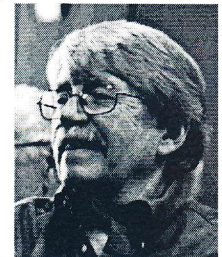
The Travel Committee is well into next year with its planning. How does a trip on the Verde Canyon Railroad sound for the fall?, perhaps with our own private railroad car?

Opportunities to tour the area are also in the offing along with some great and unique meals. Watch for the sign-up announcements.

Or, would you like to go international in the spring of 2010 with a trip to China? a visit to the Ming Tombs? to the terra cotta warriors? to the Great Wall? a cruise on the Yangtze through the Three Gorges? -the trip of a lifetime.

Watch for future announcements, but keep May/June 2010 open.

If you have questions or comments or suggestions for the Travel Committee, contact either Chair Bill Stasi <William.Stasi@asu.edu> or Gary Anderson <gwander@asu.edu>



Gary Anderson, Travel Committee

Living History Video Project:

Netflix has nothing on us. We are pleased to announce the availability of 48 DVDs for your viewing. You can learn or reminisce about ASU's history with previous presidents, provosts, deans, chairs, faculty and staff as they share their personal recollections of the university during their ASU careers.

Agave Productions has conducted 48 interviews, which are currently available on DVDs. The public is invited to check out the DVDs from the ASU Retirees' office or they can be viewed on computers in the office. The average length of an interview is 1-1.5 hours. The ASURA office is located in the Community Services Building at 200 E. Curry Road, Second floor, room 201. Office hours are 9-12 and 1-4 daily but please call ahead (480-965-7668) to make sure the office will be staffed before you stop by.

Below is a list of DVDs that are currently available to check out:

- Charles Backus (Eng'g and East/Polytechnic Campus)
- Loretta Bardwyck (Nursing)
- Mat Betz (Civil Eng'g/Administration)
- Ellamae Branstetter (Nursing)
- Brent Brown (Public Affairs & Institutional Advan.)
- Lattie Coor (President)
- Troy Crowder (Journalism and Telecommunications)
- Don Dotts (Alumni Association)
- Roy Doyle (Education)
- John Edwards (Education)
- Bob Ellis (KAET-TV)
- James W. Elmore (Architecture)
- Hal Fearon (Purchasing/Management)
- Marvin Fisher (Languages and Literatures)
- Margaret Gisolo (Dance)
- Elmer Gooding (Economics/Administration)
- Leonard Gordon (Sociology)
- Betty Greathouse (Curriculum and Instruction)
- Eugene Grigsby (Art)
- William Huizingh (Accounting)
- Bill Kajikawa (Athletics)
- Denis Kigin (Technology, & Continuing Ed. & Summer Sessions)
- Frank Kush (Athletics, football)
- Beth Lessard (Dance)
- Eugene Lombardi (Music, Univ. Symphony Orchestra)
- Bruce Mason (Political Science)
- Alan Matheson (Law)
- Gerry McSheffrey (Architecture and West campus)
- Arlene Metha (Counseling Psychology)
- Victor J. Miller (Agriculture)
- Carleton Moore (Chemistry and Geology, meteorites)
- George Morrell (Purchasing)
- Dick Murra (Human Resources)
- Russell Nelson (President, Business)
- Lonnie Ostrom (Development & ASU Foundation)
- Bonnie Peplow (News Bureau)
- Anne M. Pittman (Physical Education, tennis)
- Ross Rice (Political Science)
- Gale Richards (Human Communication)
- Frank Sackton (Public Affairs and many other hats!)
- Nick Salerno (English)
- Wilma Schwada (former ASU first lady)
- Leon Shell (Student Affairs)
- Dean Smith (ASU Historian, Publications)
- Rudy Turk (Art Museum)
- George Umberson (Music)
- Linda Van Scoy (Provost's Office)
- Bobby Winkles (baseball)

The interviews are ongoing and the next slate of interviewees has been invited to participate in the project. Interviews will be held later this spring and in the early fall. The Committee welcomes nominations for individuals to be interviewed. They must be retired or previous employees of ASU from any category who have a significant history with the University. To submit a nomination you may send the name of your nominee along with a brief description of the person's role at ASU, to the ASURA Office, P. O Box 873308, Tempe, AZ 85287-3308. Or you may e mail the information to Linda Van Scoy at lvs@asu.edu.

Thanks go to Mat Betz, who introduced this project and to previous committee chairs, June Payne and Bob Francis for their work over the last several years that have resulted in this important oral history for ASU. Thanks also to David Scheatzle for organizing the ASURA Golf Tournament that has provided substantial funding for the project for several years. Unfortunately, the tournament was not held this year due to the impact of the economy on sponsors and it is unknown if the tournament will be resurrected in the near future. So while we have funding to continue with interviews for the short term, we will need to identify revenue sources to keep this important archival history program moving along.

The following individuals comprise the Living History Video Project Committee: Marvin Fisher, Bob Francis, Elmer Gooding, June Payne, Ed Nelsen, David Scheatzle, Hal White, and Linda Van Scoy, Chair.

While we are delighted to have the DVDs available for borrowing, our goal is to also make them available on the ASURA website so they can be downloaded and viewed by an even broader audience. Hard copy and digital transcripts will also be made available and housed in University Archives in the very near future. We invite you to take advantage of these very interesting snapshots of ASU.

By Linda Van Scoy



Amendments to the ASURA Bylaws

Until now, the most recent Bylaws of the Arizona State University Retirees Association were dated February 8, 2001. Revisions were proposed and approved in November 2002, but were never submitted to the membership for approval. During the summer of 2008, current ASURA President, Val Peterson, appointed an ad hoc Bylaws committee and charged it to recommend revisions if any, to the ASURA Board for approval and subsequent submission to the membership for a vote.

The members of the Bylaws Committee were Mary Stevens, Chair, Alan Johnson, Douglas Johnson, Lois Lehman, Connie McNeill and Carolyn Minner. The committee met weekly for six weeks and recommended changes in some of the text and format as well as some reorganization of the articles. Alan Johnson explained the history of the 2002 revisions and provided the Committee with the text of those revisions, which the Committee considered in the review process.

Connie McNeill used a projector and screen to enable the Committee to revise the Bylaws from the text projected onto a large screen. She input revisions following discussion and approval. Connie's method greatly expedited the process and allowed the Committee to work together as a whole.

The Committee provided proposed amendments to the Board prior to the regular December Board meeting. The Board discussed the proposed amendments during their December meeting and additional revisions were approved and incorporated at a special Board meeting on January 7.

In January, President Peterson forwarded a marked-up copy of the proposed amendments and a ballot to all current ASURA members, requesting return of ballots through mail or email by the deadline of February 27, 2009. The returned ballots favored adoption of the 2009 revisions to the Bylaws and will become effective on April 16, 2009.

The most significant amendments are the following:

1. Dues. The Board will be responsible for setting the dues rather than setting dues through the Bylaws.
2. Voting Rights for Associate Members. Associate Members will have voting rights
3. Changes to Standing Committees. Some titles and responsibilities of standing committee will change:

Check out the ASURA Web site at <http://asura.asu.edu>!

Would you like to know who's running the ASU Retiree's Association, or see what events the Association is planning for its members? Do you need to find a registration form for an upcoming event, or a membership enrollment form for a colleague who would like to join? How about wanting to find out what advice the ASURA Health Committee has for health insurance open enrollment?

On our Web site you can do these things and more. For example, you can find contact information for the ASURA and its officers, Board members, and committee chairs; photos of ASURA events and people; and information about community travel, education, and volunteer activities. We



Members of the Bylaws Committee: Doug Johnson, Mary Stevens, Connie McNeill, Carolyn Minner and Alan Johnson.

- a. Legislative Liaison Council changes to Government Liaison Council.
- b. Education and Activities Committees changes to Events Committee with subcommittees for various program and activities.
- c. Health Insurance changes to Health Insurance Liaison Committee.
- d. Membership Committee changes to Membership and Communications Committee.
- e. The Community Outreach Committee is created with subcommittees for programs such Adopt-a-Family, Golf Tournament, Scholarships, Video History and Volunteers.

Members may review the new Bylaws on-line on our Web site at <http://asura.asu.edu/BylawsAmendedClean>.

Thanks to all of you who submitted a vote.

Mary Stevens, Bylaws Committee Chair

Ed. Note:

Just before going to press, the results of the voting became available. 194 ballots received: 192 "yes" (accept the modifications); 2 "no" (keep the existing bylaws). Of these 194 ballots, 40 were electronic. There was one duplicate ballot. Approved bylaws will become effective after the Annual Meeting in concert with installation of new officers –April 16.

even have lists of past officers going back to ASURA's 1991 founding. Our site currently has over 150 pages and new information is being added almost every day.

So, check out the ASURA Web site, <http://asura.asu.edu>. It's there to make it easy for you to take advantage of everything the Association has to offer. And, if you have suggestions for the site or for the ASURA you can use the site's contact form to share them with us.



Connie McNeill

Arizona State Retirement System

The news from the Arizona State Retirement System in March 2009 is much the same as it was when it was last reported in *Prime Times* last October. The total value of the ASRS fund varies with the stock market and is down, now to a little less than \$20 billion, and the unofficial, current ratio of assets to 30-year liabilities has dipped accordingly. At the February meeting of the ASRS's Board of Trustees, its outside investment consultant, Mr. Terry Dennison of Mercer Consultants, commented, "We've got some downward to go." He anticipates that the beginnings of significant recovery for the economy, the market, and thus for the ASRS fund will appear in the fall quarter of 2009 or more probably in the first quarter of 2010. It is still true that even \$18.9 billion is a lot of money, enough to cover ASRS liabilities for a considerable time into the future; that the ASRS is widely and professionally recognized as well run; and that Article 29 of the Arizona State Constitution protects the ASRS fund from being raided for other uses and protects its contractually guaranteed benefits from being "diminished or impaired."

Concern is often expressed regarding which retirement benefits are guaranteed and which are not. Most of the 84,000 retired ASRS members receive benefits through the defined-benefit "Plan" instituted in 1971. This typically awards a retirement benefit determined by multiplying the retiring member's average salary for his final three years times a "multiplier" (currently .021 to .023 depending on years of service) times years of service. The resulting benefit is

entirely guaranteed. About 1800 members, all but about 37 of them now retired, are enrolled in the defined-contribution "System," which closed to new membership with the advent of the "Plan." An ASRS "Special Notice" to System retirees dated January 12, 2009, explains that "in general, the amount contributed by System members and their employers while working, and interest earnings of 8%, is guaranteed for purposes of distribution upon retirement." The interest is calculated annually and accumulates along with the contributions. The Notice goes on: "The non-guaranteed portion comes from excess investment earnings [that is, above 8%] applied through supplemental credits or the 13th check." The 13th check is a distribution to the retired member. A "Special Notice" of February 3, 2009, warns that after the official annual valuation of the ASRS fund as of June 30, 2009, the System funding ratio may fall below 95%. If so, the operating rules for the System (see Arizona Revised Statutes 38-704) dictate a reduction in the non-guaranteed benefit. This would come from the "13th check" or, if an individual has no 13th check, from the supplemental credits. The ASRS has sought confirmation of the legality of this process from the Arizona Attorney General and will post the result on its website, www.azasrs.gov, probably in March 2009.

Alan Johnson --ASURA Representative to the ASRS

(Material for this report is drawn from oral and written discussion at the ASRS Board of Trustees meeting of February 20, 2009, from www.azleg.gov, and from www.azasrs.com, especially the section "System Members": "Special Notices" and "Rules.")

May Luncheon



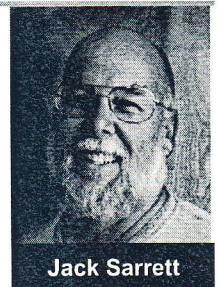
At Retirees Day, Jo Madonna, ASURA Luncheon Chair, announces plans for the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre in May.

ASURA members and guests are invited to gather for lunch and to enjoy the musical show "Ring of Fire," a celebration of the songs of the legendary **Johnny Cash**. This event is set for Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at the **Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre**, 5247 E. Brown Road, Mesa. Doors open for a buffet lunch at 11:45, and the show starts at 1:15.

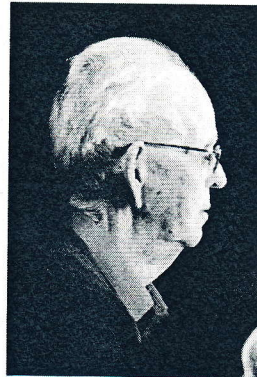
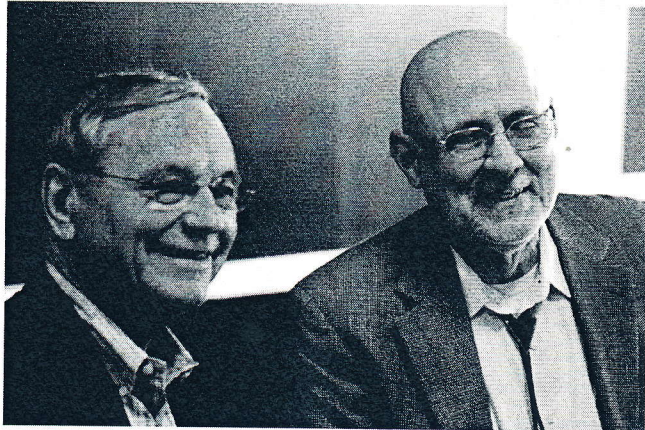
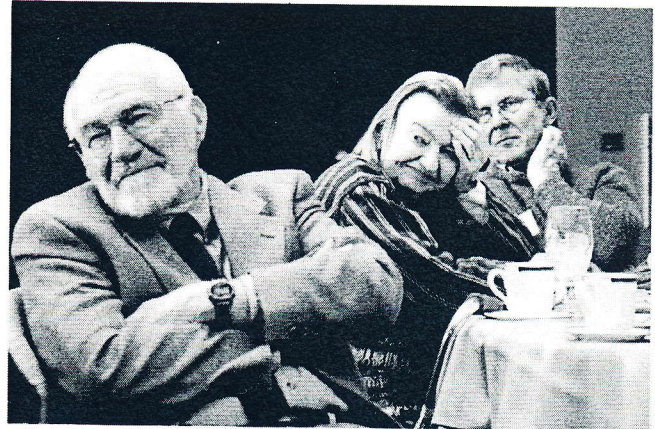
Excellent seating is available at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre for our group: 4- and 8-person tables in the front. You can indicate on the registration form the names of other attendees with whom you'd like to be seated, and we'll accommodate your request if possible. The buffet lunch includes salads, entrées, vegetables, desserts, coffee, hot and iced tea, and lemonade. Soda or alcohol is available at an extra cost. Registration form and information: <http://asura.asu.edu>



Jack Sarrett, our new Wednesday morning office Volunteer. I was born and raised in Mentone, a small town in Southern California. I moved to Arizona in late 1976 and married Judy, my California sweetheart in 1977... we have lived here since. Judy graduated from ASU and still works there. We have two sons James, age 26 and Jordan, age 21. I worked for Tempe School District from 1978 until 2005 when I retired as the Director of Information Systems. I came to ASU and worked for 3.5 years as a Systems Analyst in the University Student Initiatives Technology Services department. I retired from there in November after completing 30 years in the Arizona State Retirement system. I enjoy Arizona's flora and fauna and have hiked over much of the state. I also like bicycling, woodworking, fishing and scuba diving.



Jack Sarrett



**Retirees
Day**





Christmas Luncheon

President's message, continued from page 12.

Since we have no guarantees that University subsidies will ever be restored, we have some serious decisions to make. We solicit your input and suggestions on how we should function and which services could be eliminated or cut and which functions must be maintained. We have little time to make our decisions because several major expenditures are imminent.

I am fully aware of the struggles that are taking place on the campus at the current time. I have worked within higher education for over thirty-two years and I have seen budget reductions many times. At ASU in the mid-1990s as head of a major department on campus I was asked to slash my operating budget by 20% and to eliminate 100 positions.

This was a gut-wrenching exercise. I had to personally fire 33 persons after doing all that could be done with early retirements and attrition. But, like everyone else at the institution I did what needed to be done to survive. Our University will survive and so will we.

We ask your patience as we do our best to maintain the integrity and usefulness of ASURA now and into the future. Things look bleak now, but we will somehow make it work.

Remembering Anne Pittman

Knowing Anne Pittman was something special. She was direct, down-to-earth, and we say with affection, amusing.



When tennis players in Tempe wanted to play they had to go to a high school court or use the ASU courts. When Frank Kush, Ron Erhardt, Jerry Vaughn and I wanted to play doubles we usually went to ASU. Sometimes in the heat of play Anne would come on the court and shout... "Okay guys, time to leave." Her girl's tennis team was ready to practice and we had to leave. We didn't argue with her or even complete the game. No one disputed orders from Anne! We just picked up our gear and headed for a local high school.

Anne was a member of the ASU Retirees Association Board. She didn't have much to say but when she did we all listened. She was then elected President of ASURA (our third president). We'd come to the meeting and she would call it to order at exactly 10:00AM. If you were late...too bad! She wouldn't fill you in on the missed discussion. As the meeting was called to order she would announce, "We have an hour and will be finished at 11."

As the meeting commenced if a speaker was going on too long she would pound the gavel and nicely say something like "Get to the point." It didn't matter how long the agenda or what problems we had to discuss we always finished at 11.

Anne had only one request when we had an ASURA luncheon. We had to have carrot cake. We had so many luncheons with carrot cake we started to get a few complaints. I think we changed desserts without telling Anne.

I never saw her compete on the tennis court but she must have been very good. She teamed up with ASU dance professor Margaret Gisolo and they played in senior's double tournaments across the nation. Neither Anne nor Margaret would tell me how they fared in those tournaments but I believe they won many of them in their age group.

After she gave up playing tennis she concentrated on golf. Again, she wouldn't tell me her handicap but I'll bet she was a very good golfer.

I really liked Anne! Lately I haven't seen or talked to her and I will always regret that. Yes, she was unique. There will never be an Anne clone.

By Bob Ellis

Prime Times

Issued three times annually by the Arizona State University Retirees Association with special editions as needed. Articles welcome, subject to Board approval. Contact: ASU Prime Times, ASU Retirees Association, PO Box 873308, Tempe, Arizona.

Arizona State University Retirees Association

ASURA has a volunteer-staffed office in the Community Service Building, 200 E. Curry Rd., Room 201B in Tempe, Arizona. Office hours are generally Monday through Friday, 9 AM to noon and 1 till 4 PM. Phone: 480-965-7668; Fax: 480-965-7807. It is best to call before you stop by the office to insure that it will be open and staffed. ASURA Website: <http://asura.asu.edu>

Frederick Irish: He always wanted to start something

Most residents of Irish Hall have equated their dormitory name with St. Patrick and shamrocks. But it's time to give credit where credit is due: to the venerable Frederick M. Irish, one of the most notable figures in ASU history. Young Irish arrived on the Arizona Territorial Normal School campus in 1896 after attending the University of Iowa and went to work immediately to found an amazing number of long-lasting institutional activities.



Frederick Irish

He was hired as the young school's first science teacher, and he continued in that role for several decades. But the 200-pound six-footer was a sportsman at heart, and his first venture into student activities was the creation of a football program – one that won the Territorial Cup by beating the University of Arizona in 1899. Soon thereafter Irish launched a tennis program, and then organized the school's first basketball team.

One of the most memorable of his innovations was the creation of the student Cadet Corps, a military forerunner of today's ROTC. In 1898, when young Arizonans were eager to do their part in the Spanish-American War, Irish assembled a sizeable group of students for military training. He was able to procure some old army rifles and drilled his cadets in uniforms made by female students. It was that brief exercise in military command that earned him the nickname of "Cap," and he was known as Cap Irish for many decades.

When his young wife left him for a local banker, Irish filled the void with even more service to the Normal School and its successor, Arizona State Teachers College. In a very real sense he was married to the institution he loved so much and worked for its development night and day. His only recreation was camping, and he often joined President Arthur Matthews and Professor Ira D. Payne on weekend outings.

When the school grew big enough to require a registrar and director of admissions, it was he who was the original holder of that title. Irish continued serving ASTC until failing health forced him to retire in 1940 after 44 years of loyal devotion. Life outside the college was never the same for him, and he died less than a year later.



By Dean Smith

Calendar of Events

- Annual Meeting Sat., Apr. 8, 2009
- Canyon de Chelly Trip April 13 - 15, 2009
- Broadway Palm Theatre Luncheon Wed., May. 6, 2009

Volunteers Becky Reiss and Patty Kelley, regularly read obituary notices in the two local newspapers looking for items about retirees, their spouses, current ASU employees and ASU affiliates. Some may be missed because ASU is not mentioned in the article. Please call or write to us if you know of someone whose death should be reported in Prime Times. We would like to have name, age, city of residence, date of death, and ASU department and title. Notices in this issue are edited from newspaper obituaries received since the last issue, through March 1, 2009. Check local newspapers for complete obituaries.

Obits

Grant Randall Bingham, Jr., 58, passed away on November 6. Grant worked for ASU Facilities Maintenance Department for over 20 years. Grant leaves behind his wife of 30 years, three children. Donations may be made to Donor Network of AZ or Banner Good Samaritan Transplant Services.

Senon A. "Baldy" Castillo, 90, passed away on January 31. After serving in the Navy as Chief Petty Officer from 1942 to 1946 he attended ASU and graduated with a degree in education. He served as head Track and Field Coach at ASU from 1953-1979. He led his student athletes to 10 NCAA titles and coached 34 All-Americans. Twenty-four of his athletes competed in eight Summer Olympics and collected 13 Olympic medals, seven of which were gold. One of his greatest accomplishments was when his team won the Track and Field national Championship in 1977. He was an inductee in the Oklahoma State Field of Track and Field Hall of Honor, Penn Relays and Drake Relays Hall of Fame, national Track and Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Arizona Hispanic Sports Hall of Fame and ASU Hall of Distinction. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Leona, two children, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one sister. Donations may be made in Baldy's name to Hospice of the Valley.

Sharon Ann Firestone, 70, died on October 27. She earned a B.A. in Spanish and a Masters of Library Science from the University of Washington. Later, she received a M.A. and a Ph.D. in History at ASU. She was employed as a librarian at the Memorial University of Newfoundland Library in St. John's, Newfoundland, the Detroit Public Library, and the Ross-Blakely Law Library at ASU. Sharon accompanied her husband on anthropological studies of villages in Newfoundland and Devon, England. Her research in Newfoundland became the material of her Ph.D. on the lives of women in the fishing community of Savage Cove, Newfoundland. Sharon is survived by her husband, Melvin M. Firestone, two sons, two grandsons.

Parley Verl Heap, 84, died on December 24. Verl went to ASU on a basketball scholarship. After serving in the Air Force as a B17 pilot he returned to ASU resuming his education and basketball career. After a short career as a professional basketball player, he spent a short time back at ASU as an assistant coach and then 2 years at Duncan HS. before returning to St. Johns where he again took up farming/ranching and coached and taught school for 35 years. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, two daughters, two sons, 18 grand

children, and 17 great grandchildren. Donations can be made to St. Johns High School Basketball.

Billy Joe Irvan, 83, passed away January 26. Bill is survived by his wife Corrine and one son. Corrine, an ASU retiree, was the Office Coordinator of ASU Retirees Association from 1991-2007. Bill attended Murray State College and went on to manage shoe stores in Kentucky, Tennessee, Tempe and Phoenix.

Gloria Patricia (Pat) Keefer, 60, passed away on November 4. She worked for Western Union, Air Research and ASU W.P. Carey School of Accountancy. Survivors include her father, and two sons. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org) or to Hospice of the Valley (www.hov.org).

Hilda Irene Kopf Kiesow, 90, died on November 10. Hilda was married for 61 years to the late Dr. Milton Kiesow, a long-time professor at ASU. He preceded her in death in February, 2007. Hilda is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, three grand-children, three great-grandchildren. Memorials may be directed to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Tempe.

Mary Della Kirby, passed away on October 30. She graduated from ASU in 1962, and later earned a masters degree from ASU. She taught at several valley schools over the years. In the late 1980's she worked at ASU as part of an Education program that partnered with corporations to change the way Math and Science were taught in local schools. Donations can be made to St Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Olds Miller passed away on January 1. Jackie worked in the Registrar's Office of Arizona State College (now ASU), and later taught in the Tempe Elementary School District. After she and her husband retired, they both became active volunteers at the Desert Botanical Garden. Her husband, Howard, passed away in 1997. Two children and two grandchildren survive them. Memorial gifts may be sent to Desert Botanical Garden, in the Miller's name.

Annabelle Morrow, 91, passed away on December 31. She retired from ASU where she worked as a secretary for the Liberal Arts Department. She is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren.

Marjorie S. Nagel, 87, passed away on February 25. Marge was preceded in death by her husband Earl T. Nagel and a brother. She is survived by a son, a daughter, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren. Marge was in the Navy and her husband in the Marine Corps. They were stationed in Washington, DC until their honorable discharges in 1945. They moved to Scottsdale in 1958. Marge worked as a library cataloger at the ASU law library and retired in 1984.. She sang with the Scottsdale Sweet Adelines and the Fiesta Chorus. Donations can be made to Hospice of the Valley.

John J. "Jack" Naperala, 82, passed away November 19. Jack served in the Marines during WWII and worked at ASU in the Bureau of Publications, retiring in 1989. Jack is survived by a daughter. He was preceded in death by his wife Yvonne. Donations may be made to the Show Low Historical Society, PO Box 3468, Show Low, AZ 85902 or AZ Wildlife Federation.

Joel Thomas Newcome, 47, passed away November 30. He was employed by ASU in the Office of the VP for Research &

Economic Affairs. He is survived by two sons. Memorial contributions can be made to the Perpetual Education Fund of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Alzheimer's Assoc., or an environmental protection association.

Elisabeth Webster Peplow, 89, died on September 23. She was predeceased by her son, Michael. Elisabeth is survived by her daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Elisabeth (also known as Bonnie, Bee, Betty, Nan, and Nana) was a published author of several books, including *The Middle Wall* and *Roundup Recipes*. For over thirty years, she served as Assistant Director of the News Bureau at ASU, where people knew her as Bonnie Peplow. She covered ASU fine arts events and interviewed celebrities as well as ASU professors for feature articles about their work in many fields. Memorial gifts may be made to a fund in Elisabeth's name and sent to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Tempe.

Anne M. Pittman, passed away November 25. She received her bachelor's degree in 1940 at the University of Texas; her pilot's license in 1941; a master's degree in Education from New York University in 1945; and the Ed.D degree from Stanford University in 1972. She taught physical education and dance at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley before coming to ASU in 1952. Early in her career she performed in the folk dance companies in New York City. She teamed with Marlys Waller and Jane Harris Ericson to write "Dance A While", the seminal textbook on folk, social and square dance published in 1952 which remains the most widely used folk dance text book in universities. Professor Pittman distinguished herself with a 337-71 record as the women's tennis coach from 1954-1984. She previously held the title Lady Champion Women's Tennis Coach of the Year in 1975 and 1976. In 1973 she founded the Women's Collegiate Tennis Coaches Association and in that same year coached the U. S. Women's Tennis Team at the World University Games in Moscow bringing home a bronze medal in doubles and taking fourth in singles. In 1995 she was the only coach inducted as a charter member into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Women's Collegiate Hall of Fame. As Director of the AZ Women's Golf Association she produced many tournaments state wide. Anne also was very active with the ASU Retirees Association. She was president of ASURA from 1993-1994. She is survived by nieces and nephews. Contributions may be made to: Sun Angel Foundation.

Maria Ayala Rodarte, 91, died November 22. Her husband of 56 years, Severiano, passed away in 1987. They had five children, 13 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. After raising her children, she worked at San Marcos, ASU, Williams AFB and Rosarita Mexican Foods. Donations: Seton Catholic High School, or plant a tree - she loved trees!

Jack Oliver Shafer, 64, passed away on November 19. He was a graduate of The University of Nebraska and a Veteran of the Air Force. It was Jack's work as an Administrator at ASU that led to his real passion; cheering for the Sun Devils. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl, two sons, a brother and other relatives. Donations may be made to Hospice of the Valley or to Crisis Nursery Phoenix.

Hazel Mae Smith, 81, passed away on February 10. Hazel retired from ASU/Grady Gammage after 24 years of service. She is preceded in death by her husband, Christopher and one daughter. She is survived by a brother, four children, 14 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandson.

Noel J. Stowe, 66, died on December 13. Stowe came to ASU in 1967 after receiving his B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. Stowe's interest in Arizona history led to contributions far beyond the ASU campus. He was the recipient of many honors and awards, both locally and nationally. Stowe was very active in the Arizona Historical Society and helped establish Friends of Arizona Archives. In 2008, he and a team of researchers received a National Endowment for the Humanities planning grant to design and implement "Becoming Arizona", an on-line e-cyclopedia of Arizona history, culture, politics, economics and other topics as a Centennial project. In 1978, Stowe directed the History Department's graduate study. During that time he founded the Public History Program, which under his direction achieved national and international recognition. He served as associate dean of the Graduate College and chaired the History Department. He served as president of the National Council on Public History in 1985-86. Stowe was active in the Oral History Association becoming its president in 1992-93. He was a lifetime member of the Organization of American Historians. He is survived by his wife, Gwen. Their son, James, died in 2007. Donations may be made in Noel Stowe's memory to the ASU Foundation for the Noel J. and Gwen J. Stowe Public History Endowment.

Roland Spencer Strawn, 77, passed away on December 31. Dr. Strawn graduated from the University of Illinois in 1953. Ron contributed to the development of radar systems for the military before joining ASU in 1967. He earned his doctoral degree in electrical engineering and taught at ASU for 25 years. He helped create ASU's Master's degree program in electronic technology and won a competitive award from the university in 1990 for excellence in teaching. He is survived by his wife, Joan, four daughters and ten grandchildren. Donations for pancreatic cancer research can be made to the Roland Strawn Memorial Fund c/o the TGen Foundation in Phoenix.

Clarence H. "Bud" Thorson, 88, passed away on December 9. He is survived by his former wife, Ruth Jean Stasell, four children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He worked at ASU until his retirement.

Thomas B. Watkins, 88, passed away February 5. He is survived by his wife Mary, a grandson and a great grandson. Prior to retirement, Tom was a Professor at ASU. He was very active in amateur radio, being one of a group of hams that operated the Goldwater Station during the Vietnam War. Tom was also a Navy Veteran of WWII.

Carol Sue Hall Youssefi, 64, passed away on October 21. Carol taught French, Spanish, and English at ASU, Phoenix College, Glendale Community College, Rio Salado Community College, Paradise Valley Community College and, for the final 17 years of her career, at Xavier College Preparatory. She is survived by her husband, three children and one grandson

President's Message

The financial world seems to be falling apart wherever we look these days. The newspapers, television and other media are filled with headlines and reports of doom and gloom. Even locally our state budget is woefully short. And as we know, when the state is short of funds, state agencies are called upon to balance the budget.

Drastic measures are being assessed, debated and implemented in various ways and means in all state universities. It confirms the reasons we all like retirement. As an organization of the University we have been somewhat isolated and even insulated from the frustration and pain being experienced by the administration, faculty, staff and students at our former workplace. Our biggest worries as retirees have been how budget reversions may affect our retirement funds or insurance coverage. But now there is even more for us to worry about.

Have you ever wondered how the ASU Retirees Association can survive with a dues structure of \$10 per member? I did until I became the president of the organization. I found that we have been financially assisted in certain areas. The University has provided ASURA with office space, including utilities, office furnishings and equipment without charge. In addition, our printing, mailing and some office supply costs have been picked up by a division of the University. And these expenses, although modest in scope, have constituted the largest portion of our budget.

Recently we were notified by our budget benefactor that campus cutbacks and restrictions of expenditures have become so severe that they can no longer fund the operating expenses heretofore provided.

That change will have a major impact upon our organization.

Officers and board members of ASURA have been asked to identify cost savings practices and more efficient methods to accomplish the work of the association. Even so, we will be forced to consider changes to the way we have been conducting our operations. Some ideas currently being considered include:



- Doing more of our business and publications online. The dissemination of information via e-mail is virtually free. There are no printing or mailing costs involved. Our current data base indicates that about two-thirds of our members have an e-mail account.
- Increasing our dues. We have noted that other retiree associations within the state already have higher dues structures than do we.
- Reducing or eliminating some or all of our hardcopy newsletters and reports. We view these items as vital to the health and usefulness of our organization and would be loathe for much change in this area.

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H. Val Peterson
President 08-09

ASU Retirees
Association

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