Humor and Politics

Alleen and Don Nilsen organized a conference that stemmed from their Fall 2012 Barrett-Emeritus College Teaching Fellowship. They named it the “Red, White, and Sometimes Blue: Humor and Politics Conference.” It was held at the Tempe Historical Museum on April 2, 2013.

The keynote speaker was John Morreall, a noted scholar at William and Mary University who has published extensively on humor and politics. He was introduced by Dean Len Gordon.

The Nilsens noted that early travelers on their trek to California through Arizona gave names such as “Dry Gulch” and “Hooker’s Valley” to places in Arizona. Those who settled in Arizona tended to use positive names like “Paradise Valley” and “Phoenix,” the mythological bird symbolizing rebirth or regeneration.

The conference was co-sponsored by ASU’s Project Humanities program and the Emeritus College.

Emeritus Voices: An Update

Emeritus Voices (EV), the literary journal of the Emeritus College (EC), will return to its original publication schedule this spring with EV, No. 12. EV, No. 11 was published earlier this year. Eric vanSonnenberg, editor of the journal since fall of 2009, achieved this goal with the assistance of...

Shannon Perry Fights Human Trafficking

Shannon E. Perry, an associate member of the ASU Emeritus College and professor emerita at San Francisco State University, is actively fighting in the worldwide war against human trafficking. Perry, who has specialized in maternity nursing and in child and adolescent development, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. In January of this year, she joined a group that climbed Africa’s highest mountain, Mt. Kilimanjaro, in an effort to raise awareness of human trafficking and funds to combat it. Her story of “The Freedom Climb” was presented at the College’s short talks luncheon on Feb. 12, 2013. The Climb is described on p. 4 of this newsletter.

Photography by Linda Stryker

Photography by Paula Maturana

Len Gordon and Jonathan Koppell addressing dinner guests at Artwalk

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Len Gordon (left), Alleen Nilsen, John Morreall and Don Nilsen


See Literary Musicale on p. 2.

Barrett Emeritus Fellow

The Barrett Emeritus Fellow for the 2013-2014 academic year will be Dick Jacob, whose project is titled “A Practical Evaluation of the Limitations on Interstellar Exploration,” as announced by Dean Len Gordon at the April meeting of the Emeritus College Council. In addition to mentoring a student in this project, Jacob will be in residence at Barrett, the Honors College, for the 2013 – 2014 academic year. He also will teach an upper-division honors course, “The Higgs, Quarks and the Big Bang,” during the Spring 2014 semester and present lectures and seminars. This is the second fellowship to be funded under this program, which is co-sponsored by Barrett and the Emeritus College. Competition for the third year of this program will open in December 2013.

See Artwalk on p. 2

Spring Artwalks Revived

The spring Artwalk on April 3 at the ASU downtown Phoenix campus attracted some 50 dinner guests. Dean Jonathan Koppell of the ASU College of Public Programs (CPP) worked with Dean Len Gordon of the Emeritus College (EC) to revitalize this springtime event. He and Gordon spoke at the dinner hosted by Koppell. EC artists present included John Aguilar, Jerry Buley, Eugene Grigsby, Don Henderson and Paul Jackson.

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Emeritus College Newsletter

Artwalk (from p. 1)
Among the other EC members present were Per and Bente Aannestad.

Carrie Tovar, a member of Koppell’s staff and curator of the art collection, arranged the paintings with the help of Dana Aguilar on floors four through eight. The dinner following the exhibit was on the ninth floor. Koppell plans to underwrite the CPP-EC Artwalk in 2014, thus re-establishing it as a jointly sponsored annual event.

Literary Musicale (from p. 1)
Winifred Doane read “The Christening,” which is based on a story that she wrote about a WWII minesweeper for The Island Current, the monthly newspaper of City Island, N.Y.C.

The music of Beethoven filled the room as Don Nilsen played Für Elise on the piano, John Aguilar (violin) and Aryeh Faltz (piano) performed “Spring” (Sonata #5), and Dick Jacob (clarinet), Jo Cleland (cello) and Faltz performed Trio in B major, opus 11. Duets for piano and cello — Schubert’s Serenade and Gabriel-Marie’s La Cinquantaine — were played by Linda Stryker (piano) and Cleland. A sing-along closed the program with Stryker at the piano. A potluck array of refreshments was served.

The next Literary Musicale will be in Fall 2013. Emeritus College members interested in participating in these programs should contact the College office at emerituscollege@asu.edu.

More Lectures by Emeriti

Four New Frontiers lectures that were not listed in the winter newsletter include:
>Charles Merbs, As Written in Their Bones, Feb 19, Mesa Community College;
>Lou-ellen Finter, The Hopi 2, March 5, Mesa Community College;
>Alleen and Don Nilsen, Humor in Daily Life, Feb 13, April 10, May 8, Mesa Community College;
>Gary Kleemann, First Things First: Time Management for Seniors for Fun and Effectiveness in Retirement, April 15, Mesa Community College.

In addition, Per Aannestad spoke on The Northern Lights: Myths and Science at the Retired Employees City of Mesa (RECOM) on March 20.

Lectures scheduled for May and June, 2013 include:
>Mary Laner, Identity: Who Are You, Really?, Mesa Active Adult Center, June 13;

June Colloquium
The spring colloquium series sponsored by the Emeritus College attracted large audiences and was described in the winter newsletter. Speakers were Lee R. McPheters, Richard L. Wagner, Jr. and Colleen Jennings-Rogensack.

Dean Len Gordon added an additional colloquium this year, thanks to Juliane Schober of the ASU Center for Asian Research and Norman Levine, an associate member of the Emeritus College from the University of Maryland. The speaker will be Professor Wei Xiaoping of Beijing University. Her topic will be “Dissent and Reform in Contemporary China.” The colloquium will be on June 3 in the Fulton Center, 6th floor, 2-3:30 p.m.

Wei Xiaoping is a member of official Chinese government institutions devoted to the study of contemporary Chinese and Western political theory. She is the Director of the History of Marxist Philosophy in the Philosophy Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Vice-Director of the Society of the History of Chinese Marxist Philosophy, and Vice-Director of the Chinese Society for the Study of Western Marxist Philosophy. She is also the author of five books, one of which, Rethinking China’s Economic Transformation, was published in the United States in 2010. Professor Wei enjoys international visibility and has lectured and conducted research in Berlin, Amsterdam and London. She also has presented numerous papers at political science conferences and universities in New York City.

Events to Remember


►The ASURA Spring Brunch will be on Thursday, May 9, starting at 9:30 a.m. in the Dillard Department Store, Chandler Fashion Center. It will include a fashion show titled “Get Out of Town & Travel the World!” and cost $7.00 per person. Please contact Barbara.Eschbach@asu.edu or 480-209-0733 to volunteer and for further details.

►AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education), to which the ASU Emeritus College belongs, will hold its next conference in 2014 at the Commons Hotel in Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 10-13. The Big Ten Retirees Association will hold its annual meeting at the same location, Aug. 8-10, 2014, providing an opportunity for collaboration between the two groups.

Colloquium Speaker Dr. Richard Wagner and Len Gordon
New Office Specialist: 
Margaret Cole

A new, part-time Office Specialist, Margaret Cole, has been added to the staff of the Emeritus College. She replaces Amanda Meyers, our former office assistant and receptionist. Margaret has worked more than ten years in several ASU offices, including that of the Registrar, the Department of English and the Biodesign Institute. She enjoys a number of pastimes — gardening, movies, theatre, arts and crafts, reading and music. Her adult son lives nearby in Tempe. She is enthusiastic about her new position in the College and looks forward to working with its members.

Spring Short Talks

The Short Talks luncheon on February 12 featured Shannon Perry (nursing, SFSU) and Carleton Moore (ASU Regents professor emeritus of chemistry and founding director of the ASU Center for Meteorite Studies). Perry talked about human trafficking and “The Freedom Climb,” which is described in this newsletter. Moore spoke about “Great Rocks I Have Known” and showed samples to his audience.

Presenters at the March 12 luncheon were Lou-ellen Finter (music education) and Robert Speers (natural and social sciences). Finter’s talk on “Ancestral Puebloans” described early settlements of Pueblo Indians in what is now Arizona. Speers talk, “200th Anniversary of the Battle for the North Coast of the USA,” was on the War of 1812 battle that secured Lake Erie for American navigation.

The April 9 Short Talks luncheon had Wolfgang Preiser (architecture) and Don and Alleen Nilsen (English) as speakers. Preiser’s talk was titled “Universal Design at the Urban Scale,” and the Nilsens described “What We Have Learned Teaching HON 394: Humor Across the Disciplines.”

The final Short Talks luncheon this spring is on May 14. It will feature Len Gordon (sociology) and Pamela Lane-Garon (education, CSU, Fresno). Gordon’s topic will be “Sports and Politics.” The title of Lane-Garon’s talk is “Conflict Resolution Education in Our Schools.”

2013 Annual Symposium

The theme for the Annual Emeritus College Symposium is “Leisure Time: Personal and Social Dimensions.” It will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013. This year’s keynote speaker will be Mark Searle, who was given the College’s Gray Mortarboard Award in 2012. He is a professor in the ASU School of Community Resources and Development and if the former Vice-President of Academic Personnel. The Symposium Committee is composed of Len Gordon (chair), Gary Kleemann, and Alleen and Don Nilsen.

Annual Meeting of the Emeritus College

The Annual Meeting of the Emeritus College (EC) was on May 2, 2013, 2:00-3:30 p.m. It was held at the Emeritus College in Old Main, Room 130. The agenda included the annual report given by Dean Len Gordon and the results of the election for new EC Council members by Elmer Gooding, chair of the Nominating Committee.

New Assistant Dean for the Sciences and Professions

Bob Barnhill stepped down from the position of Emeritus College Assistant Dean for the Sciences and Professions because of commitments to two national organizations. He is currently Vice-President of both SACNAS (Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos & Native Americans in Science) and CSSP (Council of Scientific Society Presidents).

William Glaunsinger has replaced Barnhill as Assistant Dean for the Sciences and Professions. He plans to expand active support of the ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) by the College.
I joined 47 Christian women in the Freedom Climb on Mt. Kilimanjaro in January, 2012. At 19,340 feet, it is the highest mountain in Africa. Our purpose was to increase awareness of human trafficking and to raise funds for projects that combat it. We raised more than $350,000.

Climbers came from 10 U.S. states, Canada, England, Ireland, Kosovo, Cambodia, South Africa, Russia, New Zealand and Gambia. Most of the climbers were in their 40s or 50s; the youngest was 18 years old; I was the oldest at almost 74.

I lived in Colorado at an elevation of 5000 feet for several months before the Climb, hiking Pikes Peak with about half of the women who took part in the Climb. I also hiked many miles in nearby hills and trails.

We flew to Nairobi, Kenya, spent the night in a hotel, and had an orientation the next morning. We were divided into four teams (12 to a team) and introduced to our guides. I was on the Red Team. Vans took us to Kibo Slopex Lodge in Loitokitok, Tanzania, 143 miles southeast of Nairobi. There we met the group of 10 women who prayed for us during the Climb.

On the National Day for Awareness of Human Trafficking in the USA, January 11, we drove to the starting point of the Rongai Route. We met our crew of 130 guides, porters and cooks, and began our trek at 1:05 p.m. The road was flat, had an elevation of 6890 feet, and was surrounded by vegetation. Each of us carried a day pack with at least 3 liters of water, snacks, rain gear, hand sanitizer, toilet tissue, sunscreen and first aid supplies. My pack weighed about 11 pounds.

Each of us carried a day pack with at least 3 liters of water, snacks, rain gear, hand sanitizer, toilet tissue, sunscreen and first aid supplies. My pack weighed about 11 pounds. Porters carried the tents, food and other supplies. We followed our guide who kept reminding us to walk “pole, pole” (slowly, slowly).

The second day was the longest — 8.7 miles in 10 ½ hours up a rocky trail — a real test of strength and courage. The longest I had walked prior to this was 10 miles, which took four and one-half hours.

When we arrived in camp each afternoon, each of our tents, the cook tent, and dining tent were set up for us, in addition to a Porta Potty. In some campsites we had portable or long drop toilets. Trees, bushes or big rocks provided some privacy along the trail.

Campsite meals were delicious — porridge, fried eggs, fruit and toast for breakfast. We were served sandwiches and fruit if we did not reach camp by lunchtime; for dinner we had soup, vegetables, pasta or rice — with or without sauce containing chicken — bread, jam and cookies. The beverages were always tea, coffee or hot chocolate.

The water for drinking, cooking and washing came from mountain lakes. It was boiled, and many of us also added iodine before drinking it.

The weather varied during our trek — sunshine some days, rain one day and snow another. Late afternoons and evenings were often foggy and chilly; nights were cold. Our lowest temperature was probably 20-30º F, but our sleeping bags were good to 15º below zero.

After four and one-half days we reached 15,583 feet, where a “School Hut” provided a place to rest before the final ascent. Our slow pace helped to acclimate us to the change in altitude and the lower level of oxygen in the air. We hiked across Kibo Saddle — a barren, fairly level stretch of sand with a scattering of very large rocks. It appeared desert-like since we were above all vegetation.

It had been a long hard day, and I was very tired. At 11 p.m., it was time to dress for the final climb to the summit, but I could not do it. I had not slept and the climb ahead would take about 12 hours more of hiking. Now I wish someone had urged me to get up and go for it!

Seven of our 12 Red Team members reached the summit at Uhuru Peak — the highest point and a remarkable feat. Incredibly, 43 of the 48 climbers “summitted.” This set a record for the largest all-women group to attempt the climb and for the largest percentage (90%) of group participants to gain the summit. Unfortunately, two of the freedom climbers had to be carried down from the summit on porter-born stretchers. My summit was at 15,583 feet.

On the last day, we walked through forest for more that six hours to Marangu Gate. Upon reaching the base, each team gave out tips and gifts: shirts, pens and souvenirs from home. Many climbers gave away socks, shirts and climbing gear to the porters.

Later we learned of the difficulties experienced by some of the climbers who summited. Many had altitude sickness with vomiting, diarrhea and headaches. Near the top, they had to cross a glacier, which meant walking on ice and snow. Their persistence to complete the climb in spite of these difficulties was truly remarkable. Even an experienced hiker and rock climber said that getting to the summit was the hardest work she had ever done.

Before we started the climb, we had been told, “No matter how much it hurts, keep going. If you don’t continue, it will hurt worse to come home and say you didn’t make it.” It does hurt to say that I didn’t reach the top. But I did climb farther, longer, and higher than I had ever done before, and I am proud of that. Would I do it again? Yes, in a heart-beat! And next time I would aim for the summit.
John E. Bell Remembered

A proper designation for John Bell would be to take the word “gentleman” and make it into “gentle man.” He was a member of the Steering Committee that prepared the proposal for the establishment of our Emeritus College (EC) and served on its first Council. Dick Jacob, our founding dean, appointed John director of the EC Center for K-12 Education ... and what a great choice that was! John was a research professor of secondary education and a consultant to Phoenix area schools on advancing the quality of education for all students, including those in low-income areas. In that capacity, John drew from his role on the Board of Examiners of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

John’s teaching background and research led to his work in the ASU Teach for America (TFA) program. He and I were attracted to this program for high-achieving seniors — at least a 3.7 GPA — from all disciplines and colleges. TFA students were committed to a minimum of two years of full-time teaching to lower grade or high school students in low-income areas. Most of the ASU students in the TFA program were not majors in the College of Education. They represented many colleges but were committed to obtaining a teaching certificate. John helped to develop the courses offered at these schools. He and I arranged a number of TFA presentations for many ASU classes and co-hosted dinners at the University Club for seniors interested in TFA. There were 18 students in ASU’s initial TFA program. Within three years that number had grown to close to 100. John related well on a personal level with TFA students and had been instrumental in encouraging a number of them to enter the program. Many remained in teaching after their two-year commitments.

At EC Council meetings, John would listen quietly to the various agenda items. Then he would report in his gentle way on the progress of his consulting work with the Phoenix schools and the development of the TFA program at ASU. We have also had a mentoring program in our College, and John was a major part of it.

A touching memorial service for John was held at the University Presbyterian Church in Tempe. It was noted that John — married to his Barbara for 64 years, a father of four and a grandfather of eight — was “…a man dedicated to education. He was a good man, a man of principle and a man of faith. He was loved by many.”

For me, and for his family, friends and colleagues, it was a great pleasure to have known John Bell.

Len Gordon

ASU at War Crimes Trial

About 1.7 million people were killed during the 1975-1979 Cambodian Genocide, almost one-quarter of the population. The Khmer Rouge (KR) were Red Cambodians seeking to create a communist Utopia by eliminating persons who had been influenced by Western customs or education.

The KR first killed anyone who wore eyeglasses (presumptive evidence of reading), then all professionals and others with formal education, then journalists and foreigners, and so on. All urban residents were forced to leave their homes and walk to the killing fields, for execution. “The Killing Fields” tells this story for Western film audiences.

There has been significant recovery and progress for today’s 13.5 million Cambodians, but they still struggle with their past. The United Nations War Crimes Commission has been conducting war crimes trials for several years now, and Catherine Merlen has played an important role as head of the translation unit. She was a Ph.D. student in justice studies at ASU between 1994-1997. From 1997-2001, she served as an instructor in the ASU French Department. In February 2013 she invited ASU Professor Emeritus John Johnson to Phnom Penh to observe the trial of “Brother Number Two,” the second-in-command for the KR regime. The outcome of this trial may interest members of the Emeritus College who recall learning about those killing fields all too well.
Down in the River the Fish

Down in the river the fish
are making a list
of what to pack for the trip.

The authentic fish,
the old one in the mist,
came this way. The trek
goes up the river’s lift
and into the secret trees
where the real fish live,
those old ones who can only teach
the wisdom of the undrawn breath
and knowledge of inchoate wish.

Charles Brownson

Spring in Arizona

A whisper of spring
as the temperature
moves up to seventy --
roses already blooming
in the back garden.

The birds have been chattering
but still mostly pigeons
climb the sky. I feel that
Lenten burden - so many
years and my heart still
not the house of the spirit.

But suddenly a cardinal’s wing
and the red beauty moves a tear.

Bettie Anne Doebler

History

My mother knew
Her daughter would never see
Girls being forced to have baby-sized feet
So that their bodies would grow up provocative
From the bottom up. Mother chose not to tell me
The story of Chinese women being forced to bear
The unbearable.

My daughter would never see
How people fetched water in order to drink
So I saved my time by not describing
How people labored to get water.

I am glad that I could hold my granddaughter’s puny hand
Walk into a museum, point to the three-inch-shoe,
triangular, ornate, locked in a transparent case,

And tell her
That such device
Will never be resurrected.

Frances New
Emeritus Profile: Patricia A. Etter

Patricia A. Etter was a member of the Emeritus College who served on its Council for many years and was chair of its bylaws committee. She regularly contributed articles, notes and photographs to this newsletter. Her emeritus profile was in the planning stage when she unexpectedly died on February 21. Shortly before then, she had given her crewel artwork, shown here, to the College.

Pat was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her father built toys and small items of furniture for Pat and her brother Alex, and a clubhouse to play in. Alex later earned a doctorate and became Vice-Principal and Registrar at Woodsworth College at the University of Toronto. Her paternal grandfather, and great-grandfather before him, had been mayors of Winnipeg.

Pat’s mother, Margie Waugh, was a registered nurse and a “go-getter.” After a divorce from Pat’s father, she moved to Santa Monica, California. There she worked at St. John’s Hospital, the filming site of Marcus Welby MD.

In high school, Pat did figure skating and volleyball. After graduation, she attended business school and worked in Toronto for a year before joining her mother in California, where she worked for the Bank of America. She earned an A.A. from Santa Monica College and her B.A. in anthropology from Cal State Long Beach.

After Pat met Paul Etter, her husband-to-be, they were quite the “glamorous couple,” she resembling Audrey Hepburn, and he a slender 6’4” Pacific Coast Sabre Champion. She too became an avid fencer, as told in her article in Emeritus Voices, No. 7, where she describes their fencing days with Tony Curtis.

The Etters had one child, Jan Bull, who is a medical education researcher for the Association of American Medical Colleges. She had two grandchildren—Simon, a college student, and Eleanor, a ballerina with Ballet Jørgen in Toronto.

When Jan started college, Pat’s career took off. She returned to school, starting with a class in anthropology. She and Jan took Spanish together. Her professors at Cal State Long Beach encouraged Pat to do research on Robert Brownlee (1813-1897), a Scottish stonemason who traveled across the USA to seek his fortune. Pat, with her friend Jane Rosenthal, traveled Brownlee’s route through the southwest. Rosenthal writes that after exploring this trail, those of ... Goulding, Kit Carson, Billy the Kid, Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau and others followed.” In 1986, Pat published her first Southern Trails book, An American Odyssey—about Brownlee. Her web site, http://patri西亚stersouthwest.com/publications, lists her publications.

After the Etters moved to Tucson, Pat enrolled in the Master of Library Science program at the University of Arizona. She earned her M.L.S. in archives administration, bibliography and museum studies. “At an age when most people are starting to think about retirement, my mom took the world by its tail and spun it around her head several times,” says daughter Jan. “My mom was super-organized and head-strong. As a child she kept a banker’s book. That and her business college experience taught her the principles of organization. Becoming a librarian suited those skills.”

In line with her love of the Southwest, Pat helped to secure the Labriola National American Indian Data Center at ASU. She started working there in 1993, just before the Center officially opened. She began to catalog books and get funding. As Judith Smith wrote in 2006 for ASU Insight, “Etter’s tenure as curator leaves a legacy for Labriola Center to build upon.”

A book that greatly influenced Pat’s life was Elizabeth Compton Hegemann’s autobiography, Navajo Trading Days (1963). Hegemann married Mike Harrison, a Grand Canyon park-service ranger. Pat became hooked on the Southwest Indian culture and fell in love with the desert.

Pat and her family spent holidays camping in Arizona and New Mexico. She carefully prepared for each trip down to the smallest detail, learning beforehand the area’s history, flora, fauna and people. She described how she became a “western woman” in Emeritus Voices, No. 5. “She always set out on a camping trip with perfectly pressed pants and shirts, perfectly coifed hair, and a perfect manicure. In the desert! Who else does that?” Jan marvels.

Pat became a member of the Western History Association and the Oregon-California Trails Association. She was also on the board of the ASU University Club and loved the Desert Botanical Garden, where a tile in her name will be installed.

Jan recalls that when Pat retired, she was determined to remain active. “She was proud to be in the Emeritus College and happy to work with the Council committee on bylaw revisions last year ... It was a great source of pride for my mom to have come from a wee town in Canada and ... to do what she loved at the University.”

“From the stories people have emailed me about their relationship with my mom,” Jan writes, “they agree that she was terrific at organizing and implementing new and innovative ideas. She challenged the status quo but, at the end of the day, was a hell of a lot of fun to sit with at a conference and have a martini with afterward.” Jane Rosenthal writes, “I will miss the ‘traveling Pat,’ always with her roadside guide to historic sites, geology, railroads, inns and curiosities that we loved to investigate.”

Pat’s life philosophy was: If one wants to live long, one needs to be doing something one likes, be tops at it, have loads of colleagues, and keep busy. Patricia Etter fulfilled those aspirations.
Emeritus Faculty Notes

Joyotpaul Chaudhuri (political science) reported that his late wife Jean was inducted into the Arizona Women’s Hall of Fame at a ceremony held at the Carnegie Center in Phoenix on March 14, 2013. Among the guests were former Governor Jane Dee Hull, the current Secretary of State, former Congressman Harry Mitchell, several state legislators and other distinguished guests. Betsy Bayless, former county supervisor and currently head of the county hospital announced the induction.

Winifred Doane (zoology) attended a dinner party on Feb. 26, 2013, hosted by Joan (Habel) Burtnett, a yoga classmate and retired teacher. The event celebrated the 70th anniversary of the christening of U.S. Navy minesweeper YMS-214 in 1943. Joan lived in Mount Vernon, N.Y., but spent many youthful hours on City Island. She and Winifred are the same age, but had not met until eight years ago. Joan earned her M.A. in education at ASU. Both of her daughters are ASU graduates and have held administrative positions in the University.

Len Gordon (sociology) is a member of the past president’s planning committee for the Spring 2014 Pacific Sociological Association meetings in Portland, Oregon. The overall topic of the PSA sessions is “Leisure Studies,” drawing from the theme of the ASU Annual Emeritus College Symposium to be held on Nov. 2, 2014. PSA sessions will include presentations on “Sports and Politics” and “The Nature of Changing American Humor.” On April 16 Len will speak to an ASU West English 101 class on “Sociological Concepts Through New Yorker Cartoons and Other Sketches.” His other spring 2013 lectures are listed on p. 2 of this newsletter.

J. Richard Haefer (music) presented a paper on April 5, 2013, at the Southwest Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Flagstaff, Ariz., and served as chair of a session. His title was “Evolution and Development of Text in O’odham Songs.” An in-depth version, including the evolution and development of melodic families, will appear as a chapter in a book honoring Professor Bruno Nettl. Haefer is Emeritus Precentor, Schola Cantorum Sanctae Crucis.

Dick Jacob (physics) was appointed by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer to serve a three-year term as the Education member on the Arizona State Retirement System Board of Trustees. The nine-member Board has fiduciary oversight of this 535,000-member, 30 billion dollar system.

John M. Johnson (justice studies) gave a plenary address in November 2012 to The Chickering Readings on “State sovereignty in the system of multilateral world political relations” at G. R. Derzhavin Tambov University in Tambov, Russia. His presentation titled “Sovereignty for Whom?: From Nationalization to Biosphere Consciousness,” included a critique of nation-state sovereignty in favor of a broader awareness of our shared biosphere.

On April 30, 2013, Elaine Katzman (nursing) and her husband Larry moved to Tuscan at McCormick Ranch, located at 9000 E. San Victor Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85258. They plan to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on June 20 and report a heritage of three daughters, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Elaine will donate her copies of Emeritus Voices to the library at Tuscan.

Stephen MacKinnon (history) received a senior Nehru Fulbright fellowship to lecture on the “People's Republic of China” at Pune University in India during the 2013-14 academic year.

Don and Aileen Nilsen completed their Barrett-Emeritus Colleges Fellowship. Their fall 2012 Honors College course under this program was on the nature and literature of American humor. They are developing a book on changes in American humor with the aid of an undergraduate research intern funded by the OKED.

In Fall 2013, the Nilsens will offer an English Course titled “Humor Across the Disciplines” as part of the Project for the Humanities. The course will include humor in academic areas such as literature, linguistics, psychology, sociology, politics, business, education, health care, music, gerontology and show business. Student research will focus on how digital media are bringing changes to humor in these areas.

Shannon Perry (nursing, SFSU) and her husband Bill hiked down to Phantom Ranch in the Grand Canyon on April 2, spent the night, and hiked out the next day. “Beautiful sunny days with lots of compatible hikers. But we have never been so stiff and sore; never again!”

On March 28, Wolfgang F. E. Preiser (architecture, U. Cincinnati) celebrated the first anniversary of his discharge from three and one-half months in Scottsdale Health Care (SHC) hospitals recovering from pneumonia and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome. While in rehab, he published his 18th book, Enhancing Building Performance (Wiley-Blackwell, U.K.). To thank SHC, Preiser volunteers his consulting services for SHC, namely, evaluation and programming of its facilities’ performances. Preiser will be a guest speaker at the 50th International Making Cities Livable Conference, to be held in Portland, OR, June 23-27, 2013. His talk on “Universal Design at the Urban Scale” aims at making all places, transportation and products accessible to and usable by all.

Ahren Sadoff (physics) gave a lecture titled “Should Intelligent Design/Creationism be taught in the science classroom” at ASU West. His talk stemmed from one he gave at an EC Short Talks luncheon three years ago. He has been invited to give this talk at the Sagewood retirement community.

See Faculty Notes on p. 10
Once in a while I read a book that so inspires me that I want to share the good news of its existence with others. *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor (Alfred A. Knopf, 2013) is that kind of book. This autobiography by our most recently appointed Supreme Court Justice is such a volume. Her story is an aspirational model for most of us, with keen insights in every chapter.

The book opens with the eight-year-old Sonia learning that she had diabetes. Her parents, for whatever reasons, were unable to give her a ‘shot’ every day. So the determined young Sonia learned to give herself these injections. Emeritus College members will remember that childhood diabetes was quite serious in those days. Sonia exhibited a sense of humor. For example, in her Bronx high school the mathematics teacher was nicknamed Rigor Mortis and “word had it she’d been (at the high school) since the invention of the triangle.”

Sonia recounts her first job as a college student, part of her financial aid package at Princeton. Mononucleosis kept her from serving in the student cafeteria; instead, she applied to become a keypunch operator at the Computer Center. “Computers were a brave new world when I started work there in 1972,” a statement that will resonate with my fellow Emeritus College members. Sonia met her first college mentor, head of the center’s social sciences division, who encouraged her intellectual development. In order to write her senior thesis she had the then novel idea to type it into punch cards.

She showed signs of becoming a lawyer in college. For example, rather than joining militant advocacy groups, she was “more a mediator than a crusader … crafting compromises, finding the good and the good faith on both sides of an argument.” Her excellent counsel to minority students today is to “take support and comfort from your own group as you can, but don’t hide within it.”

She made an effort to learn from everyone she met. She also registered as a political Independent (as a matter of conscience), which served her well in the confirmation battles to come. The book concludes with her first federal judge appointment in 1992.

I noticed that she sat next to fellow-Bronx-raised Justice Antonin Scalia at President Obama’s second inauguration. An interesting pairing.

A lengthy and excellent review of Sotomayor’s autobiography by Nina Totenberg is available at http://www.npr.org/2013/01/12/167042458/sotomayor-opens-up-about-childhood-diabetes-marriage-in-beloved-world/

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Emeritus Voices (from p. 1) of Linda Stryker, then chair of the *Emeritus Voices* Advisory Board, and Emeritus Press Intern Marissa Grondin.

During the time of vanSonnenberg’s editorship, the journal grew in size, quality and breadth to become a highly praised publication. Dean Gordon often referred to the journal as “the best of its kind.” The EC has benefitted greatly from vanSonnenberg’s expertise, friendship, and willingness to volunteer his editorial services to the College.

In March, vanSonnenberg stepped down from his role as editor while *EV*, No. 12 was well underway. Dean Gordon appointed Alleen Nilsen, professor emerita of English, to serve as the interim editor, until the search for a new editor has been completed. At the same time, Stryker resigned from the *EV* Advisory Board and the EC Council. Harvey Smith is the new chair of the Board. Board members are listed on the masthead of each issue of the journal.

Nilsen reports that the content of *EV*, No. 12 is complete, and the journal should be ready for distribution to subscribers before the end of spring. She is currently accepting submissions to *EV*, No. 13, which is scheduled to be published in Fall 2013. All members of the College are invited to submit their work, to include original fiction and non-fiction, essays, memoirs, flash fiction, vignettes, poetry, photography and artwork, etc. Submissions may be sent to emerituscollege@asu.edu.

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Search Underway for Editor of *Emeritus Voices*

On April 2, 2013, members of the Emeritus College (EC) were informed by an E-card that the search for a new editor of the semi-annual journal, *Emeritus Voices*, was underway. Dean Len Gordon had appointed the director of the Emeritus Press, James Schoenwetter, to be chair of the search committee. The rest of the committee is composed of members of the *EV* Advisory Board. They include Matt Betz, Jeanie Brink, Jerry Buley, Winifred Doane, Leonard Gordon, Mary Marzke, John Reich, Harvey A. Smith, JoAnn Tongret Yeoman and Gene Valentine.

The deadline for the receipt of applications was April 30, and the interviews of applicants were scheduled for May 6 and 7. Qualified candidates must be members of the EC, competent in scholarly and literary editing, and conversant in computer technology. Although members of the search committee participated in the interview and selection processes, final approval rests with the EC dean and the Provost’s office.

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**Did You Know That...**

- Naturally occurring caffeine in certain plant nectars keeps honeybees coming back for more?
- According to research done at Queen Mary, University of London, and recently reported in *Science*, the trick is to influence the memorability of the signal using a psychoactive drug, a new trick in the book for plants.
Don Sharpes (education; Weber State U.) and colleagues from the University of Aarhus and Brooklyn College gave a paper on “Attitudes of Teachers from Six European Countries Toward Muslim Student Integration into Civil Society” at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in San Francisco on April 29, 2013.

Ernie Stech (communications, Western Michigan U.) is a volunteer worker at the Flagstaff Pioneer Museum, assisting with the history of the Coconino Indigent Hospital.

Robert C. Williams (human evolution & social change), Robert L. Hanson, Robert G. Nelson, Alka Malhotra, William C. Knowler, and the FIND Research Group gave a paper at the annual American Society of Human Genetics Conference in San Francisco, Nov. 6-10, 2012. Its title was “Identification of Genome-Wide SNPs that are Informative for Individual Genetic Heritage (IGH) in the Family Investigation of Nephropathy and Diabetes (FIND).”

Joseph Wytko (music) will serve as Guest Artist in China during the July 2013 Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra Strait Woodwind and Brass Festival. In June 2013, he will present the European premiere performance of Philippe Gantchoula’s Krypton in Paris, where he will also conduct saxophone master classes and present solo concerts. He recently performed with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra and at Fort Lewis College in Colorado, Western Oregon University in Oregon, George Fox University, Corban University, Salem High School, and McNary High School (Salem). Other recent performances were in Arizona in the “Friends of Music Series” in Wickenburg and the “for the Love of Music” series in Bisbee.

Recent Faculty Publications


Misinformed Masses

Emeritus College member Don Sharpes has a new outlet for his writings. On April 3, 2013, azcentral.com posted his essay titled “The Misinformed Masses” in its opinions section. The essay is aimed at misinterpretations of the U.S. Constitution such as those in a recent article in The Arizona Republic titled “Arizona House Passes State Sovereignty Bill.” Here is what Sharpes wrote:

“The U.S. Constitution, contrary to popular opinion about governance with states, in the Preamble provided for two essential responsibilities: the ‘common defense’ and promotion of the ‘general welfare.’

“Article VI is clear about dominance over states: ‘This Constitution, and the laws of the United States ... shall be the supreme law of the land ... anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.’

“Neither the Congress nor the Supreme Court is bound by anything the states assert under a self-proclaimed and misguided right of state sovereignty, a right that was only true under the Articles of Confederation but a ruse used by Southerners to keep the feds from abolishing slavery. The only limits to federal power are those the U.S. Supreme Court explicitly rules as unconstitutional.

“The real issue is not the limits of the federal government, or the presumptive power of the states, but why ordinary citizens, and many legislators, are so misinformed about our democracy.

“Thus, states are not sovereign under the Constitution, as Article VI makes clear. Moreover, there are no ‘states rights.’ Only people have rights; states have residual powers.”

Emeritus College Newsletter Editor Resigns

At the January meeting of the Emeritus College Council, Winifred W. Doane announced her resignation as editor of this quarterly newsletter, effective Dec. 31, 2013. This early notice provides ample time for a new editor to be found.

The first issue of the newsletter, originally named “Emeritus Press,” was published in April 2006. Founding Dean Dick Jacob served as editor until he appointed Doane to assume that role after the October issue of the same year. Doane has been the editor since January 2007, starting with Vol. II, No. 1, when its size was increased from four to twelve pages. At her request, the Council changed its name to “Emeritus College Newsletter.” Her main goals have been to convey news and other kinds of communication to a readership with diverse interests and to engage College members in the production of the newsletter.
To Leonard Gordon from Michigan State University
January 31, 2013

Dear Len,

Thank you for the flyer on the ASU Emeritus College’s spring colloquium series. You have lined up a very interesting program. I continue to be amazed by the wide array of things your EC does to support retired professors and the larger ASU community. I hope someday we can initiate a similar organization at MSU.

Thanks too for reviewing the draft article on Emeritus College’s that Mike Zeig and I wrote a few months back. It has now been published in Innovative Higher Education.

It is nice of you to keep Mike and me in your information loop. We are eager to follow the EC’s progress.

Roger Baldwin
College of Education, MSU

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Teaching at a Federal Prison for Women
April 2, 2013

To My Colleagues:

Are you interested in volunteering once a month at a minimum security women’s correctional facility? Would you like to teach creative writing to eager students, yet not have to do any grading? The Federal Prison Camp, where I volunteer, is located in Phoenix one mile north of the Pioneer Village off I-17 and west of Anthem. This correctional institution has no walls, no razor wire, and an education building.

In 2008, I pledged five years of once-a-month teaching of creative writing at the Federal Prison Camp. My five years are up at the end of June, 2013. The students are all at college level academically and most are enrolled in at least one Rio Salado community college correspondence class. I limit the class to 12 students. I run the semesters from January through June, and a second semester July through December. I teach only one Friday each month from 12:30-2:30 p.m. I offer to share with you five years’ worth of monthly activities. The students are eager to learn and always appreciative.

A good source for finding out how I conduct these classes is available in the article I published in our Emeritus College journal Emeritus Voices in Spring 2010. The title of the article is “Voices for Educating Incarcerated Women” by Kristin Valentine. The website address is: <http://emerituscollege.asu.edu/EVoice6/women.html>

Kristin Bervig Valentine
ASU Professor Emerita of Communication

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Tongret’s MYTH & MIRROR Lecture
March 21, 2013

To Leonard, Winifred, Dana,

Hi.

I just had the honor of repeating my MYTH & MIRROR musical theater lecture (photo below) at the Puffin Cultural Center and had a good time.

I miss you all and send my best - (Alan says hi too)

I’ve enclosed the press release below.

JoAnn Yeoman Tongret

Teaneck, NJ, Sunday, March 17 – JoAnn Yeoman Tongret, theater professional and university professor, has made a specialty of our national entertainment invention: American musical theater. With video clips, stories, and commentary, she invites the Puffin audience to look in the mirror, observing those who both drive and reflect the market for this meaningful art form. The event will focus especially on musicals with a national issue or a national image at their core. To experience a unique and relevant reflection of our heritage, join JoAnn as she shares “American Musical Theater, Cultural Mirror and Mythology.” Q&A will follow. Sunday, March 17, 4:00 p.m. The Puffin Cultural Forum is at 20 Puffin Way (off Teaneck Rd.) in Teaneck. Call 201-836-3499 or visit www.PuffinCulturalForum.org/

Membership

The Emeritus College has one new regular member, Jeffrey Cochran (computing, informatics, decision systems engineering), and one new associate member, Pamela S. Lane-Garon (educational psychology, California State University, Fresno). Our total membership now stands at 457, including 409 regular, 43 associate and five affiliate members.

Editor’s note: We thank Babs Gordon, Len Gordon, Marissa Grondin, Dick Jacob and Mary Laner for their help in editing and/or proofreading this issue of the newsletter.
Emeritus College Newsletter

Mission of The Emeritus College
The purpose of the Emeritus College is to give a home and a focus to continued intellectual, creative and social engagement of retired faculty with the University. The Emeritus College fosters and promotes the scholarly and creative lives of its members, prolonging fruitful engagement with and service to the University and community. The Emeritus College provides the University a continued association with productive scientists, scholars and artists who have retired from their faculty positions but not from their disciplines.

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