Arizona ISEF Participants Honored by the Arizona Legislature

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) was held at the Phoenix Convention Center on May 13-17, 2019. Eighteen hundred secondary school students from eighty countries participated. William Glaunsinger, Coordinator of the Emeritus College ISEF-AZ Preparatory Program, which prepares students for competition, reported that twenty-four projects were presented by Arizona students, almost all in their first year of development. The projects received seven Grand Awards (two third place and five fourth place) and eleven Special Awards. Glaunsinger visited with most of the students on the exhibition floor who shared that the Emeritus College program helped them to get better prepared for ISEF. Glaunsinger also noted that continuation projects probably will do better in next year’s competition as the level of sophistication increases. He also shared that the Arizona Legislature was so impressed with the students’ accomplishments that they received a special invitation to visit the Arizona House of Representatives.

Short Talks, May 2019

By Beth Lessard

Short Talks concluded the academic year on May 4, 2019 with two fascinating presentations. Dr. Pegge Vissicaro, Professor Emerita of Dance, spoke on “The Power of Place: Public Square Dancing in Sichuan Province, China.” Vissicaro, who has studied dance cultures around the globe, posited that the power of place, the location, triggers sensations, energy and emotions in the participant and the viewer. She illustrated this as she shared her 2015-17 field work in Xi Chang, Sichuan Province, focused on Guangchang Wu, a term that refers to any collective dancing in a public square. Emerging in the 1990s, this practice has become increasingly popular. The Liangshan Dance Group, for example, has about a thousand members and is inclusive of age, gender, ethnic group, and social status. Dancers assemble nightly, some participants in highly decorated and beautifully embroidered traditional costumes, others in everyday dress. The dancers process in mass, and a leader calls out instructions not unlike our square dance calls, with formations more akin to line dancing. Twelve to fifteen short dances lasting three to four minutes each are presented. Vissicaro asserted that participation in Guangchang Wu builds a sense of community and encourages individual expression. The power of place counters disenfranchisement of the elderly, women, and ethnic minorities. As a form of passive resistance, the dancing challenges oppression and advocates for human rights.

Dr. Kristen Valentine, Professor Emerita of Communication and Dr. Peg Bortner, of ASU’s Lodestar Center continued on page 2

Kris Valentine and Beth Lessard.

Ed introduces speaker Pegge Vissicaro

Peg Bortner speaks with Jane Jackson and Ann Hardt.
Message from the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to serve you as the newly appointed Dean, effective July 1, 2019. Arizona State University is one of the world’s great institutions of higher learning, and the Emeritus College is a preeminent academic pool of talented professionals. I won’t use the word ‘retired’ as it seems wholly inappropriate. To be entrusted with the deanship of this school is an amazing honor. As the dean, my vision for the College is for it to serve the needs of its scholars by providing a collaborative environment that fosters a commitment to intellectual excellence. It is a flagship of ASU and strives to support a community of active intellectuals.

This academic year, we will focus on sustaining the excellence of our programs and educational offerings, enhancing the member experience, facilitating new programmatic incubation, engaging on the national stage, and forging new partnerships to demonstrate the value which we bring to ASU and the community. What are our strategic plans for the upcoming year?

First, ASU has been awarded the site selection for the October 2020 AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) Conference. We have one of the finest emeritus colleges in the country, and being host to this conference will give us the opportunity to highlight our excellence. Dean Emeritus Bill Verdini has graciously agreed to chair the conference program committee at our college, which will require a good bit of planning and coordinating with various stakeholder groups.

Second, I am impressed daily by the varied and important contributions made by our members. These contributions span a broad spectrum from intellectual and artistic endeavors to charitable activities within our community. Some of these activities are captured by the College; many are not. I am in the process of developing a short online survey to collect this broad array of valuable contributions and submit them as a report to President Crow. I am certain that he would appreciate knowing all that we do to support the mission of the university and contribute to our community.

Third, should time and energy permit, I want to work on our college’s digital branding strategy. This will require an update to the college website, a presence within the LinkedIn professional community, along with most other ASU colleges, and a Facebook page to report on events and provide a picture history of success.

Finally, I want to thank Dean Emeritus Bill Verdini for his commitment to the College and energies expended on our behalf for the last four years.

continued from page 1

Inter for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation, presented on "Opening Prison Doors through Education." This talk provided an overview of a program called "The College Program: Education for Imprisoned Women," which was established in August 1997 by Bortner, then ASU Professor of Sociology. This program is for young women in a minimal security prison called the Federal Prison Camp in Phoenix. Bortner explained that the program challenges the stereotypically held image of imprisoned women as lacking academic and intellectual ability or interest in furthering their education. Enrollees have the opportunity to earn college credits and are required to take GED classes first. Most are enrolled in Distance Learning, “paper and pencil” classes with no access to computers, and are provided with tutoring, mentoring and liaison services if pursuing certificates and AA degrees.

Many students are overwhelmed, have self-esteem issues and believe that they are not college material. Because they are not prepared for college, each student requires one-on-one attention, and it takes a few lessons to make the cultural shift. Many students, have had dramatic changes in confidence, resilience, have completed community college, and have integrated back into society. Bortner and Valentine encouraged attendees to support this program by becoming active by volunteering time or by contributing money.

New Members

We welcome 6 new members, James Anderson (Engineering), Leonard Edmonds (Languages & Cultures), Mark Henderson (Engineering), Bernard Kobes (Philosophy), Peter Lehman (English), and Robert Page (Life Sciences).

The total membership now stands at 510, including 449 regular members, 55 associate members, and 6 affiliate.
In my last column I alluded to Arizona Republic installments on Sandra Day O'Connor. An underlying book is First: Sandra Day O’Connor, by Evan Thomas (Random House, 2019). O'Connor is a fascinating American and Arizonan. A clue to her personality is the quotation from a judicial colleague (Thomas, page 5); “When I was a child, I had as a pet a cat. When Sandra was a child she had as a pet a bobcat.”

O'Connor became an adroit politician, culminating in serving as majority leader of the Arizona Senate. Along the way, she consistently advocated for local representation; for example, she helped Paradise Valley avoid being annexed by Phoenix. She was partisan, helping her Arizona Republican colleagues through various methods, as noted by Joan Biskupic. (Sandra Day O'Connor: How the First Woman on the Supreme Court Became Its Most Influential Justice, 2005, Random House, page 37). Biskupic’s book is often referred to in Thomas’ book. O’Connor’s gender helped her become an Arizona political leader as well as President Reagan’s Supreme Court choice, as Republicans tried to appeal to women voters. Interestingly, she was one of three speakers chosen by President Reagan to speak at his funeral (Thomas, page 404). On the Supreme Court, O’Connor took women’s views seriously, as have the subsequent three female Supreme Court Justices. O’Connor consistently applied her legislator’s ability to compromise, to vote for decisions that were nearer the middle of the road, in contrast to most of her colleagues.

The various references in the O’Connor books to Burton Barr in the Arizona Legislature caused me to read Burton Barr: Political Leadership and the Transformation of Arizona, by Philip R. VanderMeer (U. of Arizona Press, 2014). The book relies heavily on recollections by Jack Pfiester and Brent Brown, each of them well known to the ASU community. I knew Brent as Vice President for University Advancement, and he was very helpful to me during my time as ASU Vice President for Research. (He had a brother, Jack, who represented St. John’s in the Arizona Legislature.) I served with Jack Pfiester on the ASU Research Park Board, where he was always a positive influence.

Barr was an authentic hero of WW II, leading and fighting in Anzio, Italy and elsewhere. Lt. Barr had some remarkable interactions with then Lt. Col. Dwight Eisenhower, and these continued as Ike became famous. Barr learned leadership in the Army, as exemplified by his frequent quote: “Everyone has a useful contribution to make” (page 94). Barr had great respect for O’Connor. In one amusing anecdote he extolled one of her legislative proposals as superior to his own (page 100). He cited her as “an extraordinary woman” and suggested several times that she run for Governor (page 122). Barr served in the Arizona House from 1964-1986, exactly the years I was at the University of Utah. When Marigold and I arrived in Arizona in 1986, Barr was losing a primary election for Governor, after which he retired from direct involvement in politics. The title of VanderMeer’s book emphasizes that Barr helped take Arizona from an earlier era to a more modern one. The concluding quotation in the book personifies Barr’s abilities: “The real danger in politics is not that you might get a dealmaker, but that you might not (page 220).” The applicability of this quotation to today’s politics is clear.

Editor’s Note: Philip VanderMeer retired from the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies at ASU in 2016. He is an active member of the Emeritus College, currently serving on the Emeritus College Council.

Calling All Our Creatives!

Each year the Emeritus College Academy produces and publishes the Guide to Courses and Lectures. The cover of the booklet features artwork by emeritus faculty. We are starting the process of putting together next year’s Guide.

If you have some artwork or know of an emeritus faculty member who has some artwork that you think might be good for the Guide cover, please contact Gary Kleemann, Director of the Academy at gary@asu.edu.

We look forward to featuring our wonderfully creative faculty each year.

To view this year’s Guide, please go to: https://emerituscollege.asu.edu/
ASU professor, colleague uncover 200-year-old mystery from the American Revolution

by Scott Seckel, ASU News

Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, 1777. At the end of a daylong battle, George Washington’s right flank has completely collapsed. British troops are closing in. A dashing Polish cavalry officer reports to Washington’s bodyguard that they are in danger of being surrounded. Washington orders Casimir Pulaski to gather as many men as he can. Pulaski discovers an escape route past the British advance, then wheels and charges enemy lines. The redcoats are astounded to be attacked by what they thought was a fleeing rabble. Washington escapes.

Pulaski is revered as the father of American cavalry. He came to America to fight in the War of Independence. One of the Revolution’s great heroes, he was a loner. A private person, driven and difficult with people, he was brave in battle to the point of recklessness. He lacked interest in women or drinking. And he harbored a secret that lay unknown for more than 200 years, until an Arizona State University bioarchaeologist and a colleague discovered the truth.

In the late 1990s, Charles Merbs and his wife visited their daughter in Savannah, Georgia. A forensic anthropologist at ASU, Merbs’ expertise lies in skeletal remains. The family’s tour of the city included a visit to Casimir Pulaski’s monument. Pulaski was mortally wounded during the Battle of Savannah. Hit in the groin by grapeshot fired from a cannon, and taken aboard an American ship, he died a few days later. “Then the story gets murky…” Merbs, now retired and a member of the ASU Emeritus College, said. “One story is that he was buried at sea on the way to Charleston. The other story is that in the dead of night his body was taken ashore and buried secretly on a plantation. The plantation owners knew about it and maintained the burial.” In 1854, a monument to Pulaski was constructed. The bones were exhumed and reburied beneath the monument in a metal box.

A year after their visit, Merbs’ daughter called. The monument, in danger of collapsing, was being taken down. Merbs tracked down the physical anthropologist working with the bones, Karen Burns, of the University of Georgia, and offered to help. She accepted. “That’s how I got involved,” he said. Before Merbs was allowed to examine the remains, however, he had to sign a document swearing him to secrecy until the final report came out. “Dr. Burns said to me before I went in, ‘Go in and don’t come out screaming.’ She said study it very carefully and thoroughly and then let’s sit down and discuss it. I went in and immediately saw what she was talking about. The skeleton is about as female as can be.”

The next — and obvious — question: Was it Pulaski or someone else in the tomb? Everything seemed to match. The stature, age and general body build were correct for Pulaski. In a contemporary portrait of Pulaski, there’s a black smudge below his left eye. “On the skull there is a bone defect right exactly there,” Merbs said. Pulaski injured his right hand in a battle in Russia. “Sure enough, the fourth and fifth metacarpals in the right hand had fractured and had healed rather poorly, exactly where they were supposed to be,” he said.

Merbs has done forensic work with the Maricopa County Medical Examiner’s Office. A lot shows up in skeletons. Horse rider’s syndrome is a series of issues that affect bones, primarily in the pelvis. “That skeleton definitely showed signs of horseback riding,” Merbs said. Additionally, the skeleton’s shoulder showed signs of raising arms high, evidence of holding and pulling back on reins or raising a heavy saber. The forehead also showed an injury consistent with a wound from a blade, although Merbs couldn’t be sure.

“All matched, except for the sex,” he said. “There was as clearly female as anything could be.” Something that could be reasonably suspected of a woman in her thirties would be evidence of childbirth. “There were no parturition scars on this pelvis,” Merbs said.

The next step was a positive DNA identification. There was enough of Pulaski’s DNA to turn the investigation in that direction, but who could they compare it to? Pulaski had two brothers and six sisters. Mitochondrial DNA is passed through women. Of the six sisters, only one had a child, a daughter. She had another daughter. Pulaski and his grandniece would share the same mitochondrial DNA. Her grave was excavated and samples returned, but nothing usable turned up. “That was twenty years ago,” Merbs said. Recently three young researchers decided to look into the mystery. DNA work had come quite a long way in twenty years. Something new might turn up. They got a lab to give them an analysis estimate, which turned out to be $18,000. They contacted the Smithsonian Institute, which funded the research last summer. The results came back positive. The mitochondrial DNA was identical in Pulaski and his grandniece.

“Now we know that the bones in the monument were indeed those of Pulaski, but we have the problem of the fact that they are female,” Merbs said. “If you go back and look at his life, … there are interesting little clues along the way.” Aristocratic Polish Catholic families in the 18th century traditionally held public baptisms in church.

continued on page 8
Emeritus Profile: Joseph Carter

This piece was originally published in 2013 in The State Press as: Vice Provost Joseph Carter discusses journey with education by Aleksandra Cataruzolo

About five years ago, Vice Provost Joseph Carter was attending a concert when he felt a tap on his shoulder. He turned around puzzled to see a young man standing before him. This young man, who was a recent ASU graduate and had now entered the work force, smiled and said, “Dr. Carter, I wanted to let you know that the class I took from you was the most valuable class I took at Arizona State University.” Carter is now the Vice Provost of the West campus and associate dean of the W. P. Carey School of Business at ASU. He has been teaching graduate and undergraduate students for more than 25 years with 22 of them at ASU.

Carter is considered one of the world’s leading experts in the area of purchasing and supply management because of his extensive list of research publications that amounts to more than 80 articles and monographs published in academic journals all over the world. “I was inspired to first start teaching, because I wanted the chance to have an impact in an individual’s life that would be long lasting and of high value to them,” Carter said. “I knew the learning would be pervasive over many years, because education is not materialistic. A person can lose something of material value, but anything they have in their mind, in their intellect, is a lasting possession.”

In high school, Carter was trained in the ancient languages of Latin and Greek and found inspiration in the power of education and teaching through some of the philosophers he studied such as Socrates and Cicero. Carter received an MBA at Northeastern University and continued on to receive a doctorate in operations management at Boston University. “I was a teaching assistant as part of my MBA scholarship, and I got hands-on experience in the classroom that I really enjoyed,” Carter said. “I found the students’ hunger for knowledge to be exciting. I enjoyed the discussions we had in the classroom and working with the students in a collaborative fashion.”

Carter first started teaching as an assistant professor in supply chain management at Michigan State University in 1985. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1990, but he left MSU for a position as an associate professor with tenure at ASU in 1991 where he taught supply chain management in the College of Business Administration. In 1995, he was promoted to the rank of professor with tenure. In 2003 he was awarded an Avnet professorship in supply chain management that allowed him to further his business research and writings through an endowment funded by the Avnet Corporation. Carter is one of about 65 professors in the University that holds either a named or chaired professorship.

“Administratively, in 1998 at ASU, I was appointed chair of the supply chain management department, and in 2006, I was appointed senior research fellow at CAPS research.” Carter said, “Then, in 2011, I was elected president of the University Senate, and in 2012, (I) was appointed Associate Dean of the W. P. Carey School of Business and Vice Provost of Arizona State University.” His assignment as Vice Provost of the West campus is to grow the student population both at the undergraduate and graduate level, Carter said.

“As the Associate Dean of the W. P. Carey School, I am committed to growing the business academic presence at West campus by adding new degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate level,” Carter said. “I feel that the West campus is a jewel in the crown of Arizona State University, and I look forward to the growth of the campus.” Administrative assistant Veronica Mize said Carter’s presence at the West campus is very uplifting and positive. He has a passion for the West campus, she said. “His presence on campus with students is very positive,” Mize said. “He goes out of the way to talk to them. When he’s at the cafeteria, he tries to have lunch with them. They are all positive, and they all have good things to say about him.” Carter also has reached out to the West Valley business and social community in order to help with growth at the West campus, Mize said.

Elizabeth Carter, his wife, said teaching and education has always played a major part in Carter’s life. “The presence of his passion for teaching has not changed or lessened since the first day I met him 25 years ago,” Elizabeth said. “Education is very important to him; it is a gift that he believes all people should possess, and it shows through his hard work and teaching.”

Post Script: Carter left the ASU West campus in 2014 to assume the position of Associate Director General of the Thunderbird School of Global Management. He retired from ASU in 2018. He is presently Dean of the ASU Emeritus College.

Thanks to The State Press for permission to use this article.
Dostadning

by John M. Johnson

I prefer “the joys of shedding,” an ongoing process of getting rid of books never read, memorabilia from high school, kids’ toys, mementos of travel, foreign and domestic, and postcards from oh-I-forgot-I-was-ever-there.

Why did we keep the kids’ first art projects, or the tape from 4th grade band? And what about those shoes or shirts which no longer fit? Was I ever that size? And those letters and cards, from you-know-who, hidden in the back of innocuous bank records? What were we thinking?

In addition to the “stuff,” the process also works for shedding ill feelings, old resentments, envies, and the other emotions derived from anger. It even works for some relationships, maintained when the cost is far too great, all things considered.

The Swedes have a word for it, usually translated as “death cleaning,” but the shedding process can enliven and energize the late innings of a well lived life.

What Yoga Can Do

Build strength in muscles and tendons around joints, stabilizing them and keeping them aligned, thus correcting posture and walking gait.

Improve balance to lessen chances of a fall.

Increase flexibility and ease of movement by improving range of motion of each joint. Lost activities may be recaptured - tying shoe laces, rising easily from a chair, walking up and down stairs without using a railing, etc.

Reduce morning stiffness by improving blood circulation to muscles and joints, flushing out toxins. Lymph flow also is improved.

Enlarge the community of caring through new friendships and support groups that often develop through concern for classmates' health and well-being, exchange of knowledge and ideas, shared meals, email correspondence, etc.

Improve bone density: weight born by bones during poses causes osteoblasts to make new bond cells.

Heighten feelings of well-being through a combination of movements.

The Emeritus College would like to give credit to Alexis Borjorquez who was not acknowledged as the author of the front page article on the Emeritus Artist Celebration in the Spring volume of the Emeritus College Newsletter (Volume XIV, Number 2). The article was originally published in the ASU Watts College newsletter. We apologize for this oversight.
Heartfelt Thanks to Bill Verdini

Bill Verdini’s term as Dean of the Emeritus College ended on June 30, 2019. Colleagues have offered accolades to Bill, and these and photos from Bill’s tenure as dean follow:

We are all indebted to Bill Verdini for his unwavering leadership of the Emeritus College during the past four years. He has been an inspiration to everyone who has had the good fortune to work with him. I especially appreciated his warm personality and good humor in dealing with all of the issues that befall a Dean.

Before retiring, Bill held various ASU administrative positions, and as Emeritus Dean he probably needed all the skills those jobs taught him. As Dean, he encouraged members to find and work on projects they enjoyed, and he channeled conversations into productive outcomes. Perpetually cheerful, he is optimistic when others have doubts, attentive to details and the larger picture, and consistently supportive of the university. He worked to implement his vision of the college as a welcoming place, open to anyone interested in joining and, while mindful of the college’s past successes and traditions, open to considering new ideas.

Thanks for being a terrific dean! You demonstrated the broad knowledge, skill, patience, creativity and energy to cover all of the responsibilities while keeping things on track. You maintained a good balance between allowing our opinionated selves to go off topic, and sometimes go on for too long, before pulling us back on point. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and look forward to future opportunities.

Wow, four years goes by FAST. I give many, many thanks to Bill Verdini for taking on the deanship of the Emeritus College. He shared his knowledge and experience and represented the College in many corners of ASU. He has been very supportive of wishes and ideas from the Council and the membership. A 21-gun salute and a dozen huzzahs for Bill.

I lament to colleagues the fact that I didn’t have Bill as a role model when I first stepped into the “corridors of power” as chair of a big department. His wonderful, laid-back, enthusiastic style would have served me well.

Rare is the leader who shares a broad vision while giving careful attention to every detail. Rare is the leader who works for the good of all while showing sincere interest in every individual. This is Bill. We have been fortunate to have his leadership.

Before retiring, Bill held various ASU administrative positions, and as Emeritus Dean he probably needed all the skills those jobs taught him. As Dean, he encouraged members to find and work on projects they enjoyed, and he channeled conversations into productive outcomes. Perpetually cheerful, he is optimistic when others have doubts, attentive to details and the larger picture, and consistently supportive of the university. He worked to implement his vision of the college as a welcoming place, open to anyone interested in joining and, while mindful of the college’s past successes and traditions, open to considering new ideas.
In Pulaski's case, he was suffering from some debilitatus and was baptized privately at home. Suddenly, Pulaski's personality traits — aloof, driven, private, brazen in battle — fell into line. “We think the problem goes back to his birth and basically deciding whether he was a boy or a girl,” Merbs said.

Merbs’ oldest daughter put him in touch with a specialist in sex and gender issues. “With scientists, sex and gender are two totally different things,” Merbs said. “Sex is biological, and gender is social and behavioral. Ordinarily the two go together, but you can have a conflict between the two. That’s what I think we were dealing with here.”

Merbs told the professor he thought they were dealing with a sex-gender problem. The professor asked Merbs and his wife to sort a stack of photos of bare babies into two piles – girls and boys. They sorted all the photos incorrectly.

Merbs keeps his secret, until now. “This was definitely not what the professor thought he was a man, and something was wrong. He had some kind of defect or something.” Did that perhaps play a part in Pulaski’s aggression on the battlefield? “Merbs responded affirmatively. “I think his whole personality indicates he was driven, and I think that’s the reason why.”

Merbs kept his secret, until now. “This was definitely not what the good folks of Savannah wanted us to find, and the whole thing became a political hot potato,” he said. “They wanted us to verify that the remains were indeed those of a male Pulaski, which would then be interred at Arlington.” Without conclusive DNA evidence, the anthropologists’ observations were considered opinion, not fact. The bones were reburied next to the monument.

Burns died several years ago. In April the Smithsonian Channel aired a documentary titled “America’s Hidden Stories: The General Was Female?” Merbs has a small credit in the documentary. Merbs’ and Burns’ names appear in the Pulaski Exhibit in Savannah.

The original version of this story was published in April, 2019 in ASU News. Thanks to Scott Seckel for permission to republish it.

---

**The César Chávez Fast of 1972 in Phoenix: The UFW Fight for Collective Bargaining and Unionism**

by Christine Marin

More than anything else, César Chávez wanted to help farm workers. He was a farm worker and he understood what it meant to work for low pay, to be exploited, to work under unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. He realized that a farm workers union was needed to end the mistreatment of workers. And when he talked about starting one, all he heard was that it couldn’t be done: “No, César, no se puede,” they said. I want to tell you about Chávez and events that occurred in Phoenix in 1972. Events that created change in the ways we see ourselves now, and in the way that others see us. Within a twenty-four-day period, from May 11 to June 4, 1972, I was a witness to historical events—events so inspiring, they have remained with me, and I want to share them with you.

Perhaps you were there—at the Santa Rita Center and Hall on Hadley Street, near Buckeye and Tenth Street, not far from the ASU campus in Tempe. César Chávez was fasting. On May 11, 1972, the Arizona Legislature had passed a farm-bureau sponsored bill, known as House Bill 2134, which restricted the formation of bargaining units for collective bargaining. It also outlawed secondary boycotts and strikes at harvest time in agricultural fields: two rights important to working men and women. César Chávez and the United Farm Workers Union had hoped that Arizona Governor Jack Williams would veto HB 2134, but he didn’t. In fact, as soon as the bill was passed by the Senate, Williams had a member of the State Highway Patrol bring it to him for his signature. He signed House Bill 234 forty-five minutes after it passed the Senate.

The next day, May 12, 1972, César Chávez began his fast to call attention to the bill. In the early stages, César’s aides tried to convince him that his campaign against the Arizona law was futile, and that he shouldn’t go ahead with the fast. They argued with him, saying, “César, no se puede.” And he would say, “Sí, sí se puede,” “Yes, it can be done.”

Santa Rita Hall became the United Farm Worker’s headquarters, and...
Santa Rita Hall (photo credit Dick Jacob)

word got out that César was there, and that he was fasting, and that nightly Masses with a priest were being held. I was among the many who wanted to see him, to hear him speak, to be in his presence. I had read so much about him, saw his picture on farm workers posters, knew about the grape boycott and supported the UFW’s efforts to organize workers in Arizona. I helped Chicano students distribute “Boycott Lettuce” leaflets at Safeway. And, in my eyes, César Chávez stood ten feet tall. So I went to the Santa Rita Center. I went often. And this is what I saw.

Large crowds packed into the Santa Rita Hall, eager to catch a glimpse of the man who dared to challenge Arizona’s governor. Farm workers and their families from throughout the state came to the Center to see him and to attend the nightly Mass. There were rugged-looking men, many with sun-burned faces; they were working men: their shirts open at the collar, their sleeves rolled up. The women were dressed in simple, no-frill dresses, blouses and skirts. Little girls held candles. Metal chairs were arranged in rows and rows, filling the hall. Every chair was filled. People stood along the walls, hugging each inch of space. When Father Joe Melton blessed the wine for the sacrament, the priest told us that this was no ordinary wine, but wine harvested by men and women, working in dignity, under the protection of a union contract. And the hymns sung at the Mass were union hymns, sung in Spanish and in English.

As I searched the crowd, looking for César Chávez, my eyes went everywhere. I saw Gustavo Gutierrez, Arizona’s UFW representative; State Representative Manuel “Lito” Peña was there. Ricardo Chávez, César’s brother was there, as was Sister Mary Rose Christy. And Joe Eddie and Rosie Lopez, the husband-wife Chicano civil rights activists—team in Phoenix, were there. And so was Jim Rutkowski, UFW attorney. ASU students were among the crowd.

Then a silence settled on the Hall as a group of people entered from another room. You could hear a pin drop. A short, small, weary-looking man appeared. He was assisted to his chair by others, their arms around his elbows, and wrists. I wasn’t sure what was happening. I didn’t know who the men were. “Where is César Chávez?” I asked myself. “Is that him?” And no one said a word. No one announced his presence to the crowd. There was no podium from which he could speak; I had expected to see the great César address the crowd. He walked, ever so slowly, to the chair, steadying himself against the men so that he wouldn’t fall. There was no voice from a microphone announcing his arrival, no applause from the crowd—just silence. It was like that almost every night afterwards. César didn’t speak. But the crowd was satisfied just to be in his presence. To share Mass with him.

One evening, May 20th, Senator George McGovern came to see César at Santa Rita. He had interrupted his presidential campaign to be with César at the Mass. On the 19th day of the fast, May 30th, Coretta Scott King came to Santa Rita and attended Mass with César. She spoke to the crowd about her beloved husband, and said how much she admired César’s philosophy of non-violence, “...so much like Martin’s.” she said. César looked weaker. The day after Mrs. King’s visit, Doctor Augusto Ortiz ordered César to be taken to the Memorial Hospital nearby. César’s wife, Helen, and his son—in–law, Ricardo Ybarra, accompanied him to the hospital.

We learned later that César had an erratic heartbeat and that his uric acid level had risen; that he was feeling the effects of the fasting. But César refused to break his fast, and his health worsened.

On June 4, 1972, after twenty–four days, César ended his fast at a Memorial Mass held in the memory of Robert Kennedy. His sons, Joe and Michael Kennedy were with César at the Mass. He was too weak to speak, but someone read his statement, saying that the fast was meant to show the suffering among farm workers.

The fasting debilitated César Chávez. But it also gave us the strength and courage we had not had before. And infinite patience and never–ending persistence to overcome any obstacles. May that be César’s legacy to us: that we remain steadfast in our own convictions to overcome injustice and poverty and never give up—because a people united can never be defeated. A people united can never be defeated. Si, se puede.

This piece was originally published in Emeritus Voices, Spring 2018.

* Dr. Marin shared this piece at the Spring 2019 Emeritus College Literary Musicale.
Recent Faculty Publications


Faculty Notes

Emeritus Professor of Law, David Kader, spent two weeks in Poland in late June early July, primarily doing research on his parents’ story. Both parents were Polish Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. By visiting the Auschwitz Museum, the concentration camp where his mother Lola was subject to sterilization experiments by Nazi doctors in 1944, and the official archives and registrar office in her hometown Radom, David was able to fill in many missing gaps in her history. David and his twin sister, Anna, were born to Lola and father Israel Moshe after WWII in a Displaced Persons Camp in the American Zone of Germany. While in Poland, David and his wife also attended many of the major events of the 29th Annual Jewish Cultural Festival in Krakow. They followed this Poland journey with a week in Oxford, England with friends. David had spent a summer on an NEH grant years ago doing research in Oxford on the murder trial of Dr. R. Lopez, personal physician to Queen Elizabeth I.

The Sharlot Hall Award 2018 was presented to Christine Marin on Saturday, August 3rd at the 16th Annual Western History Symposium dinner held at the Prescott Centennial Center in Prescott. Dr. Marin was recognized for her research and extensive education work in 20th century Mexican American and Southwest history. Her numerous publications and writings on the history of racial and ethnic groups in Arizona were also recognized. The Sharlot Hall Award is named in honor of Sharlot Mabridh Hall, Arizona’s Territorial Historian from 1909 to 1912, and founder of the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott. It is presented annually to a living Arizona woman and recognizes someone who has made a valuable contribution to the understanding and awareness of Arizona and its history.


JoAnn Yeoman Tongret has been asked to collaborate on writing the material for the 100th Anniversary of the Phoenix Theatre. The Theatre is one of the oldest continuing performing arts venues in the United States and, among many educational programs, offers performance opportunities to ASU Music Theatre Majors.

Eric vanSonnenberg presented the following lectures in June and July: "So You Want to Be a Doctor?" U of Arizona College of Medicine; Summer Scrubs Program; 6/12/19; “The Fascinating World of Interventional Radiology” U of Arizona College of Medicine; Summer Scrubs Program; 6/12/19; “Preparing Students & Clinicians for Artificial Intelligence”; 35th Annual Computer Assisted Radiology & Surgery Conference; Rennes, France; June 18-21, 2019; “Controversies in Artificial Intelligence”; 35th Annual Computer Assisted Radiology & Surgery Conference; Rennes, France; June 18-21, 2019; “Relevant Radiology for the Internal Medicine Boards”; American College of Physicians Annual Internal Medicine Board Review Course; Seattle, Washington; July 27, 2019. Additionally vanSonnenberg made the Dean's List at the Phoenix Seminary, Master’s of Divinity student, 2019.

Don and Alleen Nilson’s book The Language of Humor was awarded the 2019 Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor Book Award, and the pair received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor.
I am soaking up a new Self  
As I’ve never known him,  
Sucking in The elixir of air,  
Late afternoon sunlight off warm leaves.

Feel how the lungs rejoice,  
The heart senses the rhythm  
Of stars, and each wave,  
Each particle seems aligned.

This is beyond music and math,  
Nearer the edge where matter begins,  
Where echoes can’t be heard,  
Where water incubates life.

If I sat on the moon  
And looked back on our space  
I would yet wear this golden mantle,  
A new form aloft, new earth glow

That radiates this same sensation:  
The diamond gleam, the glory shine,  
The love of all loves,  
Long hidden ’til germination comes.

Linger with me while it lasts.

Don Sharpes
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.

The Emeritus College Newsletter© is published quarterly (winter, spring, summer and fall) by The Emeritus Press of Arizona State University. Its content may be freely reproduced, provided credit is given to the author and the newsletter. Commercial re-use is forbidden. Submissions and comments should be sent to the editor at sarahh@asu.edu and copied to the Emeritus College at ecnl@asu.edu. Submissions may also be mailed to the Emeritus College at PO Box 873002, Tempe, AZ 85287-3002.

Editor: Sarah Hudelson
Assistant Editor: Erica Hervig

The Emeritus College at Arizona State University

Dean – Joseph Carter (Supply Chain Management)

College Council
Donald Blumenfeld-Jones (Education)
Jay Braun (Psychology)
Anthony Gully (Art)
Donald Kelley (Engineering Technology)
Don Nilsen (English)
Ed Stump (Geology)
Paul Schmidtke (Physics)
JoAnn Tongret (Music)
Phil Vandermeer (History)

Staff
Administrative Specialist - Dana Aguilar
Office Assistant/Receptionist - Erica Hervig
Student - Vacant

Website Address: http://emerituscollege.asu.edu
Telephone: 480-965-0002
Fax: 480-727-3324

ASU Emeritus College
Arizona State University
Old Main - Ground Level 102
PO Box 873002
Tempe, AZ 85287-3002