Language of Humor

By Don & Alleen Nilsen

Allen and Don Nilsen’s The Language of Humor (Cambridge University Press) is now available in both hardbound and paperback editions. The book contains chapters on the following subjects: Humor in Anthropology, Humor in Art, Humor in Business, Digital Humor, Humor in Education, Humor and Gender Studies, Humor and Geography, Humor and Gerontology, Humor and History, Irony, Humor and Journalism, Humor and the Law, Linguistic Humor and Language Play, Humor and Literature, Medical Humor, Humor and Music, Onomastic Humor, Parody, Humor and the Performing Arts (Theatre, Dance and Music), Humor and Philosophy, Physical Humor and Sports Mascots, Political Humor, Psychology and Humor, Religion and Humor, Humor and Rhetoric, Satire, and Humor and Sociology. The Nilsens have prepared twenty-five PowerPoints, one to accompany each of their twenty-five chapters.

Much of the research and writing of this book grew out of the course which the Nilsens taught at the Barrett Honors College (partnering with the ASU Emeritus College) on the subject of Humor across the Disciplines. The Nilsens want to thank both the Honors College and the Emeritus College for their support in the research and writing of the book. The Nilsens also received excellent support from the ASU English Department and from ASU’s Project Humanities, and we thank them for allowing us to field test our materials in various humor classes. The Nilsens also need to thank AATH (Association of Applied and Therapeutic Humor), and ISHS (International Society for Humor Studies) for their support.

International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2018 Documentaries

Past volumes of this newsletter have described the Emeritus College –ISEF-AZ Preparatory Program, coordinated by Emeritus College member William Glaunsinger, a program which recently received an Innovation Award from the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (see details in Faculty Notes). Now two feature length documentary films about ISEF have been released to critical acclaim.

The films are Science Fair and Inventing Tomorrow, and both have been screened at multiple film festivals. Science Fair won the festival favorite award at the Sundance Film Festival, an award voted on by festival attendees; Inventing Tomorrow, also screened at Sundance, won the best documentary award at the Seattle Film Festival. Lorna and William Glaunsinger served as consultants for Inventing Tomorrow.

Both films feature the stories of several ISEF participants from around the world, tracing their journeys from their secondary schools, to science fairs in their respective states, regions, or countries, to their selection to attend ISEF 2017 in Los Angeles, California, along with 1700 other proudly self-proclaimed "science geeks.” Interviews with the students, their families and their teachers/mentors reveal the intelligence, drive and passion of these young scientists for their projects, and their determination to contribute to the sustainability and improvement of the places they live. Once they arrive at ISEF, the participants prepare for the competition, where they are judged by doctoral level scientists in one of twenty-four categories. They also meet counterparts from around the world and enjoy socializing as teenagers do. Six student stories are told in Inventing Tomorrow, and nine students and a mentor are featured in Science Fair.

Currently both films are in theatrical release. Plans are that Inventing Tomorrow will be available through OnDemand, and for rental and EST (iTunes, Cable VOD, etc) in the first quarter of 2019. Those interested in learning more are encouraged to sign up for the newsletter at www.inventingtomorrowmovie.com.
Emeritus College Newsletter

Message from the Dean

This October I had the opportunity to participate in the Ninth Biennial AROHE Conference, Re-Creating Retirement: Connect / Serve / Celebrate. The conference was hosted by the Emory University Emeritus College and co-hosted by GA-HERO: Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations.

Steve Tipton talked about the moral basis for retirement given the change in societal impact retirees will have. Roger Baldwin talked about how the 1994 legislation specifying no mandatory retirement at age 65 has led to more choices and responsibilities for individuals. We decide when and how to retire! He described the process not as a binary decision, but as a dimmer switch where each of us chooses a path for productive engagement and purposeful aging.

I came away energized by what our colleagues across the country (and Canada) are doing, and proud of what we are doing. Look for an award-winning example in this issue. It appears that we retirees are stepping up to Roger Baldwin’s challenge for us to provide a “longevity dividend,” not a “societal burden,” especially given Steve Tipton’s prediction that retiring boomers are going to have a huge impact on societal systems.

And, I came away with questions for our future:

1. How might we engage the University Senate in “re-inventing” retirement?
2. How do we make “re-inventing” retirement a part of the ASU strategic plan? Are the Emeritus College & ASURA in ASU’s strategic plan?
3. Should ASU join the Age-friendly University Global Network – European and US institutions committed to meeting 10 key age-friendly principles?
4. What can we do to assist others? Would it be helpful to produce “This is my retirement story” videos?
5. How can we use what we are learning about retirement transition to understand/help those out of work? How might we live in a future society with pervasive Artificial Intelligence? How do we provide alternatives to a “work-centered” life for everyone, not just retirees?

I would love to hear your thoughts about these questions!

Best wishes,

Bill

Message from the Dean

Dear Colleagues:

The Emeritus College has had an affiliation with the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education, better known as AROHE, since 2003 [Ref. https://emerituscollege.asu.edu/sites/default/files/ecdw/EVoice6/foundEV.html], and we have been members ever since. You may recognize the name because we forward a link to the current AROHE Newsletter to each of you. (You can visit the archived copies at https://www.arohe.org/newsletters.)

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Best wishes,

Bill

EC Council Members (from left to right): Dean Bill Verdini, Don Nilsen, Babs Gordon, Phil VanderMeer, Scott Norton, Bill Glaunsinger, Tony Gully, Beth Lessard, Jay Braun, JoAnn Tongret, Ed Stump

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.

~ Margaret Mead
When was the American federal government considered a solution rather than a problem? David Goldfield in his book, *The Gifted Generation: When Government was Good* (Bloomsbury Publications, 2017), describes the generation born during the 1940s as the “gifted generation,” in the sense that we benefited by gifts from an active, positive federal government led by Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, and Johnson. We were the children of the “greatest generation” which had won World War II and ended the Depression.

As pointed out in the review by Jeffrey Frank (*New York Times Book Review*, December 17, 2017, page 16), Goldfield writes that these three presidents strove “to extend the pursuit of happiness for a broader population” and “perceived that the nation could not be whole until everyone had the opportunity to succeed.”

Among the signal achievements during this time was the implementation of the Vannevar Bush report, containing the words, “science is a proper concern of government.” President Truman used these words in the creation of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. These organizations were responsible, for example, in funding the creation of the Internet and polio vaccines, respectively, which benefit our whole society. Additional examples: The interstate highway system was established, and the Tennessee Valley Authority created. The book points out that President Reagan introduced the point of view that government was a problem, rather than a solution. The resulting selfishness has increased over the years and reached its present nadir with the current occupant of the White House. Goldfield’s book is an interesting study of history, with cautionary tales for the current times.

A change of pace: E.L. Modesitt, Jr. writes fiction which is both science fiction and fantasy. His many stories have a strong ethical tone and feature some interesting misogyny and its opposite. Strong countries become ossified by ideology and then are, in turn, overthrown. We recommend his *Recluce* fantasy series, and a good first book to read is *Arms-Commander* (L.E. Modesitt, Jr., Tom Doherty Associates Publ., 2009). Strong women persevere. One cleverly causes a mountain to fall on its enemies to defeat a country (Cyador) with many similarities to current America and our misogyny. Some of the recipients of this annihilation are taken up in the short story “Heritage” in the book *Recluce Tales*, (L.E. Modesitt, Jr., Tor, 2016) in which a determined Empress establishes a new and better country. Meanwhile, the original feminist country excludes all males, which leads later to its demise. Better to find a middle road!

"We were the children of the 'greatest generation' which had won World War II and ended the Depression"

**Emeritus Bookshelf**

Bob Barnhill

When was the American federal government considered a solution rather than a problem? David Goldfield in his book, *The Gifted Generation: When Government was Good* (Bloomsbury Publications, 2017), describes the generation born during the 1940s as the “gifted generation,” in the sense that we benefited by gifts from an active, positive federal government led by Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, and Johnson. We were the children of the “greatest generation” which had won World War II and ended the Depression.

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**Editor’s Note:**

I wrote Bob Barnhill to thank him for introducing us to Modesitt, and I decided that his thought provoking response to me was something to share with you. Bob wrote: Modesitt’s books are a welcome relief, because, as one reviewer somewhere wrote, the stories are ‘ethical.’ (I couldn’t re-find the reference.) In particular, there is order and there is chaos, and the usual American temptation is to use ‘either or’ logic, which implies that one is good and the other is bad. But the best characters in the story use the Pasteur’s Quadrant approach of combining black (chaos) and white (order) into a grey hybrid in which chaos stimulates trying to do good works, but order restrains it enough not to blow up the place.

**Emeritus Book Club**

The Club held some fascinating discussions on their fall selections. October found us considering the price of immortality with a Halloween inspired reading of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. November’s pick, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* awed with it’s historical magnitude and incredible interpretations. Finally, *Einstein’s Dreams* asked us to get creative with how we think about the concept of time.

Join us! Our next meeting is January 24 at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm in Old Main, Room 120.

**Mailbox**

Letters to the Editor and opinions may be sent to Sarah Hudelson at ecnl@asu.edu or c/o The Emeritus College, PO Box 873002, Tempe, AZ 85287-3002. Submissions longer than 200 words may be edited. We reserve the right not to print inappropriate letters. Names will be withheld upon request, but letters received anonymously will not be printed.
I saw *Science Fair* a few weeks ago, and I came away inspired by the young people featured and more hopeful than I have been in a long while for the future of our world. I hope that many of my Emeritus College colleagues are able to see one or both of these films.

ISEF 2019 will be held in Phoenix from May 12-17. One thousand judges, 500 general volunteers and 200 interpreters are needed. Those interested should go to societyfoscience.org to sign up online.

Permission to use *Science Fair* Film Poster from National Geographic Films

Permission to use *Inventing Tomorrow* Poster from Fishbowl Films

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**Performance Alert!**

Emeritus College Member
Joseph Wytko
**Performance**

Sunday, January 13, 2019
4:00 PM

Boulders Resort & Spa
Tohono Ballroom at El Pedregal 34505
N. Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

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**IF ONLY ORCAS ATE SEAWEED**

By Linda Stryker

Our babies are dying, she said without words. Look!

as she held up her newborn and newly dead on her nose.

Days go by, and she still clings to the tiny she-orca.

Do something! she says without words. Look!

Our clan will die of hunger, where are the salmon we feed on? grandmother orca says without words.

Our babies die of hunger, as do we. You, humans, can solve this. You must, she says without words.

Her loud voice carries over the waves and into hearts who want her to live, but who know she cannot

This poem was first published in The New Verse News
I was born in Deming, New Mexico where my father and grandfather (Ray & Macario Chávez) worked at a US aircraft base during World War II. I attended first grade in Alamogordo, NM, before the family moved to Albuquerque where I attended MacArthur Elementary and Garfield Junior High. Albuquerque’s growth led to new schools, and Garfield students living in the NW valley were transferred to Taft Jr. High where I finished ninth and tenth grades.

My family moved to the Four Corners area when my father was hired as heavy equipment foreman in the construction of the Navajo Dam. A straight A student in my junior & senior years, my older sister Bette and I joined the Farmington Little Theatre and performed in several productions. I also worked after school as a waitress at a local café to save money for college. Graduating from Aztec High School in 1961 and hoping to attend the University of New Mexico (UNM) on a scholarship, I was disappointed when my school counselor advised me “to apply for a job at the First National Bank of Aztec that was going to start hiring Spanish girls for the first time.” His advice reflected racial attitudes in the Four Corners area at that time.

Excluded from the Seniors Honor Banquet, I learned about the event from two other A students and friends. They were shocked I hadn’t been invited, and they thought they should demand an explanation from the school principal. Needing references from both principal and counselor for a scholarship, I declined, but my friend went and learned the racial reason for my exclusion. My parents were well acquainted with racism during an era of NO DOGS OR MEXICANS ALLOWED signs posted on stores, cafés, and other public facilities, but they weren’t able to help because neither had finished high school, and they were unfamiliar with such academic matters.

Eventually I married Fidel Can- delaria, son of a local ranching family. Fidel worked on the ranch and for the New Mexico Highway Department, a job that took us to Albuquerque, where I enrolled at UNM after receiving a National Student Defense Loan following the Soviet Sputnik launch. Now the mother of a toddler son, Clifford, I combined parental and academic duties with a weekend waitress job at a pizza parlor.

Majoring in English and French, I transferred to Fort Lewis College (FLC) in Durango, Colorado, when Fidel took over the family business in Ignacio, Colorado, a village forty minutes away from FLC in Durango. Fidel and I got involved in local civic affairs seeking to work with like-minded neighbors to address the longstanding prejudice against the Southern Utes, Mexican Americans, and other non-Caucasians in Ignacio.

Our grassroots activism led to the election of Ignacio’s first Mexican American Mayor, first Southern Ute City Councilman, and first Town Councilwoman in Ignacio’s history. While canvassing door-to-door, we were astonished to learn from several village elders of an historic gentlemen’s agreement in Ignacio that “prohibited any nonwhite or female resident to serve as Mayor or on the Council.”

I graduated summa cum laude from FLC in 1970 and was the first FLC student to receive a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship to attend graduate school. My family and I chose the University of Notre Dame (UND) because they sent two professors to recruit me. After receiving a Master’s degree in Medieval Studies in 1972, I shifted my focus to American Literature and Structural Linguistics and began applying the literary critical methodology of Medieval Studies to American literature.

On the recommendation of UND’s English Department Chair, I was appointed by the Mayor of South Bend, Indiana to the city’s Human Rights Commission. Fidel took a job with South Bend’s El Centro Cristiano de la Comunidad in downtown South Bend. El Centro provided services to the unemployed and their families. It also worked to improve the conditions of migrant agricultural workers. I often worked with other UND students and faculty, members of Notre Dame’s Campus Ministry, alongside Fidel in El Centro’s community advocacy and civil rights work. Through our work we met civil rights icon César Chávez, founder of the United Farmworkers Union. Clifford often joined us at UFW rallies and marches on weekends.

As a teaching assistant, I borrowed from noted Mexican American Studies scholar Dr. Julian Samora’s pedagogy in my teaching of Freshman Composition and Introduction to Colonial Literature. Notre Dame’s transition from an all-male to a co-educational undergraduate school led to my appointment to committees charged with facilitating that change. This gave me insight into the application of personal ideals to lived experience.

(continued on page 10)
Anthropologist Lyle Steadman inaugurated the 2018-19 Short Talks with a talk titled “Hewa of New Guinea.” In the late 1960s Steadman wanted to study a group that had not been influenced by contact with Europeans. He chose the Hewa people of Lake Kopiago in the Southern Highlands of Papua, New Guinea, one of the last groups to come in contact with the outside world.

Using multiple slides to illustrate his points, Steadman shared his findings, including facts about: the family groups residing in isolated dwellings on stilts; the role of kinsmen in traditional family life; the place of singing and dancing in celebrations and ceremonies; the body decorations and wigs typical of Hewa men; the transmission of traditional culture through ancestor worship; the way of life involving both hunting and killing and cultivating sweet potatoes and tobacco. Steadman also talked about the arrival of Christian missionaries of various denominations and the influences of the Portuguese (bringing tobacco in the sixteenth century) and the traveling Polynesians who brought sweet potatoes to Papua, New Guinea.

The October Short Talks took a different tack as Jo Ann Cleland and Jo Ann Yeoman Tongret entertained us with interactive presentations. Cleland titled her presentation “Aging Joyfully,” and she devoted most of the presentation to using writing as a way of “righting” ourselves. She gave examples of creating an acrostic by writing a positive, happy word and then brainstorming words beginning with each letter.
of the word. For example, for JOY, she focused on breakfast and chose juice, oatmeal and yogurt. Cleland shared multiple examples of single word and phrase acrostics reflecting happenings in her life. She gave those in attendance an opportunity to complete an acrostic for the word THANKFUL. She left us with the word SMILE and encouraged us to smile more.

Given the proximity to Halloween, Jo Ann Yeoman Tongret’s presentation focused on superstitions, including those born out of need, traditional and professional superstitions, and ghosts. She elicited superstitions from those present and shared explanations of some superstitions from the theatre, for example, not using anything real (such as flowers) on stage because they die; not tempting fate by wishing good luck, rather saying break a leg; not whistling in the dressing room to avoid being cursed by the souls of the dead; leaving a light on all the time on stage either to prevent spirits from entering or providing them light if they choose to cavort around.

She noted that there are practical reasons for many beliefs/superstitions, and that often they are an attempt to have some control over life. She shared stories about several local ghosts, including the ghost at ASU’s Lyceum Theatre (a staff member named Walter, killed when a boiler erupted), and the ghost of a young girl at the Phoenix Theatre. Mention was made of ghosts in Bisbee hotels, Lincoln’s ghost that haunts Ford’s Theatre, and the ghost of Zigfeld girl Olive Thomas who haunts the Amsterdam Theatre in New York. Her presentation concluded with a consideration of whether ghosts are real or not.
Recent Faculty Publications


Policing Immigrants: Local Law Enforcement on the Front Lines (Chicago Series in Law and Society) by Marie Provine, Monica Varsanji, Paul Lewis and Scott Decker has been chosen by the American Society of Criminology (ASC) Division of Policing as the 2018 Outstanding Book in Policing Award winner. This award recognizes a monograph (not a textbook, anthology, or edited volume) published in the three calendar years preceding the year in which the award is made. The award honors a text that deserves recognition due to its significant empirical, theoretical, or policy-relevant contributions to the field. The award was presented at the ASC conference in Atlanta in November, 2018.


Faculty Notes

Per Aannestad delivered multiple presentations this fall in various lifelong learning venues. He presented “Solar Systems: The Risk of Space Weather” on October 8 at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), ASU West. “ET: Where Art Thou” was presented on October 17 at OLLI, ASU Downtown; on November 5 at New Frontiers, Mesa; and on November 12 at Lifelong Learning in Sun City. On November 13 Aannestad lectured on “The Infrared Universe from Dark to Light” at OLLI, Maravilla. On November 19 he spoke on “Exoplanets” at New Adventures. OLLI, Friendship Village was the November 16 site of a lecture on “Black Holes: The Most Mysterious Objects.” And on December 1, at the Aerobic Barn in Gold Canyon, the topic was “The Accelerating Universe: Inflation, Dark Matter and Dark Energy.”

AROHE President Elect Trudy Fernandez, William Glaunsinger, AROHE President Caroline Kane, Lorna Glaunsinger

The 2018 Inaugural Association of Retired Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) Innovation Award for the ASU Emeritus College IS-EF-AZ Preparatory Program was accepted by William Glaunsinger, the Program Coordinator, at the AROHE banquet on October 7 in Atlanta,
Georgia. This Award is based upon the novelty, documented success, replication potential by retirement organizations, and overall impact on retirees and others. The Innovation Award presentation was given on October 9 by Lorna and William Glaunsinger, who provided an overview of ISEF and the ISEF-AZ Program as well as Program benefits and future plans.

Aleksandra Gruzinska read a paper on Friday, October 5, 2018, in a session on E.M. Cioran’s French and Romanian Oeuvre: Ses Contemporains et ses Amis (His Contemporaries and his Friendships). The paper was titled, "Romantic Traces in E.M. Cioran's Oeuvre," but it was listed in the program as "Soupçons of Romanticism in Cioran's Aphorisms." The occasion was the Seventy-Second Annual Convention of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (RMMLA). On Monday October 8, the day of departure from Cheyenne, Wyoming, the temperature was 32F and snow was on the ground. The Seventy Third RMMLA Convention will take place on October 10-12, 2019, in El Paso, Texas.

Shannon Perry traveled with her grandson, Alex, to London for 8 days in August as a 10th birthday present for him. In September, she spent 12 days in France with her daughter on their annual mother-daughter trip. From France Shannon traveled to Spain to walk 118 kilometers on the Camino de Santiago from Sarria, Spain, to Santiago, Spain, with her sister and sister-in-law. The walk was a wonderful, spiritual experience, and definitely the longest any of the three had walked.

Don Sharpes has received an invitation from Samina Naseem, Editor of the Journal of Educational Research and Professional Development (published by Fatima Jinnah Women University in Rawalpindi, Pakistan) to be a member of the editorial board, and he has agreed.

JoAnn Yeoman Tongret recently taught several master classes during a two-day workshop sponsored by the Cannedy Dance Center in Phoenix. Tongret offered classes in Jerome Robbins choreography, Movement and Meaning, as well as setting an original work on the students. She also offered a thirty-minute lecture/demonstration for parents after the last class.

In September Eric VanSonnenberg received an award from Careers in Medicine, American Association of Medical Colleges. The award was: Excellence in Medical Student Career Advising Program Award, 2018.
I applied these lessons to my classroom teaching and scholarly research in six books, fifty-seven journal essays, interviews, and book reviews, as well as three books of poetry.

After receiving my PhD from UND in English and Structural Linguistics, I held the following faculty appointments: Assistant Professor at Idaho State University 1975-77; Assistant and Associate Professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder 1978-1988; Visiting Professor at Stanford University; ASU Full Professor 1989-2008, including CLAS Assistant Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs-ASU Downtown Campus; Distinguished Professor & Dean of Southern Methodist University’s Dedman College, 2007-2009; and ASU Regents’ Professor and Regents’ Professor Emeritus, 2005-present.
Special Thank You to John Aguilar

For the past several years, John Aguilar has coordinated the successful Short Talks luncheons at Friendship Village, Tempe. John has recruited speakers, collaborated with Emeritus College staff on E-Cards, and welcomed attendees to each event. At the end of the fall semester, John will step down from this role. The Emeritus College is grateful for John’s service. Thanks to John for his work in putting together informative and enjoyable programs, and for his thoughtful and insightful observations, comments and questions at the presentations.

"You have done a fantastic job of organizing and introducing the speakers we have enjoyed during your years at the helm. I have not missed one of them when we were in town. It’s been amazing to watch this program, we treasure as retirees, flourish under your stewardship. Thanks so much for your great leadership."

"The variety of topics, plus the edifying ways in which each was presented, maintained our interest in the E.C. luncheon talks over the years while you have been in charge. We are truly grateful for your efforts. Thank you."

"Thank you, John, for the many interesting short talks! I wish I could have attended them all. Maybe we will have the pleasure of hearing you present in the future!"

"As coordinator, you have been not only diligent and organized but inspiring. Your comments as you introduced speakers engaged the audience and put presenters at ease. You are to be commended for your leadership and personal caring."

"Mil y muchisimas gracias & merci beaucoup, dear John, for your efficiency and skill in arranging the fascinating Short Talks these past 60 months. I was impressed with your ability to coordinate such a broad and riveting range of speakers & subjects. Not an easy task but one you handled like an orchestra conductor selecting beautiful material and making sure the music flowed on key and in rhythmic harmony."

"Thank you for all your time and effort over the past three years arranging for speakers at the Short Talks Luncheons that I always attend when I am in town. I remember not only the wonderful speakers but also your delightful introductions and comments - that always brought a smile."

"Thank you for your service, and especially your friendship."

"We have all benefitted from John Aguilar’s encouragement to be speakers and to be in the audience for the speakers he scheduled for us. He was unfailingly appreciative and enthusiastic in interactions. Thank you"
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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