Annual Report of the Arizona State University Emeritus College

Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Len Gordon, Dean

1. Overview of Major Activities

The 4th year of the ASU Emeritus College’s formation reflected a continued growing membership, from 349 to 385 members since the last fiscal year. College programs expanded within the university and in the larger metropolitan community. Significant events included:

- The third Annual College Symposium was successfully held on November 1st in the rebuilt and furnished Memorial Union on the theme of “Senior Remedies.” Keynote addresses were given by Grady Gammage, Jr. on “Sustaining Arizona’s Future” and by Professor David Coon on “Successful Aging vs. Aging Successfully.” There was an afternoon presentation on “The Value of Pharmaceuticals: Today and Tomorrow” by Dean J. Lyle Bootman of the University of Arizona’s College of Pharmacy, followed by a panel of emeriti professors Allan Bieber, Mary Jane Dundas, and Susan Mattson. Session paper presentations on different topics were given by emeriti College faculty Per Aanestad, Jay Braun, Winifred Doane, Lou-ellen Finter, Beatrice Gordon, Len Gordon, Nelson Haggerson, Nicole Herbots, Richard Jacob, Mary Laner, Richard Loveless, Elizabeth Manera, Christy Turner, and Eric vanSonnenberg. There were more than sixty participants at the Symposium.

- There was continued expansion of the ASU Emeritus Press publications. The Emeritus Press Newsletter, edited by Winifred Doane and published quarterly received national attention. The national meeting of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE), including the twenty Emeritus College’s, was held at USC October 23 to 26 in Los Angeles. The ASU Newsletter was the most extensive and informative at the national meetings, drawing many comments and influencing other collegiate newsletter developments. The College’s journal, Emeritus Voices, completed its 3rd volume of 2 issues a year. There was a successful transition of editors form the founding editor, Charles Brownson, to Eric vanSonnenberg, led by the Editorial Board, chaired by Jim Schoenwetter. Eric is one of the active associate members of the Emeritus College, having joined our College after moving here as a professor emeritus in the Harvard University School of Medicine where he had extensive journal editing experiences.

- The College continued its $1 million development fund drive under the director of Founding Dean Dick Jacob. The economic malaise nationally resulted in a lessening of the value of the close to $50,000 that was raised. This was much like the university’s endowment at ASU and elsewhere. As Dick reported to the College Council as the economy recovers, it is expected that our Development Fund will as well. The Fund is important for future programmatic development including the successful small Grant and Reward program the College has developed annually.
• The Emeritus College’s Academy of Lifelong Learning was expanded. The Academy’s activities included several community outreach programs. Working with the ASU Osher program activities through Diane Gruber, the College Academy offered fifteen 4-week courses, ten at the Tempe Library in coordination with the Tempe Connections program, three at our ASU West Campus, and two at Sun City Grand. The emeriti faculty course offerings provided a wide range of disciplines that the College’s faculty have. Courses offered included Jay Braun on “The Brain,” John Evans on “Shakespeare’s King Lear: Every Inch a Tragedy?”, Lou Ellen-Finter on “The People of Chaco and Their Culture,” Babs Gordon on “Anne Gilchrist: The Woman Who loved Walt Whitman,” Len Gordon on “Sports, Politics, Race, and Gender,” Dick Jacob on “The First Hundred Years: Quantum Physics,” Ann Ludwig on “Reading Dancing: History, Philosophy, and General Concepts,” Ahren Sadoff on “From Quarts to Cosmos,” and Eric vanSonnenberg on “The Nature of Optimizing Patient-Doctor Synchronization.” More than 30 one-hour presentations were given by emeriti faculty on a wide range of topics to Lifelong Learning community groups in Apache Junction, Mesa Community College, the Paradise Valley Community Center in Phoenix, and the Scottsdale Jewish Community Center.

• The Emeritus College continued to partner with The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing to offer Creative Writing Workshops with 5-10 emeriti faculty in each workshop. The workshops met weekly in the College’s conference room. At the end of the Fall and the Spring Semesters, readings of emeriti faculty writings were presented and discussed. At the end of the Spring semester, there developed the start of an Advanced Writing Group, chaired by Linda Stryker with Babs Gordon associate chair and our founding journal editor Charles Brownson taking a particularly active role.

• The College’s Center for K-12 Education worked with ASU Teach for America to help advance that important educational support program. High achieving ASU seniors are increasingly committing themselves to teach at least 2 years in low income schools in the Phoenix area. Center Director John Bell and Dean Len Gordon worked with ASU TFA professional Steve Erickson and Amanda Burke in President Crow’s office to meet with prospective ASU TFA students and to advance the offering of presentations in different classes about the nature of and opportunities to be a part of this national program. We were pleased to learn that the ASU TFA participation levels have gone from 18 two years ago to 43 last year and to more than 90 this year. Part of the expansion was related to continuing to work with the Honors College and then to expand to communicate with high achieving seniors who were outside the Honors College.

• The College began the Center for Mentoring of students and new faculty under the co-directorship of Howard Voss and Quentin Bogart. As emeriti faculty are not full time employees, volunteer forms were developed in conjunction with the university’s General Counsel Office. As
that occurred, the beginning of student and faculty mentoring began to occur and we foresee 
that expanding in the 2009-2010 academic year.

- The annual College’s Grants and Awards Committee funded eight proposals submitted to the 
committee, chaired by Per Aanestad and Jim Schoenwetter. The funded proposals were to 
Charles Brownson, “A Digital Edition of Eight Books in the Octillor Arts Catalog for Gallery 
Display” ($1,300); Denis Gillingwater, “Cultural Layers/Perceptual Screens/Observational 
Grounds, The Photographed Visual Dynamics of Rome’s Old World Environments” ($625.85); Nicole 
Herbots, “Nanoscience, Materials/Physics and Biophysics Research and Education” ($1,500); 
Ann Ludwig, “Festival 2009: A Ludwig Dance Theater High School Outreach Program” ($1,500); 
Karen Miller-Loessi, “Risk and Protective Factors for Substance Use Among Arizona Mining Town 
Youth” ($1,000); JoAnn Yeoman Tongret, “Nellie Boyd: Stages in the West – An Account of the 
First Female Actor/Manager to Tour Her Own Professional Company in the Southwest” ($1,045); 
Santos Vega, “Evaluation Research of Oral History Projects for Reading and Writing Achievement 
at the High School Level” ($1,000), and Joseph Wytko, “Passions Large and Small: A Compact 
Disk Music Recording of American and French Acoustic and Electronic Music for Alto 
Saxophone” ($2,000).

2. **Organization**

As specified by the College’s By Laws, the College Council consist of nine members having three year 
overlapping terms:

**For the term ending June 30, 2009:**

- Winifred Doane, Professor Emerita of Life Sciences
- Joyce Foster Larson, Professor Emerita of Life Sciences
- Professor Elizabeth Prather, Professor Emerita of Speech & Hearing Sciences

**For the term ending June 30, 2010:**

- Quentin Bogart, Professor Emeritus of Educational Leadership & Policy
- Ann Ludwig, Professor Emerita of Dance
- Howard Voss, Professor Emeritus of Physics

**For the term ending June 30, 2011:**

- Charles Elliott, Professor Emeritus of Industrial Engineering
- Elmer Gooding, Professor Emeritus of Economics
- Beatrice Gordon, Professor Emeritus of English

**With the election for the term beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2012:**

- Winifred Doane, Professor Emerita of Life Sciences
- Elizabeth Manera, Professor Emerita of Secondary Education
Bruce Merrill, Professor Emeritus of Journalism & Mass Communication

The daily operations of the Emeritus College office complex are overseen by Dean Len Gordon and Associate Dean Chuck Elliott. The operations are effectively carried out and overseen by Administrative Assistant Maureen Graff, who has been with the College since its inception. Maureen effectively supervises the work of Secretary Kenneth Anthony and Honors College intern Indra Ekmanis.

3. **Physical Locale of the College**

The Emeritus College offices in Wilson Hall, the former locale of the Graduate College, have been an effective complex for the College and its growing programming. The communication from Vice Provost Mark Searle to Dean Len Gordon in the Spring Semester about the prospect of moving to the first level of Old Main was welcome. The expanded space there would be an asset in the expanding membership base and activities of the College. A committee was established, chaired by Founding Dean Dick Jacob, to oversee the move. The meetings with University Architect Jann Blesener and her staff resulted in detailed floor plans for the move. The College staff and members are prepared to make the move whenever that is possible.

4. **Membership**

   a. **Membership pool.** The College continues to maintain as complete and accurate a data base of ASU emeriti/ae as possible for the benefit of the Provost’s Office and the rest of the University. The College houses the files of the Faculty Emeriti Association as well.

   b. **Membership and contributions.** The College’s membership base at its inception was 157 in 2005 and 349 at the beginning of the Fall 2008 Semester. At the end of the Spring 2009 Semester, the College’s membership was 385. Contributions by College members to the College Endowment Fund and as voluntary membership contributions totaled $27,700, up from the 2008-2009 year’s total of $24,401 and the 2007-2008 year total of $17,853. This year’s total of $27,700 included $13,434 compared to $11,663 last year to the College’s Endowment Fund and $14,266 membership contributions.

5. **Community Outreach.** As detailed in the initial Overview of Major Activities at the beginning of this Annual Report, the College had continued to expand its community outreach programs. This includes the multiple courses offered that are open to members of the larger community, the lectures given at various community centers, meeting with community college classes, working with the ASU Teach for America program advancing educational quality in low income schools, the Annual Art Walk at our Downtown Campus, and continuing to value the Dean’s Council of distinguished community leaders who value and support the College.

6. **Goals and Projections for Fiscal Year 2009-2010**
The goals and projections for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 are related to prior goals and projections. All of these were reached and extended. The further extension of these activities primarily includes:

- **The College membership is expected to continue to grow from the initial membership of 157 4 years ago to 385 now.** Many baby boomer faculty are nearing emeritus status and have contacted Dean Len Gordon about joining the College. Examples include Joe Comfort, physicist who is the incoming President of the Academic Senate, Peter Killeen who is former Psychology Department chair, and Sheldon Simon who is former Political Science Department chair. These active faculty provide the basis for continued expanded programming on our ASU campuses and in the general community. We also now have 18 associate members who have settled here from other accredited universities. Examples include Eric vanSonnenberg from the Harvard School of Medicine who is incoming editor of the College’s literary journal, Robert Green from the University of Michigan School of Medicine who is writing an article for the journal on his research respecting the medical care of presidents, and Aaron Sadoff who is an astro physicist who has taught at our ASU West Campus.

- **To continue to expand upon the College’s welcoming atmosphere for members and friends in the Emeritus College office complex in Wilson Hall and transfer that to Old Main when that move is made.** Within our office complex we have scheduled for 2009-2010 regular Creative Writing Workshops in our conference room in conjunction with the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, brown bag luncheons and presentations of writings in our outer presentation room setting, the monthly College Council meetings, and committee and center director meetings.

- **To work toward achieving full staffing as described in the initial proposal to establish the Emeritus College.** This includes our full-time Administrative Assistant, Maureen Graff and moving our Secretary, Kenneth Anthony, from half time current status to full time as the expanded College programming has called for that move for the past year, and maintaining our part-time intern from the Honors College, Indra Ekmanis who works with the Emeritus College Journal.

- **There are planned continuing and additional opportunity initiatives for College emeriti members both on and off campus.** This past academic year, the College lecture presentations expanded from the continuing ones with the New Frontiers in Lifelong Learning at Mesa Community College to Lifelong Learning groups in Apache Junction, Phoenix, and Scottsdale. This will continue and expand with many requests coming in from the development last year of the Emeritus College Guide to Lectures and Courses. The Guide is being expanded beyond the 21 emeriti lectures and courses listed last year and will again be made available to community groups in the metropolitan area. There are currently fifteen 4-week courses scheduled for offering at the Tempe Library (10), the ASU West Campus (3), and Sun City Grand (2) working with the ASU Osher program. Emeriti faculty, at the request of Deans Debra Friedman and Fred Corey, will continue to offer regular courses at the Downtown Campus; these have included English and Sociology courses.
The established College programs on our Tempe Campus will be continuing. The regular Wednesday monthly Colloquium presentations have drawn increasingly larger audiences now averaging between 30 and 50 on the 6th Floor of the Fulton Center Board room with PowerPoint regularly used. The Colloquium presentations have included a number of nationally recognized emeriti and current full time ASU faculty. This past year this included Aaron Brown, former CNN news anchor and current ASU Walter Cronkite Professor of Journalism, speaking on “A News Anchor’s Perspective on the News,” Patricia Gober, for ASU Geography Department chair who has a current five million dollar National Science Foundation grant on projected water needs in the Phoenix area speaking on “The Inconvenient Truth About Phoenix,” and Charles Merbs, former ASU Anthropology chair and distinguished forensic archeologist speaking on his research respecting “The Gein Case: Archeological Forensic Insights Into the Case that Spawned the Movies ‘Psycho’ and ‘Silence of the Lambs.’” This pending academic year will see a continued set of presentations of wide interest. Included in September will be Eric vanSonnenberg who joined the College from the Harvard School of Medicine speaking on “What Diseases Look Like: Research Into Emerging Treatment Protocols,” and in October Charles Merbs on his forensic research on the identification of the recently found remains of General Casimir Pulaski, one of George Washington’s major Generals and the founder of the American Cavalry, heir to the current tank divisions in the U.S. Army. There will be Tuesday monthly ASU Karsten luncheon presentations by two emeriti faculty members each time. There will be the bi-monthly Friday brown bag luncheons and presentations based on the College’s Creative Writing Workshop courses. There will be the annual April Downtown Campus Art Walk display of more than 150 emeriti faculty art works. With more emeriti joining with musical interests and capabilities, there is being discussed monthly home jam and other musical sessions. As always, the College is adaptable on new developments of interest to the College members as well as to the larger university and community.

We plan to continue to respond to special requests. Again this past year emeriti faculty judged student research projects at the ASU West Campus upon request from Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Elsie Moore, providing emeriti faculty translators to visitors from Japan, giving remarks at the Japanese Language Contest in Phoenix, working with the ASU Teach for America program in communicating the program to high achieving seniors, and other requests that come into the College.

The Emeritus College’s programming is reported upon regularly in the quarterly issues of the Emeritus College Newsletters. The campus and general community programming is a reflection of the academic capability and commitment of the ASU emeriti and the College membership.