Colloquium

Maxim Sukharev, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics, initiated this season’s colloquium with a lecture titled “Debunking Pseudoscientific Claims in the Era of the Internet.” Acknowledging the difficulty of debunking myths, as well as the reality that attempts to debunk myths may backfire and exacerbate their potency (e.g., the myth about vaccines and autism in children), Sukharev maintained that the best approach is to concentrate on the facts. He advocated the use of the scientific method to do this, meaning observing, questioning, setting out hypotheses, predicting, testing out predictions (experimenting), and drawing conclusions from the results of experimentation.

Sukharev provided examples of pseudoscientific claims that cannot be tested experimentally (UFOs) or that are contradicted by well tested facts (for example, the claims of effectiveness of the “miracle” cold buster Airborne). He also gave examples of significant frauds in the field of physics, including fabrication and falsification of data, utilizing questionable procedures, and claims made from experimental results that can’t be verified. He concluded that extraordinary claims require extraordinary results, and he urged individuals to: remain skeptical, be creative, employ the scientific method, and continue to provide objective information.

Soud T. Ali, Associate Professor, Arabic Literature, Middle Eastern, Islamic Studies, lectured in February on “Modern Perspectives on Gender Issues in Islam: A Focus on Egalitarian Aspects in Islam.” She began by asserting that there are many distortions and misconceptions regarding the role of women and women’s rights in Islam, the result of fourteen centuries of patriarchal interpretations of the Qur’an, Islam’s sacred text. Until recently, gender reform has been resisted. This is now chang-

Short Talks Luncheon

The December Short Talks featured two stimulating presentations on art. The first, by Anthony Gully, was titled “Modern Artists Protest Against War and Political Persecution: Unexpected Echoes of Francisco Goya.” Gully began with an analysis of Francisco Goya’s 1814 painting, “The Third of May, 1808,” which depicts the execution by rifle fire of Spanish resistance fighters by Napoleon’s French troops at the beginning of the Peninsular War. Considered by many to be the first modern work of art, as well as the greatest anti-war painting ever created, Gully then detailed the painting’s influence on other prominent artists from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. In 1867, for example, Edouard Manet painted “The Execution of Maximilian in Mexico” (1867-68), in which Mexican soldiers shot the captured French dictator.

In 1951 Pablo Picasso, in his painting “Massacre in Korea,” depicted violence against defenseless citizens (women and children) by the military.

Gully brought his presentation up to present day showing, among others, examples of art from a Syrian in Aleppo, a Chinese artist protesting the massacre in Tiananmen Square, an Indian illustrating confrontations between members of different castes, and an American critiquing the Afghan War and the massacres in Syria. These examples reinforced the point regarding the influence of one painting on the minds and imaginations of many other artists.

The second presentation, by member, Kathleen Desmond, was titled “Postmodern Art and Culture.” A retired art educator, Desmond shared some of her teaching about postmodernism, describing principles such as: the rejection of a single definition of good art; the necessity of works of art having meaning for the artist and the observer; the centrality of individual participation and interpretation when viewing art; the importance of context around a piece of art; the multiplicity of ways of understanding a piece; the importance of both the immediate aesthetic experience and the cogni-

continued on page 4
Message from the Dean

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to share proposed changes to the Emeritus College bylaws, to be voted on by the EC membership after approval by the Office of the Provost.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Last academic year, a committee of EC faculty was appointed to examine our bylaws and suggest, if needed, changes and updates. The committee has completed its work and submitted proposed changes to the EC Advisory Council, which approved them unanimously. Beyond grammatical fixes, some of the salient proposed changes are as follows.

1. Membership in the Emeritus College will be reduced from three categories to two. The category of Affiliate Member will be eliminated. The categories will now be solely Regular and Associate. We have a few Affiliated members on the books and they will remain as such; but no new members will be added.

2. The Dean shall have a renewable two-year term of office beginning on 1 July. Right now, the Dean has single year appointments with a maximum term of four years. This term limit is proposed to be removed.

3. The Dean shall have the right to appoint more than one Associate Dean with the approval of the EC Advisory Council.

4. The EC faculty member elected as our representative to the University Senate will become a member of the EC Advisory Council, ex officio, with full voting rights and responsibilities.

5. The EC Committee structure will be revised with the proposed addition of three new standing committees: Strategic Planning Committee; a Finance Committee; and a Communication Committee.

Purpose of Revisions

This proposed revision aims to update the description of the structure and rules, to realign them with the structure and rules that have evolved, and to make additional necessary changes. Bylaws must be designed for the needs and interests of an organization’s members. To maintain a vibrant, active college of emeritus faculty requires flexibility, transparency, and an effort to include as many people as possible in active leadership positions. With commitment, dedication, and goodwill, we do our best to create the most efficient and supportive system.

Changes

We believe that these revisions help in those efforts. We have removed defunct functions, deleted overly specific elements (to be included now in policies), and given additional responsibilities to the Advisory Council and officers.

Process Moving Forward

The proposed changes have been sent to the University Provost who will edit, change, and/or approve them after consulting with the University General Counsel Office in consultation with the EC Dean. Once completed, the finalized document will be sent out for vote to the EC membership for their approval or not.

ISEF 2019 Featured in National Geographic

As a follow up to last May’s Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), which was held in Phoenix for the fourth time in fourteen years (a real honor for Arizona), Emeritus College Assistant Dean for the Science and Professions, William Glaunsinger, and his wife, Lorna, once again served as Grand Awards Judging Chairs. Several Emeritus College members also participated as Grand Awards Judges, representing the Emeritus College. The 2019 ISEF participants were nearly evenly split by gender as the number of young women has continued to increase over the past several decades.

Glaunsinger reports that the Fair was featured on pages 118-127 of the November, 2019 issue of the National Geographic. The article, “For Girls in Science, the Time is Now,” focused attention on the accomplishments of several female high-school students interested in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Nine projects were highlighted, including:

• A wireless viewing apparatus equipped with sensors that allow visually impaired people to navigate unfamiliar terrain.
• A hydrogel that helps protect crops from invasive snails without harming nearby plants and animals.
• A new melanoma diagnostic technique.
• A novel approach to tracking tau proteins associated with Alzheimer’s disease, which received a top award of $50,000.

Three of the top four awards at ISEF 2019 went to young women, demonstrating their emergence as a major force at ISEF. Maya Ajmera, president and CEO of the Society for Science & the Public, feels very confident that this generation of girls is in a much better place to take on the world’s most intractable problems.
Marigold and I were recently walking in a rainstorm in the Du pont Circle area of Washington DC. There Kramer’s Books was sponsoring a talk on a new book about an American hero, George C. Marshall. George Marshall: Defender of the Republic (David L. Roll, Penguin Random House, 2019) is a good antidote to our current politicians, especially those who favor Russia. “This book should be read by anyone who wishes to renew faith in America’s greatness” (Robert Dallek, advance praise of the book).

George Marshall, called the ‘organizer of victory’ in World War II by Winston Churchill, had an amazing set of successes with, to be sure, a few failures. As a young man, he planned troop deployments in France that helped lead to the cessation of WW I. He got America as ready as was possible, given considerable national isolationism, to take on WW II as the US Army Chief of Staff and principal war advisor to FDR. At the war’s conclusion, Henry Stimson, Secretary of War noted: “You, Sir, are the finest soldier I have ever known” (page 362). Stimson was a Republican, FDR a Democrat, one observes.

Marshall exerted considerable influence by mentoring and endorsing younger officers, such as Eisenhower and Ridgway, who became the more visible battleground operational heroes. The Marshall Plan, which used American taxpayer funding to re-enable a viable Western Europe, instead of the whole continent falling behind the Iron Curtain, was remarkable and ingenious. The Marshall Plan was ‘a form of asymmetrical warfare…for defeating the spread of communism’ (Secretary of Defense Forrestal’s promotion of the Marshall Plan to Congress).

The Marshall Plan was intended to get Western Europe back on its economic and social feet and was remarkably useful in doing so. The Common Market, the European Union, NATO are among its consequences. Notably, the current American president and his enablers are turning away from all these accomplishments and re-enacting the isolationism which stifled America’s joining the League of Nations, hence helping cause WW II. “America First” is not a new epithet.

Additional quotations from the book: Marshall’s response to Senator Mike Mansfield’s question: “Who would gain if Congress failed to pass the European Recovery Plan” was: the leadership of the Soviet Union, “which is antagonistic to all that we find moral and desirable” (page 465). Marshall characterized the Soviet Union as “utterly ruthless and devoid of all human decencies” (page 534).

Marshall re Soviet pressure via the Berlin blockade: “We will not be coerced or intimidated in any way” (page 525).

Secretary of State Dean Acheson re Marshall: “Greatness is a quality of character and not the result of circumstances. It has to do with grandeur and with completeness of character” (page 542).

From Marshall’s Nobel Peace Prize lecture: Immigrants “constitute an organic portion of our population.” Thus, “Americans have acquired a concern for the problems of other peoples, …and a readiness to cooperate with other nations in preserving peace” (page 599).

For a longer review of Marshall’s 50-year career by Paul Dickson, use the following web link:

John Le Carre is one of the premier spy novelists of our age. His most recent book is Agent Running in the Field (Penguin Random House, 2019; also available on a CD read by the author). This adventure concerns a middle-aged British Intelligence agent who, while playing competitive badminton, meets a young man who abominates Brexit and Trump. The young man turns out to be an agent of a second British secret service, who has discovered a highly classified plot that, following Brexit, British and Trump enablers will seek to use fake news to spread discord throughout Western Europe as the American price for increased trade with the UK. As the idealistic but exceptionally naïve young agent seeks to publicize this information, he is ‘run’ by an unknown agent from another country. I won’t disclose the name of this last country, per ‘spoiler’ discretion, but readers may guess it from some of the comments above.
tive understanding that comes from engaging with the artist; and the role of the artist in educating the public.

Desmond then divided attendees into groups and presented case studies from a book titled Puzzles About Art-An Aesthetics Casebook, (Battin, Fisher, Moore and Silvers 1989, St Martin’s Press). Each group considered questions and controversies stimulated by each piece of art. These discussions illustrated Desmond’s point that a richness of thought emerges when those viewing art engage with others.

Kathy Desmond (right), Anne Gully (left).

The Short Talks presentations in February also were related thematically, the theme this time personal genealogical investigations. Gary Krahenbuhl titled his talk “Traveling West in Search of Gold.” He detailed his search for the story of Elias Olsen Espe (his great-grandfather) and his mid-nineteenth century odyssey, from Norway to Illinois to California back to Illinois.

Using a multiplicity of sources (including newspapers, books about the Gold Rush, government data bases, information from museum and libraries, historical society records, interviews) Krahenbuhl traced a probable California Trail route that took the wagon train from Iowa to Fort Kearney, Nebraska through Wyoming, across the Continental Divide at South Pass, Wyoming, into Idaho, and then Nevada, across the Sierra Nevadas into Sutter’s Fort, California (located in present day Sacramento).

After six years Espe returned to Illinois via New York, departing from San Francisco by ship, sailing down the Pacific Coast to Central America, crossing Central America through Nicaragua and then up to New York by boat. He then returned to Illinois where he used his accumulated gold to purchase farmland, which is still in Krahenbuhl’s family. In 2009, on the 150th anniversary of Espe’s journey, Krahenbuhl and his wife retraced Espe’s steps. Krahenbuhl illustrated his talk with pictures of the places they visited, many designated with historical markers.

Lee Croft’s talk, “Family Genealogy and Lee Croft’s Great Great Grandfather,” began with Croft noting his interest from childhood in his family history, particularly the connection to Croft Castle, located in Herefordshire, England, close to the Welsh border. His father and grandfather had traced family roots back as far as the Revolutionary War, but with the internet, Croft was able to trace his roots to the eleventh century. Initially Croft referred to a sheltered place, but it became a family name in the 1400s.

Croft then turned to his great great grandfather John Croft, an Australian tycoon who lived from 1807 to 1883. This Croft started as a military man, graduating at age sixteen from Addiscombe Military Seminary, from where he was sent to Rangoon, Burma with the East India Army to fight the Burmese. By age twenty, an army captain, he returned to England where he became a solicitor. His profession took him to Sydney, Australia, and he lived there from 1843 to 1859, investing in that country. He returned to England where he died. John Croft’s financial legacy enabled Lee Croft to go to college. In 2018 Croft wrote a book about his ancestor, John Croft in Burma, available on Amazon.

Croft came to the Short Talks attired in the military uniform of a British soldier, complete with musket. It was a journey back in time. He concluded his presentation with a demonstration of how to shoot this firearm.

Ali also pointed that any translation of Arabic to English distorts the original text; she used verses from the Qur’an about human creation to illustrate that translation of an Arabic term as “humankind” compared to the more common “mankind” produces a very different interpretation of the idea of human equality compared to male superiority. She also used text to challenge widely accepted misconceptions about Islam’s tenets regarding male and female equality, polygamy, adultery, and divorce. She made a major distinction between the cultural practices of pre-Islamic Arabia, current nondemocratic and theocratic political regimes, and the textual principles of the Qur’an. She noted that, for her, a critical issue is lack of democracy, and she acknowledged that there will continue to be an uphill battle for women’s equality. Check out Ali’s latest book, "Perspectives of Five Kuwaiti Women in Leadership Roles."
Emeritus Profile: Phil Vandermeer

I was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, once the nation’s furniture capital, the home of Gerry Ford, and the center of Dutch settlement in the US. My father immigrated there as a child in 1925, so I knew something of ethnicity, but I considered it irrelevant to me, and the 1920s were as current as the Middle Ages. Growing up in the 1950s and in a suburb, I felt part of middle America.

Our house was filled with books and music, and I grew up loving both. I attended parochial K-12 schools, and I went to Calvin College, where my parents, uncles, aunts, and siblings had gone, and where some of my parents’ friends taught, so it was an inviting world. It was also a good liberal arts school, requiring a broad education and a heavy emphasis on writing, and with an excellent faculty, including some well-published scholars. One of them, Bob Swierenga, taught American history, and he demonstrated how to do research and make careful arguments to prove an interpretation. I was hooked for life.

At the University of Illinois, where I started graduate study in 1970, I discovered a new world. In a large university with a diverse population, I found that my knowledge of religion and ethnicity gave me important insights into understanding the American past, and these would form the basis of my first two books. Besides studying history and politics, I learned about statistics and computers and became part of the new social science trend in history. Illinois was also a new geography for me, a flat prairie so different from the rolling forests, hills and lakes of Michigan.

Despite a terrible job market in 1976, I got a job at Purdue University, where I published my first book and introduced a new course in “local history.” In 1983 I moved to the University of Texas at San Antonio, but in 1985 I moved again, to accept a position at ASU, attracted by the possibilities of a growing university and a growing area. Soon I learned to love a very different topography, with a completely different palette of colors.

During my first 15 years at ASU I researched and published on political, religious, and legal history, and I taught about the late-19th and early-20th centuries, as well as quantitative history and statistics. By 2000 my interests had changed. Having directed dozens of undergraduate research projects, as well as several Ph.D. dissertations, all on Arizona, I shifted my focus. I began teaching urban and Southwestern history. From my new research I published two histories of Phoenix and a biography of Burton Barr, who modernized Arizona government. This prompted numerous lecture requests. I also connected with faculty in other units and persons outside the university also interested in the development of the Valley. To me, one of the greatest benefits of an academic career is the opportunity to pursue new questions, not only to specialize but also to follow broader approaches.

Since I arrived at ASU, it has changed vastly, in size, research, and national visibility. The History Department shared in that, rising in two decades from 97th to 45th in national rankings, and I was privileged to help the effort. A part of this was creating a major graduate program, and I assisted this by offering regular and special courses, and by serving on 126 Ph.D. and M.A. committees, and chairing 13 Ph.D. and 16 M.A. committees. When asked by colleagues at other institutions about starting a graduate program, I mentioned the benefits . . . and the workload.

I also enjoyed the service opportunities I had to the community and my profession and to ASU. Filling various roles for my department, including chair, I especially value having created a teacher training program for grad students and a high-quality online degree program. I held many university positions, such as chairing curriculum committees, but I most treasure my service as Senate President and UAC member, which helped me understand the seismic shift in higher education.

My retirement in 2016 has left me with numerous lecturing and writing opportunities, albeit at a slightly more leisurely pace. I maintain my ASU connections through the Emeritus College, serving on the Council and as its representative to the Senate. I have also continued my nearly 30-year participation singing in ASU Choral Union. What differs about my life in retirement is travel, and with at least two foreign trips and three US trips a year, my wife and I are using every year of mobility we have left. By researching and writing journals on our trips, I have a never-ending opportunity to learn, read, and write.

Editor’s Note: Phil’s biography of Burton Barr was reviewd by Bob Barnhill in the summer volume of the EC Newsletter.
Dick Jacob at MIM

Recently, the Emeritus College Newsletter interviewed Dick Jacob regarding his volunteer work at the Musical Instrument Museum. By way of background: born and raised in Salt Lake City, Dick received his BS and PhD degrees in Physics from the University of Utah. He joined the faculty at Arizona State University in 1963 and retired as Professor Emeritus in 2001. During his tenure, he served as Chair of the Department of Physics, and Director of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Honors Program. In 2004 he became Founding Dean of the Emeritus College, in which he continues active leadership, currently serving as Associate Dean and Editor of Emeritus Voices. Dick taught physics at all levels and in most areas, emphasizing mathematical physics, quantum physics, electrodynamics and relativity. His research area is elementary particle physics. Dick continues to lecture to the public on topics in modern physics and cosmology.

While in high school and college, Dick had a popular dance band called the C Quintet. He was also a member of the 23rd Army Band in the Utah National Guard and played clarinet and tenor sax in the University of Utah marching and symphonic bands. After letting music slide for 40 years or so, he picked it up seriously again after retirement from ASU and currently plays in the Arizona Wind Symphony and the Ahwatukee foothills Concert Band, as well as several season bands and orchestras. Until recently, he played for more than 10 years in the 22-piece big band, Sonoran Swing. Dick studies clarinet under Prof. Josh Gardner of the ASU School of Music.

ECN: Let’s begin with what is MIM?

DJ: MIM is the Musical Instrument Museum, established in 2010 and located on Tatum Drive just south of the 101. It is a very large complex that houses more than 14,000 musical instruments, gathered by the museum’s cadre of professional ethnomusicological curators, about 8,000 on display at any moment, along with costumes and other artifacts, and videos of performances and dances involving hundreds of instruments, musicians and dancers.

The second floor of the museum is divided into galleries representing all peopled continents and Oceania, each containing individual country, genre and artist exhibits of traditional and modern instruments, reflective of their respective cultures. Lower floor galleries are for special event collections, popular and historic artists, and hands-on experience with many instruments. The museum also contains a 300-seat concert hall, several classrooms, bookstore, cafe and a well-staffed instrument conservation laboratory.

ECN: How does MIM contribute to the cultural life of the Valley of the Sun?

DJ: MIM was brought to the Phoenix metropolitan area by its founder, former Target CEO Robert Ulrich, who looked far and wide for a welcoming location. It has added enormously to the Valley’s cultural landscape. In addition to the exhibits themselves, the museum’s auditorium is home to live performances by musicians of all genres from throughout the world, enhancing considerably the availability and diversity of live music in the area. In its short existence, MIM has acquired an international reputation as one of the world’s best museums and has become one of Phoenix’s greatest attractions. Each morning several hundred school children are guided through the museum by trained volunteers, and each day the museum welcomes hundreds more tourists and other visitors.

ECN: How did you become interested in volunteering at the MIM?

DJ: I have always enjoyed and admired MIM but had never thought of volunteering there. For one thing, it’s a 30-mile drive on the 101. But I responded to a request forwarded through the Emeritus College in the Fall of 2018 for someone with both science and music backgrounds to assist MIM in developing its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum to a level that would encourage high school physical science teachers to bring classes to the museum. (MIM already had a fairly well-developed STEM tour program for the lower grades.) Being a physicist and a semi-professional musician, I felt targeted. I approached the named contacts and was invited to participate in a volunteer-training program the following February. At the time I didn’t realize I was also being recruited to guide student tours but fell into that responsibility willingly, especially as it gave me a feeling for what was possible STEM-wise at MIM.
ECN: What are your volunteer activities at MIM?

DJ: My activities are divided between those of tour guide and consultant to the MIM staff member charged with developing the STEM program.

A typical tour involves a group of 20-30 kids from grades 5 to 8. There are usually 5 or 6 such groups from a given school, and they are there for a 2-hour tour of various types. I specialize in the STEM tours, but sometimes will do an "Ensembles" or a "Discovery" tour. Each has a specified rotation through galleries and exhibits with opportunity to be flexible according to teachers' desires, my taste and current logistics. There are younger age groups as well (most, in fact), but I am more comfortable with the older kids, as my own will attest. Our training was two days a week for five weeks. We are expected to do a minimum of four tours a month and can service other visitor functions as well. MIM has some 400 volunteers.

Kids being kids, especially kids on field trips, engagement is variable, depending on age and amount of preparation they've received beforehand. But things usually go quite well. I have a "bag of tricks" involving several "toys" I use, along with exhibits, to demonstrate simple principles of sound vibrations, pitch, resonance and so on. We identify categories of instruments according to their means of producing vibrations and invite the kids to do identification and analysis on their own when they receive free time to explore the galleries.

The museum does have a STEM Gallery, located between the US and Europe (somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean, I presume). Small, but excellent, its videos and displays illustrate basic ideas of waves, frequency, wavelength, timbre, electrical music and hearing dysfunction.

The Experience Gallery, where visitors have access to actual instruments (guitars, drums, gongs, etc.) and can pluck and bang away at their hearts content (no mouthpieces), is, of course, the most popular among the school groups. But prolonged exposure can generate a headache. We end our visit there with a performance by a paper-roll operated Nickelodeon.

As part of the STEM curriculum development, the staff member and I are preparing an Emeritus College Creativity Grant proposal for developing modeling-instruction-based physics-of-instruments activities for secondary school students.

ECN: Who is the typical volunteer? Do volunteers attend training sessions? How might one volunteer for MIM?

DJ: Fellow guides (about equal in genders, but mostly retired folks) are a collegial group of mostly ex-professionals. Surprisingly, not as many are themselves musicians as one might have thought. But they all love music. Most have no science background, and some are intimidated by the material in the STEM curriculum, so it is one of our aims to improve its friendliness to the guides as well as to students. (I'm equally or more intimidated by the early-childhood curricula, and avoid the K-3 and pre-K tours as much as I can.)

All volunteers receive training, but not all as docent guides. There are many other types of volunteer positions, as well as various levels of guide assignments, some of which require extra training. There are tours for adults of various kinds, including VIP tours which offer a behind-the-scenes look at the museum. Anyone who wants to volunteer at MIM should contact the Volunteer Team at https://mim.org/support-mim/become-a-volunteer-team-member/

---

New Members

We welcome 3 new members, Anne Feldhaus (Religious Studies), Lina Karam (Engineering), Barbara Lafford (SILC).

The total membership now stands at 510, including 451 regular members, 55 associate members, and 6 affiliate.

Can you spy Dick?
David Altheide reports the following publications:


“Are new cars really as safe as we think? The feds aren’t doing much to find out” https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2020/02/03/carsafety-rating-system-outdated-how-make-safer/4618011002/


Comic Con’ held during ‘Archives Month 2019’ by the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, NM, for donating his collection of over 175 Billy the Kid comic books, making this the largest known collection of comic books on a wild west individual in the world. In the afternoon, Dr. Stahl officially acknowledged the tribute by the State Archives and urged all others to donate their historical documents, letters, photographs, and other memorabilia to the State Archives for future generations to have access to these invaluable and unreplaceable items.

Ernie Stech joined the Rocky Mountain Wing of the Commemorative Air Force. The wing has possession of a TBM torpedo bomber and J3 Piper Cub, the largest and smallest WWII aircraft. Ernie writes a monthly column about the exploits and conversations of “TB and Jay.” TB had a distinguished career in the Royal Canadian Air Force during which he was the lead aircraft in a flyby during Queen Elizabeth’s coronation. After that he worked antisubmarine duty for the RCAF. He appeared in the first scene of the movie Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Today TB offers rides at airshows. His “Little Buddy” Jay tends to complain. He doesn’t like his color – Yellow. Both aircraft, which have two main wheels and a small tail wheel, resent being called “taildraggers.” They do amuse and inform the readers of Propwash, the Wing’s monthly newsletter. And Ernie has fun writing about them.

JoAnn Yeoman Tongret has donated her considerable library of the performing arts to a Tucson theatre company, The Scoundrel And Scamp. Her collection of over 1,500 pieces (both print and media) represents a lifetime as a theatre professional and an arts educator. The collection includes: scripts, scores, industry magazines, biographies/auto-bio, history, theory/criticism, dance, music, writing, theatre, women in the arts, costume/set design, and related entertainment. Many of the books are signed by authors such as Leslie Caron and Donna McKechnie, and several are over 100 years old. The dedication of the theater's new library space for her collection took place on February 8, 2020 at the theater. The collection will be a valuable resource for researchers, students, and the Arizona theatrical community.

In Memory

Marvin Fisher
Professor Emeritus of English
January 4, 2020

Robert Keim
Professor Emeritus of Information Systems
January 4, 2020

Leonard Maximon
Professor Emeritus of Physics
January 4, 2020

Michael O’Dell
Professor Emeritus of Accounting
February 14, 2020

Richard L. Smith
Professor Emeritus of Industrial Engineering
September 26, 2019

Rolf Wigand received the Association for Information Systems (AIS) Distinguished Member Cum Laude award for his contribution and service in leadership roles within the association, sharing his talents and expertise and advancing the field of information systems research through AIS and AIS affiliated journals in various editorial positions. Dr. Helle Zinner Henriksen, AIS Vice President of Membership and Professor of Digitization at the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark thanked Wigand for his 25 years of service as a founding and charter member since 1994.” Wigand was awarded on December 15, 2019 at the 40th Annual International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS) in Munich, Germany, in the International Congress Center Munich (ICM).

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."

Albert Schweitzer
The fall Literary Musicale was held on December 12, 2019, at the Emeritus College. We welcomed many new presenters such as member, Lee Croft, who shared stories about teaching Russian as a part of the ASU Critical Languages Institute, and also recited (In English and Russian) a poem (“The River Time”) by eighteenth century poet and soldier Derzhavin, famed for bringing classical lyricism to Russian literature. Another newcomer, George Watson was celebrating his fiftieth year at ASU. Long involved in faculty development, Watson shared two humorous poems related to university life and administration, “ACD Lament” and “Exam Blues.”

Returning authors included Winifred Doane who read a piece prepared originally in the EC Writer’s Group, which combined the history of the Dutch in New York with her personal family history. Linda Stryker shared three poems, connecting music and the universe and music and dance. Babs Gordon cited five poems and kept us engaged. Shannon Perry entertained with a spoonerism version of Cinderella titled “Prinderella and Cince,” which she spoke from memory.

Don Nilsen shared a collection of metaphors using various parts of the body (arms, legs, faces, hands) and made us aware of cultural differences in their use. The variety of musical offerings was vibrant and equally impressive. Cellist Jo Cleland, accompanied by Linda Stryker, gave an excellent performance of two pieces by Franz Schumann, conveying two very different moods. The second piece originally had been written for violin but was rearranged for cello.

Emeritus College member Jay Herzog began his piano selections with a rousing version, both martial and serene, of the spiritual “My Lord What a Morning” and followed that with Schubert’s “Ave Maria.” And new piano student, Marie Provine wowed us with her courage and talent when she performed three movements from a Mozart sonata.

Donald Blumenfeld-Jones added a new flavor to the event with his wonderful modern dance performance of a poem that came from a series he has been writing about a palo verde tree in his yard. He titled his dance “I’m Looking at You. Can You See Me?” This brilliant piece was performed to the music of Dimitri Kabalesky (from Twenty-Four Preludes, Op.38)

The afternoon concluded with cookies, popcorn, laughter and sparkling cider to toast the holidays.
The Treasures in My Sister's Backyard in San Jose

First, a pomegranate tree in a fenced-in corner. In November polished red fruit balloon from the branches like too-heavy Christmas ornaments. After pricing them at Safeway I estimate Sumi has several hundred dollars hanging from that one tree. A woman, who knew the value of the fruit, tried to pick some from the schoolyard side of the fence, but her ladder slid off the wily branches and her screams announced her crime. She took off without her ladder.

Second, two persimmon trees, my mother called kaki. Two varieties. My favorite, the small hard tomato-like fruit with a taste that reminds me of New Years. Somehow we’d get them in Lamona, in the center of nowhere, and my childhood would illuminate. Another tree dangles crowds of the large variety, their appetites so heavy that branches give up and break. I take home a dozen of the smalls to Arizona, and afterwards wish I’d been more greedy.

The secrets to the fruit’s perfect taste—patience and cold weather. Otherwise, chew on a green banana. It’s said you can tell what kind of winter to expect by slicing a seed in half. If you see a knife-shape, the cold will cut through your clothes until Spring. A spoon-shape means deep snow will have to be shoveled. A fork—winter will be mild. Pomegranates, kaki, garlic, ginger, & green tea. My mother’s prescription for the treasure of good health.

James Masao Mitsui

My Boatman Friend

My boatman friend as we cross this stream
I awaken slowly from this life’s dream
Soon a grandson will have his day
I’ll give love’s hello and go my way
After the journey to the other side
With the ups and downs of the river’s tide
My boatman friend when we reach home
Take back the boat and let me roam
My loves and hates have molded me
In the scales more of the love there will be
The hates I grounded to dust
Love’s purity I’d rather trust
Where did you come from boatman friend?
Whose time did you borrow who did you lend?
No morbid thoughts do I need to hide
One must be ready for crossing the tide
As the river narrows at the bend
I’ll be home my boatman friend

Joyotpaul Chaudhuri
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