

ASU Prime Times

Summer 2008 Arizona State University Retirees Association Newsletter

Retirees Day 2008

Despite the fire at our regular meeting site and the retirement of long time Chair, Joe Wilkinson; we were able to experience a wonderful day at the ASU Polytechnic campus with 100 members in attendance. We thank the many people who helped make this day a success.

Special thanks to President Doug Johnson, Activities Committee Co-chairs and Board members Mary Stevens, Val Peterson, Sue Blumer, Lou Weschler, Zeke Prust, and Wilma Mathews for their hard work and creativity! Also, the ASU Polytechnic administration and staff were most welcoming and went above and beyond to help.

David Schwalm, Dean of the ASU Polytechnic School of Applied Arts and Sciences, welcomed us and provided an interesting history and status report on the campus, its dramatic growth and dynamic programs

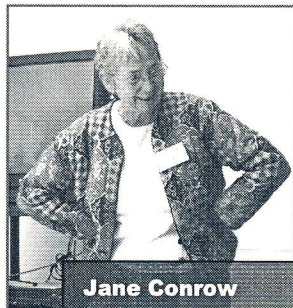
The educational sessions continued our tradition of excellent and diverse topics. During **the first hour**, Los Valdes explained and demonstrated some of the principles of chi gong in *Improve Your Well Being with Chi Gong*, a 2000 year-old series of body movements and breathing exercises that are designed to calm the spirit and mind, strengthen the body, reduce stress, and improve balance and posture. Attendees also took part in the exercises.

Bruce Merrill, Professor Emeritus and Director of Media Research, Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, in a fascinating and timely talk *Not Politics as Usual*, discussed the first really open election since the 1950s and how people internationally are excited about it. He discussed candidates' styles, the influence of the media and large corporations and the rise of independents in the U.S., among other topics..

Milton Sommerfeld, Professor, School of Life Science, gave a very interesting presentation on *Algae: One Solution to the Energy Problem?*, using various audio-visuals. He described the potential of algae for energy production among other uses.

During the second hour, Jane Conrow, Librarian Emeritus, brought her beautiful Afghan hound for a presentation on *Caring and Sharing: Companion and Therapy Pets*. Jane explained and demonstrated how therapy pets make a positive difference in the lives of those in hospice care, nursing homes, assisted living centers and other similar

situations. She explained that these animals love the attention and visiting their special friends who cannot have their own pets, what is involved in being a social pet therapy volunteer, and how to tell whether your pet is suited for this role.



Mary Stevens, the Governor's Chief of Staff Dennis Burke and ASURA President Doug Johnson at the Retirees Day luncheon.

Randall Cerveny, President's Professor, School of Geographical Sciences and Director of ASU Office of Climatology, presented, *Weather Oddities*, everyone's familiar everyday topic. Professor Cerveny showed how weird and wonderful the weather really is, and had the scientific evidence to back up the claims. He maintains international records on weather occurrences as well, and reality truly surpasses any fiction one might imagine.

Helle Brand of Banner Alzheimer's Research Institute presented *Alzheimer's Disease—Current Research, Clinical Studies and Programs for the Needs of Caregivers*, a comprehensive discussion on the current knowledge about this common concern. She discussed preventive measures, diagnosis, treatments, and other pertinent topic and also discussed options and needs of caregivers.

Our speaker Dennis Burke, Governor Janet Napolitano's Chief of Staff, presented an excellent overview of the current state of affairs in Arizona discussing the problems and opportunities facing the state today. The question-and-answer period continued for an extended period, and Dennis was very interested in and responsive to the questions asked. Thanks go to Jeanine L'Ecuyer of the Governor's office and Mary Stevens for help in obtaining this speaker.

Editorial Comment: ASURA members are encouraged to become involved in planning next year's Retiree's Day by serving on the Education Committee, suggesting presenters and speakers, identifying topics for presentations and by putting the event on their calendars.

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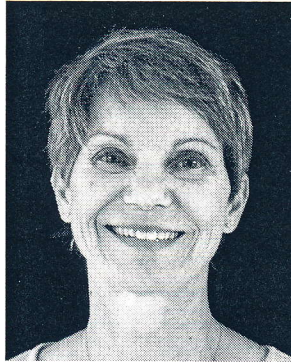
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Your Newly Elected Board Members

The following are short bios on members who have been elected to three-year terms (2007—2008) on our Board of Directors.

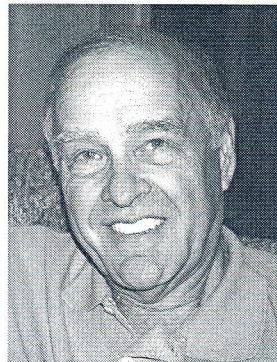
Joyce Hartman Diaz is originally from Buffalo, NY. She graduated from Russell Sage College [a small private woman's college], in Troy, NY with a B.S. in Business. Joyce first began working as a buyer at Texas A&M University and 5 years later, in 1984, as a buyer at ASU, with then director, George Morrell. During this period, she made a decision to rescue her 'latchkey' kids and become a stay at home mom.



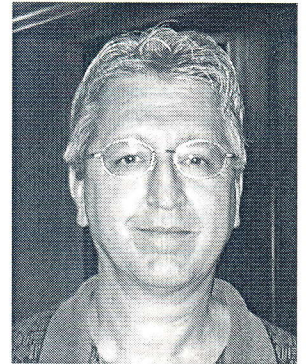
In 1990 Joyce returned to work at ASU in the following areas: the Department of Botany with Jerry Aronson, Economic Development, in University Relations, the Office of Development working on the Lattie Coor capital campaign. Then 5 memorable years in the Department of Geography where she was responsible for the departmental payroll, operating-and start-up budgets, staff supervision and planning various departmental events. Joyce doesn't miss the long hours of work, but does miss the many ASU friends.

As a fairly new retiree she continues to volunteer at Gammage, Habitat for Humanity builds; on her HOA board, and maintains her gym workouts. She enjoys seeing her friends, photography and travel, and her new granddaughter in Florida. Joyce is still transitioning into the retirement life, but finds the journey most satisfying.

Elmer Gooding. Elmer began his career at ASU in August 1967 as Assistant Professor of Economics. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in economics from the University of Kansas and his B.S. from McPherson College. He retired from ASU as Professor of Economics in May, 2004, but taught in the fall 2004 at the department's request. At ASU he held numerous academic and administrative positions including the following: Assistant and Associate Dean of the College of Business and Director of Graduate Programs; Assistant Provost; Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs; Loaned Executive to the Arizona Board of Regents; Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Acting President (for two months in the spring of 1991). His teaching fields are international economics and macro economics. He initially joined the ASURA as an associate member and became an active member in the fall of 2004 and subsequently served as President of the Board. He and his wife Joyce were married for 45 years and they have two married daughters and six grandchildren. His hobbies include photography and woodworking. He has served on several local volunteer boards and is Chairman of the Board for University Education for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. This board oversees ten Lutheran Universities located throughout the United States.

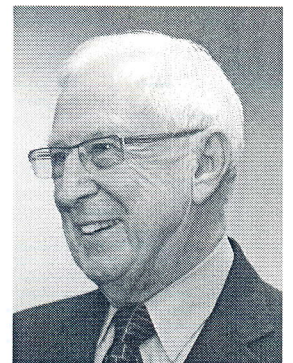


Bob Rankin was born in San Jose, CA, in 1944, lived briefly in Hawaii and spent fifth grade through his first year in college in Akron, Ohio. When his family moved to West Texas in 1964, he transferred to UT El Paso, obtaining a BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1967. He then went to grad school at Rice University, received his Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (Continuum Mechanics) in 1971, and started teaching in the Department of Engineering Science in 1970. In the mid 1980's, Engineering Science and Mechanical Engineering merged to become the present Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Department.



Bob retired in 2004 after teaching at ASU for 34 years. He and his wife Sandra enjoy walking their two dogs, dining with friends, travel, the theater and golf. His extended family includes his mother Anne in Chandler, his brother Richard and their family in Mesa, and his sister Carol and her family in Victoria, TX. Bob still does some research in his area of expertise and, in conjunction with his lifetime hobby of astronomy, is building a small observatory in his backyard and working on a technical book which combines mechanics and astronomy.

Zeke Prust. Zeke was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, but also lived in South Dakota and Iowa before moving back to Wisconsin. He has attended schools in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Colorado. While in college, he enlisted in the Army ASTP Program. The program was disbanded and he was sent to Fort Knox, KY for tanker training. Was sent overseas, landed in England and then on to Omaha Beach as a replacement. Finally met the assigned unit, the 10th Armored Division and next it was the battle for Metz and on to Bastogne. His unit crossed the Rhine at Worms and battles ended at Garmisch-Partenkirchen. After graduation, Zeke married Mary Ann Dodge. He co-owned Rock Ledge Printing Service and taught in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and moved to Arizona in 1955. He was appointed to the faculty, in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, in 1959. He held teaching and administrative positions until he retired in 1987. After retiring, Zeke became active in the ASURA and the Emeritus Faculty Club. He served as president of both groups.



George Morrell – In Memoriam

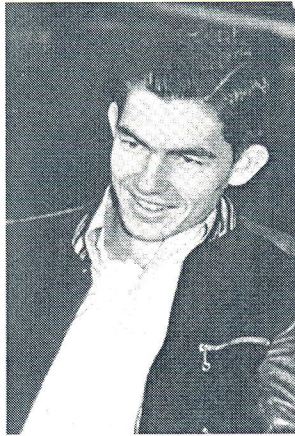
A recent survey found that the average American changes jobs at least seven times during his or career. But George Morrell wasn't average in any sense of the word.

He started working for Arizona State Teachers College as a student and, except for outstanding military service, never left his alma mater.

George, a member of the Class of 1941, was a loyal servant and supporter of Arizona State University until his death in February, 2008. His long career as director of purchasing was a model of all that is efficient, honest, and worthy of emulation.

Of equal interest to alumni and retirees of the university was his role in creating today's ASU Retirees Association. It was he who in 1991 first urged university vice presidents to provide funding and leadership for an organization dedicated to serving the needs of retirees and offering opportunities for volunteering on behalf of the university. His efforts at last bore fruit when Vice President Brent Brown agreed to assign

Bob Ellis, then a recent retiree from the directorship of ASU's Channel 8 television station, to a part-time job as planner and organizer of what has become ASURA. Ellis served as the association's first president and Morrell accepted the post of vice-president.



**Campus King
– 1940-41**

By Dean Smith

George's service to ASURA is best remembered for his efforts as chair of the Membership Committee. For years he labored to bring new members into the organization, and at last succeeded in reaching his goal of enrolling 1,000 retirees.

The 1941 *Sahuaro* yearbook of Arizona State Teachers College devoted a page to George's election as Campus King of the year 1940-41. The caption beneath his photograph aptly described the man who was beloved and respected by many thousands during his productive life. It reads: "George . . . the quiet type . . . one of the hardest and most efficient workers on the campus . . . always there when he's needed."

Those of us who were privileged to know him through the years can say "amen" to that.



**George Morrell in 1999 with former colleagues,
from left: Karl Dannenfeld, Jim Creasman, Dean
Smith, George, and Russ Nelson.**

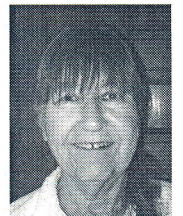


ASURA Spring Luncheon was held on Wednesday, April 30 at the Shalimar Golf Club in Tempe. Seventy-nine retirees spent a pleasant couple of hours renewing friendships and sharing lots of belly laughs compliments of our speaker, Marshall Trimble. This year's committee included Anne Pittman, Pat Wira and Betty Ludlow, Chair. We were delighted with the wonderful response – an overflow crowd and regret that some late applicants couldn't be accommodated.



Marshall Trimble

**Betty Ludlow
Luncheon Chair**



HEALTH INSURANCE

It is beneficial for each of us to consider what course of action we may desire to take when the Open Enrollment period for our retiree health insurance programs are opened this fall. I suggest the following items be considered.

- ◆ Are you happy with your current health and dental plans?
- ◆ Do you plan adding or deleting family members from coverage?
- ◆ Have you reviewed your use of benefits for this year to determine type of coverage most beneficial for your health situation? That is prescriptions, doctor visits, or Hospital coverage. The plans offered may provide different levels of coverage for these requirements. Knowing which is more important to you due to your medical condition may point out which plan is best for you.
- ◆ What is your travel plans for the upcoming year? Which plan offers you the best out of state coverage if you plan out-of-state travel.
- ◆ Of prime importance is to know in which agency (ADOA or ASRS) you are currently enrolled. I assume that you will again be offered the opportunity to re-enroll in the ADOA plans if you retained either health or dental coverage in the ADOA plans. If you are covered only in the ASRS plans you will not have the opportunity to transfer back to the ADOA plans. Find out your agency affiliation now and post it on your refrigerator as a reminder for later consideration in making decisions.

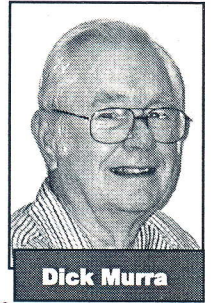
In the fall, Open Enrollments will be held by both ADOA and ASRS. Retirees retaining membership in one of the ADOA plans will receive the ADOA Benefit Options Open Enrollment Brochure. They will also receive the open enrollment brochure for the ASRS programs. ADOA enrollees are free to review the ASRS plans to determine if one of the ASRS plans better meets their needs both as to coverage and financial. You are free to transfer either health or dental or both. If you should elect to

transfer out of the ADOA to ASRS you will need to advise the ADOA office of your transfer decision and give them the effective date of January 1, 2009. This may be accomplished by denying coverage for the health or dental coverage which you desire to transfer to ASRS. You will have to complete the open enrollment requirements of the ASRS.

The Open Enrollment period sponsored by Medicare for Part D will also be sending you enrollment information for the Part D approved plans. There are a multitude of companies offering many different plans which are approved under the PART D Medicare provisions of the Federal law. Limited descriptions of these plans are outlined in the Medicare Brochure "Medicare and YOU for 2008," although there may be changes for the 2009 year.

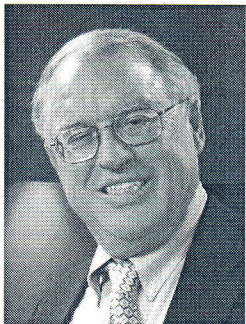
The major consideration in reviewing these plans is in the degree of prescription coverage offered. Since the State of Arizona Plans are considered to be "creditable" for prescription drug coverage (That is: the prescription coverage offered by the State plans is equal to or better than the Part D Medicare Plans.) Medicare eligible retirees may elect to remain with their State provided plans. In that case no action with Medicare is required. If the retiree later decides to leave the State supported plan and enroll in a Part D plan, they will not be subject to a late enrollment penalty for the Part D enrollment. Retirees are reminded to retain the letter provided by the State Plan that attests to their prior enrollment in a creditable plan.

Retirees are encouraged to give the selection of their Health Insurance Coverage the priority that it deserves. Whether you retain your enrollment in a State Plan or elect to enroll in a Part D Medicare sponsored plan, make sure the plan provides the coverage that you desire at a cost that you can afford. It is difficult to compare the relative benefits of the various plans. Get all the literature, study, and ask questions. Don't buy a pig in a poke. It's your life and your health take care of it.



Dick Murra

In Memory of Brent Brown



It may have been easy for some folks to underestimate Brent Brown. His folksy, country boy manner and disarming smile masked a razor-sharp mind and a drive for excellence that earned him accolades from his peers in academia and community leaders throughout Arizona. His death at age 66, on May 24, saddened his many hundreds of friends and colleagues in the Arizona State

University family. It was a loss of special impact on members of the ASU Retirees Association, an organization he was instrumental in creating and which he largely funded in its early years as Vice President of University Relations.

Newspapers throughout the state carried stories about Brent's productive life: his boyhood at little St. Johns in Apache County. . .his degrees from Brigham Young University and

ASU and his doctorate from the University of Illinois . . . his service as a professor of political science and achievements as ASU vice president . . . his role in establishing what is now the School of Public Affairs in the College of Public Programs. . . his success in luring the Arizona Cardinals to Phoenix . . .his wisdom as an advisor to Arizona governors and legislators, and much more.

But only those who worked with Brent on a daily basis and marveled at his skills in management and human relations could fully appreciate his amazing drive for excellence and the way he got things done by giving others guidance, encouragement and the freedom to succeed.

It is with considerable satisfaction that we can always remember that, Leo Durocher to the contrary, "nice guys often finish first." It is with considerable satisfaction that we can always remember that. Brent Brown is living proof of that.

By Dean Smith

Arizona Wine Tour

In April, a band of merry ASURA travelers boarded a luxury coach at the Tempe Public Library Parking lot and set off for the “wineries and historic tour” of Southern Arizona. Our first stop was at the beautiful San Xavier del Bac Mission, on the Tohono O’odham reservation, south of Tucson. Then on to lunch at Wisdom, a restaurant just south of Tubac, that had lots of local-color. This was followed by a stop at a chili factory—full of wonderful smells and tastes. Then we enjoyed some free time to visit/browse/shop in the arts and crafts stores and art galleries (and cantina) in the Village of Tubac. For dinner, we were treated to a fine dining experience at the Tubac Golf Resort. The weather was perfect and we were seated on a private patio with a beautiful view of the golf course and the mountains. The ambiance, the food and the companionship made for a lovely and memorable evening. As a special treat, we were entertained by a mother owl and her two offspring in a nearby tree. A perfect evening! We spent the night at the Baymont Inn near Green Valley.

Following breakfast, we were off to the wineries. Our first and major stop was at the Sonoita Vineyards Festival. Here we enjoyed a tour of the winery by the Wine Master, participated in wine tasting, had lunch, and then followed a Catholic Priest



and a Protestant Minister out to the vineyards for a “Blessing of the Vines” and prayers for an abundant crop. We also stopped at the Callaghan Vineyards and the Village of Elgin Winery for more tastings. Bill Stasi, a member of the ASURA travel committee, prepared a handy little Primer for Tastings for those of us new to the art of wine tasting. Then, we headed back to Tempe. It was a very pleasant trip, good companions, and camaraderie. Consider joining us on our next adventure

Pat Moore, Tour Chair

Our Adventures in Hiking



Left to Right: Ranger Bob, Marceil Peterson, Carol Grebel, Arlene Westgard, Maxine LaRoux, Joan Taylor, Mary Stevens, Connie McNeill, Barry McNeill, Pat Nay and Evelyn Partridge. Photo by Val Peterson.

Eleven ASURA adventurers made the first hike of 2007-2008 on Wednesday, March 26th, 2008 on the Kiwanis Trail in the South Mountain Preserve. The group met at 9:00 a.m. at the South Mountain Education Center close to the entry of the park at the end of Central Avenue. and finished about 11:30 a.m.

Unfortunately, I was in Europe and could not participate in this hike, but I made previous arrangements with Mountain Ranger, Brian Miller from the South Mountain Park, to lead

this hike. Ranger Brian led the hike and provided good information about the flora, fauna and some “foreign objects” (old cars that cannot be removed) we passed.

The Kiwanis Trail was selected for our first hiking adventure because it is one of the most beautiful, picturesque hikes with only a few challenging spots. It is also the shortest hike at South Mountain Park (out of all 18 trails). The steady incline between two mountains, the many different rocks, and the interesting variety of desert plants and insects with their many different defense systems (ouch), as well as the majestic old Saguaros make this hike an enriching experience in more ways than one. I’m sure that nobody on that hike would deny that the Kiwanis Trail also promoted our health and fitness goals!

South Mountain Park provides just one of many hiking opportunities. The Phoenix area is replete with parks and mountain regions that have countless hiking trails.

Wonderful resources and inspiration for all kind of hikes (e.g., full-moon, desert flower, fitness) and hiking abilities (e.g., wheelchair accessible, senior-friendly, child-friendly) are printed and available on a weekly basis. These resources also contain information on parks and (free) concerts and meetings.

If you are interested in learning more, just send an e-mail to Ed: eddubaya@yahoo.com, and he will put you on the weekly e-mail list.

With summer just around the corner hiking activities in the Phoenix area slow down - only very early morning or night hikes can still be enjoyed.

Although for most of us in and around Phoenix it is now time to look for other indoor physical activities. So, for the next couple of months we sadly say *au-revoir* to hiking, and wait anxiously for cooler fall temperatures to grace our beautiful valley once again!

Anna-Marie Shivers

In the Legislature

The Second Regular Session of the 48th Legislature is still ongoing with the politics of budget holding center stage. The session, as usual, has been characterized by sparring between the legislative and executive branches of government, exacerbated in the current session by bleak revenue projections. Thus, a State hiring moratorium (HB2043) passed the Legislature but was vetoed by the Governor. Nevertheless, some retirement system-related bills have been introduced. The least contentious of these have passed but most others are failing.

An effort is being made to exempt from ASRS membership anyone of at least age 62 employed by a school district as a substitute teacher (SB1040). If passed, this would deprive the ASRS Fund of much needed employer and employee contributions, but the bill appears to be dead in the present session.

A cluster of bills target companies with certain business operations in "rogue" nations perceived as being sponsors of terrorism or guilty of human rights violations. Under the provisions of HB2151, ASRS may be required to divest from companies that are invested in Iran's petroleum energy sector. The bill also mandates a purchase boycott of scrutinized companies by the State or political subdivisions. Passed with bipartisan support, HB2151 awaits the Governor's action. Similarly, HB2705 calls for potential ASRS divestment from companies having specific Sudan-related business operations. Again with bipartisan support, HB2151 passed both Houses overwhelmingly and was signed into law by the Governor. Finally, SB1489 requires ASRS, PSPRS and the State Treasurer to adopt a policy regarding countries designated by the US State Department as "State Sponsors of Terrorism". There is the potential for divestment from and/or purchase boycotts on companies having certain business operations in designated countries. SB1489 also sailed through the Legislature and was signed by the Governor. For ASRS, all three of these pieces of legislation will incur administrative costs but the amounts are relatively small. Hopefully, the financial impact on the investment fund will be minimal as well but the full impact is yet to be determined.

During the current session ASRS administration has appeared before legislative committees in support of bills proposing changes in formulas and calculations leading to normal retirement. HB2062 and SB1290 would modify the Average Monthly Compensation in the retirement benefit calculation from the average of the highest 36 months to the average of the highest 60 months. The 80 point (age + years of service) rule for early (i.e., before age 65) retirement would increase to 85 points (requiring 2-3 additional years of service). Also the Senate bill would place limits on the amount of employer contributions that could be withdrawn by a terminating employee. Favoring these proposals, ASRS argues that life expectancy increases and salary "spikes" (excessive salary increases just before the time of retirement) are leading to unfunded liabilities and that these rule changes are necessary in order to hold the line on contribution rates. Additionally,



Jerry Aronson

under current law, terminating (for reasons other than death or disability) employees are permitted to withdraw all of the employer contributions, a provision that is extremely unusual among public retirement systems. Alternatively, the terminating employee can leave all contributions in his/her account and draw a pension when retirement age is reached. Generally, in most other systems, this alternative is the only option to avoid forfeiture of employer contributions. In the long term, these proposals could reduce total (employer + employee) contribution rates on the order of 1%, but they are failing in the current session. I expect to see similar initiatives introduced in 2009. ASRS also supports HB2127 which would exempt ASRS from statutory unclaimed property procedures. Currently, money in an "abandoned" account eventually passes from the ASRS Trust Fund to the State Treasury and any potential for investment earnings is lost. This bill failed, but its provisions have resurfaced in SB1407 which appears to have a good chance for passage. SB1407, if passed, will have a predictable, albeit small effect on contribution rates.

The legislative matters discussed above are focused on ways in which contribution rates can be held in check. On the surface it would appear that the beneficiaries of such initiatives are active (i.e., still working) ASRS members and their employers and that for retirees there is nothing to be gained. This may well be the case in the future, but, the history of the ASRS Defined Benefit Plan over the past 25 years tells a different story.

During the period from 1980 to 2005 the average earnings on Trust Fund investments was well in excess of 8% (data for this period can be found in my previous article—Prime Times, Fall 2006). Earnings in excess of 8% (on a 10-year averaging basis) constitute the Fund surpluses required to pay for Permanent Benefit Increases (PBIs) which have disappeared from benefit checks in the last few years. According to ASRS *Financial Horizons* (Winter, 2004 issue), contribution rates over the period 1990-2003 ranged from 2.0 to 3.8% underwritten by a subsidy of more than \$1 billion derived from surplus investment fund earnings. As a result of poor investment returns during the period 2000-2003, a changing demographic (lower age of retirement, increased life expectancy, etc.) and the many years of very low contribution rates, ASRS found it necessary to use surplus funds to meet increased contractual obligations and forego PBI increases. In addition, they raised contribution rates to record high levels which, for the first time in 5 years will be slightly reduced from 9.6% (2007-08) to 9.45% (2008-09). While I can not claim any expertise in actuarial analysis or retirement fund management, it seems to me that measures with the potential for reducing contribution rates without the use of fund surpluses, increases the chances for benefit increases for retired members and, for this reason, ASURA should support the legislation discussed above.

Unfortunately, for retirees, legislative initiatives of the sort that have mentioned can only be of benefit in the long term. The best case scenario for those receiving a Plan pension currently would be a spectacular rebound of domestic and foreign stock markets. Losses sustained during the end of 2007 and early 2008 have been only partly recovered and the markets remain unstable.

Continued on page 11

Member Travels to China

ASURA member and vice president, Mary Stevens, had a wonderful trip to China in April from Beijing to Shanghai. She was in Chengdu, the capital of the province of Sichuan, China on April 19 and was able to get up close and personal with a toddler panda.



Regrettably, the earthquake disaster struck 50 miles away from Chengdu on May 12, causing devastation to Chengdu and to much of Sichuan. The thirteen baby pandas housed at the breeding station were saved one by one and put into a ticket booth to contain them until they could be moved to a safe location. In the booth, they fought like the toddlers they were and were so excited when they were released from the booth that

they did somersaults in the grass.

Mary has learned that their group's excellent guide in China, Dino, is safe. She is waiting to hear whether their local Chengdu guide, Bob, is safe as well.

ASU is a sister university to Sichuan University. President Michael Crow has sent out the following request to the ASU community.

"I write in the hope that our university community will come together, as it has in the past, and contribute to the Sisters of Sichuan Fund for Disaster Relief. We will report regularly on the funds raised and the families aided by your generosity.

Checks can be made payable to the ASU Foundation, Sisters of Sichuan Fund and mailed to the ASU Foundation, PO Box 2260, Tempe, Arizona, 85280-2260. Thank you in advance for your kindness and your willingness to help during this critical time of need.

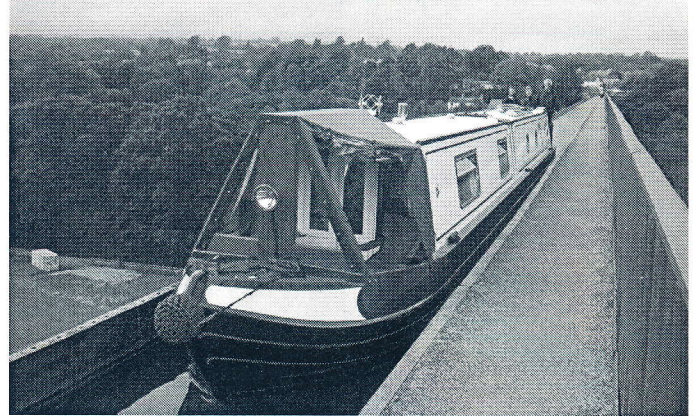
Sincerely, Michael Crow"

"Next Life" by Woody Allen

In my next life I want to live my life backwards. You start out dead and get that out of the way. Then you wake up in an old people's home feeling better every day. You get kicked out for being too healthy, go collect your pension, and then when you start working, you get a gold watch and a party on your first day. You work for 40 years until you're young enough to enjoy your retirement. You party, drink alcohol, and are generally promiscuous, and then you are ready for high school. You then go to primary school, you become a kid, you play. You have no responsibilities, you become a baby until you are born. And then you spend your last 9 months floating in luxurious spa like conditions with central heating and room service on tap, larger quarters every day and then Voila! You finish off as an orgasm! I rest...

Roger and Barbara Clark on the English Canals

I have been a "canal nut" since about 1966 when I rented a converted 70 ft work boat. We got hopelessly stuck on the South Stratford canal under a rubble-filled bridge arch. The perpetrators, a construction crew, hauled us out after we had lightened the boat by removing several kegs of ale. The boatyard manager was unsympathetic. "Well, what do you expect – taking a boat like this down a muddy ditch?" he said.



There followed years of rental boats and trips on a BBC Club boat. Then life took over and I married Barbara, a stunningly radiant American girl. Here we are, still married and bickering 30 years later! We lived in Norwich and London and went on the occasional boat trip. In 1981 we moved to the US. I loved this country for the wide open spaces, the Bill of Rights and the absence of an accent-based class system. Boating was limited to four ASU Geology trips with Dr. Paul Knauth through the Grand Canyon – no locks!

I grew obsessive and spent the next 20 years saving up for and designing a narrowboat. Barbara was ambivalent, as her perceptions were clouded by boozy outings on overcrowded rental cruisers. I only remembered the tranquility. I named the boat after Barbara's favorite cat in a blatant ploy to get her to fall in love with the idea. Basil ruled us mere humans, so the boat became "Basil the King".

The full story is at <http://www.public.asu.edu/~icrjc/> including plans, specifications and an account of our first summer aboard "Basil".

Classified Ads

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition. \$1,000 or best offer. No longer needed, Got married last month. Husband knows everything. Call Corrine. * Names are fictional. Any that match persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

NORDIC TRACK
\$300 Hardly used, call Chubby.

Obits

Volunteers, including Becky Reiss and Patty Kelley, regularly read obituary notices in the two local newspapers looking for items about retirees, their spouses, current ASU employees and ASU affiliates. Some may be missed because ASU is not mentioned in the article. Please call or write to us if you know of someone whose death should be reported in Prime Times. We would like to have name, age, city of residence, date of death, and ASU department and title. Notices in this issue include all of those received since the last issue, through June 30, 2007. Check local newspapers for complete obituaries.

Richard "Rick" Adams, died April 15, 2008. He leaves his wife of 27 years, Jill, an ASU employee, and his daughter Mallory, an ASU graduate student. He is survived by his parents and three siblings.

Wayne Murlin Baty, 82, passed away on Feb. 23, 2008. Wayne was preceded in death by his mother, father and five siblings. He is survived by his wife, Maxine, and two sons and their families in addition to other kinfolk. Wayne graduated from Southwest Missouri State University and received his Masters Degree from Northwestern University and his PhD from University of Southern California. After teaching at Emporia State (KS) and USC, Wayne accepted a Professorship at ASU, College of Business, from where he retired as Emeritus Professor in 1987.

Raymond C. Boles, 82, passed away on March 16, 2008. Not an ASU employee but in his 50 years of barbering in Tempe, he cut the hair of nearly every VIP at ASU, Tempe, and the state of Arizona.

Brent W. Brown. See separate tribute on page 5

Shirley Jane Burke, 86, passed away on February 6, 2008. She worked for twelve years as an Administrative Assistant in the Department of Education at ASU. She was preceded in death by her husband William. She is survived by two daughters, six sons, and a sister. Memorial contributions may be made to Helping Hands c/o the Church of the Holy Spirit, 1800 Libra Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283.

James E. Canright, 88, passed away on April 9, 2008. He received his undergraduate degree in Botany from Miami University (Ohio), and his Ph.D. in Biology from Harvard University. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard before assuming teaching positions at Harvard University, Indiana University and then ASU. Beginning in 1964, he served as professor and chairman in ASU's Department of Botany Microbiology, then professor of Botany and then became an emeritus professor when he retired in 1985. He was also active in numerous professional societies and held many leadership positions. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, two sons and two daughters. Dr. Canright was extremely proud of his association with ASU and remained an avid Sun Devil fan to the end.

Cheryl Elyse Cheatham, 62, away on April 26, 2008. She is survived by her mother and father, 3 children, 12 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and other relatives. Cheryl earned degrees from the University of San Francisco and the University of Minnesota. She retired from ASU after 24 years as Coordinator of Student Services with the Executive MBA Program. Cheryl's husband, Glenn Cheatham, preceded her in death. She established and maintained an ASU scholarship fund in his memory for the last 13 years. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Helen E. Clark, 87, passed away on Monday, February 4, 2008. She worked for almost twenty years as an ASU records clerk in the days before computers, and was known for her smile and kindness to frantic students. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hail, and a son. Survivors include one daughter, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews. Contributions may be made to Bethany Lutheran Church, 4300 N. 82nd Street, Scottsdale, or Hospice of the Valley.

Charles "Chuck" Regis Fowler passed away on May 13, 2008. He was an Army Veteran, and retired from ASU in 1997. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Mary (Rivera), five children, sixteen grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and other kinfolk. He is preceded in death by his parents and three siblings.

William R. Gruver, 82, passed away on March 10, 2008. He was a noted Phoenix broadcast journalist-commentator at KFYT Radio and Metro Systems Broadcasting as well as a lecturer in communications at ASU, Rio Solado College and many Community Centers around the Valley. He was a graduate of Columbia University and is the author of a respected history of the nation's Democratic Party. He was an advisor and confidante to the late Gov. Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, and later a key staff member for Robert F Kennedy in the senator's brief and tragic presidential campaign of 1968. He was a political "advance man" for three U.S. Presidential Candidates including John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Robert F. (Bobby) Kennedy. During the latter campaign he was standing nearby when Bobby Kennedy was shot by Sirhan Sirhan. Mr. Gruver is survived by his wife, Barbara Anne; 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

Georgialene Hearn, 76, died April 29, 2008. She taught English composition at ASU for several years. She also spent many years as a professional counselor, helping others with alcoholism, substance abuse, and family issues. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Margaret Ann Heath, 84, passed away on April 29, 2008. She was employed as a supervisor with the State of Arizona Department of Education and later retired from ASU as a data processing supervisor. She was preceded in death by her husband Wilbur, a brother and a son. One brother, two sons, a daughter-in-law and six grandchildren survive her. Donations may be made to Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower St. Phx., AZ 85014.

Rev. Duane Peter Holloran, 70, passed away on May 3, 2008. He graduated from the UofA in 1960. He graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1963 with a Master's of Divinity degree. Returning to Arizona he served as pastor of two Presbyterian churches. Duane then enrolled at ASU and obtained his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology in 1973. He helped found the Phoenix Interfaith Counseling program in 1973, and for the following 24 years served as Executive Director. Duane served as adjunct professor for San Francisco Seminary, ASU and Phoenix Community College. In 1997 Duane returned to the parish ministry. Duane is survived by Nancy, two sons five grandchildren and other relatives. Donations may be made to the Holloran Memorial Counseling Fund which will provide counseling resources to friends and members of the church community.

S.M. "Sam" Hunter passed away on April 30, 2008. Sam was an Army WWII Veteran, POW and recipient of two Purple Hearts. Sam was employed for over 36 years in the Audio Visual Services Department at ASU. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Lou, four children and four grandchildren. Contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans.

Rosie Bennett Lyon, 76, wife of Rusty Lyon, died April 23, 2008. She earned her degree in Elementary Education at Arizona State College in Tempe. In addition to other projects Rosie and Rusty funded jointly at ASU, they established The Rosie Lyon Scholars in Education in the College of Education. In 2004, Rosie was inducted into the College of Education Hall of Fame. In 2006, she received the Alumni Service Award and became a lifetime member of the ASU Alumni Association. She was a member of the executive committee for the ASU Campaign for Leadership from 1995 to 2001 and was a member of the Adopt A Devil Program supporting female athletes. She also supported the ASU women's and men's tennis program. Rosie is survived by her husband, Rusty; two sons, five granddaughters and two sisters. One son preceded her in death.

Caroline Lucile Woodruff Martens, 98, died Saturday, February 2, 2008. She is survived by a daughter and a nephew. She graduated in 1931 from Iowa State University with a degree in education. After her husband's (Ted) death in 1967, Caroline moved to Arizona. She worked with Associated Students at ASU for 8 years. Donations can be made to The Martens Scholarship, Maricopa Community College Foundation, 2411 West 14th Street, Tempe, AZ, 85281.

Mary Elaine McGovern, 76, passed away on March 2, 2008. Elaine lived in Arizona for 42 years and was associated with St. Jude Guild, ASU Retirees and the MARC organization, and was a substitute teacher with Mesa Schools through the years. Survivors include two sons, a sister, 5 grandchildren and other kinfolk.

George Wallace Morrell, See separate tribute on page 4.

William "Bill" Frederick Podlich, 92, ASU professor emeritus, died Jan. 16, 2008. At the age of 20, he graduated from Towson State Teacher's College in Maryland and later obtained a master's degree at Teachers College at Columbia University in New York. After the war, he attained his doctorate from the State University of Iowa and moved his family to Tempe, where he began his 32-year teaching career in the education department at ASU. Podlich was an accomplished scholar who wrote and was awarded one of the first National Science Foundation grants at ASU. He also helped attract new faculty to the university. His leadership experiences at ASU included service as director of student teaching, president of the Faculty Assembly and president of the Faculty Association. After retiring from ASU in August 1981, Podlich devoted much of his time to volunteer work in politics and service in the United Nations Association, both locally and at the state level. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Margaret, three children, seven grandchildren

David S. Price, 82, passed away on March 7, 2008. He was a retired chemistry professor from Glendale College, 1968-88. He formerly taught at Tempe Union High School from 1959-63. He was employed by Dow Jones Chemical company

following graduation from Alma College, Alma, Michigan where he earned his bachelor's degree in Chemistry. He received his master's degree in Physics, from ASU, while employed in the laboratory, and taught at ASU in the science dept. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Delpha. He is survived by his wife, Dee, his four children and two grandchildren, as well as other relatives. Donations may be made to Glendale College Student Scholarship - 6000 West Olive Ave. Glendale, AZ 85302 or Arizona Community Church 9325 S. Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85284.

Judith Joy Radke, 79, passed away on May 4, 2008. She obtained her BA and MA degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and later received her PHD from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She was a Fulbright Scholar in France in 1951-2. She spent her first teaching years in Hays, KS and Winnemucca, NV and ended her career as Professor of French upon retirement from ASU. She is survived by her sister and brother in law. Her parents, and two brothers, preceded her in death.

Don Riggs, former Dean of ASU Libraries, passed away on February 19, 2008. He contributed significantly to the ASU Libraries and positioned them as part of the academy on the Tempe campus. Don retired on December 31, 2007 due to poor health. Upon his retirement, Nova Southeastern University established the Donald E. Riggs Scholarship Fund. Contributions may be made to Don's scholarship fund by contacting the Library Development Office at 954-262-4593 or Jill Gallner at gallner@nova.edu.

Inez Ruth Smith, 96, died April 23, 2008. Her husband, Clyde B. Smith, who died in 1976, was the former Head Football Coach, Head of the Athletic Department and Athletic Director for ASU. Mrs. Smith was an active member in community organizations including ASU Faculty Wives Club and the ASU Emeriti Faculty and Wives Club. Mrs. Smith was predeceased by one child and is survived by two children, four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Lorraine Ann Stepton, 75, passed away April 3, 2008. She was employed with ASU until she retired in 1996. She was preceded in death by three sisters and two brothers. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, John Stepton Jr.; four daughters, two sisters, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Clyde W. Watson, 79, of Scottsdale, AZ, died on July 19, 2007. In 1945 he entered the Army Air Corp, serving with the Occupation Forces in Japan. After discharge from the Air Corp, he attended Kansas State University and Bethany College, graduating from the latter with a degree in Fine Arts in 1952. Subsequently he received a Masters Degree from Kansas State University. Clyde taught Art in public schools in Kansas, followed by tenures at the University of Arizona, The Ohio State University and ASU. He served as Chairman of the ASU Art Department from 1975-77 and retired as Professor Emeritus in 1989. He considered himself a "survivor" after receiving two kidney transplants, the first in September, 1981 and the second in May, 1997. He is survived by his wife, Lois, three sons, a daughter and two granddaughters. Contributions may be made to either the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation or the Arizona Kidney Foundation.

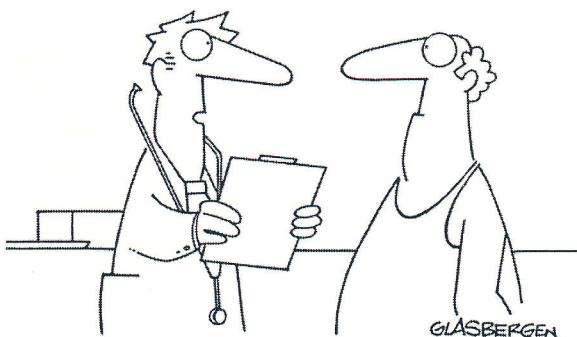
Why be a Volunteer?

(Continued from President's Message on page 12.)

Researchers find that people volunteer for a number of reasons which include:

1. **Learn about themselves.** Maybe you have never worked in an office and think that sounds exciting. You will only find that out about yourself after spending some time working in an office.
2. **To have fun.** If you volunteer doing something that has intrinsic benefits you may find you love it even more than you thought you did.
3. **Compassionate service.** People volunteer simply because they see a need and are caring of others and willing to put themselves into "other's shoes."
4. **It's time to get off the couch.** Sometimes in retirement folks tend to become lazy and waste lots of time. These people know they are bored and have a need to be productive but just don't recognize it.
5. **Make someone else's day.** There is a special feeling that comes from making an extra effort to help someone or some organization and knowing that it makes a world of difference to them.
6. **Feel good about yourself.** After volunteering and giving a few hours a week, to a worthwhile organization creates feelings of accomplishment and self-worth.
7. **Learn new skills.** One can have the opportunity to learn how to do something they didn't know how to do..
8. **Make new friends.** Volunteering is usually a social activity and it's a good way to meet new and interesting people who share common interests and values.
9. **It's the "right" thing to do.** Professionals have been taught that they have a responsibility to share some of their talent for the common good.
10. **It's just time to DO SOMETHING!** Apathy is boring.

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"The handle on your recliner does not qualify as an exercise machine."

Calendar of Events

ASURA Veterans' Day Golf Tournament	Tues, Nov. 11
Homecoming Block Party	Sat., Nov. 15
ASURA Holiday Coffee	Thurs., Dec. 4
Retirees Day	Sat., Feb. 21
Annual Meeting	Sat., Apr. 8
For latest information, see: http://asura.asu.edu	

(Legislative Report, Continued from page 7)

How these recent events will affect ASRS actuarial outcomes with respect to predicting when PBI increases will resume is a question that I am unable to answer. Nevertheless I am confident, based on investment market histories, that a turnaround will occur eventually and the Fund will acquire a healthy surplus.

What worries me is what will happen next! Hopefully history will not repeat itself by excessive subsidization of contribution rates. The language in the State statute (A.R.S. 38-737) addressing contribution rates is too technical for an amateur such as me to comprehend, but it seems to set the lower limit at 2%. In my view this is hardly a safeguard. The number should be significantly higher. We know that there are always enormous political pressures for reducing contribution rates, coming in particular from employers and legislators. Hopefully active ASRS participants realize that, for them, it's a pay now or pay later situation. Under funding by excessively low contributions now will diminish the quality of their retirement later.

I have expressed some of my personal views and interpretations in this article and welcome feedback be it supportive or critical (jerrya@asu.edu).

By Jerry Aronson

After an ASU Retirement...

Three years ago, I retired from ASU as Director of Finance and Business Services in the office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Affairs after 20 years of service.

I am currently a student in the College of Education's INCITE program (secondary education) and expect to graduate this Fall with a Master's Degree and upon graduation, will teach either at the high school or Junior college level. My specialty is business and vocational education. As I have also completed course work in middle school curriculum, will be able to teach 5th through 12th grades. I have completed 40 credit hours

I have completed 40 credit hours and maintained 3.93 GPA.

My ability to follow a dream beyond my career at ASU is a tribute to the excellent retirement benefits provided. I will complete my education and have the opportunity to continue service to my community as a teacher. Thank you ASU.

As a final note, I am the 1000th member of ASURA.

Richard W. Fill, Retiree and Graduate Student

Prime Times

Issued three or four times annually by the Arizona State University Retirees Association with special editions as needed. Articles welcome, subject to Board approval. Contact: ASU Prime Times, ASU Retirees Association, PO Box 873308, Tempe, Arizona.

Arizona State University Retirees Association

ASURA has a volunteer-staffed office in the Community Service Building, 200 E. Curry Rd., Room 201B in Tempe, Arizona. Office hours are generally Monday through Friday, 9 AM to noon. Phone: 480-965-7668; Fax: 480-965-7807. It is best to call before you stop by the office to insure that it will be open and staffed. ASURA Website: <http://asura.asu.edu>

President's Message

Why do people get involved as a volunteer in an organization? What is the motivation for individuals to take their time, talents and skills to become involved as a volunteer? Typically people join an organization because it meets their own needs. That need may be for friendship, for belonging or a host of other self-serving needs. Sometimes people volunteer because they feel something is lacking in their life. They feel there is more to life than just "me, me." The sense of accomplishing something worthwhile is a tremendous motivator for all of us. The pride of belonging to or helping a "good" organization is fundamental. We give to good causes and shun bad ones. Volunteering comes from the heart with a sincere desire to help.

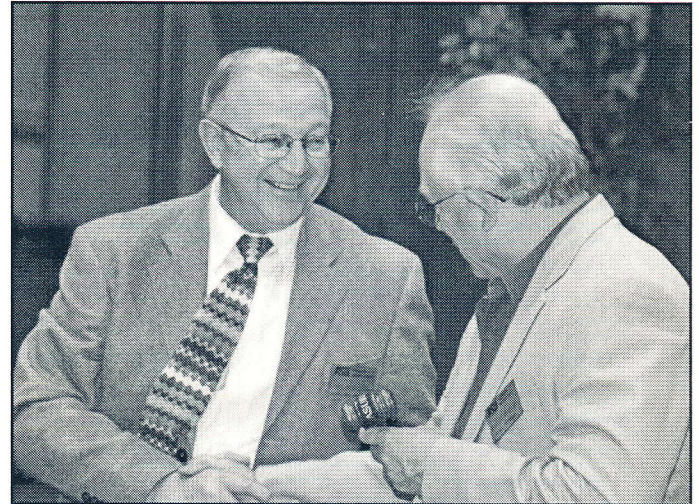
In our May Board of Director meeting Eric Sloan, our liaison from Public Affairs commented that one thing he has already learned about the Retiree's Association is that it has lots of leadership. This is not surprising since universities are known for generating leaders from within its organization. And when those leaders all come together in a common assembly they can be very powerful in their common purposes and goals. They are workers who know how to get things done.

We currently have people of influence and commitment in not only wanting the Retiree's Association to be a strong, well-organized and viable organization but also to be effectual in working with university administrators, the legislature, state agencies and other groups. We have members that work to enhance the lives of other members through activities and educational programs. Still others work on programs that benefit the University and our community, and others work to enhance communications with members in various ways.. .



PRIME TIMES

P. O. Box 873308
 Tempe, AZ
 85287-3308
 P: (480) 965-7668
 F: (480) 965-7807



Val Peterson accepts the gavel from outgoing president Doug Johnson at April's Annual Meeting.

We ask that you keep us informed of your interests, skills and talents and how we can enhance your retirement years through our organization. And we would hope that, if able, you would be willing to help us in support of member programs and services.

ASURA is an organization of volunteers. We are always in need of additional volunteer support. We can use your help and assistance as you are able to provide it. If there is something you are able and willing to do for our organization please contact a member you know or one of the officers or board members so we can match your interest with our needs.

We look forward to hearing from you as we look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Continued on Page 11

H. Val Peterson
 President 08-09