

# ASU Prime Times

Winter  
2009/2010

Arizona State University Retirees Association Newsletter

## Retirees Day Features Hugh Downs

Perhaps the most anticipated and best-supported ASURA-sponsored program is its annual Retirees Day event. This year the Retirees Day Committee has pulled out all the stops to make the occasion a must-attend experience.

The keynote luncheon speaker on Saturday, February 20th, is the highly respected TV journalist and political commentator, Hugh Downs, who anchored the ABC News' 20/20 program from 1978 to 1999 concentrating on issues of medicine, science, family, adventure, aging, and the arts. In 1998 ASU upgraded its Communication Department into a school, now bearing the name The Hugh Downs School of Human Communication.



Hugh Downs

You will want to see and hear this remarkable individual in person.

The Retirees Day morning program features an informative and entertaining variety of concurrent sessions presented by well-known speakers who will meet the interests of everyone. Subjects to be covered, and their presenters include:

- *Social Barriers to Renewable Energy*—Mik Pasqualetti
- *ASU Arboretum Facts & Oddities*—Deborah Thirkhill/Ellen Newell
- *Major Tourist Attractions in Arizona*—Jeff Reed
- *National Health Care Reform*—Marjorie Baldwin
- *Extreme Speech and Democracy*—James Weinstein
- *Trusts, Wills & End-of-Life Planning*—Charlotte Fox/Patti Shelton
- *Art as Political Communication*—Lou Weschler
- *Writing Your Personal History*—Len Gordon

Retirees Day will be held on Saturday, February 20th, in the Memorial Union on the Tempe campus. Morning refreshments will be provided and a plated luncheon and dessert will be served mid-day in the MU Ventana Ballroom. More details will be forthcoming.



—Val Peterson  
Chair, Retirees Day Committee

## How much do you know about the Retirees Day luncheon speaker?

Here are but a few of Downs' accolades and accomplishments:

1. In 1985, he was certified by the *Guinness Book of World Records* as holding the record for the greatest number of hours on network commercial television.
2. He is a descendant of the legendary Davy Crockett, frontiersman and later congressman from Tennessee.
3. He has authored 12 books, including the recent *Pure Gold*, co-authored with his wife, Ruth, on marital longevity.
4. He is a pilot, with a current medical, and several ratings from multi-engine to hot-air balloon.
5. He has received six Emmy Awards, National Headliner Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and Broadcaster of the Year Award by the International Radio and Television Society.

## ASURA Breakfast and Fashion Show

ASURA is starting 2010 with something new and different: a combination, co-ed Fashion Show and Breakfast!

The brainchild of ASU retiree Barbara Bradford Eschbach, the event will be held Tuesday, January 12, at Dillard's at the Chandler Fashion Center and will feature models from the ASURA membership.

Attendees will be treated to a continental breakfast and social hour from 9:00–10:00 a.m. in Dillard's followed by the fashion show from 10:15–11:15 a.m.

Models—both men and women—will meet at Dillard's on January 5 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to select their outfits, with the assistance of a Dillard's employee. Modeled clothes and accessories will range from

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**ASURA Breakfast and Fashion Show, continued from page 1**

casual to evening/formal and models will be completely dressed and accessorized by Dillard's (except for shoes).

ASURA members who want to model will receive a 15% discount on any purchases they make at Dillard's.

A special treat for attendees is the piano music for both the breakfast and the fashion show, provided by Eschbach herself who, when not planning events, also is a gifted performer.

Registration for the ASURA Breakfast and Fashion Show will be on the ASURA website and by mail or phone to the ASURA office and will include an option to sign up as a model.

Registration fee for the event is \$10/person; deadline for registering is January 4, 2010.

After retiring from ASU in 2008, Barbara Eschbach created Events by Barbara (<http://www.eventsbybarbara.com>) and its subsidiary, Weddings, Wakes or Whatever! (<http://ebbwww.com>). This is her first planned event for the ASURA.

— Barbara Bradford Eschbach

**Verde Canyon Railroad Journey**

It was not the destination; it was the group of about 40 ASURA members and guests that made the train journey into Verde Canyon such a success.

Interpretive naturalist Brandi continuously explained the many geological features while personal hostesses Carol and Terry attended to our needs with appetizers, lunch and champagne. This is hardly roughing it but nonetheless it was an adventure in the wilderness at a perfect time to see the autumn changes on the cottonwoods.



Bill and Beth Fordemwalt with a hostess on the Verde Canyon Railroad



Two adventurers: Carolyn Minner and Mary Stevens



"The Saloon Girls" dress up at the Blazin' M Ranch: Pat Nay and Robin Whitiker

At the end of the rail ride and after visiting the station's gift shop, ASURA travelers went to Blazin' M Ranch for a chuckwagon supper, a live western stage show and some time to browse the shops.

The full day ended at the Jerome Grand Hotel, refurbished but still with its original ghosts. The hotel has an unobstructed view of the valley and on to the horizon. Following breakfast the next morning ASUA travelers had a historic tour of the town on the Jerome Grand Trolley.

Cottonwood was next on the agenda with lunch at the Tavern Grill and shopping afterward in Old Town Cottonwood.

With food ever on their minds, the travelers made one final stop at the Rock Springs Cafe to purchase whole pies; more than 60,000 pies are sold each year from Rock Springs.

This was one more item on our Bucket List that can be deleted but, the list is long!

— Bill Stasi  
Travel Committee Co-Chair



Guide Brandi Cooper educating us along the Verde Canyon

## Olive Oil and a Sternwheeler!

Join your ASURA members and guests on Thursday, March 18, 2010, for a day trip to The Olive Mill and Dolly Steamboat.

We will tour Arizona's only olive mill and see how olive oil is made, enjoy a delightful lunch and taste some wine. After lunch we'll take a ride on an old-fashioned double-decked sternwheeler for a narrated nature cruise on Canyon Lake.

You'll hear legends of the Superstition Mountains, see desert wildlife such as bighorn sheep, deer and maybe even bobcats or mountain lions.

For more information and registration, check out <http://asura.asu.edu> and download a registration form or contact Mike Hagerman at Synergy Tours, 602-276-9008.



— Bill Stasi  
Travel Committee Co-Chair

## President's Message



Our fall community outreach, educational and social activities have gotten off to a rousing start, as you will read in the articles in this issue. I want to give particular mention to the special efforts of some of our members.

Dick Murra, our health insurance advisor, and Doug Johnson, a former ASURA president, provided significant assistance to about 120 members during the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) open enrollment period in late August. The posted enrollment period changed due to a bid protest, there were several changes in medical providers, and premiums increased significantly. Dick offered to conduct meetings for ASURA members who desired more information or clarification and Doug offered to assist Dick. On August 25, Dick and Doug met with approximately 60 members in the morning and another 60 in the afternoon. This is an example of the valuable educational benefit ASURA volunteers provide, even on very short notice. Our thanks to Dick and Doug for sharing their expertise and time.

Jerry Aronson, ASURA government liaison, once again organized the Tri-University annual meeting with representatives of ADOA, ASRS and members of the NAU and U/A retirees associations. Paul Matson, Director of ASRS, Ed Rappaport, ASRS Benefits Program Administrator and Phil Hamilton, Director of Benefits Options for ADOA, made presentations and responded to questions. I saw first hand the value of dialogue with ADOA, ASRS and our sister associations. Thanks to Jerry, who has organized this event for several years.

Bill Stasi, co-chair of the travel committee, and committee members Jim and Beth Fordemwalt, organized a wonderful trip on the Verde Canyon Railroad and overnight at the Jerome Grand Hotel. Beth and Jim did the advance work, sampling all of the places where we dined and that we visited, and Bill was superb on organization and detail. No one left hungry! Their efforts resulted in a terrific trip for everyone who participated.

Joan Leard has already provided school clothes and items and food at Thanksgiving to the family selected for the Adopt-a-Family program this year.

In this issue look for announcements of more planned events and activities in spring 2010.

Last year, we reported to you that the university funding which the Association receives annually was reduced this year due to the dire budget circumstances ASU continues to experience. The board recognizes that we must become more proactive in our fundraising efforts in order continue our important community outreach, education and social programs and events.

During the last two years, the board has taken proactive steps to reduce expenses. These efforts include the purchase of equipment to enable the members of the Living History Video Project to conduct and produce taped interviews in-house, greatly reducing the costs of using an outside contractor in the past. Our thanks to voluntary producers Linda Van Scoy, chair of the project, Dave Scheatzle and John McIntosh.

We are reducing mailing costs by sending notices and other mailings electronically to members who have email addresses and agreed to this type of notification. This year, we instituted the first ASURA dues increase and a request for additional donations and you responded enthusiastically by joining or renewing your memberships in ASURA and giving additional donations to support our programs.

I have made a request to the finance committee, chaired by Joyce Hartman Diaz, to review current and potential sources of revenue for ASURA and provide a report with recommendations to the board after the first of the year. The recommendations will be shared with the membership when available. I request ideas and suggestions from all of you as well. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Best wishes for a healthy and blessed holiday.

— Mary Stevens  
President 09–10

## The Arizona State Retirement System



Should retired members in the Arizona State Retirement System be worried about the future of their benefits? The short answer is “no.”

The news is especially reassuring for the 1,600 members of the “System,” for which new membership closed in 1971, since the Arizona Attorney General ruled on November 24, 2009, that the reduction of “System” benefits, which had been contemplated by the ASRS would violate Article 29 of the state Constitution.

The total ASRS retirement fund depends greatly on financial markets, and these, as indicated by measures such as the Dow Jones Average, are improving steadily although slowly. The ASRS fund fell from a high of \$28 billion in June 2007 to a low of \$16.7 billion in March 2009. Since then the fund value has climbed to about \$23 billion. ASRS Director Paul Matson confidently states that the ASRS can and will continue to meet its obligations.



Paul Matson

At the November meeting of the ASRS Board of Trustees, Buck Consultants presented its annual actuarial valuation of the ASRS fund. The report covers the year ending June 30, 2009. The report will be available by early 2010 in the ASRS Annual Report at <http://www.azasrs.gov>. It is used to set the contribution rate (for members and employers) and the “funded ratio” to be used in Fiscal Year 2011 (2010–11). The current contribution rate is 9.45%. The rate for FY2011 will be 9.85%.

The ASRS fund is divided into four categories, each representing a different use: the Plan, the health-insurance supplement, the long-term-disability benefit, and the “System.” The ASRS actuary, Buck Consultants, calculates a “funded ratio” for the total fund and for each of its categories. Simply stated, this is the ratio of assets to obligations, considered over a prospective thirty-year period. Any actuarial funded ratio between 80% and 120% is usually considered acceptable. For the Plan, the actuarial funded ratio as of June 30, 2009, is 78.87%, down from the previous year’s 82.1%. As the U.S. and world economies continue to improve, the funded ratios of the Plan and the

other categories within the total fund should improve. Declining state employment may be a negative factor. In order to avoid the negative effects of possible inflation during the recovery, ASRS’s fund managers are shifting their allocation of investments to reduce public equity holdings (stocks) and to add inflation-resistant vehicles such as commodities.

Although the ASRS Board expects continued recovery, they do not expect sufficient recovery to warrant a Premium Benefit Increase for Plan members in the coming decade. The PBI requires average earnings of 8% over a ten-year period (Arizona Revised Statute 38-767).

In the Buck report presented at the November ASRS Board meeting the funded value of the “System” for FY2009 was reported as 77.36%, down from 102.2% for FY2008. Legislation over the past fifty-six years has indicated that in the “System” only the benefit derived from the employee and employer contributions plus a set rate of interest is guaranteed. Thus, when “System” fund earnings exceeded the set rate, the excess has been credited to the members as non-guaranteed supplemental income. In retirement this credit is distributed as a “13th check.” An ASRS rule has allowed for reduction of the supplemental benefit if the “System’s” funded value fell below 95%. Director Matson has demonstrated to me that such a reduction is legal under the U.S. IRS Code. However, in response to a query from Director Matson, the State Attorney General has ruled as follows: “The plain language of Article 29 of the Arizona Constitution prohibits the reduction of benefit payments to System members.” The ruling also says that a shortfall in the “System” fund would be made good from the Plan fund for “System” members who retired on or after July 1, 1981, and from legislative appropriation for those who retired before that date. For the full text of the opinion and a message to System members from Director Matson, see <http://www.azasrs.gov>, under “Members” and then “System.”

A positive action each ASRS member can take for welfare of the total ASRS fund is to urge his or her state legislators to pass balanced, forward-looking state budgets that, without waste, foster useful state employment.

—Alan Johnson  
ASURA Liaison to the ASRS

**Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know “why” I look this way. I’ve traveled a long way and some of the roads weren’t paved.**

—Anonymous

## Legislative Liaison Group Report

The ASURA Legislative Liaison Group carries out two functions on behalf of ASU retirees:

- Monitors the regular sessions of the State Legislature and report to the board on any pending bills that, if passed would affect present and future retirees;
- Takes care of local arrangements for the annual Tri-University (Tri-U) meeting, which is attended by representatives of the retiree associations of the three state universities (ASURA, NAURA and UARA).

There are four noncompensated, registered lobbyists carrying out these responsibilities.

The 2009 Tri-U meeting was held at ASU on October 20 with guest presenter Paul Matson, ASRS director, providing both an update on the financial status of ASRS (see Alan Johnson's article in this issue) and current legislative initiatives.



Paul Matson

Of the numerous bills submitted in the previous session of the State Legislature, most failed with one notable exception: changes in education statutes were enacted and signed into law that authorize ASRS to establish a supplemental employee deferral plan (403b or 457) for non-State public employees (e.g., K-12 teachers) so that they may save additional tax-deferred money for retirement.

Of more importance to university employees and retirees will be the anticipated reintroduction of legislation altering rules that would determine retirement eligibility and pension benefit calculations.

ASRS will support the following legislative proposals that, if passed, will apply only to employees hired on or after July 1, 2011:

1. The average monthly compensation used in the benefit calculation will change from the average of the highest 36 months in the last 120 months to the average of the highest 60 months in the same period.
2. One of the normal retirement date definitions will increase from 80 to 85 points (age + years of service).
3. For a terminating ASRS participant (except those terminated by an employer reduction in force or position elimination) employer contribution refunds will be limited to 25%.

4. More stringent rules will apply to curtail abuses currently arising from service purchases by members with little credited service (e.g., 1–2 years) or as a result of a Plan member returning to work as a leased or contract employee. The anticipated legislative proposals are multifaceted and complex. One of the main provisions would be the requirement for employers of leased or contract employees to pay an “alternate contribution rate” for ASRS Plan members who return to work before 12 months have elapsed since retirement and who perform services that would otherwise be performed by a contributing employee.

The last two initiatives have the greatest potential impact for those already retired because they would bolster the investment fund.

### ASRS Benefits Program

Administrator Ed Rappaport gave an update on ASRS health insurance plans for the coming year.



Ed Rappaport

The selection of United Healthcare from the four bids received is creating larger provider networks and improved benefits. Costs will increase somewhat in most programs, in part because of an upcoming decrease in Medicare reimbursements, but there will be no cost increase for the Senior Supplement plan.

A PPO plan, rather than an indemnity plan, will be available for out-of-state members.

Responding to a question about the quality of United's appeal process, Rappaport said the rejection rate was about five percent (5%) in Arizona which is good, and better than in California.

Then Director of Benefit Options for ADOA Phil Hamilton\* followed and was confronted with assertions that the recent ADOA open enrollment for health and dental plans was a “complete disaster.” Hamilton responded that staff reductions in his division were an important contributing factor into why the process was burdened with glitches and obstacles. Other concerns voiced to the director included:

- The Benefit Guide (brochure) is difficult to follow because of overuse of technical language;
- The information session in Tucson was poorly organized resulting in traffic congestion and insufficient parking;
- The open enrollment website admonished users that results were unpredictable unless one particular web browser was used.

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**Legislative Liaison Group Report, continued from page 6**

When asked if ADOA open enrollment could be scheduled at the same time as ASRS, Hamilton responded that it might be possible at times but not on any consistent basis because of the many constraints that make it difficult for Benefit Options to act in concert with ASRS. These constraints include:

- The director is barred by law from proceeding through negotiations with a prospective insurer until he receives authorization from the governor and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee at certain points in the process;
- These delays mean little time to prepare and disseminate information;
- He cannot talk publicly about the ongoing procurement process while it is in progress which means that,
- The ADOA cannot keep its members informed of the negotiations and also that member participation in the negotiations has not been sought.

The meeting concluded with an open discussion of how each association interacts with its respective community.

Ben Zinnecker (NAURA) reported that his group has started discussions with the NAU administration to address the issue of NAU support for the retiree organization.

ASURA and UARA have been receiving support in the form of space allocation, integrated telephone and mail service, etc., without any problems. All in attendance agreed that it is essential that the retiree organizations operate without institutional interference.

The next Tri-U meeting is scheduled for October 2010.

Questions or comments regarding matters addressed in this article can be sent to [jerrya@asu.edu](mailto:jerrya@asu.edu).

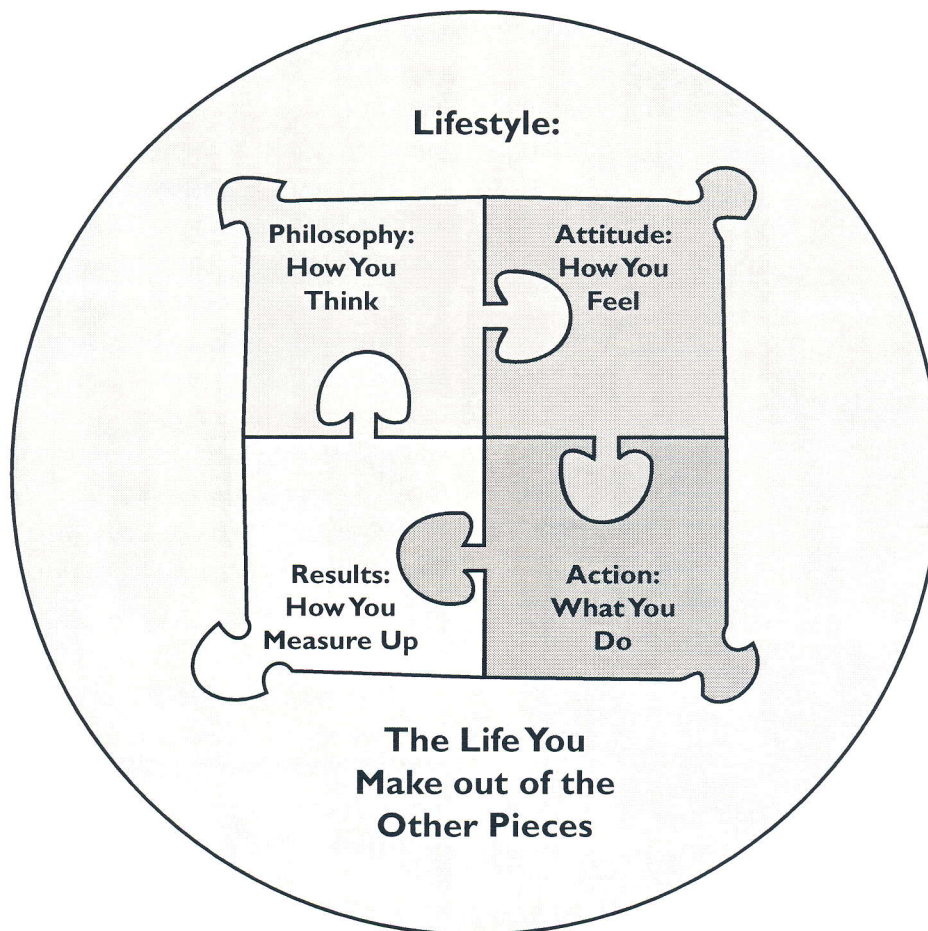
\*Phil Hamilton has since left the ADOA.



**Jerry Aronson**

—Jerry Aronson  
ASURA Government Liaison

## Five Major Pieces to the Life Puzzle



Adapted from a column by Harvey Mackay, 12/21/09, *Arizona Republic*, based on a quote by Jim Rohn.

## Impressions of China

We likely have at least some preconceptions of everything new or different.

Our lack of direct experience and some limited, filtered information contributes to these preconceptions. We develop beliefs and arrive at conclusions with no first-hand experience and perhaps quite limited and filtered information. In spite of new knowledge, we maintain our preconceptions.

What are your preconceptions of China? What are they based on? Memories of stern-faced Mao in his gray buttoned-up suit? The confrontations between students and military at Tienanmen Square? The 2008 opening and closing ceremonies of the International Olympics? The beautiful images of the Forbidden City in the film *The Last Emperor*?



Mao Zedong

What are your preconceptions and what are they based on?

China is nearly identical in size to the United States. China's population growth in the early part of this century, 2002–08, was 3.6%, while in the U.S. it was 8.3%. The U.S. has about 304 million people, while China has more than one billion. The Volkswagen is the biggest selling car in China, while the Ford pick-up leads in the United States. The average life expectancy at birth is 78 in the U.S., while it is 84 in China.

China has a Communist government, but there are signs of capitalism everywhere. Luggage carousels in many of the airports have ads for Coca-Cola and the largest Kentucky Fried Chicken in the world is in Beijing. The young people on the streets are as smartly and stylishly dressed as those we see on campus. Internet cafes are

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### Arizona State University Retirees Association

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Website: <http://asura.asu.edu>

everywhere, with most staying open all night to accommodate the demand.

Private ownership of satellite tv dishes in China is purported to be illegal. However, Chinese companies advertise dishes for installation and many large Chinese apartment buildings have dishes attached to the outside walls. When questioned about this apparent brazen disregard of the law, a Chinese guide said, "What are they going to do? Arrest 10 million Chinese?"

What are your preconceptions of China?

Join us for what could be the most fascinating learning experience of your life. Your ASURA Travel Committee has a 22-day trip planned to China in May 2010. Twenty people have signed up and there is room for a few more. The estimated cost of \$4,400 includes roundtrip airfare, travel insurance, all food, lodging, entrance fees, five internal flights, three train trips, river cruise, visa cost and about 80 sets of chopsticks.

We depart about May 18th and return about June 8th.

We will visit such cities as Shanghai, Beijing and Xian. We will cruise for three days on the Yangtze River, marvel at the scenery along the Li River, explore the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace. We will visit the Terracotta Warriors and walk on the Great Wall. We will ride trains through the Chinese countryside. And we will talk to the people of China, to help them practice their English and to help us learn about them. Xi xi.



Terra Cotta Warriors in Xian

For more information, including a complete itinerary and registration form, go to our website at <http://asura.asu.edu/ChinaMay2010>, or call 480-965-7668. You can also contact the trip organizer, Gary Anderson, at [gwander@asu.edu](mailto:gwander@asu.edu) or 480-839-3542.

—Gary Anderson  
Travel Committee Co-Chair

**Don't wish it were easier,  
wish you were better.**

—Jim Rohn



## Changes in Obituary Notices

In October, ASURA changed the way we keep members informed of the deaths of people associated with ASU. In the past, this information was printed in the quarterly *Prime Times* newsletter.

Former ASURA President Elmer Gooding suggested the change, saying that members want more timely information about the deaths of former colleagues which would allow them to contact the family with condolences.

As a result of this decision, obituary editor Becky Reiss now sends obituary information by email to our membership so that you receive it in a timely fashion. Notices are sent shortly after the obituary is published or after a survivor provides the ASURA office with the information. She includes information about memorial services if that is available and timely.

Email notices can go only to those ASURA members for whom we have valid email addresses and who have said they prefer email as a means of communication from ASURA. If you are not getting email notices and would

like to, please call the ASURA office at 480-965-7668 and provide your email address and your permission for ASURA to use it.

If you are getting the notices but prefer not to, let us know by sending an email to [ASURA@asu.edu](mailto:ASURA@asu.edu). Just include a note saying “no obituaries, please” and include your name. You may also contact the ASURA office at 480-965-7668.

Shortly after Becky notifies everyone by email, I post the information on the ASURA web site, <http://asura.asu.edu>. The link to the obituary section is in the lower left corner of our home page, under “News, Information.”

Prime Times now provides only a list of names and death dates. You will need to refer to our Web site for full information.

We hope you like the change.



Connie  
McNeill

—Connie McNeill

Membership & Communications Committee

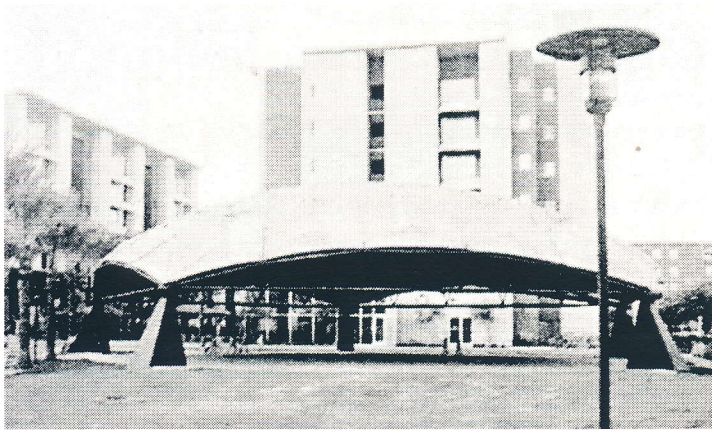
## List of Obituaries: July 24, 2009 Through November 30, 2009

Name	Date of Death	ASU Affiliation
Alizio, Anthony	October 13, 2009	Police Dept.
Axford, Geraldine Edwina Lukes	August 14, 2009	Wife of Roger Axford, Professor Emeritus, ASU (deceased)
Blackham, Garth J, Ph.D.	July 24, 2009	Psychology
Brown, L. Elaine	Unknown	Wife of Walter Brown, faculty member (deceased)
Coddington, Patricia Ann	August 7, 2009	Department affiliation unknown
Crabtree, Don Raymond	October 7, 2009	Director of Student Housing
Crane, Hildegard Streufert	July 30, 2009	Professor Emeritus, Art and Home Economics
Crossen, Rev. John F.	September 12, 2006	Department affiliation unknown
Dowhie, Karl “Coach”	August 30, 2009	Fine Arts
Flys, Miguel	November 9, 2009	Chair, Department of Foreign Languages
Franks, Marjorie Ann	October 30, 2009	Supervisor, Payroll, Human Resources
Frischknecht, Sara Jean McCulloch	November 23, 2009	Team member of ASU’s Center for Environmental Studies and the MBA for Executives program, and wife of Lee Frischknecht, Asst. General Manager, KAET (retired 1993, deceased 2004)
Gisolo, Margaret	October 20, 2009	Chair, Dance Program
Griffith, Dr. LeRoy H.	July 27, 2009	Secondary Education
Grigsby, Rosalyn Thomasena Marshall	November 9, 2008	Wife of J. Eugene Grigsby, School of Art
Grossman, Louis Homer, Ph.D.	August 21, 2009	Marketing & Management, W.P. Carey School of Business
Guthrie, Jeri	July 1, 2009	Decision Information Systems, W.P. Carey School of Business
Haggerson, Jr, Nelson Lionel	August 6, 2009	Policy Leadership & Curriculum Department, Secondary Education
Halas, Celia	September 14, 2009	Counseling Psychology

Continued on page 10

## List of Obituaries, continued from page 9

Hanson, Roland Clements	August 28, 2009	Engineering
Johnson, Ron	August 7, 2009	Swim Coach
Juvet Jr., Richards, Ph.D.	July 20, 2009	Professor Emeritus, Analytical Chemistry
Milldebrandt, Thomas Henry	August 11, 2009	Criminal Justice
Navarrete, Frank F.	August 1, 2009	Taught Homeland Security Theory and Application Courses
O'Connell, Ward	August 25, 2009	Diving Coach
Perry, Donald H.	August 11, 2009	ASU West Security
Phillips, Katherine K.	November 6, 2009	Research Assistant, Spanish Department
Taliercio, Mary Rosary	October 22, 2009	Education—ASU West
Whitam, Frederick L.	July 2009	Professor Emeritus, Sociology

Photo by Amanda Markell/Special for *The Republic*

## Historic Dome Reinstalled on Tempe Campus

Vista del Sol residents at the Tempe campus have a shiny new addition to their housing community—a multifaceted gold-colored dome that was a Tempe landmark since 1962 until it was removed in 2006.

Though the dome's everyday function at Vista del Sol is to provide shade, Ken Taylor, an ASU project manager overseeing its installation, said the dome will also be used for special events.

"The new structure is designed for use as a pavilion and can accommodate various ASU functions including lectures, musical performances and social gatherings," he said.

The dome started as the roof of a Valley National Bank on the South Rural Road and East Apache Boulevard in 1962, ASU spokeswoman Sharon Keeler said.

The dome covered the bank's 2,600-square-foot lobby, Keeler said in an e-mail.

In 1989, the building became ASU's Visitor Information Center [ASU Retirees Association was also housed in the building starting from its formation in 1991] until 2006, when it was demolished to make room for the new Barrett, the Honors College complex.



— Becky Reiss

Membership & Communications Committee

The dome, made from more than 100 diamond-shaped panels, was preserved as a historic structure and an architectural oddity.

"ASU worked with the State Office of Historic Preservation to make sure that we complied with state statutes governing historic preservation," Keeler said.

Taylor said the dome was stored at ASU's surplus property yard until its relocation back to the Tempe campus.

Steve Nielsen, assistant vice president of University Real Estate, said American Campus Communities built both Vista del Sol and the Barrett complex.

But before the company demolished the Visitor Information Center to clear the land for the new complex, it decided to preserve the dome and eventually move it to Vista del Sol.

"From very early on it was determined that [the dome would be] incorporated into the Vista del Sol project," he said.

Relocating the dome was a requirement of American Campus Communities' development efforts with ASU, Nielsen said.

Architecture sophomore Brittany Wisely lives in a condominium across the street from Vista del Sol and said she likes the dome.

"I think it's a good addition over here because it adds to the community atmosphere," Wisely said. "I'm curious to see what it will be used for."

—Kayla Frost, *The State Press*, 9/24/09

## Arizona Nuggets Makes Its Debut

ASU retiree Dean Smith sat down last May with David Nye, president of the Kiwanis Club of Friendship Village, Tempe, and worked out an agreement for the club to publish *Arizona Nuggets*, a collection of 85 Arizona history vignettes that Smith had written over several decades.



Dean Smith

Net proceeds of the book's sales will go entirely to the club's charitable foundation. The author, illustrator, book designer and editor all agreed to donate their services to the project.

One of the principal recipients of the charitable effort will be Arizona elementary school districts, which will be given free books for their libraries and Arizona history teaching programs.

*Arizona Nuggets* is now available on Amazon.com at \$13.95, plus shipping costs. The Friendship Village club is accepting orders via telephone (480-831-3500) and email (KiwanisFVT@aol.com) at \$10.00. Several other Arizona Kiwanis clubs and local churches are selling the book as a fund raiser.

The book has enjoyed an unanticipated degree of success, netting \$6,000 for charity since its debut in September.

State Historian of Arizona Marshall Trimble wrote the foreword to the book. In it he declared that "(Smith's) entertaining and easy to read stories reflect the wide variety of people who have made a difference in the history of Arizona."

The book is divided into seven sections: Early Days, Territorial Days, Conflicts, Politics, Women, Characters, and This and That.

—Dean Smith

## Who Needs a Doctor?

You're an Arizona Territory pioneer, circa 1870, on a ranch fifty miles from the nearest doctor (who doubles as a dentist and veterinarian), and your wife is enduring an excruciating struggle to deliver your tenth child. What to do? You race to the faded journal containing her mother's home remedies for almost every ailment. It says: "For difficult labor: Brew tea by dropping a wedding ring in boiling water." You follow directions and she soon delivers a healthy baby. No wonder our forefathers believed in such quaint home remedies.

Here are a few more, extracted from pioneer writings: For leg cramps: "Turn shoes upside down and slide them under the bed." For malaria (which was a common and often fatal disease in early Arizona): "Gather spider webs, roll them in the shape of a pill, and swallow twice a day." For toothache: "Take half a sheet of brown paper, roll it up and insert in the tooth, set fire to it and hold it as long as you can." Out on the range, where minor ailments were common, such remedies were often used. For rope burns, one journal advised: "Rub cowboy urine on the burned area." And for hemorrhoids: "Burn tobacco and mix the ashes with lard." Where one should apply it was left unsaid.

Should a cowboy become habitually drunk, this was a sure-fire cure: "Mix sulphate of iron, magnesia, peppermint water, and nutmeg. Swallow morning and evening." If that didn't sober him up, nothing would. If he became weak and anemic this remedy was advised: "Push iron nails into an apple, leave overnight, and eat it in the morning."

Snake bite was a constant peril on the range and there were innumerable remedies advised. But this one tops them all: "Rub gunpowder and turpentine into the wound and set it on fire. If the victim does not improve, repeat the treatment." Sounds like a winner.

—Excerpt from *Arizona Nuggets*

### For Toothache:

**Take half a sheet of brown paper, roll it up and insert in the tooth, set fire to it and hold it as long as you can.**

### For Snakebites:

**Rub gunpowder and turpentine into the wound and set it on fire. If the victim does not improve, repeat the treatment.**

—Excerpt from *Arizona Nuggets*

## Nominations Welcome for the ASURA Board

Next March we'll be holding elections for five members of the ASURA Board of Directors. The Board manages the affairs of the Association and establishes policies as needed to carry out its mission. Members of the board are elected for a term of three years and meets monthly during the academic year.



**PRIME TIMES**  
P. O. Box 873308  
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You would be most welcome—and, in fact, are encouraged—to offer your own name or the name of another current ASURA member as a potential board

member. If you want to be sure your nominee's name gets on the ballot, you can submit a petition of nomination bearing the signatures of at least ten current ASURA members.

Nominations must be received by January 31, 2010.

Send names and/or nominating petitions to:

Val Peterson, Chair

ASURA Board Nominating Committee 2010

PO Box 873308

Tempe, AZ 85287-3308

Email: [val.peterson@cox.net](mailto:val.peterson@cox.net)

—Connie McNeill  
Vice President

## ASURA Adopt-a-Family Program

ASURA is still very much involved with the Adopt-a-Family program and this year has adopted a family from the Tempe schools and two ASU families.

Our adoption program will provide these families with food for their Thanksgiving and December holidays. In December it will also give each person clothing as well as toys for the children. The families' needs also will be met at Valentines and once in the spring.

If you would like to support this program, you may send your contribution to the ASU Foundation—specifically marked for Adopt-A-Family Program—at PO Box 873308, Tempe, AZ 85287-3308. You may also mail or drop off a contribution at the ASURA office, Community Services Building, Room 201, 200 East Curry Road, Tempe, AZ 85287.

For more information, please call Joan Leard at 480-947-6119.



Joan Leard

—Joan Leard  
Chair, Adopt-A-Family Project

**If you are not willing to risk  
the unusual,  
you will have to settle for  
the ordinary.**

—Jim Rohn