Stamina for the Future
NAU’s College of Health and Human Services energizes Arizona health care

Candles and Confetti
Four NAU institutions celebrate milestone anniversaries  p. 7

Keeping the Place
Linda Marie Golier, ‘06, preserves the integrity of the Little Colorado River Valley  p. 14

ALSO: NAU’s Engineers Without Borders creates sustainable tools for living in Ghana  p. 16
These Are the Days
Four NAU fixtures celebrate major anniversaries, and we knew them when.

Stamina for the Future
NAU’s College of Health and Human Services nourishes the state of Arizona health care.

Putting “Her” in Heritage
Linda Marie Golier, ’06, M.A., is making her passion for sustainable tourism the bedrock of the Little Colorado River Valley National Heritage effort.

FEATURES

Thoughts
Superpowers converge on the Mountain Campus for a heroic Homecoming.

Links
Blowing out the candles, welcoming a new boss, and saluting the men and women in uniform.

Journeys
Engineers Without Borders brings power to the Third World.

Connections
Linking up with current and future Lumberjacks.

Memoirs
They will be missed.

DEPARTMENTS

NAU Distance Learning, Phoenix
—Photograph by Thomas Boggan, NAU

Cover Photo
NAU’s College of Health and Human Services helps provide a healthy future for Arizona.
“The ordinary man is involved in action, the hero acts. An immense difference.”—Henry Miller
In his 91st Year, Castro Makes Indelible Impression

Raul H. Castro, ’39 B.S., the first and only Latino governor of Arizona, already sports impeccable humanitarian credentials. Now he has a legacy that is both solid and three-dimensional: NAU’s College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) building has been named in his honor. Castro, who was recognized formally at the naming ceremony Feb. 15, served from 1975-1977 as the Grand Canyon State’s 14th governor. He was then appointed by President Jimmy Carter as U.S. ambassador to Argentina, the culmination of a diplomatic career that included previous stints in El Salvador and Bolivia.

At the ceremony, Arizona Regent Ernie Calderón, ’79, highlighted the relevance of Castro’s work to SBS’ educational mandate: “The building houses the Department of Sociology and Social Work—people who help poor people. Raul Castro advocates for poor people,” and lauded the former governor’s status as “the most successful NAU graduate from a political perspective.”

“Any Arizona institution would be proud to have Raul Castro’s name associated with it,” added NAU President John Haeger. “With the numerous contributions he has made to Arizona and to society, we are honored to count him as one of our alumni.”

Not bad for the dirt-poor son of a copper miner and midwife who put himself through school waiting tables, panning for gold and plucking chickens.

A Year of Anniversaries, with More in the Making

When Almon Taylor and Frances Bury were scouring the countryside in a horse and buggy, searching for students to fill the classrooms in Old Main, they couldn’t possibly have envisioned that Northern Arizona Normal School would grow into the remarkable institution we enjoy today. But in 1899, with 23 students, their inspiration launched a tradition of excellence that continues stronger than ever at Northern Arizona University’s campus in Flagstaff and at 37 sites throughout Arizona, including campuses in Yuma, Phoenix, Prescott and Tucson.

As the university marks its 109th birthday in 2008, I want to note several important anniversaries we are celebrating this year.

A few short months ago, our Golden Grads from the class of ’58 (see pg. 5) joined our new alumni from the class of ’08 during spring commencement exercises. It’s a distinguished group, one that includes former Arizona State University President Lattie Coor, and we look forward to seeing the Golden Grads from ’59 join us next May.

The School of Forestry, one of NAU’s preeminent programs, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. NAU’s Elderhostel program has hosted more than 80,000 participants during its 25 years. KNAU, the award-winning National Public Radio station on the Flagstaff campus, which has been a trusted source of news, music and entertainment since 1983, is also celebrating its silver anniversary. Farther down the road from Flagstaff, NAU-Yuma, celebrated its 20th anniversary with a successful “block party” in February. It could be argued that NAU-Yuma was the birthplace of distance education in Arizona—a concept that was originally met with skepticism but has now expanded so much that one-third of Northern Arizona University’s students take distance courses.

As you read the anniversary coverage in this edition of PINE (see pg. 7), you may want to think about marking the passage of time in your own special way. Join us for Homecoming on Oct. 25 and share your stories and recollections with the rest of your NAU family.

I look forward to visiting with you.

Elisabeth Zolkin Mlawski, ’99, updated her information online and won an iPod®. Keep your NAU connection humming through naualumni.com.


Dr. John D. Haeger, President
Northern Arizona University

John D. Haeger, President
Our Peerless Leader

Mason Gerety, former dean of NAU’s Franke College of Business, took the helm of the synergistic University Advancement team July 1. “I am very excited about this new challenge and the opportunity to work with a great staff,” says the new vice president. “Never has private support of higher education been more important, and Northern Arizona University will be looking to alumni and friends to provide that margin of excellence at what is already a great university.”

Gerety, who joined NAU in 1993 as an assistant professor of finance and then served as director of the MBA program and associate dean, became dean of the former College of Business Administration in 2002. Instrumental in raising more than $32 million in the last seven years, his leadership was a pivotal component in securing the $25 million Franke gift that resulted in the college’s renaming.

A Room of One’s Own ...

... according to Virginia Woolf, provides the physical and metaphorical liberty necessary to the genesis of innovative art and inspired thought. Although Woolf may have pictured a garret in Bloomsbury, nowadays the corporate equivalent is available to thinkers of every ilk, courtesy of the High Country Conference Center at Flagstaff (HCCC). According to its website, “the first floor offers a spectacular grand ballroom which will seat up to 1,000 guests, and four meeting rooms adjacent to the grand ballroom can be used independently or together for additional meeting space. The second floor features additional meeting space with a large meeting room and three additional breakout rooms.” For details and reservations, please visit the HCCC’s website, highcountryconferencecenter.com/index.html; or for information on meeting room naming opportunities, contact the NAU Office of University Advancement at 928-523-2012.

Worth Their Weight ... and Worth the Wait

NAU spring commencement is an impressive sight. The academic regalia, the students’ dark blue robes spiked with quirky personal touches, the spring green of the Skydome’s turf ... and in the front row, like reflections of the platform’s bright yellow chrysanthemums, the intense poppy-colored gowns and mortarboards of the 50-year reunion Golden Graduates. This year’s celebrants from the class of 1958 enjoyed their alma mater’s recognition in the presence of family, friends and 2,300 jubilant future members of the Golden Grad Class of 2058.

The “reunioneers” were also treated to an elegant luncheon in Old Main, where they had the pleasure of chatting with Joe and Marie Rolle, and exchanged “open mike” anecdotes that were delightfully humorous and occasionally risqué. We wouldn’t have it any other way.

2009 Golden Graduates, your fashion statement awaits!
Please contact Beth Martin at 888-628-2586 (888-NAU-ALUM).

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Memor et Fidelis*
In keeping with our mandate to gather information about alumni, and for future recognition of graduates and attendees, the NAU Office of Alumni Relations requests the following information from alumni who have served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces:
◆ Branch of Service (i.e., U.S. Marine Corps)
◆ Status (i.e., discharged, retired, active)
◆ Unit, Battalion, Company, Squadron, etc.
◆ Commissioned/Noncommissioned/Enlisted
◆ Last Rank Held
◆ War/Place of Conflict/Service Location
◆ Other Relevant Service Facts (POW, MIA, KIA, awards/honors/medals)
Please e-mail all pertinent information to alumni@nau.edu, or send to:
Veterans
NAU Office of Alumni Relations
PO Box 6034
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-6034
We request that you digest the information for us rather than sending news clippings, citations, press releases or other media that might be difficult to interpret. (Female service members, please remember to include your maiden or other former names.)
*“Mindful and Faithful,” motto of the 67th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Service for Three
The three new members of our NAU Alumni Association Board of Directors are likely to make a strong impression:
◆ Bart Graves, ’79 B.A., of Phoenix, Media Specialist, AZ Dept. of Public Safety
◆ David C. Moline, ’92 B.S., from Phoenix, Ariz., owner/president of Moline Construction Co., Inc.
◆ Bruce Turner, ’79 B.S., of Chandler, Ariz., district manager (Southwest) for Sodexho.
Join us in applauding our outgoing board members, Clifford E. (Kip) Alexander III, Debra Himes, Ira Greenspan and Sam Leyvas for their service. As Gertrude Stein said, “Silent gratitude isn’t very much use to anyone.”

The Lumberjack Doesn’t Wear Prada …
… but isn’t exactly flaunting flannel and suspenders, either. Now Phoenix-area Lumberjacks can be just as True Blue every day as their Mountain Campus counterparts are on True Blue Fridays. Four Glass Cage Sports locations in the Phoenix metro area will allow you to load up on licensed NAU gear—caps, tees and other accessories—at Arizona Mills, Arrowhead Towne Center, Desert Sky Mall and Metrocenter. And, in this case, you’ll be giving NAU more than just a shout-out, since a portion of every sale goes back to support the university. For contact information, visit glasscagesports.net and parade your NAU Blue today.

The Lumberjack Student Newspaper Creates Winners
“I can honestly say that I learned more from working at the Jack than I learned in any class. The teachers were great and prepared us well, but there’s nothing like doing it—both the successes and failures—in a real environment. I left campus completely prepared and ready to walk into a professional newsroom, and it was all because of the years at The Lumberjack. I wouldn’t trade that experience for anything.”—Chris Fiscus, ’90, Page One editor for the Arizona Republic
Stay in touch with NAU by subscribing to The Lumberjack newspaper
I would like to receive a subscription to The Lumberjack for:
◆ One semester ($19.99)  ◆ Two semesters ($24.99)
Name _____________________________________________ Phone _______________________
Address _________________________________________________________________________
Enclosed is my ◆ check ◆ credit card # ____________________________
Expiration date ________________________________________
Send to PO 6000, Flagstaff, AZ 86011. More info. call Steve Saville, 928-523-5007.
Seeing the Forest and the Trees: NAU Forestry at 50
Ernest A. Kurmes, Professor Emeritus, Forestry

There were nine faculty in forestry in 1967, so we were very close. So were the students, with a very active forestry club and involvement in all sorts of campus activities. We're seeing some return to that today.

Back then, our forestry program was much more oriented toward timber production. Flagstaff was still producing lumber at the big mill; the head forester for Southwest Forest Industries had been a friend of Dean Charles Minor. They would set logs out for our students to study and we'd watch the timber go through the mill. They hired many NAU grads for their forestry operations.

In the ‘80s, there were some threats of lawsuits, saying the Forest Service was not living up to its requirements for environmental impact evaluations. At the same time mills like Flagstaff’s were designed to cut big logs. The paper mill, which was supposed to be a great outlet for small logs, used more and more chips that were waste from the sawmills and started to include wastepaper. So a big outlet for small timber disappeared. And the lawsuit threats slowed timber sales so much that the companies basically just gave up.

Our graduates will still be natural resource managers. Their attitude will be different from the late ’60s/early ’70s alumni, who saw the forest much more as an income-producing entity.

Jim Allen, Executive Director, School of Forestry
Forestry is a major player in research at NAU, with about 40 active grants totaling over $5.5 million. Twice in the last year, we’ve been ranked in the top 10 of forestry programs nationally for our research productivity.

Two really strong partnerships at the School of Forestry have contributed to our research result. One is the Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI)—the two leaders of ERI are both School of Forestry faculty members—and then there’s the Rocky Mountain Research Station of the Forest Service. They provide grants, actually working side by side with us on some projects, and a lot of their researchers have served on committees of our graduate students.

The internationalization of our program is increasingly relevant. We’ve had groups go to Ghana, Nicaragua and Panama. Our integrated curriculum, which we started way back in the ’70s, is also unique. In our junior and senior years, we have an integrated approach with multiple subjects taught by multiple instructors as part of a single course.

On a truly positive note, I view our new organizational structure as a new and promising chapter for us. As part of the College of Engineering, Forestry & Natural Sciences, we’ll be right there with environmental sciences, biology, engineering—our natural partners. We have great collaborations already, but I look forward to having quite a few more once we become fully integrated.
KNAU: A Quarter Century of Making (Radio) Waves

Matt Markiewicz, ‘78 B.S., ‘82 M.ED.; KNAU News Director, 1982-89; current Webmaster, W.L. Gore (goremedical.com)

We started out with a full-time staff of five people, and the rest were students and volunteers from the community. We were running Morning Edition, All Things Considered and Performance Today. Throughout the day we’d have news breaks—local stories and often news from The Associated Press read by students. We’d type the scripts for news programs with carbon copies.

I remember when they took out all the turntables and put in CD players. We also had the old teletype for The Associated Press. Then PCs came out, and the AP went digital and fed right into the computer—and then we started doing playlists on the computers as well. Someone local in Flagstaff hand-built our PCs, with black and white monitors, and we used them for years.

As a new station in town, we wanted to make our mark within the community, so we tried to do a lot of local news reporting. As a matter of fact, I sent a student down to Phoenix and he covered the Evan Mecham impeachment hearings. We also recorded concerts at Ardrey Auditorium.

In the first fundraisers, if we raised $15,000, we were ecstatic about it. But I look at that time as the “Golden Age of KNAU.” I think this was the first time that all of us had worked in public radio, and we were growing so quickly. There was a lot of excitement in the community about having a new radio station.

John Stark, KNAU General Manager, 1993-Present, knau.org 88.7/91.7 FM

In March 1982, the Arizona Daily Sun ran an article headlined, “Lack of Funding May Quiet Campus FM Station KNAU.” Now, each week more than 50,000 people tune to KNAU and our network of three stations to hear NPR News, classical music, regional journalism and A Prairie Home Companion.

Since signing on (Nov. 28, 1983), we’ve made significant accomplishments. KNAU is nationally recognized as a small-market station with a major-market sound. Local and regional news has become our signature service with production of nationally broadcast reports, Indian Country News Bureau, Edge of the Rez, and the development of talented reporters, many of whom are in public radio positions throughout the nation. This past fiscal year, KNAU won five Radio and Television News Directors Association Edward R. Murrow regional awards and six Arizona Associated Press Awards.

Our most recent high-profile series, “Poverty with a View,” is part of NPR’s Local News Initiative and is the result of collaboration with a producer and editor from NPR’s Morning Edition. Learn about NPR’s Renee Montagne’s upcoming visit to NAU at knau.org.

NAU Elderhostel: A 25-Year All-Star Traveling Show

Rich Stephens, Director, NAU Elderhostel and Road Scholar Programs

It may have taken us 25 years, but we are proud to announce that the NAU Elderhostel program recently became the largest Elderhostel sponsor in the country. Considering that the Elderhostel network is the world’s largest educational travel organization for adults 55 and older, this achievement gives us an extra reason to celebrate this special silver anniversary year.

While the focus of our programs over the years has remained educational, their method of delivery has evolved considerably. In summer 1983, NAU Elderhostel debuted with “Geology of the Grand Canyon,” “Mammoth Hunter” and “Writing of the West.” Participants spent their entire week on the Flagstaff mountain campus. Today’s norm, however, is hiking, arts and “moving” programs that visit multiple destinations over a week. More programs emphasize experiential and field-based learning rather than the classroom lecture setting. Participants can also appreciate that they stay in comfortable modern hotels rather than the “digs” at Campbell Hall.

With an NAU Elderhostel program, our 6,000 annual participants can expect just about any subject that highlights the wondrous cultural and natural history of our beautiful surroundings. One can enjoy distinct programs on the Navajo, Hopi or Zuni reservations, learn Grand Canyon geology from NAU’s own Professor Emeritus Stan Beus, discover Southwestern archeology at Mesa Verde or Chaco Canyon, or dabble in watercolor workshops in Sedona. They can give back to their communities...
by helping to revegetate Grand Canyon’s South Rim with native plants or by tutoring students in elementary schools on the Navajo Reservation. For the active baby boomer out for adventure, we feature hiking programs in Sedona, Lake Powell, Marble Canyon and Peach Springs. And why not check an item off that bucket list with a hike to Phantom Ranch or a Grand Canyon rim-to-rim backpack?

Since our humble beginnings, we have showcased the beauty of our area and introduced NAU to more than 80,000 participants. We look forward to the next 25 years of energetic and inquisitive adults in our limitless Southwestern classroom. For more information, visit nau.edu/elderhostel or call 928-523-2359.

20 Years of NAU-Yuma: Desert Flower to Branch Campus

Eugene Hughes, NAU President Emeritus

When I became president in 1979, we began to explore doing much more in Yuma than offering a few classes through continuing education. We started working with Harold Elliott, ’49 B.S., ’51 M.Ed., chairman of a committee with the Yuma Chamber of Commerce. They had canvassed the public schools, city, county, military base and others, and had identified some needs. We saw there was an underserved population: people who were place-bound with no higher educational opportunity other than the two-year degree program from Arizona Western College (AWC).

I based our model on the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Arizona. There was an agent in every county employed by the U of A, with federal funds, and that agent became a broker of agricultural services for that county. And I said, if we could do the same thing for community colleges, we could build a base of support for NAU—assisting, county by county, in a cooperative relationship between the university and community colleges.

Working with Jim Carruthers, president of AWC—and without him, this wouldn’t have happened either—we developed guidelines and programming and went to the Board of Regents with our proposal. They strongly supported us in establishing what, at the time, I called “NAYuma.” We always had strong support from the community, from the board, and particularly from Eddie Basha and Art Chapa, who really recognized what we were talking about. The design of the Yuma program, in cooperation with AWC, really became a model for the nation.

For the first commencement, Eddie, Art and I flew over in Eddie’s plane. Bringing together the graduates of a community college and a state university at one site, in one ceremony … many of the graduates were Hispanic, single parents, with all kinds of needs we were trying to fulfill. I think the program today is wonderful, and as a branch campus it has become just what we anticipated. We had a vision, and with the right people in place and the support of the Board of Regents and the legislature, we were willing to make it happen.

“I was so pleased to be invited back for that 20th anniversary celebration. There’s a photo of us—Presidents Haeger and Carruthers, Gus Cotera, me, Krista Rodin, Nick Lund, Bob McLendon—an entire evolutionary history standing in the street, celebrating 20 years.”

— Eugene Hughes

No Mirage: NAU-Yuma, an educational oasis

These recollections and reflections are consolidated from extensive conversations, which you can read at naualumni.com/2008anniversaries. Special thanks to all for their remarkable enthusiasm and sterling institutional memory.
Aging population and a diverse array of groups with special medical challenges are the reality of today’s world. NAU’s College of Health and Human Services is helping its graduates better prepare to serve the rapidly evolving patient base of the 21st century.

“There is a deficit of health professionals in Arizona and across the country,” says Leslie Schulz, Executive Dean at NAU’s College of Health and Human Services. “It’s our goal to increase the number of nurses, therapists and other health professionals.”

Schulz, along with other faculty and administrators, is committed to effecting change and ensuring that students—and society—receive the health care and medical services they need. In just over a year, the College of Health and Human Services has established itself as a thought leader and a force within academia. An emphasis on the practical and the pragmatic, Schulz believes, is the best medicine for raising the visibility of the college and helping students prepare for the realities of today’s working world.

To be sure, with programs in nursing, physical therapy, health sciences, dental hygiene, athletic training, and communications sciences and disorders, NAU is helping shape the future of the state … and the nation. Along the way, it is blazing a trail to new and innovative programs and spearheading important research.

“We are building a strong academic foundation,” says NAU President John Haeger, “and positively impacting people’s lives.”

A New Era
It’s no secret that societal demographics are changing, and Arizona is at the center of this new era. As boomers and others age, the demand for health care services—and health care workers—is growing.
rapidly. The American Hospital Association reports that medical providers were short 118,000 registered nurses as of December 2005. Other health care fields, including physical therapy, are suffering from shortages as well. Factor in longer life spans and new technologies, and it’s more important than ever to prepare students for health care careers.

In 2007, the university received a $4 million appropriation from the Arizona legislature to build a more comprehensive framework of health care programs.

“Along with other institutions in Arizona,” Schulz says, “we were mandated by the state to double the number of students in our nursing program and develop new programs.”

One of the proposed offerings is a physician’s assistant major. At present, no public university in the state offers such a program. The College of Health and Human Services is also introducing a doctorate degree in occupational therapy and expanding its physical therapy doctorate program to Phoenix. A new major in biomedical sciences for students interested in health delivery or veterinary care careers has been established in the College of Engineering, Forestry and Natural Sciences.

These programs fill urgent needs. “Right now,” Schulz says, “there’s every reason to believe that a lot of qualified health care professionals in Arizona are unable to obtain doctorates because of a lack of programs.” Her challenge is not only to create the programs, but also find doctorate-level faculty to teach. Also, an accelerated nursing program allows individuals already holding a bachelor’s degree to meet qualifications. It aims to attract those looking to change careers—often in midlife—and welcome them into much-needed positions at hospitals and clinics within Arizona.

“These are excellent areas to go into because they pay well and there
Nursing Rx: TLC and Some Hard Facts

With a passion for nursing and teaching and a reputation for building collaborative relationships, new School of Nursing dean Debora Thomas is just what the doctor ordered to help usher in the next era of health and human service education at NAU.

Previously the assistant dean for undergraduate programs and associate professor of nursing at Florida Atlantic University, Thomas' nursing career spans several decades of practice, education, administration and service. She is quick to draw attention to both the field’s humanitarian mandate and academic rigor: “Caring is the central domain of nursing and the essence of what we do,” she says. “It is not a ‘soft’ concept, but rather a distinct body of knowledge to be studied and researched.”

True to her word, she has maintained an active research agenda reflected in her two books and a variety of publications. Her latest research focus is based in holistic nursing education, examining its effects on patient satisfaction, nursing satisfaction and nurse turnover rates. “A sizeable percentage of new nurses don’t stay in nursing past their first year or two,” Thomas says. “Part of what we can do at NAU is to give students and new graduates the tools to take care of themselves in order to decrease the chance of burnout so they will stay in nursing.”

is high demand,” Schulz says. “It’s an area of emphasis because it can make a real difference.”

Beyond the Classroom

Meeting the needs of a changing population also requires new facilities and expanded programs. As a result, the College of Health and Human Services has proposed an $80 million state-of-the-art building for its various departments. Instruction currently takes place in older facilities that aren’t always up to modern standards.

“We are excited about the opportunity to grow our programs in a cutting-edge facility,” says Mason Gerety, NAU’s VP of University Advancement.

The university is seeking funding from the Arizona legislature to construct the facility. The new building, which will break ground in spring ’09, will include classrooms, offices, simulation labs, a dental hygiene clinic, a speech and hearing clinic, and myriad additions and improvements. School officials hope to complete the project within the next few years.

“We’re looking to bring the college and its facilities into the 21st century,” says Liz Grobsmith, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

The College of Health and Human Services is also working to put its expansion plan into action. Over the next few years, school administrators hope to build the framework for the occupational therapy and physician’s assistants programs, including hiring faculty and staff.

Meanwhile, the college continues to expand the Phoenix Biomedical Campus by assembling an entire academic health complex under one roof.
The college is expanding its reach and influence in other ways, too. A nursing cohort in Yuma addresses the unique needs of patients in rural areas. Another program, funded through the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation, exposes students to work on Hopi, Yavapai-Apache reservations. There, they learn about disease prevention, community health and health education.

“The experience broadens their knowledge and deepens their understanding of health-related issues,” Grobsmith says. “It gives them a great foundation for the future.”

Transforming Jobs into Careers

Providing outstanding health care to individuals living on a reservation is no simple task. Local Native Americans are hired in entry-level health care positions, which are vital to the health care facilities, but they have few opportunities for career advancement.

R. Cruz Begay, an assistant professor in the Health Sciences Department, aims to alter the equation. With a $436,000, three-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: “Learning Circles for Health Technicians,” Begay and her colleagues have devised a program to help these workers upgrade their knowledge and skills and build a better future for themselves as well as those living on the reservation.

“In fact, an emphasis on serving the needs of special populations is a central concern. Students seeking a Dental Hygiene degree work with homebound patients, supported by the Del E. Webb Foundation, children’s clinics and American Indian Tribal facilities, gaining firsthand experience working in public health.

“It serves as an eye-opening experience,” Schulz says. “Students realize that health services aren’t provided everywhere and that some people have to travel a long distance to get treatment.”

Making the Grade

Technological innovation is also a central theme for the College. The School of Nursing uses Palm PDAs as a “point of service” resource. The approach promotes best practices in patient care, the dispensing of drug information and the management of lab data. Clinics serving reservations and rural populations have turned to video conferencing and other online tools to improve care. And the Athletic Training Department offers clinical rotations with various high school, college and professional teams, including the Arizona Sidewinders.

Meanwhile, the college has established itself as a thought and performance leader. The Dental Hygiene Department boasts a 100 percent board certification pass rate on the first attempt for five consecutive years. More than 30 percent of the students in the Health Sciences Department come from underrepresented populations; about 12 percent are Native Americans. All while a broad spectrum of research efforts help the college stand out in the academic community—and beyond.

To be sure, the College of Health and Human Services has a bright future.

“Our goal is to provide the maximum benefit to the citizens of Arizona,” says Haeger. “It’s a challenging task, but one we will accomplish.”

“Too often,” she says, “health workers on the reservation go away to get an education and they don’t come back. Others languish in jobs with no future.”

Begay has spearheaded a program that allows these Indian Health Services workers to receive a raise if they improve their skill level. Distance classes provide instruction in public health and participants practice journaling and other exercises to improve their writing ability.

Already, Begay says, participants have improved their communication skills and performance. Also, some have enrolled at NAU to earn a degree in Health Sciences and other allied health professions.

“The students are excited because they see opportunity,” she says, “and supervisors see a change in better communication with their employees.”

Begay believes that it is a revolutionary model that can be used elsewhere.

“There is an opportunity to improve health care in ways that weren’t possible only a few years ago,” she says.
Putting the ‘Her’ in Heritage

NAU alumna Linda Marie Golier, ’06 M.A., is making her passion for sustainable tourism the bedrock of the Little Colorado River Valley National Heritage effort

Tell us about your work with the Center for Desert Archaeology.
I was hired to conduct a feasibility study for the Little Colorado River Valley National Heritage area. In order to qualify, each candidate area has to prove that its particular heritage and history is of national significance, that the community supports the designation, and that enough resources are in place to carry out the mission of a national heritage area. I scoped the area and its history, met the people, and determined if communities thought the designation would benefit them. It is a big area—from Flagstaff to Gallup, from the Hopi reservation to the Rim.

Why is this effort so important to you?
It combines a lot of my background interests. As a student at NAU, I focused on sustainable development—specifically sustainable tourism. I like the Little Colorado project because it isn’t just tourism. It places the emphasis on other community goals, such as education and resource care, as well.

If you have a nice community to live in, it is probably a nice place to visit. The approach is balanced and nonregulatory, so it’s not forcing people to do something they don’t necessarily want to do.

How does your interest in sustainable tourism tie in with your current work?
One of the three main goals of a heritage area is to promote heritage tourism, which by nature is sustainable because it capitalizes on what an area already is rather than imposing something artificial on top of it. We promote what is unique about an area so that the reason for visiting isn’t destroyed. And with the emphasis on natural and cultural values, the activities we promote can be sustainable.

Can you describe your typical day?
If I’m in the office, I get in around 8 and leave at 6 or 7. Phone calls, documenting letters of support, answering questions, lots of e-mail and mail, sending out press releases, responding to media requests—basically I do a lot of communication. I also travel a lot to speak at council meetings, chapter meetings and various other interest groups, especially if they need me to provide information to supervisors; sometimes I host my own educational meetings. Actually, a lot of the work is preparation for meetings. The other big component we just finished in April was the first public draft of the feasibility study. Writing, researching, fact checking, finding pictures for the next draft.

What is the status of the project now?
After public comment, we’ll come up with a second draft and possibly a third. The study will then go to the Park Service, where the program is housed. After their comments it will go to Congress, which ultimately decides whether an area earns the designation. This process goes fairly slowly, and it will probably be several years before we have a final decision. The process is also political, so it depends on who is in office. Some heritage area determinations go through within two or three years and some don’t; I think it depends on who is in Congress, what committees they sit on, and what the general tone is of that session.

The Designation’s the Thing
“National heritage area,” says Golier, “is a nonregulatory federal designation, which means it doesn’t affect zoning, permitting or any development. However, it does make an area eligible for certain kinds of federal matching grants that can be used for heritage tourism development or cultural education or resource conservation. That category includes natural resources, like removing an invasive species, or cultural resources, like restoring historical buildings or conducting workshops on pottery.”
Is there any downside to this type of designation?
People tend to be shy of the federal government because they fear it will impose another layer of red tape; i.e., if you need a grazing permit, that’s yet another signature you’re going to have to get. This perception isn’t really true, but it is a difficult feeling to overcome.

Has your education at NAU influenced the way you work?
This work has not been an easy process, and honestly, there are certain basic guidelines I was taught in my classes about ethics and responsibility that really come into play. It isn’t an exact science or formula, but in crisis moments I fall back on some objective skills, like taking myself out of the fray as much as possible and just looking at the data. Another example is learning how to read a community response—you definitely hear from people when they’re really mad, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that feeling is prevalent throughout a community. Sometimes it is and sometimes it isn’t, but it takes time to assess.

What do you do when you’re not working?
Work has been very consuming, so there isn’t a whole lot to tell. Probably my favorite thing to do is travel, and I like learning, so sometimes it’s hard to tell if I’m working or not because I just enjoy what I do. I like to read, to take hikes and walks, and I’m an amateur photographer.

I have only been working on the Little Colorado project for two years, but it has been fascinating. Attending a chapter meeting conducted in Navajo; sitting down with ranchers. Some have put on clean shirts just to come meet with me, and then had to excuse themselves to feed their cows. When things get tough, I am motivated to act my best because they took the time to show me common courtesy. Even if we are on opposite sides of the fence, which we often are, it is a lesson that has stayed with me.

I think my training at NAU gave me confidence. I don’t think much else would have prepared me for what I have encountered, but rather than giving me easy answers, my education gave me the ability to work with what developed. Again, it hasn’t always been easy, but like most life adventures it has still been an incredible experience.

Linda Marie Golier at Homol’ovi Ruins State Park in the high desert outside of Winslow. The Little Colorado River flows in the background, while mountains rise in the distance, complementing a nearby ancestral Pueblo village. The unique geography is paralleled only by the region’s cultural diversity.

“We promote what is unique about an area so that the reason for visiting isn’t destroyed.”
For the second straight year, an industrious group of NAU students trekked to northern Ghana with NAU’s chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). At press time, student engineers were drilling boreholes for water and installing solar panels in the village of Yua, population 3,500, just south of the Burkina Faso border.

One of the original five students who traveled to Yua in 2007 was Jaina Moan, treasurer of the NAU-EBW chapter. Overwhelmingly, the message from the local community was that it needed clean drinking water.

“The lack of clean water affects so many things in the lives of these people,” says Moan. “It affects children’s education because in the dry season they are not in school, [they are instead] helping their families find water and food. The women’s education stops because they are the main water collectors.”

The project began when Yua native Dr. Anthony Akunzule met NAU professor Paul Trotta at an EWB-USA International Conference in 2005 and proposed the initiative. The national organization granted NAU’s EWB the Yua project in 2006. The goal of this five-year commitment is to build two deep wells that will provide clean drinking water for the villagers.

“It’s about the community and what the community needs,” Moan says, “not about going over there and installing some sort of technology and then leaving. It’s about working with them, finding what works best for them and how they can maintain it. We use the term ‘appropriate technology.’”

Trotta is impressed with the mettle and humanism of the EWB participants.

“I’ve been working with students at NAU for 30 years and have met some wonderful, intelligent students,” he says, “but this group is the most altruist and intrinsically motivated I have ever come across. They are fun to be with and really want to make an improvement in the world situation.”

Through private donors and a variety of other fundraising efforts, EWB-NAU has raised $48,000.

For blogs and other information about this great example of global stewardship, visit ewb-nau.org.
Submissions to Connections are published in order of receipt and are edited for length; accompanying high-resolution photographs are welcome.

1940s
Wesley Andrew Darby, attended, retired in 2003 and is pastor emeritus of West High Baptist Church of Phoenix. At ASC he played football as a member of the varsity starting lineup and majored in English, while working as a janitor in the Post Office under Postmaster George Babbitt and helping a small mission church in East Flagstaff. He appreciates receiving PINE for the many memories it invokes: “My two years at NAU really shaped my life of studying and teaching.”

1950s
Charles “Chuck” Pilon, ’59 B.S., ’66 M.A., In a surprise announcement, Chuck was honored as Person of the Year at the University of Notre Dame Club of Phoenix in April. A member of the club since 1965, he has served as treasurer, secretary, vice president and president. In 1997 Chuck was awarded the University of Notre Dame Exemplar Award for “his service to God, country, and Notre Dame.” He is proud to note that he has been an active member of the NAU Alumni Association since 1959.

1960s
Hector L. Lopez, ’60 B.S., ’62 M.A., ’81 E.D.D., was honored by the University of San Diego School of Leadership and Education Sciences as a “Remarkable Leader in Education.” Now retired after more than 25 years as vice president of counseling and student services at Imperial Valley (Calif.) College, he lives in Pinetop, Ariz., with his wife, Sandra Lopez, attended, a retired school counselor. Their daughter, Cynthia Lopez, ’98 M.E.D., is a speech pathologist for several Imperial Valley school districts.

Donald L. Price, ’62 B.S., has written an extraordinary account called The First Marine Captured in Vietnam, the story of Col. Donald Gilbert Cook, the only Marine in history to earn the Medal of Honor while in captivity. According to a review on Amazon.com, “Don Price masterfully portrays the misery and privations of Viet Cong jungle captivity.” Also a veteran, retired Marine Col. Price earned the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart for service in Vietnam. He lives in Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Sally Dodge, ’66 B.S.B.A., is one of 18 industry pioneers recognized by the Monterey County (Calif.) Business Council for “outstanding contributions to the growth of golf in Monterey County.” Even dabblers in the game know the locale as home of the golf mecca, Pebble Beach.

J.S. Cardone, ’69 B.S., recently did boffo biz at the box office with his screenplay of Prom Night, a top-grossing movie on its opening weekend. He is now preparing an encore scarefest with a remake of one of the most terrifyingly dysfunctional family pix of the modern era, The Stepfather.

Judi Hopkinson Clayton, ’69 B.S.A.C.C.Y., has definitely earned the celebratory tone of her letter: “I have just recently joined my husband, John Clayton, ’69 B.S., in retirement. Yahoo, no more tax seasons for me! We are both enjoying our life together in Carmel, Calif.”

1970s
Timothy E. Grady, ’73 M.A., was recently selected by peers and through the independent research of the publishers of Law & Politics and Cincinnati Magazine for inclusion in Ohio SuperLawyers 2008. The “SuperLawyer” designation places him among the top 5 percent of lawyers in Ohio based on a number of indicators. Timothy heads the Banking and Finance Practice Group for Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP.

A. Thomas Finney, ’75 B.S., has been working at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., for 23 years and sends greetings to all his former classmates. As government security (supervisor sergeant) for InDyne Inc., he is required on-site a great deal. But he “recently spent a week in Tombstone, and realized how much I missed the great state of Arizona. I was born in AZ, so I figure I’ll retire there too.”

Garry Bahe, ’76 M.S., sent us the humbly digested version of his fruitful life: “Taught high school biology, zoology and botany for 35 years. Coached football and baseball for 35 years, winning one Wisconsin State Football Championship and one Baseball State Championship as an assistant coach, and two State Baseball Championships as head coach. Inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Retired in 2001.” He and wife Gale now enjoy their retirement on scenic Lake Wisconsin.

Claudio Sanchez, ’76 B.A., education correspondent for National Public Radio, recently wrote Professor Emeritus Ray Newton that after a year as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, he feels more compelled than ever to inform his reporting with his experiences growing up on the Arizona-Mexico border. “I’ve never felt more energized to dig deeper into the stories of immigrant children and families.” He adds, “Being back in college reminded me how grateful I [am] for such a terrific experience at NAU with such caring teachers.”

Martha Shideler, ’76 M.A., has published her first novel, Caithin: Priestess of the Goddess (PublishAmerica), the story of a young girl in pre-Christian, pre-Drauidic Ireland and her path to spiritual acceptance.

Bill Van Zwol, ’76 B.S., a 19-year leadership veteran within DeVry University, is now Southern California Metro president and Pomona campus president. He is responsible for the strategic management of seven Southern California locations as well as oversight of day-to-day operations and student issues for Pomona.

Joel R. Wohlfeil, ’78 B.A., writes, “In April 2007, after practicing law for 25 years in San Diego, I was appointed to the San Diego County superior court bench by Gov. Schwarzenegger. My wife, Rachel, and I have been married for 26 years and have three children, each of whom is in law school or college.” Before his judgeship, Joel was a partner with the law firm Boudreau, Albert & Wohlfeil since 1997.

NAU really shaped my life of study-
Ballard Smith, passed away March 26 after a courageous battle with cancer. Colby is a pilot for American Airlines and continues to live in Stoughton, Wis. Twin sons Shawn and Aaron will both graduate this year from UW-Platteville. Please contact Colby through alumni@nau.edu.

Doug Allan, ‘81 B.S., ’02 M.ED., the frostbitten but cheerful keeper of NAU’s hockey flame, writes of a historic stroll across Lake Mary in the bleak midwinter, just after a New Year’s Day snowstorm: “I’ve lived here in Flagstaff for 30 years, and this is the first time I ever skated on Lake Mary. That’s me (the old guy) on the far right and my little gal, Kimberly, to my right. The other guys are former NAU hockey players Glen Austin, ’95 B.S., and his sons, Dane and Kaden, and Scott Barker, ’92 B.S.B.A.

David Stine, ’81 E.D.D., has been honored with an extraordinary recognition: the naming of the David Stine Chaffey West County Community Day School in Montclair, Calif. A teacher and administrator with 18 years of tenure serving on the County Board, Stine was also president of the California County Board of Education. He now holds office hours at Cal State, San Bernardino, where he is professor emeritus and department chair of educational leadership and curriculum.

Lisa Randall, ’82 B.S.JOUR., has been named as communications and community relations manager at DuPont’s Advanced Fibers Systems plant in Richmond, Va. She will manage internal communications and

Scott Barker, Glen Austin, Doug Allan and family demonstrate the art of layering.
coordinate community relations and media relations for the site.

Koralee Schubert Bernardo, ’83 B.S., seems to be living the East Coast dream without the attendant rat race, although she’s still on the treadmill: “After working three years for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rochester, I accepted the position of assistant executive director. I live in Brighton, N.Y., with my husband, Tony, and daughter, Caroline, a sophomore at Bennington College, and dog Penny Fiona. I am currently training for the U.S. Marine Corps marathon in memory of my dad.”

Judy Cox, ’84 M.ED., has continued her prolific authorship of children’s books with two new spring 2008 arrivals: Mrs. Millie Goes to Philly! (Marshall Cavendish) and Puppy Power (Holiday House). Find out more about Judy and her award-winning paper progeny at www.judycox.net.

Shari Buhan, ’85 B.A., is thoroughly enjoying her ride on the bandwagon of one of this year’s U.S. presidential candidates. A precocious captain, she is inspired by the “message of hope and unity.”

Raymond Rogers, ’85 B.S., and two co-editors have authored Bonebeds: Genesis, Analysis and Paleobiological Significance (University of Chicago Press). “Often spectacularly preserved,” notes the description on Amazon.com, “bonebeds can reveal more about life histories, ecological associations, and preservation patterns than any single skeleton or bone.” And Rogers has the creds to prove it, as associate professor and bone. “And Rogers has the creds to prove it, as associate professor and co-editor of the geology department at Macalester College.”

Lori Duryea, ’86 B.F.A., is wearing several entrepreneurial and service-oriented hats as creative director of the design firm Moses Anshel and principal of her own business, Threestrands. She also heads the “Precious Stones” Adoption Ministry (www.preciousstonesadoption.org), a ministry of adoption advocacy and support for adoptive families.

Julie E. Young Petersen, ’86 B.S.B.A., is in the enviable position of being 43 years old and retired with full benefits, thanks to her diligence in careers that might make others quail: “I became a highway patrolman for Nevada and then a firefighter for the Clark County Fire Department, [where I stayed] for 18 years and five months.” Glad you had our backs, Julie, and thanks.

Alison J. Wiers, ’86 B.S., ’91 M.E.D., has been appointed dean of enrollment services at Guilford (N.C.) Technical Community College (GTCC), where she will have administrative responsibility for the admissions office, financial aid office and registrar’s office. Before GTCC, which she had also used as the focus of her dissertation, she worked for the University of Texas at Austin, Indiana University, Davenport University and NAU.

Bruce F. Bebo Jr., ’88 B.S., has been hired as the National Psoriasis Foundation’s new director of research. With over 20 years of experience in autoimmune research, he will join the effort to seek a cure for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, which affect as many as 75 million Americans. He most recently served as director of immunology research for a pharmaceutical company in Dresden, Germany, developing new topical and oral treatments for skin diseases. Bruce is married and has a 6-year-old son.

Jay B. Hargis, ’88 B.S.B.A., is celebrating his “first year as an entrepreneur, having started my own consulting company called Talent Insight Group. We focus on helping organizations hire, coach and develop employees; I also write a blog called HRCleanUp (HRCleanUp.typepad.com).” He welcomes “fellow College of Business or Residence Life cohorts” to e-mail him at jay_hargis@yahoo.com.

Tom Dorough, ’89 B.S., is now executive director of The Terraces of Phoenix, serving 320 seniors in “a vibrant, independent lifestyle combined with the availability of assisted living, skilled nursing and memory support.” Having spent the past 18 years working for Marriott in a variety of customer service-related roles, Tom is well-suited to work in the field of continuing-care retirement communities and looks forward to bringing innovative ideas to senior lifestyle.

1990s

George W. Gresham, ’91 B.S.ACCY., is enthusiastic about his new position at Global Cash Access Inc., the gaming industry’s leading

A Clean Sweep

On a televised awards show, sometimes a sweep can be the kiss of death. As it becomes inevitable that one movie is going to take all the honors, viewers start tuning out by the millions. But when it comes to NAU’s education graduates, a similar steamroller effect only serves to make us appreciate our university’s stellar curriculum even more, as with this year’s Rodel Exemplary Principal Awards and Rodel Exemplary Teacher Awards, and the 14th Annual Yavapai County Teacher of the Year Awards, where alumni of our College of Education came out in force to collect their golden apples:

RODEL EXEMPLARY PRINCIPAL AWARDS

• Barbara Pierce, ’77 B.S.E.D., ’99 M.E.D., Madison Camelview Elementary/Madison Elementary District
• Howard Paley, ’95 M.Ed., Edison Elementary/Mesa Public Schools

RODEL EXEMPLARY TEACHER AWARDS

• Tracey Valenzuela, ’94 M.Ed., Flora Thew Elementary School, Tempe, First Grade
• Kamalene Nelson, ’97 M.ED., ’98 M.ED., John Q. Thomas Elementary School, Flagstaff, Sixth Grade
• Sheryl Wells, ’97 M.E.D., ’00 M.E.D., W.F. Killip Elementary School, Flagstaff, First Grade
• Makiko Wojcicki, ’00 M.Ed., Wilson Elementary School, Wilson, Third Grade
• Jennifer Kill, ’03 M.Ed., Lindbergh Elementary School, Wilson, Third Grade
• Lucy Popson, ’06 HON., Walter Douglas Elementary School, Tucson, Third Grade

Other Finalists:

• Patricia Moreno, ’84 B.S.Ed., ’91 M.A., South Beaver Elementary School, Flagstaff, Second Grade
• Kris Holt, ’03 M.Ed., Prince Elementary School, Tucson, Third Grade
• Jessica Howell, ’06 M.Ed., Homer Davis Elementary School, Tucson, Combination First/Second Grade

YAVAPAII COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Teacher of the Year/Cross-Grades: Jennifer Pike, ’97 M.Ed., Miller Valley Elementary School, Prescott

PreK-3 Grade: Amanda Beatty, ’03 B.S.Ed., Territorial Elementary School, Chino Valley

4-8 Grade: Sharon Danowski, ’99 M.Ed., Granite Mountain Middle School, Prescott

High School: Matthew Malloy, ’02 M.A.T., Camp Verde High

Small Districts: Tammy Naef, ’98 B.S.Ed., Beaver Creek School, Rimrock

naualumni.com | Fall 2008 19
One Proud Papa

James (Jim) Ward Byrkit, ’91 B.F.A., probably figured he could lie low after telling all in our PINE profile (“From Thumbnails to World’s End,” spring 2008), but he didn’t reckon on an encomium from his father, Jim Byrkit Sr., a retired NAU professor. Jim Sr.’s letter begins by lauding his son’s humility, having received a copy of the article not from the Mountain Campus, but from a friend at the University of Nebraska: “Ward (as we call him) no doubt received a copy, too, but as usual he was too modest to tell us about it.” After appreciatively confirming his son’s NAU influences, he continues, “Ward is extremely reserved about all his achievements. The article did not mention that in his senior year at NAU he received the Senior Art Award … and sang the title role in the musical Sweeney Todd.”

As a footnote to James/Ward’s professional work, Jim Sr. notes, “For movies like Pirates he would make several hundred storyboards. He draws very rapidly, especially on location. He has been doing fine drawings since he was no more than 6 years old.” And then Dad lets a final cat out of his son’s bag of circumspection: “Ward is [getting] married to Alethea Kutscher on April 2, near the Verde Valley.” Best wishes, and so much for our inquiring minds. But we thank Jim Sr. for showing us his son through proud parent-colored glasses, and now we appreciate this talented alumnus even more, for his modesty and discretion in the face of deserving celebrity. This is one Hollywood story that won’t end up on TMZ.

Yuri M. Lewicky, ’94 B.A., tells the tale of his family legacy: Following in the footsteps of his father, a Flagstaff orthopedic surgeon, he now practices at the Summit Center with Northern Arizona Orthopaedics—the group that his father helped found and of which he is still a practicing partner. “Flagstaff is the town that I love and is optimal for raising a family. My wife and two sons are the joy of my life and I can’t help but smile to think that they’ll have the opportunity to grow up here as well.”

Doug Wall, ’95 HON., now retired from his distinguished law career, is keeping his civic enthusiasm revved through board service with the University of Arizona/University Medical Center Foundation and the American Hospital Association. According to Prescott’s Daily Courier, the former NAU business law professor wasn’t always so highly motivated in his prelaw phase: While he was working as a swimming coach, a locker room employee told him, “You need to do more with your life.” Case closed.

Tim Boller, ’96 B.S., and Shaun Boller, ’96 B.S.E., have both a big fan and a worthy biographer in their...
father, who sent in an extensive narrative of their recent lives. After graduate and postgrad work at the University of Wisconsin and Yale, Tim became a senior research chemist for ExxonMobil. His assignments often take him over and above his research tasks—in fact, he recently traveled to Moscow and Kiev to assess the feasibility of off-site research. Back home, he and wife Cherilyn live in Houston. Shaun, meanwhile, continued his studies at Virginia Tech, and after a successful career with Siemens in Houston, he now works with Caterpillar, “meeting the needs of dealers and clients worldwide in terms of pertinent data and power capabilities,” while pursuing an M.B.A. at Rice University. We hope this terrific account inspires other Lumberjack parents of bashful alumni to send us news—it’s not bragging if it’s about your kids!

Christopher Daniel Cole, ‘96 B.A., is an assistant professor at the Transnational Law & Business University near Seoul, Korea. Having lived in Korea for five years after graduation, studying the language and working as an educator and journalist, he earned his J.D. from Georgetown University. Christopher plans to pursue an academic career in East Asia, specializing in environmental and human rights issues, as well as independent opportunities as a foreign legal consultant.

Paul Genesse, ’96 B.S.N., is celebrating the release of his high fantasy novel, The Golden Cord (Five Star), which initially sold out on both Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com. He has followed up with a book tour that took him throughout the West and Southwest, culminating at Worldcon in Denver and Gen Con in Indianapolis. (An interview with Paul and his wife. Tammy Genesse, ’96 B.S.D.H., a dental hygienist, appeared in the March/April 2008 issue of NAU Alumni Who’s News.)

Dylan Tarason, ’97 B.A., is a production executive for Gold Circle Films, producing features throughout the world. Recent works include Over My Dead Body with Eva Longoria Parker, White Noise 2, My Sassy Girl and Town Creek. In the category of personal achievements he lists exploring Aztec ruins in Mexico and several years of “wedded bliss.”

Amanda Gibbs, ’98 B.S.ACCY., has been hired as CFO of TRM Inc., the parent company of Norchem Drug Testing. Her responsibilities include overseeing financial plans and accounting practices as well as raising capital for expansion, mergers and acquisitions. A CPA, she previously worked with Nordstrom and Associates, a Flagstaff accounting firm.

Virginia Escobar Neiswender, ’98 B.A., has joined the Philadelphia office of Blank Rome LLP as an associate in the employment, benefits and labor group. A frequent author on issues relating to bankruptcies and employee benefits, she has guest-lectured on tax and ERISA policy at Temple University Law School.

2000s
Ryan Hengl, ’01 B.S., may very well have endeared himself to patriotic romantics everywhere by proposing to Krystal Bailey at the Lincoln Memorial. The couple wed in Ireland.

Jon Orlando, ’01 B.S., has returned to his NAU field of study, photography, as the prime mover of Jon Orlando Photography in Colorado. “I was recently awarded first place in the people category of a competition in Popular Photography ... and hung my first show in a gallery, a fine art portrait series of Iraq War veterans who are resisting the war ... I’m also starting another series on the study of Buddhism within the prison system.” To sample his work, visit www.jonorlandophoto.com.

Hannis Brown, ’03 B.A., who is now scoring films in Hollywood, recently stopped by Flagstaff to play the jazz of Charles Mingus with his pickup band, Pithecanthropus Erectus. His father, Greg, characterizes the music as “wall-of-sound brass and woodwind; captivating, melodic, high-energy stuff.” He also notes that the band is named after a Mingus composition. Find out more about the Hannis canon at www.hannisbrown.com.

Frank Kardasz, ’05 E.D.D., was honored in April with the Spirit of Service Leadership Award from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Qwest. A sergeant for the Phoenix Police Department and project director of the Arizona Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, he has been named to the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee of the National Law Center for Children and Families.

Pamela Powell, ’05 E.D.D., an outstanding member of the gifted teaching and learning faculty, has been selected by the College of Education as 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year. Associate Dean Gypsy Denzine makes particular note of “the high number of faculty votes” received this time around. And we’re rewarded just knowing how lucky we are to have Pam standing behind the teachers who teach our younger children.
They Will Be Missed

Alumni


Bradford F. Luckingham, ’62 B.S., ’89 HON, April 7, 2008. After a long battle with Alzheimer’s. Army veteran; played football under Max Spilsbury at ASC. Taught at Indiana University and Arizona State University. Prolific author of articles and several books about the urban Southwest.


Charles “Charlie” Edward Ham, ’66 B.S.E.D., ’70 M.E.D., February 9, 2007. Taught Earth science and Arizona history for 23 years at Florence High School. Enjoyed reading, working with wood, gardening, telling jokes and being with his family; extensively involved in LDS Church service.

Gary Grant Adams, ’71 M.A., January 13, 2008. Taught industrial arts and Arizona history for 23 years at Florence High School. Enjoyed reading, working with wood, gardening, telling jokes and being with his family; extensively involved in LDS Church service.

Charles F. Parsons, ’71 B.S., March 1, 2008, of Parkinson’s disease. Managed property in Flagstaff; owner/operator of real estate and janitorial companies in Mesa.


Jesse J. Steen, ’75 B.S., ’84 M.S., August 14, 2007. Teacher at Yuma High School, coaching varsity baseball and golf. A certified AIA umpire, officiating games at the high school, junior college, and college level; umpired the San Diego Padres games during their years of spring training in Yuma.

Howard Wayne Thornton, ’75 M.F., December 19, 2007. After a long battle with cancer. Served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and was awarded three medals. A 34-year career with the U.S. Forest Service in which he was a firefighter, silviculturist, ranger, and regional director; particularly proud of his work with Sen. Peter Domenici. An active church member, mountain biker and road bike racer, and rock climber.

Louise Choate Nascimento, ’77 M.E.D., Monday, February 25, 2008, in a car accident. Taught second grade in Flagstaff for 16 years, then moved to California, teaching 17 years in the Alta Loma School District.

Patrick “Pat” Monteleone, ’70 B.S., January 3, 2008. Navy veteran, surviving many battles working the searchlight battle station. President and CEO of Mohave Exploration and Production, Inc.; worked as a geologist throughout the world.

Fred M. Moreno, ’69 B.S.E.D., ’72 M.E.D., December 25, 2007. After a successful career as a teacher and with the U.S. Federal Court as a probation, parole and pretrial services officer, he retired and spent time playing in senior softball leagues. An avid golfer, actively involved in his sons’ athletic and personal lives.

Charles F. Parsons, ’71 B.S., March 1, 2008, of Parkinson’s disease. Managed property in Flagstaff; owner/operator of real estate and janitorial companies in Mesa.


Jesse J. Steen, ’75 B.S., ’84 M.S., August 14, 2007. Teacher at Yuma High School, coaching varsity baseball and golf. A certified AIA umpire, officiating games at the high school, junior college, and college level; umpired the San Diego Padres games during their years of spring training in Yuma.

Howard Wayne Thornton, ’75 M.F., December 19, 2007. After a long battle with cancer. Served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and was awarded three medals. A 34-year career with the U.S. Forest Service in which he was a firefighter, silviculturist, ranger, and regional director; particularly proud of his work with Sen. Peter Domenici. An active church member, mountain biker and road bike racer, and rock climber.

Louise Choate Nascimento, ’77 M.E.D., Monday, February 25, 2008, in a car accident. Taught second grade in Flagstaff for 16 years, then moved to California, teaching 17 years in the Alta Loma School District.


Jim enrolled in Arizona State Teachers College in 1930. After graduation, he stayed at the college as superintendent of grounds until World War II took him to the southwest Pacific as a soldier in the Army Air Corps’ Fifth Air Force. After the war, Jim began working for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Tire Test Division in Texas, and stayed with Goodyear for 30 years, retiring in 1976. In 1934, Jim was married in downtown Flagstaff to Dorothy Endsley, ’40 B.A., by Rev. George Niles, who opened the courthouse on a Sunday so the couple could get a marriage license. The two honeymooned for one night at the Monte Vista Hotel. Dorothy then took the train back to Holbrook to continue her summer job, and Jim went back to Taylor Hall to finish summer school. At that time ASTC had a rule that only one person from a family could work for the college, so when Dorothy returned to her dining hall/library job in the fall, the couple kept their marriage secret. Finding this arrangement “inconvenient,” they went to see President Tormey, who graciously agreed to allow Jim to work more hours to compensate for the loss of Dorothy’s job. They then settled down in one of the cabins on Cabin Row instead of separate dorms. They were the only married couple on campus—and they remained married for 73 years. In their later years, one of the couple’s favorite pastimes was reminiscing about Flagstaff, ASTC/NAU, the faculty, students, people in town and the great times they had. The college certainly made a lasting impression on them. If this account seems a bit “top-heavy” with emphasis on their time in the early days, it’s because the couple were kind enough to send us a charming account of what it was like for them at ASTC before the war. For more of their story, please visit the Alumni News page at naualumni.com/alumninews.
by her peers and colleagues for her student-ready stash of candy and wonderful smile.


Michael McKay, ’07 B.A.I.L.S., January 25, 2008, in an avalanche. An expert skier and mountaineer. Was studying to be a school psychologist at National University in La Jolla; will receive a posthumous degree.

Manuel “Junior” Leyva, Jr., attended. March 2, 2008. Captain of the Lumberjack football team, winning the prestigious Yost Football Award in 1995. Managed the family-owned “Manuel’s Place” in Peoria, Ariz. for more than 30 years; founded the Peoria Boys and Girls club where he also taught boxing. Consummate athlete, karate black belt and golfer.

Donald A. Nard, attended. April 6, 2008. Navy veteran serving aboard the U.S.S. General G.M. Randall. Worked for the Arizona Department of Transportation, contributing to road safety for more than 30 years before retiring to devote himself to ranching full-time. Proprietor of Ragtime Morgans horses and career cattleman.


National Park Service Director Russell Dickenson told his daughter, Vivian, that his favorite parks included the North Cascades because of the rugged, wild scenery. She recalls many wonderful days spent hiking with him through Zion and Grand Teton National Parks. His death after a long battle with cancer invokes the kind of praise from colleagues and friends in which the words “warmth,” “dignity” and “reverence” are predominant, whether speaking of Dickenson himself or the natural wonders that he cherished.

After four years in the Marine Corps, Dickenson started his Park Service career in 1946 at the Grand Canyon. His vocation, always bolstered by his deep personal appreciation for the outdoors, took him to assignments at Big Bend, Glacier, Grand Teton, Zion, Chiricahua and Flaming Gorge. It may be surprising to the layperson to learn that when he was appointed national chief in 1980, he was the first director to have started his career as a park ranger. The move drew praise from conservation leaders who appreciated his dedication to stewardship.

“He was really interested in conservation and preserving the national treasures for future generations,” Vivian says.

Dickenson received a host of honors, including the Department of the Interior’s Meritorious Service Award, the Cornelius Amory Pugsley Gold Medal Award, the George Washington Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal of the Sons of the American Revolution, and the National Society for Park Resources Award for Excellence. NAU awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree and Distinguished Alumni Award. In 1983, he became the first American to receive the Golden Flower of Rheydzt Award from Germany for contributions made in preserving the environment on a national and international level. During his tenure, five national parks in Alaska, including Katmai, were added to the National Park Service. After retiring, he coauthored National Park Service: The Story Behind the Scenery and remained active in academics, national parks advisory boards and bodies of directors.

Although his family describes him as a “plain and simple guy ... [with] an incredible twinkle in his eye and a sense of humor,” the nation will ultimately remember him as gentlemanly and statesmanlike, the consummate park professional. Friends are welcome to share the family’s memories at flintofts.com.

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