ALSO: A Who’s Who of NAU alumni in business, public affairs, sports, arts and media and education. See who made the list!
Welcome to the second annual edition of PINE Faces. The genesis of this publication was your response to our surveys: you wanted to learn more about the lives and achievements of your fellow alumni. If anything, we underestimated how responsive you would be after the first issue.

This issue of Faces introduces you to many alumni. We feel so proud of the amazing things our great university grads accomplish. And what about you? Whether you are doing something you love, saving the world or just living your satisfying life and want your fellow alums to know, please drop us a note, email or give us a call. You can also tell us about your friend, dorm mate, fellow athlete, etc.

Even if you don't want to be included in one of our publications, please consider visiting our online directory to register. If you have already used the directory, consider updating your profile—the more information on the directory, the more interactive we can make it and the more services we can provide. You'll find the directory and more at naualumni.com/directory.

And just in case this yearly Faces version isn't enough, sign up for our e-newsletter, NAU Alumni Who's News (see back cover for details).

Speaking of who's doing what now, if you participated in a club or organization during your time on campus, you know how important it is to leave a legacy for the future students who will be the keepers of your passions, traditions and service. With that in mind, the NAU Alumni Association Traditions Committee is looking for former Chain Gang members to help resurrect the Chain Gang on campus. Founded in 1927, the Chain Gang's mission was to promote friendliness, foster the highest ideals of athleticism and sportsmanship, serve the school and the student body through the capable and efficient handling of all athletic games and tournaments, serve as guardian of the college's copper axe (the symbol of Lumberjack sports), lend assistance to other groups carrying out activities, and supervise Homecoming festivities.

Membership was limited to 13 male upperclassmen with a minimum class standing of second-semester sophomore, and was originally decided through election by secret ballot. New members were selected based on merit of academic standing and personality. One female sweetheart was selected each year, and a uniform orange sweater was worn with pride by each member of the group. In later years, the now-coed group expanded to 26 members.

Today, Chain Gang needs your help to remain a high-profile service organization whose goal is preserving NAU’s most honored traditions while giving back to the NAU campus and Flagstaff community. We look forward to alumni participation in our effort to revitalize this important NAU tradition. To contact the NAU Alumni Association about Chain Gang, call 888-NAU-ALUM or email iragreenspan1@cox.net.

As an alumna, I am proud to support Chain Gang’s future.

Editor

Krista Perkins, ‘98
Editor

GOT NEWS? We want to hear about it. Expanded your family or business...or your family business? Whether you’ve been named CEO or Best Mom Ever, we want the particulars—titles, dates, photos and bragging rights—and we’ll gladly publish them in an upcoming PINE, PINE Faces or NAU Alumni Who’s News. E-mail your life updates to Anne.Walden@nau.edu or send them to PINE, NAU Office of Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 6034, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-6034. We want you to stay engaged in the life of NAU, so write today!
Public Displays of Imagination

Starr T. Hogan, ’02 B.A., executive director of the Daydreamz Project, proudly reports her creative team was chosen to participate in Denver’s 2006 CowParade (www.cowparade.com).

Daydreamz’ “bovine beauty” is designed in a rainbow mosaic of glass beads and symbolizes the complex merging of many cultures and languages. Affectionately named “Moooolticultural Cow,” she honors those who champion the value of reaching our potential together.

Hogan founded Daydreamz in 2000 while at NAU. “It had been a vision of mine to learn how to combine community and the arts. During my studies at NAU, I had to work with a community nonprofit, so instead I figured, why not bite the bullet and create my own,“ she says. “It was nice to have the umbrella of the public humanities program to do that.”

For additional photos and more on the Daydreamz mission, “building community through creativity,” visit www.daydreamzproject.org.

From the A-List

Ken Davis, ’73, carved his niche in Tinseltown

Ken Davis’ recap of his career was so charming and self-effacing that we thought you’d enjoy reading it in his own words:

Ken Davis’ recap of his career was so charming and self-effacing that we thought you’d enjoy reading it in his own words:

Throughout my college days I worked in media, first at the NAU radio station, and then KEOS Radio and KOAI-TV in Flagstaff. (Try saying “Coconino County Cutup California Ken crankin’ out the cream of the crop on KEOS” three times fast!). After a few years in front of the TV camera, I became a producer/writer/voice announcer for media outlets including CBS, PBS, and FOX. I’ve also produced such shows as Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous, Extra, and Real TV (OK, I sold out for a while, but a guy’s gotta make a living!).

Along the way I’ve fooled enough people to win three Emmy Awards and four “Golden Mikes,” and I’ve gotten myself invited to some nice Hollywood parties. I have two TV shows in development at ABC and Spike TV—that’s TV talk for “we like your idea but we don’t quite love it yet.”

We asked Ken for celebrity anecdotes and he hearkened back to his acting days:

I have several lines in the 1982 movie Wrong Is Right. What’s not in the film is the scene where Sean Connery is supposed to get mad at me. Each time Sean got angry, I freaked: “007 is yelling at me!” Finally the director cut the scene. That effectively ended my acting career.

Ken is single with two sons (young men now) and would love to hear from friends at mediiman2@gmail.com. He looks forward to the day when he can shoot a show in Flagstaff. How about Dancing with the PINE Editors?

Starr (far right) and fellow northwest Denver community volunteers with their ‘Moooolticultural’ creation

Art at Work

Gail Dixon-Willden, ’68 M.S., Artistic Director, Sandstone Productions

John Running, ’69 B.S., Photographer

Lee Ann Lankford, ’72 B.S., Owner, Digital Video Diaries

Janice Johnson, ’72 M.A.ED, Director, Hilltop Art Gallery

Mike Curtis, ’74 B.A., Principal Bassoon, Eugene Symphony

Oscar J. Gillespie, ’77 B.F.A., Printmaker and Engraver, Associate Professor of Art, Bradley University

Lydia Barker Tederick, ’77 B.A., Assistant Curator, The White House

Gary O’Brien, ’79 B.S., Photo Systems Editor, Charlotte Observer

Serena Supplee, ’81 B.F.A., Artist

Cathee Clausen, ’82 B.A., Artist

Richard Sims, ’84 M.S., Director, Montana Historical Society

Cliff Thrasher, ’85 B.S., Director of Patron Services, San Diego Opera

Vince Wedge, ’85 B.M.ED., Trombonist

John J. Duncan, ’90 B.S., Concept Model Maker (Star Wars Episode II, among others)

James Ward Byrkit, ’91 B.F.A., Storyboard Artist (Pirates of the Caribbean II and III, among others)

Kim Obrzut, ’91 B.F.A., Sculptor

Kevin Zacher, ’93 B.G.S., Sport Photographer

Tobias Forrest, ’97 B.F.A., Actor


Jeremy Parker, attended Recording Engineer
They say practice makes perfect, and Pam Powell lives the axiom. Before coming to NAU, she spent over two decades in the trenches as an elementary school teacher. Now her years of experience and experimentation help promote learning for all students—and for their teachers as well.

Powell’s research encompasses the full range of what makes a student succeed or fail. She has studied educational policies affecting students in public school settings; researched the practice of grade retention and its effects in later life; and the high correlation of grade retention to subsequent dropping out in high school. Her findings are then put to practical use in the classroom, helping pre-service teachers learn to utilize current, inclusionary, and developmentally appropriate practices that cultivate the well-being of their students.

As a teacher of the literacy block in the College of Education (COE), Powell and her students frequently participate in practicum experiences in the Flagstaff Unified School District or local child development centers. She’s also an advocate of quality early learning opportunities for children in Arizona and throughout the nation. In collaborating to develop summer conferences at COE for early childhood educators throughout the state, she has helped provide a venue for critical dialogue on these seminal topics.

Powell believes that NAU creates the right nurturing environment for her work.

“I see NAU as a community of scholars and learners, a community that works together for the same cause,” Powell says. “Our COE classes are small enough to offer individual attention. Also, having the residential campus means that we have a familial atmosphere in the college; we enjoy working with each other and want everyone to be successful. The faculty is about helping students succeed. At NAU, people listen to each other.”

In advocating an education that is at once intimate, familial and open-minded, Pam Powell and NAU have developed a practical and personal formula for success.
NAU professor Marty Lee guards the great outdoors for the benefit of future generations that reduces mechanized recreation intrusions in designated wilderness. Lee’s protégés designed educational posters that became the model for future markers used by the Forest Service at trailheads. “This was such a great opportunity for students to work on issues affecting our forests,” Lee says. “The personal one-on-one with the Forest Service’s wilderness managers is invaluable and every year at least one student gets a summer job in the field. I see a huge benefit for students in the real-world experience they get, and for the managers, as they get a product they can really use.”

As coordinator of NAU’s American Democracy Project, Lee plans events that challenge students to engage in civic activity. “Our focus for the next year or so will be on stewardship of public lands,” Lee announced last March. “The project will support initiatives including public involvement and decision making in local land policies.” Also, for her extraordinary skill as an educator and mentor, Lee was named 2005-06 Consortium of Professional Schools Teacher of the Year. And that is just the reward for doing what comes naturally.

“What matters to me is how you learn at NAU—small classes, lots of team-teaching, field experiences on amazing public lands. It’s an incredibly powerful combination.”

Marty Lee thinks we’re all born to be wild.
**Government & Military**

**Bruce Anderson,** '67 B.S.
Assistant Public Administrator, Clark County (Nev.)

**Robert K. Simm Jr.**
'80 B.A.
Colonel, USAF, Chief, U.S. Liaison Office, American Embassy, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**Cliff Dils,** '81 B.S.
Forest Supervisor, Umpqua National Forest (Ore.)

**Frederick D. Pellissier,** '83 B.S.
U.S. Army Colonel, Commander, Desert Chemical Depot (Ut.)

**Greg Gentsch,** '85 B.S.E.
Tucson District Engineer, Arizona Department of Transportation

**Robert C. Ong,** '88 B.S.F.
Director, Rainforest Discovery Centre, Malaysian Government, Sabah, Borneo

**Bruce Anderson,** '67 B.S.
Assistant Public Administrator, Clark County (Nev.)

**Robert K. Simm Jr.,** '80 B.A.
Colonel, USAF, Chief, U.S. Liaison Office, American Embassy, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**J.Judson “Jut” Wynne,** '03 M.S.
Cave Research Scientist, U.S. Geological Survey’s Southwest Biological Services Center

**Law & Order**

**Mark Aspey,** '71 B.A.
U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Arizona

**Major Smith,** '74 B.S.
Warden, Venango County Jail (Pa.)

**Karim Lucas Philips,** '77 B.S., '96 M.A.Ed.
Community Outreach Coordinator, Trial Courts of Maricopa County, Arizona

**Nancy Nelson,** '85 B.S., '90 M.A.
Law Clerk, Mark Aspey (U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Arizona)

**Wayne C. Watkins,** '80 B.S.
Director of Marketing and Communication, American Youth Soccer Organization

**Volunteerism**

**Eunice S. Hoffman,** '74 B.S., '78 M.Ed.
Mission Volunteer

**Peggy Kennedy,** '79 B.S.
Teacher and NAU Athletics Hall of Fame Inductee; Volunteer Coach, NAU Women’s Basketball Camps

**Sister Beverly Claire (Moreno) Medlenka,** '96 M.Ed., '97 M.Ed.
Mission Medical Specialist, Guatemala City, Central America

**Stephanie Birdwell,** '03 B.S.Ed.
Teacher, Community and Youth Outreach, Peace Corps, El Salvador

**Dwight Francisco,** attended
Legislative Attorney’s Assistant; Author, official legal code, Tohono O’odham Nation

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After 17 years with the Phoenix Police Department, Jeri Williams, '99 M.Ed., was promoted to commander in February 2006. She credits NAU with helping her prepare for a demanding role, which required working as a patrol officer, sergeant and lieutenant.

“The information and studies of leadership and theory were of tremendous assistance in fine-tuning my leadership skills with the department,” she says.

The first black woman to reach the rank of commander in any law enforcement agency in Arizona, Williams is pursuing her doctorate as a distance student in NAU’s College of Education. Though she isn’t planning to leave the force anytime soon, she wants to keep her options open. “Someday I would like to be in either the university setting or possibly in administration within one of the valley school districts,” she says. “True leadership can make a positive difference for the community.”

Williams says her biggest obstacle is learning to manage all of her duties (she is also a wife and mother). Luckily, she says, she is “blessed to have a supportive family, and online classes allow greater flexibility in completing coursework.” And those are just the facts, ma’am.

**Jeri Williams,** '99 M.Ed.
Commander, Phoenix Police Department

**Wayne C. Watkins,** '80 B.S.
Director of Marketing and Communication, American Youth Soccer Organization

**Lori Arguelles,** '94 B.S.
Attorney, Legal Division, Lions Clubs International

**Chris Parish,** '96 B.S.
Lead Biologist and Director, the Peregrine Fund

**Vince Collins Toone,** '04 M.A.
Director, State Health Alliances, American Heart Association (Tempe)
Giving Credit Where It’s Due

Mark Meyer, ‘90 B.A., has been named Executive Director for the Filene Research Institute, effective January 2007. Explaining the convoluted journey from NAU to Filene, Meyer credits his sister, also an NAU alum.

“My career has had some interesting twists and turns, but my sister, Jennifer (Meyer) Schrage ‘96 B.S.JOUR., reminded me that it all started with working at Arizona State Credit Union as part of NAU’s College of Business Administration Cooperative Education program,” Meyer says. “My roommate, who had held the intern position at the credit union the previous semester, gave me a heads-up he was quitting, and I quickly dropped off an application. I ended up working a few summers at the credit union during law school.

“I never thought I’d pay much attention to credit unions again. But after a brief stint in private practice in Colorado, I followed my wife’s job back to Phoenix; and interestingly enough, via a networking lunch with the credit union CEO, he offered me a job.”

Now Meyer’s career path has taken him to Madison—and as far away as China—as the Filene Research Institute explores issues vital to the future of credit unions and financial services through independent research and innovation programs. Now, that’s what we call extra credit.

Balanced Portfolio

Dwight Spence, ‘84 B.S.B.A., has joined MassMutual Financial Group as president of The Dollarhide Financial Group, LLC, in Phoenix. As the leader in this new endeavor, Spence will assist in further increasing MassMutual’s market share in both Arizona and New Mexico.

“NAU set me up with a well-rounded business background, particularly the business management courses that provided some ‘real world’ scenarios for the industry that I’m in now,” he says. “The professors had spent time in both the business world and in academia, which allowed them to give the students some real-life applications that have had an impact on the growth of my career.”

A Scottsdale resident, Spence has been recognized with many industry honors for sales performance, including the General Agents and Managers Association Platinum Award for the past six years. Sounds like a lucky seventh is in the offing.
Doug Allan arrived at our office one day last year, holding history in his hands. His two overflowing binders are the most complete existing record of NAU’s Ice Hockey program. Allan’s dedication to Jacks hockey has transformed him from a former player and coach to historian, alumni coordinator and advocate.

In a sense, Allan’s volumes are like pop-up books, with visuals and verbals jumping out as you read them, from budgets to parental inquiries to color programs for “NAU Hockey, Hottest Thing on Ice.” For those who wonder why a winter sports haven like Flagstaff doesn’t have a varsity hockey program, Allan traces the tale:

“The program first took root in the fall of 1971. Dr. Gerald Caple, a former college hockey player (St. Olaf College, Minn.) and NAU chemistry professor, was club advisor and coach...as the players’ talent escalated, he convinced former NHL player Jimmy Peters to coach the club. Later, former NAU goaltender Doug Allan took over as head coach for the 1980-81 season.

“In 1981-82, the skating Jacks became an NCAA Division I independent program, with traditional opponents from among the hockey powers including North Dakota, Denver, Michigan State, Minnesota, RPI and Ohio State on their yearly schedule. Again, Peters returned to coach, with Allan as his assistant.

“Unfortunately, the inferior design of the J. Lawrence Walkup Skydome’s ice rink and other factors eventually led to the demise of the varsity program, with state tax cuts putting an end to discussions of a new facility in 1986. The NAU Hockey Club now calls the Jay Lively Ice Arena home and is a member of the American Collegiate Hockey Association.”

Former NAU players organized a reunion in 2003 to honor Dr. Caple and his wife, Sharon. Another reunion is planned for April 2007 to honor former player Bill “Woody” Wood, ’81 B.S.B.A., who passed away in January 2006. Allan, of course, will be in the reunion’s starting lineup.

Why is he so passionate? “I believe hockey at NAU was unique to the university, the city, and the surrounding area,” he says. “Many students and faculty were attracted to the game. The coaches and players were involved in the local youth hockey association. And the varsity produced some future talent for the professional leagues, most notably Greg Adams.”

As for Allan, he was selected by the St. Louis Blues in round 12, #194 overall in the 1974 amateur draft. Although Flagstaff and a career in education called—he is currently an Associate in Career & Technical Education for the Flagstaff Unified School District—Allan never lost his appetite for lumber, biscuit and glass. Want a varsity team at NAU? Doug Allan is ready to do lunch.
Taking His Shot

If you were in Flagstaff during the 1997-98 school year, you undoubtedly remember NAU’s own “kardiac kids,” the men’s basketball team. Storming the first round of NCAA March Madness for the first time in NAU’s history, the Jacks scared the dickens out of the Cincinnati Bearcats, and had the national TV announcers wondering, “Who are these guys?” One of the most talented and visible of that incredible all-star lineup was the curly-haired phenom Ross Land.

Now, after spending two seasons revisiting the bench in Flagstaff as an assistant basketball coach, Land has taken a job as assistant coach at the University of California-Irvine. During his tenure at NAU, Land coached the Lumberjack guards to a Big Sky Conference regular season title, winning 21 games to tie for the most in school history. Among others, he guided Kyle Feuerbach to All-Big Sky honors, and also mentored Stephen Sir, who shot a national-best 48.9 percent (93-for-190) from three-point range to lead Division I in three-point field goals among players with 2.5 three-pointers per game.

Land, who played overseas for three seasons in the FIBA SuproLeague in France and Croatia after his collegiate career, is the most prolific three-point shooter in Big Sky Conference history. He also leads the NCAA for all time in career three-point percentage among those with 300 triples. These amazing numbers immediately translated into not one, but two inductions into the NAU Athletics Hall of Fame: in 2004 as part of the aforesaid unforgettable team, and in 2005 as athlete extraordinaire. Now, as we watch his progress with UC-Irvine’s Anteaters, we can foresee a future full of honors for Land, as he continues to aim for greatness from outside the perimeter.

Ross Land, ’01 B.S., assistant coach, University of California-Irvine
A Legacy of Educational Excellence

When the announcement was made in Yuma-area media that Linda Elliott-Nelson had been appointed Dean of Instruction at Arizona Western College (AWC), we were understandably impressed. So were her mom and dad, but more on that later.

Elliott-Nelson is brilliantly credentialed, having served AWC in a variety of key roles, most recently as the Division Chair of Modern Languages. She holds advanced degrees in both business and Spanish, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in education with an emphasis in community college leadership from Walden University. She was awarded the Outstanding University/College Level Educator Award for the State of Arizona in 2000 by the Arizona Language Association.

According to the *Yuma Sun*, despite her initial work in the business sector, Elliott-Nelson decided to pursue education as a career when she found the personal rewards somewhat unfulfilling: “When you’re in business, you don’t get as much of a sense of giving back.”

A Yuma resident since birth, she chose to benefit the community as much as possible through her career choices. In her new office, Elliott-Nelson will continue to reach out to the community by “home-growing” local professionals. “We need an incredible number of nurses and teachers just to serve the population,” she says.

Both Elliott-Nelson and her husband, Randy Nelson, ’80 B.S.B.A., director of AWC’s Small Business Development Center, seem to be creating a lasting legacy of practical educational ideals for the people of Yuma, Oh, and did we mention that Linda has her parents to thank as role models? Mom and Dad are none other than Marion L. Dick Elliott ’52 B.S. & ’57 M.A., and Harold L. Elliott, ’49 B.S. & ’51 M.ED., who have spent the last half-century as bellwethers for both NAU and their beloved Yuma, creating opportunities in education, the arts, and the community at large.

Of course, the proud parents probably view Linda herself as one of their most important achievements. We imagine that in the years to come, AWC and Yuma will agree wholeheartedly.

“When you’re in business, you don’t get as much of a sense of giving back.”


Marion L. Dick Elliott ’52 B.S. & ’57 M.A., and Harold L. Elliott, ’49 B.S. & ’51 M.ED., who have spent the last half-century as bellwethers for both NAU and their beloved Yuma, creating opportunities in education, the arts, and the community at large.

Of course, the proud parents probably view Linda herself as one of their most important achievements. We imagine that in the years to come, AWC and Yuma will agree wholeheartedly.
When Jim Hamlin became his family’s first-generation college student, he found himself fascinated with all aspects of the university world. “I was a member of several service organizations at NAU, including Sophos, and was elected to student government,” he says. “I assumed I would go into student affairs as a career.” Now, 28 years, six institutions, and ten titles later, he is Executive Director of Scholarship Support at Washington University in St. Louis.

Hamlin started his journey in familiar company: “I had been president of a Sigma Alpha Epsilon ‘colony’ at NAU, and guided that group toward acquiring its charter in 1975, a true leadership-building experience. After graduation, I [became] a chapter consultant for Sigma. I visited 42 chapters in 14 states each year and met literally thousands of undergraduates and alumni.”

Along the way, Hamlin discovered what was then a relatively new field within higher education, development. Unlike the field of student life in the 1970s, which faced radical budget cuts, development was clearly a growth sector. “Thanks to the help of some Sigma already in the field, I obtained an entry-level position in 1978 with the University of Illinois Foundation. Little did I realize that I had stumbled upon the perfect career.”

Hamlin now energizes endowed scholarship support at Washington U., which raises over $17 million each year in student financial assistance. He clearly loves his job—and always reveres his inner NAU collegian: “There has never been a day I have not valued my work, and it all started with wearing a goofy maroon Sophos blazer with a 6-inch-wide pink paisley tie.”
NAU ALUMNI who’s news

Find out what's been going on with the folks you thought you knew with the new online publication: NAU Alumni Who’s News?

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“Who’s News?” is a new online publication from the NAU Alumni Association. Delivered once a month to your email inbox, “Who’s News?” is exclusively dedicated to the latest alumni happenings – weddings, births, alumni gatherings, new jobs, job promotions, and more – from NAU alumni around the world.

Compiled in an easy-to-read format – no advertisements, no editorials – and organized by class year, “Who’s News?” keeps you informed about the friends and classmates who made your college years extraordinary.