It is our pleasure to bring you our third annual edition of PINE Faces, in which we get to show how proud we are of those who call Northern Arizona University their alma mater!

The Alumni Office frequently receives your requests for records or other information from NAU. Here is our FAQ, some of your most common questions, to help you with your search.

I need a copy of my transcript. Can you send me one?
Contact the Office of the Registrar at 928-523-2108 (press 3), or visit the Registrar’s website (nau.edu/registrar) and click “Forms” to download the Transcript Request form. A transcript costs $10, and there are options for rush shipping and other special delivery.

I never got my diploma. Would you send it to me?
Contact the Diploma department of the Registrar’s Office at 928-523-5363, or visit the Registrar’s website (nau.edu/registrar) and click “Forms” to download the Diploma Replacement Request form. A diploma replacement costs $25.

Does the Alumni Office do verification of enrollment?
Again, the Registrar’s Office is the place to go. Call 928-523-2108 (press 4), or visit the Registrar’s website (nau.edu/registrar) and click “Forms” to download the Verification of Enrollment Request form.

I want to get in touch with a classmate. Can you give me his address?
Some alumni data is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and the NAU Alumni Office prefers to protect the privacy of its constituency; therefore, we do not give out any personal information. However, if we have a current address for your friend, we can either forward your mail or write a brief contact letter on your behalf.

I’m an alum, and my son/daughter is applying to NAU. Is there a special financial break for children of alumni?
Although there isn’t an alumni discount as such, the Alumni Association has a $600,000 scholarship endowment that allows NAU to present 33 annual $1,000 Alumni Board scholarships, as selected by the university scholarship committee. These scholarships are only given to children or grandchildren of alumni, and are more often awarded to students not receiving significant scholarship help from other sources. The average GPA of a continuing NAU scholarship recipient is 3.72. Also, some other alumni have created their own private scholarship funds for students. To apply for these scholarships, contact the Office of Financial Aid at 928-523-4951, or visit the Financial Aid website, nau.edu/finaid.

Is there a service for alums to find or post jobs?
We are pleased to announce that the Gateway Center for Student Success now has a comprehensive online recruiting and posting system. Visit nau.edu/gatewayconnects to sign up. It does take 24 to 48 hours to process your information, but the wait is well worth it.

How do I get information about ME in PINE or other alumni publications?
Although we can’t quite promise where or when, we will print your class notes! Please send your life update and your high-resolution photo to anne.walden@nau.edu. Or mail it to Editor, PINE Magazine, PO Box 6034, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-6034. We truly look forward to hearing from you, as do your friends and classmates.

Till next time,
Krista Perkins
Managing Editor

Smiling Faces
Have a question about NAU? Just ask! We’re happy to help.

GOT NEWS? We want to hear about it. Expanded your family or business ... or your family business? Whether you’re a dad for the third time or saleswoman of the year, we want details—titles, dates, photos and P.R.—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, PO Box 6034, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-6034. We want you to stay engaged in the life of NAU, so write today!
Steeped in Serendipity

Celestina Swanson, ’04, immerses herself in Chinese culture and brews a beneficial career.

It is her delight to bring you the best Gong Fu. Her work entails neither spicing up Szechuan specialties nor arranging furniture in a fortuitous manner.

Celestina Swanson, ’04 B.S., is a master of brewing tea in the tradition of Gong Fu—literally “great skill”—a precise and scrupulous art central to the Chinese tea ceremony. It has also served her dual vocations: immersing herself in the culture and language of China, and running SwanSisters Authentic Chinese Teas, dedicated to the promotion of highest-quality tea and tea culture and education.

Born of equal parts chemistry, physics and aesthetics, Gong Fu methods date back to the 17th-century Qing Dynasty of Imperial China and are further rooted in eighth-century Chinese philosophy. Celestina traces her own passionate interest back to the gift of some extraordinary oolong teas from a friend, and to her own subsequent trips to stay with her boyfriend in Beijing, where she eventually relocated for a time. There her odyssey truly began, as she studied Chinese languages, drank tea in many teahouses, and learned about tea flavors from growers, all the while creating valuable relationships.

Although there is a popular latter-day movement towards artisanal foods—from wines and cheeses to tomatoes and chocolates—Celestina’s motivation had nothing to do with cachet. “Maybe the most important health benefit of drinking tea is just slowing down to enjoy a moment of peace.”

In fact, the mission of SwanSisters in importing whole-leaf teas is medicinal and mystical. “Tea is a magical beverage,” Celestina says, “that includes fascinating ancient cultures, complex taste and aroma, beautiful meditative pouring ceremonies and modern scientifically proven health benefits.”

As a student at NAU, Celestina certainly embraced the panacea of tea, but feels she might have taken her interest a bit further: “Green tea is a great study aid. [But perhaps] more than just tea, I should have embraced the career/study options available to me in the culinary world. Maybe it would have also been helpful to be exposed to the Chinese language a little earlier.”

In any case, SwanSisters is reaping the benefits of Celestina’s passionate interest, with teas available in Sedona, Prescott, Tucson and various outlets in California. And when alumni return to Flag they can visit Winter Sun Trading Company or New Frontiers for an excellent selection—or sit down and enjoy a long, healthy, meditative interlude over a cup at Macy’s. A window of peace in a busy life—sounds like our cup of tea.

“Maybe the most important health benefit of drinking tea is just slowing down to enjoy a moment of peace.”

Moguls

James Summerton, ’66 B.S., CEO, Gene Tools, LLC
Bill Luthy, ’68 B.S.B.A., Controller/CFO, LMS Building Services
Lee Alford, ’69 B.S.F., Senior Vice President, Weyerhauser
Larry Lindland, ’72 B.S.B.A., President, Fluid Logic
Harry Sloan, ’72 B.S.ACCY., CPA, Sloan & Company, Certified Public Accountants
Rebecca Hickman, ’74 B.S.ACCY., Director of Investor Relations, Pinnacle West
Scott Gibney, ’75 B.S.ACCY., CFO, Southwest Jet Aviation/SJA, LLC
Blair Robinson, ’75 B.S., President & CEO, Northview Bank & Trust
David W. Rolston, ’75 B.S., CEO, Forterra Systems
Brian Connors, ’76 B.S., General Partner, Formative Ventures
Zane Cornell, ’76 B.S.F. & ’78 M.S.F., President of Integrations Leadership Consulting
Roy Gardner, ’76 B.S.B.A., Co-owner/Agent, Soucie and Gardner
Mike Souris, ’76 B.S. ED, Co-owner, Video Express-O
Paul Nelson, ’78 B.S., Owner, Nelson Biotechnologies
Phil Petersen, ’78 B.A., President, Brookfield Communities

Gary Bishop, ’80 B.S., Managing Partner, Entrada Associates
Jason Blake, ’80 B.S., President/Owner, Titan Energy Resources
David Hammer, ’82 B.S. & ’85 B.S.E., Owner/President, Fleming Trailers Inc.
Phil Kafarakis, ’82 B.S.B.A., Vice President, McCormick & Co. Inc.
Carl Craig, ’83 B.S., President, Environmental Resource Assoc.
Nina Santellanes, ’84 B.S., Director of Sales, Hyatt Tamaya Resort
Orville Wiseman, ’85 B.S.ACCY., Owner, Wiseman Aviation
John Ferron, ’86 B.S.B.A., CFO, Celebrity Group
Brent Lewis, ’86 B.S.ACCY., CEO, VCG Holding Corp.
Michael Morano, ’89 B.S.B.A., President & CEO, Sunrise Bank
Prabhu Mohapatra, ’91 M.S., CEO, International Science and Technology
William Kapfer, ’93 M.E.D. & ’97 ED.D, Co-President, Window Media LLC
Joel Smith Adams, ’94 B.A. & ’94 B.S.B.A., President/COO, Dia-Care Inc.
Mark Benjamin, ’94 B.S.E., Owner, Crown Jade Design and Engineering
Jason Miller, ’00 B.S., CEO/President, Pr ogruidez Inc. Publishing/Marketing
Mandy blendowski Myers, ’02 B.S.E., Horizon Prosthetics
Justin Myers, ’02 B.S.E., Aspen Industries

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Trailblazing Teacher

Professor Octaviana Trujillo’s life is all about breaking new ground.

While she describes herself as a traditionalist, Professor Octaviana Trujillo has spent much of her life breaking traditional boundaries. The first Yaqui woman in the nation to go to college and earn a degree, she grew up in a small, close-knit community on the Yaqui reservation, where education wasn’t always on the agenda.

“My family’s income depended on the crop season,” she says. “As crop pickers, [my parents] were up before dawn, especially in summer, harvesting citrus or cotton. I have seven brothers and three sisters, and if any of us complained about having to go to school, they gave us the option of going with them to pick crops. You can guess which we decided to do!”

After college, Octaviana continued to break the mold. She started as a kindergarten teacher in Tempe, moved on to a faculty position at Arizona State University, and even during her time there she was iconoclastic. After being on the faculty a short while, she was encouraged by tribal elders—“through my mother”—to run for a chair position in her tribe.

Even though old ways might have been a deterrent, she became the first chairwoman of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona in 1994 and served four years.

In January 2002, she was hired by NAU to help promote the Applied Indigenous Studies (AIS) program established in 2000.

“How can [students] translate and apply those important theoretical, knowledge-based materials to what we need today in Indian Country?”

During her time at NAU, Octaviana attended the United Nations Indigenous Panel on Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration in Santiago, Chile. While serving as the rapporteur (investigative reporter) for the Expert Panel Meeting, she was invited to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the UN.

In May, Octaviana attended the forum with a group of AIS majors who participated in the Indigenous Youth Caucus. These activities are all part of her vision that embraces a combination of global perspectives and traditional values for her students.

“Our department’s areas of academic focus include environmental sciences, economic development, policy administration,” she says, “and now we’ve developed extended majors that address traditional knowledge and cultural-resource management. Our faculty has developed and addressed curriculum identified by tribal leaders as important to help us accomplish our goals in our urban communities as well as on the reservations.” Octaviana has taken the first steps on an important path, and she believes her peers and students will forge ahead for the benefit of all.
Author/professor Sylvester “Syl” Allred, ’89 Ph.D., tells tales out of school

An “enviro-thriller” pitting an Alaska state representative/crab fisherman against the oil industry that plans to exploit the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A gorgeously illustrated children’s book about Rascal, a tassel-eared squirrel living on the rim of the Grand Canyon, revealing “the sometimes cruel randomness of nature, and the teeming and twittering life of a ponderosa pine forest.” What these two books share, aside from their laudable style, scrupulous attention to fact and occasional humor, is their laudable, scrupulous and sometime humorous author, Sylvester “Syl” Allred, ’89 Ph.D.

Friends of NAU know Syl as a longtime professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, whose 20-plus years of teaching at the university have resulted in many commendations of the “distinguished professor” and “outstanding faculty” ilk. In 2003, the student body named him Homecoming Dedicatee for his incomparable teaching and the “positive connection” he maintains with his charges. The scholarly community has recognized his studies on the ecology and reproductive biology of the Abert’s squirrel, and scientists apply his findings to small-game management policy in the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

When we asked Syl about how he chooses his fictional topics, the answer was suitably “organic.”

“I’ve always enjoyed storytelling, and the tassel-eared squirrels asked me to tell theirs,” he says, “so I did with Rascal. With The St. Petersburg Addendum I needed a forum for my frustration about the greed and politics behind the never-ending attempt to plunder the Arctic. The book was written with a friend, Dennis Burns, and we enjoyed the process so much we have three other murder mysteries in various stages of completion. I think it keeps me mellow.”

As for what he has learned from his studies about our role in natural stewardship, he says, “Squirrels are indicators of forest conditions. What we know about the relationship of the tassel-eared squirrels and the ponderosa pines is they need each other. Squirrels need the trees for food and shelter and the trees need the squirrels to spread the false truffle spores that grow on the tree roots. The false truffles absorb water and nutrients that benefit the trees. Squirrels also bury plant seeds and acorns, and those buried seeds contribute trees to future forests.”

In short, “never underestimate squirrels.”

Syl has two children’s books in review, as well as The Natural History of Tassel-Eared Squirrels in the Southwestern United States and Mexico. St. Petersburg and Rascal are available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon. Meanwhile, Syl continues his quest to make the world safe for squirrels and students alike.

“We enjoyed the process so much we have three other murder mysteries in various stages of completion. I think it keeps me mellow.”

naturalBornStoryteller

Sylvester “Syl” Allred is a prolific author on both sides of the fiction/non-fiction aisle.

Rascal

The St. Petersburg Addendum
He’s Got the Yuma Touch

Sometimes we can’t say it any better. A recent profile of Kevin Eatherly, ’91 B.S., in the Yuma Sun was the perfect resource for Faces to get the scoop on the City of Yuma project manager. What we learned:

- **He’s busy:** Projects include reopening Yuma’s Main Street, restoring Yuma West and Yuma East Wetlands, a major bike trail project with ADOT, and the beautiful new Gateway Park.
- **It’s genetic:** From age 10, he visited parks with his father, a planner with Arizona State Parks.
- **He paid his dues:** His first park service assignment was to Slide Rock State Park, a beloved water play area for many NAU students—followed by Dead Horse Ranch State Park, where he had played as a child, Lyman Lake State Park and Yuma Crossing State Historic Park. He joined the City of Yuma in 2000.
- **He loves his work:** “I liked seeing these parks coming up out of the ground, becoming places where people could visit and really enjoy.”
- **He loves his family:** Along with his “best friend,” wife Heather Derwin Eatherly, ’91 B.S., ‘98 M.Ed., he spends plenty of quality time with daughters Samantha and Alexandria, happily joining them in 4-H and other activities that “build confidence in kids.”
- **He’s humble:** “I’m a facilitator—a conduit. Anything you see changing in downtown, those are the projects I manage, but it takes everybody. I’m just lucky to have had a tremendous amount of support from the city … and work with a lot of terrific people.”

**Guess what he studied at NAU:** “My passion for the outdoor recreation part of my job as a project manager comes out of the parks and recreation program at NAU—especially the wetlands restoration and other environmental aspects.”

**And what’s more…** When we actually spoke with him, Kevin had more praise for his alma mater. “Project management tends to focus on the engineering aspect. Through my education, I have a better understanding of the needs of the end user, both from the programming and maintenance perspective. This balance and input from people is what has truly made my projects successful. “My education at NAU has definitely added to the diversity of my background. I was exposed to the structure of the National Parks Service and other federal agencies. The ability to navigate these agencies has resulted in additional funding and partnerships.”

**For the good of the order:** If they made a movie about Kevin, he’d want to be played by Jack Black. Would you believe, School of Park?

**The Multi-Tasker**
Susan Otero is the first female lieutenant in the Yuma Police Department’s 93-year history. A Marine Corps
In last year’s Faces, we introduced you to Jeri Williams, ’99 M.ED., Phoenix’s first black female police commander. Now we are proud to feature two other alumni who are rising in the ranks of Arizona law enforcement: Susan Otero, ’04 B.S.B.A., and Patrick Melvin, ’99 M.ED.

veteran with four years service in the U.S. and Japan, she was hired as a police officer in 1995, working as a dispatcher. Her desire to do more—“I wasn’t content with sitting there behind the radio”—landed her on the streets as a patrol cop. Meanwhile, she decided to enroll in NAU-Yuma, where she completed her degree in business administration.

According to the Yuma Sun, she managed this sleight-of-hand by “taking seven classes at a time while working full-time and being a single parent.” Since her promotion to lieutenant in July 2006, she is day-shift watch commander, supervises sergeants and patrol officers, and has taken master’s-level college courses from the Southern Police Institute.

And then there are her other responsibilities: managerial duties, strategic planning, Homeland Security compliance, personnel evaluation, overseeing a staff of 30, and still going out on calls. When Susan Otero says that she has an “understanding of the department and city as a whole,” you have to believe her.

The Self-Starter

Even if you haven’t yet heard of Maricopa—the city, not the county—you will. With a rapidly growing population of about 16,000 people in a booming area 20 miles south of Phoenix, officials are justified in calling Maricopa’s progress “explosive” after a 219 percent surge since March 2004. Of course a new city needs its own police force, and the City Council turned to Patrick Melvin.

A traffic bureau commander with the Phoenix Police Department, Patrick became Maricopa’s first police officer in October. It is his responsibility to build the new police force, hire more than 30 sworn officers and a support staff, obtain vehicles and equipment, and choose all the trimmings (uniforms, badges, color scheme). He’ll also be dealing with the city’s greatest challenge, traffic congestion, the result of exponential growth and the existence of only one local access road to I-10. It’s no accident that the Maricopa City Council recognized the value of his one-year fellowship with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in Washington, D.C.

According to the Casa Grande Dispatch, Patrick’s résumé includes the U.S. Army and Reserve, as well as 20 years in law enforcement, and affiliation with the Southwest Command College, FBI, and training in chemical, biological and nuclear terrorism response. He is also a certified detective and background investigator. But Patrick clearly has much more on his mind than policing a community. In a recent letter to the dean of NAU’s College of Education, Daniel L. Kain, Patrick wrote, “I am proud to mention that I have utilized several of the scholarly philosophies learned while studying at NAU, and I am grateful for the educational opportunities experienced in the program.” With such a humanist and dedicated public servant at the helm, Maricopa will thrive.
Wendy Hild, ’03 M.ED., 11th-grade social studies teacher at Mountain Ridge High School in Glendale, Ariz., and Mamie Spillane, ’98 B.S.ED. & ’04 M.ED., kindergarten-5th grade English as a Second Language teacher at Prince Elementary School in Tucson, have been recognized as 2007 Arizona Educational Foundation Ambassadors. This is the only statewide program that spotlights Arizona’s teachers, recognizing five exceptionally skilled pre-K through 12th grade public school educators each year. The nominees have gained the respect and admiration of students, parents and co-workers for personal leadership and involvement in their communities. They are rewarded with cash, prizes and scholarships.

After teaching for six years, Wendy focuses on the belief that she can make a difference to every individual student.

“I want to be that one teacher who listens when no one else cares,” she says. “I want to be the teacher who tells every student about scholarship opportunities, that there is money available for just about any kind of student, not just the academically or athletically gifted. I want to be the teacher that parents trust; they can feel relief knowing that their child is safe and cared for away from home. Americans spend the majority of their adult lives working. To me it is vitally important to spend that time on the most worthy of causes, fostering our future. My love of learning, quest for betterment and the desire to guide and inspire others are the factors that influenced me to be a teacher.”

Mamie Spillane knows teaching extends outside the classroom, too.
Montgomery College in Maryland may typify the new educational paradigm of serving a nontraditional base of learners, with 8,800 full-time and 14,100 part-time students, and 30,000 others taking noncredit courses. Their search for a president who could embrace and grow this diverse population and its mission was fulfilled with the appointment of Brian K. Johnson, ’91 M.A.ED., ’02 Ed.D., who brings to the table a wealth of experience in community college administration.

Hailed by Montgomery’s board of trustees as “a great learner and listener” and a champion of opportunities for students enrolled in community colleges, Brian greeted a gathering of students, faculty and staff with emotion and enthusiasm. “This is an exceptional college … the envy of many other colleges.” He then highlighted his commitment to advocating affordable tuition and equal access to educational opportunities.

Brian spent the past three years in senior-level administrative positions at the Allegheny campus of the Community College of Allegheny County, Pa., where he improved academic achievement and led a $1 million renovation project of the student lounge and theater. Before that he was a familiar force in Arizona education circles, holding senior-level management and administrative positions at Mesa Community College.

A great advocate for his institution’s excellence, Brian doesn’t have to look far for impressive facts and figures to support his cause. Montgomery College is uniquely poised to move to its next natural level of national leadership. There are 1,200 community colleges in the United States. In April 2007 The New York Times ran an article that identified the 10 best community colleges in the United States, and Montgomery College was in that top group.

“We also have several nationally recognized signature programs, such as Montgomery Scholars, a partnership with England’s University of Cambridge, in which we send 25 students (with GPAs upwards of 3.85) to study in cohorts. This year 18 of the 25 students participating were students of color. The beauty of this statistic is that it isn’t uncommon for this richly diverse environment.”

It sounds like under Brian Johnson’s administration, Montgomery College is well on its way to fulfilling its mission: “Changing lives, enriching our community, holding ourselves accountable … we will tend to our internal spirit.”
John G. Hill, ’94, breathes new life into Colorado’s “best place to work”

After many years of breathing Flagstaff’s rarefied air, John G. Hill, ’94 B.S., ’01 M.B.A., is summiting a new life in another mountain town, as president and CEO for The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA) and Centennial Medical Plaza in Aurora, Colo.

Recently named “The #1 Best Place to Work For” in Colorado, TMCA is member of HCA-HealthONE LLC, the largest healthcare system in the metro Denver area. John’s previous experience as chief operating officer of HCA’s flagship facility in Dallas made him the perfect candidate for TMCA, which required a “bright, enthusiastic leader” to “expand its cardiovascular, neurosciences, surgical and oncology services for the growing east metro communities.” He is particularly pleased with TMCA’s “tremendous reputation for having talented staff and gifted physicians who provide world-class care to the community.”

John previously honed his administrative skills for eight years as executive administrator for a physician surgical group with six locations in northern Arizona. He has already been recognized for his superlative work, having been awarded the 2006 American College of Healthcare Executives North Texas Regent’s Award for Early Careerist of the Year. He is also personally invested in the future of today’s youth, coaching sports and serving in leadership positions with the Boy Scouts of America.

“Growing up in Flagstaff I witnessed the positive impact NAU had in the community,” he says, “and specifically the work focused on the youth and schools. NAU’s faculty and the student body were always visibly participating in the Flagstaff Public Schools, which made a lasting impression on me both personally and professionally. As a result, I now enjoy giving back to the youth in my community.”

For students who gravitate toward the healthcare industry, John is quick to extol the education he received at NAU, which has been validated over and over again by both the readiness of his peers to recognize its excellence and by his own personal success. He also notes that he, his wife, Jennifer, and their six children are “really looking forward to getting back to the mountains.”

With Flagstaff oxygen in his blood and the exemplary foundation of an NAU education, John should have an easy climb.

Sense & Sustainability

Elizabeth R. Yolin-Sandler, ’99 B.S.F., has been named director of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), a national program that promotes the sustainable management of forests through education and outreach to private forest landowners. Formerly ATFS certification manager, Liz was hailed for “her ability to manage staff, stay abreast of technical certification developments, and continuously engage and motivate program volunteers ... she is a natural leader and daily proves herself to be one of our greatest assets.”

Before joining ATFS in 2002, Liz was the lead coordinator for the Forestry and Wood Products Department of the American Forest & Paper Association. She has completed a Henry Clepper Forest Policy Internship with the Society of American Foresters and a student internship with the Oregon Department of Forestry. While at NAU, she served as a program assistant in the Forestry Department.

In her new position, Liz will oversee Tree Farm operations, including internal program communications, meeting planning, the National Tree Farmer Convention and National Leadership Conference, and inspector training.
Making Radio Waves

Broadcaster Mark “Ash” Asher, ’96, lives by air alone

In the radio industry, it is the norm for broadcasters to take a somewhat circuitous approach to career seniority, ricocheting from city to city and market to market in the quest for success. Mark “Ash” Asher, ’96 B.S., however, has somehow managed to sidestep this norm, climbing to the top of his profession without leaving his beloved Arizona. The co-host of the Gam and Ash show, broadcast each weekday from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sports 620-AM KTAR, Mark attributes his local staying power—and his celebrity—to the integrity of the fans themselves: “People love our Arizona teams. I know this town—we’ve made many contacts and stayed in the public eye by doing a lot of ‘extracurriculars’—and I think people respect the fact that I’m here to stand up for their local teams. Besides, they haven’t figured out a way to get rid of me yet.”

Mark grew up listening to KTAR every day with his dad and working as a ball boy for Phoenix College. At age 25, after graduating from Central High School and NAU, he became one of the youngest sports talkers in a top-20 market to host a show during afternoon drive time. He followed up with stints as a sideline reporter for ASU football games, a pre-game host for the Phoenix Coyotes, and a TV analyst for FOX Sports. He then spent a decade co-hosting XTRA, KGM/E’s longest-running sports talk show.

The gig at KTAR has given Mark a chance to refine his outspoken style. A quick scan of his KGME’s longest-running sports talk show, reveals a refreshing frankness, whether he’s challenging the management style of a certain NBA franchise or dishing on the Cardinals’ draft strategies.

Incidentally, Mark isn’t the only member of his family to be bitten by the sports bug. His wife, Bridgot, was a cheerleader for both the Arizona Rattlers and the Arizona Cardinals, and their baby son, Jackson Cole Asher (born Aug. 4), promises to be just as loyal, if Mark has anything to say about it.

“I’ve already bought him a Phoenix Suns jersey and a Cardinals jersey that he’ll wear to his first NFL game,” he says. “He’ll love all the Arizona teams, just like his dad.”

And there’s definitely a Lumberjack onesie in Jackson’s near future:

“I love my NAU,” says Mark, “and I still go up for Cardinals camp. NAU and Flagstaff offered perfect training for my field because I got to work at a real radio station [KVNA] and learned everything from the ground up.”

With community and family behind him 100 percent, Mark counts his blessings.

“I’m very lucky. I get to talk sports, which is pretty much every guy’s dream, and I get paid to do it. I’ll keep riding this till it bucks.”

Art at Work


Sherman Frederick, ’77 B.S., President, Stephens Media Group

Russ Knight aka Hemler, ’80 B.S., DJ, KNIX radio

Katharine Rager, ’87 B.S., Production Manager, Everybody Hates Chris

Erica Heartquist, ’99 B.S., Reporter, KVOA TV Tucson

Katherine Sage, ’93 B.S., Senior Project Manager, Memphis Chapter, Recording Academy, Grammy Organization

Kennan Oliphant, 00 B.S., Weekend Anchor, WDTN-TV

Paul Peterson, 00 B.S., Public Relations, Off Madison Ave.
Heading to the slopes the moment your last class was over...

What is your most memorable NAU Winter moment?

It may be a warm memory, though you were chilly as the Peaks in February. Roast and toast your friends! Submit your favorite Wintertime story and pictures to NAU Alumni Who’s News.

While you’re at it, log into the alumni directory, update your information, and make sure you give us your email address so that we can send you monthly issues of Who’s News. Who’s News is your online alumni publication, exclusively dedicated to the latest alumni happenings – weddings, births, alumni gatherings, new jobs, job promotions, and more – from NAU alumni around the world.