

MONTHLY REPORT

Dean of Instruction

Linda Elliott-Nelson

April 30, 2008

Accomplishments

Arts, Humanities, and Human Services

Fine Arts/PERS Learning Community

- **Chuck Smalley** reported that AWC sponsored a Choir Day on April 10th which 31 potential college students attended. The purpose of the event was to invite high school singers to the college to hear the Chambers Singers, talk about the Choral Program, and take a campus tour. Chuck reported that the Chamber Singers and Yuma Chorale are preparing for the final Choral concert on Friday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
- **Bill Blomquist** reported that AWC painting students have been selected to participate in their first annual ARTbeat sponsored by the City of Yuma Arts and Culture Commission. The event will be held Saturday, April 19, in Historic Downtown Yuma. There will be an AWC Kiosk containing paintings by students, Jazz musicians, professional visual artists, and wine and food tasting.

Human Services Learning Community

- **Scott McLain** met with Martin Garate, President of Universidad Bolivariana, and Peter Wenneberg, Director of International Programs in Chiloe, Chile, to discuss study abroad opportunities with UB and AWC. AWC is an attractive option for many recent graduates of private K-12 English Immersion schools in Chile, where parents have invested time and resources in the development of their children's' English language skills, but recognize that their oral skills not match their written abilities. To that end, AWC could coordinate with UB to receive students from Chile after their high school graduation, but before their university studies in Chile, for a semester or a school year, to address the enhancement of oral English skills and knowledge of US culture. UB also has a number of courses which would serve the AWC first or second year student, or NAU third and fourth year student, as part of a study abroad program. Scott has coordinated communication with Ken at AWC and Peter at UB.
- **Sean Herlihy** was a panelist in the Black History Month forum on the N-Word. He attended the South Western Political Science Association Conference in Las Vegas, March 12-15. Sean was a guest speaker in Michaels Miller's honors seminar on March 18 and 25, on Politics in Latin America.

English/Reading Learning Community

- **Donna Taylor** was a guest speaker in Donna Leigh's orientation course on April 8th.
- **Darren Dillman** had one of his short stories accepted for publication from Shenandoah.
- **Edward Schubert** reported that his ENG 220-Science Fiction class was reported in AWC's News and Announcements, the Sun, and the SF Universe.
- **Porchia Moore** had the award-winning performance poet, Christopher Lane, give a dynamic reading to well-over 80 students on Monday, April 14. Mr. Lane also signed books, spoke with students, gave an interview/reading on KAWC, and taped an interview for our cable station. Porchia reported that the Writing School is co-sponsoring the 1st annual Poetry Contest with the Yuma Sun newspaper. She reported that her ENG 291 and ENG 292 recorded readings of their original poetry for KAWC radio. These readings will continue to air this month and into May. Porchia reported that David Coy gave a reading and talk to her ENG 292 students in honor of National Poetry Month. Lastly, Porchia reported that her ENG 291 and ENG 292 students will give a poetry reading on April 28.
- **Edmond Davis** reported that he is reading several books and has blogged about the taco stand at David's market in Yuma. He will soon have two posts to his blog about Pupuseria y Taqueria Cabañasm, a new Salvadoran restaurant in Yuma.
- **Michael Miller** published a film review in The Sun titled "The Violin' Tames Violence".

Languages Learning Community

- **Ellen Cohen** took her students to the AWC Health Fair and Earth Day events then structured writing assignment around them. She did some publicity and marketing for the ESL department. Ellen had an

associate faculty member attend one of her classes so that the faculty member could get ideas for next year. She worked with the NCA Criterion co-chair and committee to make edits. Ellen attended the music and theatre events and participated on the consensus committees for the Associate Dean for Humanities and the Director of CTE. Ellen continues to read about and give input to the Blue Ribbon Task Force. She advised students for the Fall 2008 semester and wrote a conference proposal for Az-TESOL.

Distance Education

- Planned Camp Yuma and recruited faculty participants.
- Completed successful site visit and Title V evaluation

Science, Math, and Agriculture

- Scott Donnelly participated in the NOAA Teacher at Sea this month as a position opened up.
- Ian is attending the National Bio-Tech conference in Scottsdale. Its sponsor is NSF. They are working on how they will allocate their funds in the future for education.

Science News

Edyth Hermosillo, an Environmental Science major, has been accepted into a Masters program of Environmental Science at NAU. She will be working with Dr. Paul Gremillion, researching human disturbance in ecosystems and other patterns of environmental change as recorded by aquatic sediments with specific research on reconstructing regional histories of mercury and lead deposition in Arizona lakes and reservoirs. She has also been awarded a Teaching Assistantship for next year.

Stephanie McCormick, an Environmental Science major, attend the National Seeds of Success training conference. She learned how to collect seeds to be deposited in the world germplasm bank in England. These seeds are saved for future generations in case the species becomes extinct or in case special needs arise where there is a need for the original genetic stock. This year, Stephanie and **Tracey Little** gathered more than 30,000 seeds of Spanish Needle, and these seeds have been accepted and are stored at the world repository.

Erica Faulkner, an Environmental Science major, taught a workshop for the BLM on the Fire Dynamics of the Lower Colorado, focusing on the Mittry lake area.

Marelis Rivera, a Biology major, has been selected as the Graduation speaker for NAU for 2008's commencement ceremony.

South Yuma County

- Hosted Dr Schoening for a conversation with staff on Campus wide Objectives.
- Presented at Regional National Association of Elementary School Boards in San Jose California on South Yuma County Math program with Jr. High students.
- Attended National Conference for Instituto de Mexicanos en el Exterior. Chaired by Presidente Calderon from Mexico.
- Presented at Community Forum in San Luis on Becoming an engaged citizen in our communities.
- Held debut of Teatro Comunitario of San Luis at the Cesar Chavez Cultural Center.
- Continued to participate with Yuma High School District Strategic Planning workshops.
- Met with administrators in Somerton Middle School in the planning and development of a 21 century grant.

Dean of Instruction

Attended and presented at AACC Conference in Philadelphia, PA.

Attended HLC/NCA Annual Meeting for self-study.

TV Channel 72 interview with City of Yuma on AWC services to the community.

Future activities:

Arts, Humanities, and Human Services

English/Reading Learning Community

Edward Schubert reported that for the week of Holocaust Memorial Day he will be showing most of his classes “He’s Alive” – a Twilight Zone episode that deals with racism, anti-Semitism and political extremism. He reported that his ENG 101 classes will be compiling an on-line “Dictionary of Politics and Philosophy” as they define terms like “terrorism”, “democracy”, etc. Ed reported that his ENG 100 class will be inventing languages with the rule that they may not use the standard English subject-verb-object pattern.

Science, Math, and Agriculture

- Science Fair in early May

National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates

Each year the National Science Foundation awards funds to a select few major research university to recruit and train promising young scientists. These Research Experiences for Undergraduates, or REU’s, provide the student travel funds to the university, room and board for 10 weeks and a summer stipend of up to \$5,000. In addition, these science students are paired with a university research professor and work with this professor throughout the summer assisting on his/her research projects. At the end of the 10 weeks, the student presents their results to the campus community and in some cases they attend a national conference to showcase their research.

Students selected for these programs are some of the best of the best. In many cases there are 500 applicants for only eight positions at the university. AWC/NAU students have shown their quality this year and 12 of our students have been selected to participate at programs around the United States. We will have Biology, Environmental Science, Physics and Chemistry students working at major universities conducting cutting-edge research this summer. Below is a list of the projects these students will be working on.

Credit should be given to the science faculty at AWC/NAU for guiding these students through the application process and special thanks is directed at Ellen Riek of the NAU-Yuma Writing center for spending many hours of her time assisting students in writing their personal statements and for her encouraging words to these students as they doubted themselves.

Ernesto Rodriguez, an Environmental Science major, will be participating in an REU at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. He will be reconstructing species level phylogenies using molecular sequence data from chloroplast or nuclear genomes, as well as macro- and micromorphological data in genera endemic to tropical alpine tundra and deserts.

Ivan Sanchez, a Biology major, will be participating in an REU at Brigham Young University. He will be characterizing optics designed for the extreme ultraviolet (XUV) part of the spectrum. From these characterizations, he will learn the optical and materials properties needed to design mirrors, filters, and polarizers for applications in space-based telescopes, XUV photolithography, XUV microscopes, and plasma diagnostics.

Garrick Sims, an Environmental Science major, will be participating in an REU at the University of Michigan Biological Station in Pellston, MI. He will be working with Dr. Ola Fincke, a behavior ecologist (from the University of Oklahoma) that specializes in Odonates, studying the effects of invasive zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) on the populations of two species of dragonflies, the dragonhunter (*Hagenius brevistylus*) and the stream cruiser (*Didymops transversa*).

Tatum Tirado, a Physics major, will be participating in an REU at the Illinois Institute of Technology Engineering Center for Diabetes Research. She will be researching unique engineering techniques to develop treatment modalities for diabetes and its many complications.

Stephanie McCormick, an Environmental Science major, will be participating in an REU at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. She will be studying endangered plants endemic to the southern Colorado Plateau using genetic “fingerprints” of individuals to gauge genetic diversity within relic populations and to document hybridization of endangered species with widespread Rocky Mountain relatives.

Mary Edmonds, A Chemistry major, will be participating in an REU at the University of Maryland learning how to synthesize nanotubes using various materials such as SiO₂, conducting polymers, and other metal oxides by using alumina porous template film. She will also approach problems in various applications such as targeted drug delivery, biosensors, membrane transports, and electronic devices.

Hector Aceves, an Environmental Science major, will be participating in an REU at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. He is assigned to Dr. Brian Bothner in the Biochemistry department and will be researching stress responses in extremophile bacteria. Part of his research will include field work at Yellowstone National Park.

Alex Ramshower, an Environmental Science major, will be participating in an REU at UC-Davis studying how climate change, invasive species, and other human impacts are affecting marine ecosystems.

Cesar Baptiste, a Biology major, will be participating in an REU Georgetown University and will be conducting medical research to elucidate the molecular details of drug resistance pathways. He will use a battery of interdisciplinary techniques, including recombinant DNA methods, yeast genetics, cell culture, and general wet biochemistry

Kourtney McClellan, a Biology major, will be participating in an REU at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. She will be researching topics like the linkages between mercury loading to reservoirs and wildfires in their watersheds and other ecological and environmental science issues.

Francisco Flores, a Biology major, will be participating in an REU at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. He will be paired with a professor studying biofilms which are structured communities of microorganisms that are attached to either an inanimate substrate, such as a rock in an alpine stream or a catheter in a human, or an animate substrate, such as a human heart valve, that are enclosed in a self-produced or host-derived matrix

Scott Clanton, an Environmental Science major, will be participating in an REU at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. He will be part of a ongoing ecological studies in the piñon-juniper woodland surrounding Flagstaff, AZ

South Yuma County

- Will host Celebration of Learners Ceremony May 8th.

Dean of Instruction

Interview, select, and train Associate Dean candidates