

# MONTHLY REPORT

Dean of Instruction  
Linda Elliott-Nelson  
September 30, 2008

## **Accomplishments:**

Learning Services and Student Services presented to La Paz faculty and staff on operations, information, FERPA, financial aid, and accreditation.

## **Business and Liberal Arts**

Lin Baas, Professor of Psychology

- working this fall on updating PSY curriculum; will possibly add a new course
- teaching first honors-only Psychology 101; "...students will be producing several teaching modules each. They will be given topics from an interest list that they handed in, then they will make a brief teaching module, laboratory, or example using PowerPoint, video, and audio and place these on the web for all to access and use."
- exploring writing a research methods textbook for two-year colleges
- currently working on a novel!

Mo Bahramzadeh, Professor of Political Science

- doing research comparing and contrasting on-line education and traditional classroom
- presented two papers at the annual International Studies Association convention March 2007 "Classroom in the digital age" and "Managing conflict in the classroom"
- gave a talk at the University of Shiraz entitled "Globalization and its impact on third world countries"
- recently had article published in the Yuma Sun titled "Iran US Dilemma Ignored"
- bringing John Munger from the McCain campaign to Arizona Western College; Munger will give a talk at the AWC Theater on September 17<sup>th</sup>

Ken Dale, Professor of History (and Head Soccer Coach)

- has proposed and is developing an interesting new course entitled "History of Soccer" (now moving through the curriculum approval process)

Susanne Goethals, Professor of Philosophy

- has updated the philosophy curriculum, adding two new courses: Medical Ethics (which is running this semester) and Philosophy of Religion; has also given "Comparative World Religions" an REL prefix, opening the door for development of a Religious Studies program in the future
- developing Ancient Philosophy, PHI 240, as a dedicated honors course;

will run spring 2009; developing Philosophy of Religion course that will be offered during the 2009-10 academic year

- book-length manuscript *Medicine, Sexuality and Power: Transgender Discourses and the Ethics of Possibility* currently under review by MIT Press
- doing research on the application of Rogerian principles to the teaching of philosophy
- doing preliminary research (with partner, Kellie Taylor) for a book on the history of the Riot Grrrl music movement and its impact on feminism and American culture

### **Distance Education**

- Held several well-attended Blackboard training sessions.
- Increased online class FTSE enrollment 45% from the previous fall.
- Closed out Title V "Exit" grant.

### **Humanities**

- **Mizaba Abedi** presented at AWC's Summer Cultural Camp on Tuesday, August 5, 2008, on the topic "The Forgotten Founding Fathers."
- **Mizaba Abedi** became a U.S. citizen at a naturalization ceremony on Thursday, August 21, 2008, at the Arizona State Fair Grounds in Phoenix, AZ. He was one of 1,700 permanent residents who became U.S. citizens on that day.
- **AWC Reading Department** faculty sponsored the "Free to a Good Home Book Drive" during August and September. About 2000 books were given away to AWC students, and about 250 books were donated to Carver Elementary School.
- **Ellen Cohen** prepared for the conference and coordinated with statewide ESL faculty for AZ-TESOL October 2-3 in Tucson.
- **Ellen Cohen** prepared a more in-depth workshop for adjunct faculty regarding teaching non-native speakers.
- **Ellen Cohen** prepared and exhibited 18 paintings for an AWC Art Gallery Exhibit
- **AWC Theatre** produced "The Hobbit" for a one-weekend run in August. This production, adapted for the stage and directed by AWC Theatre student Allison DeDecker, involved many first-time theatre participants ranging in age mostly from 12 to 16. Also, as a result of this play AWC Theatre was able to donate over 109 pounds of food to the Yuma Food Bank and more than 12 bags of clothing to the Crossroads Mission.
- **Chip Straley** served as emcee for the Cause for Paws event to benefit Planned Pethood, an organization which provides financial support for the saying and neutering of pets for low income and other needful folks. As a result of the benefit, Planned Pethood raised more than \$15,000.
- During August and September, **Michelle Faust** was involved in two newspaper articles about programs that she is involved in on campus: the new Spanish Proficiency Certificate and the fundraiser for Panama United.

- **Michelle Faust** went to the Arizona Language Association conference in Phoenix during the last weekend of September.
- **Michelle Faust** has been reelected to the Arizona board of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.
- **Bill Blomquist** created the web site [www.yumafinearts.org](http://www.yumafinearts.org).
- **Nancy Blitz** gave a presentation at the Sunrise Optimists Club meeting on Sept. 3.
- **Nancy Blitz** did an interview on Matador Monday on Sept. 15 and was interviewed on the City of Yuma TV channel on Sept. 9 about the PRISE Grant opportunity for AWC graduates who want credentials to teach elementary school, special education, and ESL.
- **Nancy Blitz** is involved with an on-going literacy development project for ESL students in the Gadsden School District and met with their administrators in charge of ESL.
- **Michael Miller** published outdoor article "Miles from Nowhere: Three days Canoeing on the Colorado" in *The Sun 2008 Winter Guide*.
- **Michael Miller** published a film review in the Yuma city daily newspaper, *The Sun*: "Noise Rings True," Sept. 4.
- **Ed Davis** read Drew Faust's *James Henry Hammond and the Old South: a Design for Mastery*, Hamilton's *Genesis 18-50* (a New International Commentary on the Old Testament volume), and William Propp's Anchor Bible commentary on the second half of *Exodus*.

### La Paz County

- Educational Talent Search (ETS) saw over 160 students in the PUSD
- ETS Senior Meetings were held on 08/26 & 09/23
- 09-25-08 the ETS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Awareness Activity took place 8/27 & 8/28/08 6th grade recruiting at Wallace Elementary - Eileen visited four 6th grade classrooms and spoke with the students about the ETS program. She talked about the benefits of a college education and how the program can help them pursue their dreams and left applications with the students.
- During September Upward Bound received five new applications (They are currently being processed) from Parker High School students, and had a Saturday Activity on September 27 in Yuma at the main campus.
- 09-10-08 - Associate Faculty meeting with the Dean of Education, Associate Deans and other main campus reps. We also held a staff meeting with associate deans and other main campus reps.
- College days presentations to Wickenburg High School and Salome High School
- Barry Holloway began working on the La Paz Career Fair to be held in February 2009, he also conducted Blackboard training with faculty, and help distance Education students with their Blackboard problems. Barry also facilitated student communications with instructors.
- Barry held a meeting with Tina Sibley and the new director of the Parker Library Dale Savage .

- TV & ITN Services produced 10 new TV shows in September and facilitated a record number of ITN classes in Parker

### **Science, Math, and Agriculture**

#### **Agriculture:**

Kathy is meeting with Agriculture professionals in the community to ask for feedback and input on our program. So far, I have met with Vic Smith, Terre Catanzaro, Mike McGuire, Donald Domingos, Cindy Baker. I have an appointment this week with Dennis Booth

**Science:** Scott Donnelly has been invited to join a Community College National Advisory Council for Chemistry

#### **Engineering**

- NSF grant funds awarded for six engineering students continuing on to a university
- Agreed to partner with ASU in an NSF grant for 5 years that provides money for Engineering students the opportunity to continue at the university toward a BS.
- YPG selected 5 students in there SCEP from AWC. They are looking for 5 more.

### **South Yuma County**

- Submitted continuation grant with Yuma Community Foundation through the San Luis Corporation for the Arts for the funding of the Teatro Comunitario.
- Secured funding for continued studies tuition for the Gadsden School District Math project to fund 120 students for 3-5 credits each.
- Begun partnership dialogue with PPEP charter high schools for educational partnerships in math classes.
- Have visited most developmental classes to provide group advising as groups to line-up pre-enrollment advising for Spring 2009
- Rotoract student organization (Collegiate Rotary) is establishing a vending business venture in San Luis to raise scholarship funds for members
- Co-sponsored the Fiestas Patrias with the City of San Luis on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Continue to participate with the newly established Education Access Council for Communities in Yuma County
- Mily Gomez was elected as Consejera (Advisor ) to the Mexican President as a member of the Instituto de Mexicanos en el Exterior. A three year elected position representing the Arizona Southwestern territory.

### **Future Activities**

During October, collection of FTSE information, posting of midterm grades, production of book orders for Spring 2009, initiation of scheduling for Fall 2009

### **Humanities**

- **Angel Luna** will have three pieces in the North End Artist Cooperative show at the Yuma Art Center, Sept. 2 – Nov. 2.
- **Angel Luna** will be serving on the Visual Artists in Communities panel for the Arizona Arts Commission Oct. 24 at ASU.
- **Mizaba Abedi** will start teaching a class on Cultural Diversity at CETYS University in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico.
- **Chuck Smalley:** The Chamber Singers and Yuma Chorale are in final preparation and rehearsals for the Annual Early Fall Choral Concert, Friday, Oct. 10, 7:30 PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
- **Chuck Smalley:** Beginning on Tuesday evening, Oct. 14, doors will again open for those Yuma Chorale to singers interested in participating in the Annual AWC Choral Christmas Concert.
- As part of a student project, **Ed Schubert** has agreed to tutor a group of foreign students on Friday afternoons, starting in late October.
- **Michael Miller** writes monthly film review and hosts Sun Cinema Series in Historic Yuma Theater downtown, in partnership with *The Sun* and the City of Yuma Arts and Culture Commission. Next date: October 2.

### **La Paz County**

- October - College days presentations to Parker High School and Lake Havasu High School Transfer Services and Disability Services main campus reps to visit Parker.

### **Science, Math, and Agriculture:**

Complete the move to the new buildings. Participate in VIP Tours with Agriculture and Medical Community members.

### **Engineering**

Work with NAU on an articulated program in Mechanical Engineering.