

# MONTHLY REPORT

## Dean of Instruction

Linda Elliott-Nelson

January 31, 2008

### Accomplishments

**All faculty meeting, 1/12/08**

**Semester Startup**

#### South Yuma County

- Opened New Center in San Luis
- Begun new program in Community Theatre in partnership with Gadsden School District, City of San Luis, and Campesinos Sin Fronteras
- Begun new program for Gadsden School District English courses (Eng. 95)
- Begun increased day course offerings

#### Science, Math, and Agriculture

Kathy Watson – attending conference with hospital board. Topics covered include changes in the health care delivery and nursing shortages nation wide.

Tim Whittier – working to establish internships and externships for students enrolled at AWC and at NAU in Yuma. Here is a shortened version of the information:

1. Environmental interns for the EPA working on tribal lands throughout the west, including Alaska
2. Working with local tribes to interest them in science. AWC students will provide environmental education to their students both middle school and high school. They will also work toward an environmental intern experience for the tribal students at AWC during the summer.
3. If a proposal with NEI engineering is successful, six of our students will have summer jobs monitoring work with the flat-tailed horned lizard.
4. Tim is working to place 15 students working with NSF into summer research internships in labs across the nation. These are paid internships. Last year we had a 75% placement rate.
5. Two students have been hired to work on BLM grants conducting Fire Regime and Condition class estimates for the lower Colorado River area and collecting seeds of rare plant for placement into a world seed repository.
6. An Environmental Science Geology student was hired as an intern to conduct archaeology and paleontology surveys for Imperial County.
7. USGS is in the process of hiring an intern to conduct water monitoring in the Lower Colorado River. This is the seventh student hired by USGS. Three have been hired as full time employees.
8. Tim is working on a proposal to take to the hospital seeking internship/externships for students interested in applying to medical school. Many applications require some experience in a health care facility before application. The hospital HR office will review the proposal.

#### Arts, Humanities, and Human Services

The following AHHS associate faculty were recognized for their years of affiliation with Arizona Western College:

##### Five Years

Cheryl Burns, Amanda Dallabetta, Logan Holman, James Kinney, Ian Mitchell, Juan Morales, and William Pederson.

##### Ten Years

Candy Fiddes, Anita, Kreger, Peter Lhotka, Jana Moore, Kate Turpin, Lisa Vouaux, and Ernest Yates

## 15 Years

Walter Ashenfelter

### Fine Arts/PERS Learning Community

- **Scott Mclean** met with Peter Wenneberg, Director of International Programs with Universidad Bolivariana (Santiago, Chile), to explore a three part study abroad program with AWC & NAU for Fall 2008 or 2009. The program consists of a brief course in Spanish followed by a choice of courses in history, economics, and the mythology of Chiloe, an island in the South. The program would total at least 12 credits and could combine courses from AWC; Speech & English being an option. Unless the dollar continues to fall in value, this should be much less than comparable study abroad programs.
- **Charles Smalley** reported that he is preparing for a March 7 concert with his two choirs. He reported that the Music Department has begun the process of looking for a new piano teacher as Maxine D'Haiti will be moving within the next 7 months.
- **Shanen Aranmor** reported that she spoke at the International Students Reception on Friday, January 18. She was asked to highlight the classes and programs in the Physical & Wellness Education Department as well as to talk briefly about holistic health and wellness. Over the holiday break, Shanen met with worksite wellness professionals from AZ, Australia and England to work on an international protocol for worksite wellness. Shanen's expertise in environmental wellness was the driving force that invited her to this discussion. She has been asked to create a worksite environmental wellness program that will be incorporated into this protocol. Shanen reported that the Physical & Wellness Education Department is proud to announce the addition of a telecourse to the schedule: PER-115 Pilates can now be taken in 3 different formats: twice a week (as is customary with most activities classes), four times a week (M-TH), or on AWC TV. Students enrolled in the telecourse are required to attend the first and last day of class in person; all other sessions are televised daily with repeated viewings twice a week. Blackboard is used as the primary avenue for communication. For students who do not have cable TV, DVDs are mailed to them. We hope to add a similar Yoga course this summer. Shanen reported that PER 166 Technical & Multi-Terrain Rescue was approved by the Core Curriculum Committee in December. Shanen and George Montopoli have been asked by several AZ fire/EMS departments to provide this class as part of their professional development. Shanen and George are in the process of working out a timeline but the January class had to be delayed due to Dr. Montopoli's recent foot surgery.
- **Chip Straley** reported that AWCTheatre as been working with Yuma Community Theatre staging the fight choreography for their upcoming production of "Oliver". He reported that he has been working with the Two Rivers Renaissance Fair production staff teaching period fencing to the Fair personnel. Chip reported that they are currently rehearsing the AWCTheatre student production "In a Grove: Four Japanese Ghost Stories". Chip reported that he is finally getting the guts to put his classes on Blackboard and sees the benefits to his students.

### English/Reading Learning Community

- **Ed Davis** read three books that reinforce and amplify some of the main points presented in his English 170 class.
- **Michael Miller** published a film review "Try a Sample of Adam's Apples" in *The Sun* on January 10. He also wrote "Big Eye Mine: A Jewel on the Crown of the Castle Dome Range" which can be accessed on the *The Sun* web site.
- **Ed Schubert** reported that he is using Blackboard to enhance his traditional classes as well as e-gradebook to back-up his paper gradebook.

### Human Services Learning Community

- **Christina Hawkey** reported that she won Teacher of the Year. She also reported that she is working full-time for the Spring 2008 semester while Kathy Watson serves as Interim Associate Dean for the School of Science, Math, and Agriculture.

### Languages Learning Community

- **Jason Malone** reported that he conducted an outreach activity at Valle del Encanto Learning Center in Somerton during a parent night with Joan Alvarez.
- **Ellen Cohen** reported that she did the following:
  - BRTF input
  - Co-facilitator GE Core Assessment with fulltime and associate faculty: Spring Start Up Activity
  - NCA meetings with Co-Chair of Criterion 1
  - NCA meeting with Brian Doak re: Campus-wide NCA survey results

- Curriculum Planning meeting with Dean of Instruction et. al.
- Scheduling, Staffing rearrangement meetings with other ESL fulltime and associate faculty

### **Future activities:**

#### **South Yuma County**

- Looking at establishing a Student Leadership Program at South County
- Looking at establishing a Plazas Comunitarias in partnership with Gadsden School District, Mexican Consul, City of San Luis, and Campesinos Sin Fronteras
- Will plan dual enrollment strategy with San Luis High School

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

Dan Russow is working on the Title V grant application seeking funds for outfitting mathematics classrooms with necessary equipment for delivery of higher level math courses.

#### **Fine Arts/PERS Learning Community**

- Shanen Aranmor has been invited to speak at both the Winter Wellness Forum and the Positive Psychology Forum in Sedona, AZ in February. She is preparing several presentations as well as a mind-body-spirit excursion to the top of Cathedral Rock.

#### **English/Reading Learning Community**

- **Michael Miller** will be doing a monthly film review as well as hosting Sun Cinema Series in Historic Yuma Theater.
- **Ed Schubert** reported that he has been invited to present a paper at the Science Fiction Research Association's annual meeting this summer; the topic will be "A Voyage to Dystopia: Gulliver in the Land of the Houyhnhnms".