

NAU Retirees FLASH

MEETING WITH NAU'S NEW PRESIDENT

Developing New Partnerships with NAU: A Summary of our Meeting with NAU President, Dr. José Luis Cruz Rivera



On January 10, 2022, two members of our executive committee, Betsy Kerr and Kathi Zahl, and our NAU liaison, Shannan Rice, met with President Cruz Rivera via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce NAURA to President Cruz Rivera, and to explore new opportunities for NAURA to strengthen our partnership with NAU.

We are pleased to let you know that we had a positive and productive meeting. President Cruz Rivera was very supportive of exploring the development of a stronger relationship with NAURA. He expressed his appreciation for the institutional history and experience retirees offer and was clear that he values a meaningful partnership with NAU retirees. President Cruz Rivera offered to lay the groundwork for a

meeting with some of his key leadership to explore next steps for concrete strategies. We will be working on these next steps and look forward to providing updates!

**Stay tuned for NAURA's
personal meet and greet with President Cruz
Rivera later this summer!**

José Luis Cruz Rivera began his tenure as the 17th President of Northern Arizona University (NAU) on June 14, 2021. Prior to joining NAU, Dr. Cruz Rivera served as President of Lehman College of The City University of New York (CUNY) and as Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost of the 25-campus system. During his tenure at CUNY, Lehman enhanced its national reputation as an engine of social mobility and the Central Office of Academic Affairs registered important accomplishments on behalf of the University's more than 20,000 faculty members, 26,000 professional staff and 500,000 students and learners.

A leading national advocate for policies to expand opportunities and improve educational outcomes for all students—especially those who have historically been underserved—Cruz Rivera is a frequent keynote speaker and writer on higher education issues. He has testified several times before the U.S. Congress, and his work has been covered by many media outlets, including *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *Univision*.

Previously, Cruz Rivera served as provost of California State University, Fullerton. He is a former vice president of Higher Education Policy and Practice at The Education Trust in Washington, D.C. and a former Chief Student Affairs Officer for the University of Puerto Rico system. He began his career as a faculty member in engineering at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, rising through the ranks and serving as chair of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and dean of Academic Affairs.

President's Corner

Fellow Retirees,

I hope you have been able to stay safe and well during the winter months. As I write this article in late January for the April Flash issue, it is hard to predict what the landscape will look like for some of NAURA's traditional events this year. We continue to keep an eye on COVID-19 best practices and will keep you updated as we navigate this constantly changing environment!

Since our Flash last summer, we were very pleased to offer our outdoor picnic at Fox Glen Park in September. It was well attended, and it was wonderful to see all of you in person! At another point in time this would have been just another picnic, but this one felt like a reunion! Jennifer Prior, our past activities chair, did a great job planning this event. We hope to schedule another picnic this summer.

On the scholarship front, this will be the first year NAURA will be adding a second \$6,000 scholarship, allowing two awards to deserving students. Once again, thank you for making this possible through your donations to the scholarship fund!

In early January representatives from the NAURA executive committee met with our new NAU President, Dr. José Luis Cruz Rivera, to introduce him to NAURA and discuss opportunities for NAURA to partner more closely with NAU. Please review the separate article outlining the meeting in more detail, but I wanted to thank President Cruz Rivera for his enthusiastic support of NAURA! Please stay tuned for more information about a possible NAURA meet and greet with our new president later this spring/summer.

Kathi Zahl, our current president-elect will take over the reins as president in April. Kathi had a long and successful career at NAU and has served in several roles with NAURA, including membership chair and webmaster, in addition to her current president-elect position. Kathi will hit the ground running, offering strong leadership to the organization! I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as your

president and I look forward to supporting the organization in my new role as past-president!

As I mentioned in my last president's corner, to everyone out there thinking about engaging in a new opportunity, NAURA is looking for members interested in becoming involved in the organization. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact me at betsy.kerr@nau.edu or Shannan Rice at shannan.rice@nau.edu.

I would like to thank once again the NAURA Executive Committee members for their selfless volunteer service to NAURA, and Shannan Rice for her amazing support! This is a dedicated and invested group, committed to looking for ways to better serve all NAU retirees. Working with them is a privilege!

Please always feel free to reach out to me, our Executive Committee, or Shannan at any time. We look forward to more in person activities soon, and until then, enjoy the longer days and warmer temperatures as we tip into a new season! Please take good care!



Betsy Kerr
NAURA President
Betsy.Kerr@nau.edu



NAU planning in-person graduation this Spring!

In Memory of our Beloved Members

Our condolences to the families of these NAU retirees, spouses, and faculty members who have recently passed away. (Information is from published obituaries except where noted.) If you know of a retiree or spouse who has died, please contact Sherry Markel: Sherry.Markel@nau.edu.

Brakefield, Joan passed in July, 2021. Joan lived in Flagstaff for over 50 years and was an active member of the community. She was a friend and mentor to many through her 30+ years working at NAU in the History department and then the College of Health & Human Services. Her faith was a big part of her life and she was active in several church communities and prayer groups. She had a strong spirit of generosity and kindness which left an impact on so many in her life.

Fredrick, Dr. James Robertson died on August 25, 2021. James was born in Kansas City, MO on July 17, 1926. He completed a B.A. in Philosophy in 1947 at Westminster College in Fulton, MO. He completed a M.Ed. at the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1953 and a EdD in Educational Counseling in 1961. James married Ardeen Woodworth in 1953. James also served in the US Army in Germany from 1953-56. James and Ardeen moved to Flagstaff, AZ in 1961 as an assistant professor at Arizona State College (NAU). While at NAU James served as the founding director of the Counseling and Testing Center. James retired from NAU in July of 1991. While in Flagstaff James was an active member of his community through Federated Community Church, Kiwanis Club, and The Arizona Walk to Emmaus.

Miller, William Edward -November 14, 1932 - October 26,2021. Bill was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming and grew up in Sterling, Colorado. He loved sports as a young child and thrived as an athlete. He attended the University of Nebraska where he was a member of the SAE fraternity and played football for the Corn Huskers. After graduating from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Business, he went on to receive a master's and a doctorate degree from Arizona State University. Bill and Kiley moved up to Flagstaff in 1982 where Bill took the position of Assistant Dean of the College of Business at NAU. He later became the Associate Founding Dean of the renowned Hotel and Restaurant Management School and he held the esteemed title of Professor Emeritus. Bill retired from teaching in 1999 and recently was inducted into the NAU Hall of Fame from the College of Business at NAU. Bill was married to his beautiful wife Kiley for 62 years. Bill was an example of strength, dignity and integrity.

Neal, Grace M., lately of Sierra Vista, Grace passed on July 23, 2021. She was born on August 29, 1952 in Cottonwood, Arizona. Grace graduated from Mingus Union High School in Jerome, Arizona in May of 1970. She attended NAU from 1970 to 1973 receiving an Associates degree in Secretarial Science. She married Robert W. Neal who was also attending NAU at the time. They were married for 48-plus years.

Neville, Dr. Melvin King passed away on March 31, 2021. He was born in Evanston, IL. Mel graduated from Tucson High School in 1956 where he was awarded a National Merit Scholarship and won first place among Arizona high school seniors in the second annual state mathematics contest. Mel attended the California Institute of Technology and received a B.S. in Chemistry in 1960. He also obtained an M.S. in Physics and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Harvard University and a M.S. in Computer Science from Loyola University. Mel was a professor of Anthropology at University of California, Davis and at Loyola University in Chicago and retired as a full professor in Computer Science from Northern Arizona University (NAU) in June 2004. During his early career, he did fieldwork on Rhesus and then Howler Monkeys and worked for the Pan American branch of the United Nations and spent time in Trinidad, Venezuela, Columbia, and Peru. While at NAU, he also guest taught at the Technological Institute of Nogales in Mexico. Mel was a dedicated and gifted teacher who continued to be contacted by former students throughout his life, especially in regards to his infamous Mars Course. He is survived by his wife Anna of nearly 57 years.

Neville, Dr. Richard Coulston, 9 months after his brother Melvin passed away, Richard died on December 3, 2021 in Flagstaff Arizona. Richard was born in Chicago in 1936. He spent his childhood in Tucson where he developed a curiosity about the world that motivated him as an adult to study astronomy, engineering and parapsychology. He attended the California Institute of Technology where he earned a BS in 1958 and an MS in 1959 in electrical engineering. It was during his college years in Pasadena that Richard met Laura Lou Daus at a college dance. Three years later they were married. Though advancing rapidly in his field of semi-conductor physics, Richard's vivid intellect demanded new challenges and so he returned to Caltech where he earned his doctorate in two years. Richard's students, first at UCSB and later at NAU, where he taught until retirement in 1998, remember Dr. Neville as a passionate and inspiring teacher. He electrified his classes with mathematical pyrotechnics and encouraged his students to think independently through his ability to break down complex scientific theory into practical, relatable concepts. During his academic career, he published two books on solar cell technology and scientific articles. Richard is survived by his wife Laura of 65 years.

In Memory of our Beloved Members

Rodriguez, Dr. Manuel C. (Satch) passed away on Friday May 14th, 2021. Manuel was born in a small house on Beck Street in Nogales, AZ on February 26, 1938 He attended Nogales Public Schools and graduated in 1957. He received his BS at Arizona State College on a baseball scholarship and was awarded MVP. This is where he met the love of his life, Patricia Rollins from Monroe, MI. The two wed in 1961 in Nogales, AZ. He then received his Masters of Spanish at the University of Iowa. He obtained his doctorate in Spanish and Portugese Literature at the University of Arizona. He went on to become a Professor of Modern Languages at Northern Arizona University. He assisted in the development and implementation of the Spanish immersion program for the state of Arizona. Manuel was an active member of the Elks Lodge since 1975 and tirelessly supported his community. He served as Exalted Ruler in 1980-81, and later became the State President in 2001-2002.

Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT: Submitted March 8, 2022

Starting Chase Bank Balance: January 13, 2022	\$32,434.75
Revenue:	
Dues	\$30.00 (2 memberships)
Vanco	\$912.68
Expenditures	
None	
Total in Chase Bank Account, March 8, 2022	\$33,377.43
Edward Jones Account Balance: January 13, 2022	\$84,080.12
Revenue:	
One Membership	\$225.00
Loss in Account Value	(\$1,723.41)
Total in Edward Jones, March 8,2022	\$82,581.71
Total in both accounts, March 8, 2022	\$115,959.14

Get Involved - HELP Wanted

Our NAU Retirees Association has some of the most talented and interesting people. We tend to be hard working and responsible with a sense of purpose. **This is a call to YOU.** We are looking for a Benefits Representative to keep us current on our retirees benefits and we need an Arizona State Retirement System Liaison as well. These are vitally important to the association and its members. Please contact John Nauman or Shannan Rice with questions and interest.

NAURA's New Online Payment System—IT'S EASY!



If you hate writing and mailing checks, your time has come! Last spring NAURA rolled out a new online payment system for paying annual dues, life memberships, donations to the NAURA Centennial Scholarship, and fees for activities. You can pay using a credit card or from your bank account. Vanco, the company that manages transactions, has an excellent record of working with nonprofit organizations and is very secure. Your credit card or bank information is kept secure by Vanco and only your contact and retiree information is provided to NAURA.

The system is easy to access on the NAURA website at: nau.edu/naura. On the NAURA homepage you can click on the yellow link to pay membership or donate to our scholarship. Vanco helps us track your contact information and payment and sends you a receipt for your records which is used to prove NAURA membership to get your parking pass. As we begin to have more in person events such as the fall picnic or luncheons (see Upcoming Event on the homepage) there will be a link to pay if there is a fee.

If you prefer to pay by check you will still have the option. For paying dues please use the form that you can find under NAURA Information, Join/renew, Enrollment Form.

[Join/Renew NAU Membership](#)

A HUGE shoutout to Kathi Zahl, our President Elect, for updating the NAURA website!



NAU Retirees FLASH Newsletter

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Editor: Sherry Markel

Send articles to the editor at the above address or e-mail: sherry.markel@nau.edu

Helpful Web Sites by Kathleen Olivia Zahl

Hello Fabulous NAU Retirees,

Below are some resources to help navigate your retirement benefits. These sites include addresses, phone numbers and important information that will help you manage your retirement.

AARP - aarp.org

AARP has been around since 1958, helping retirees with benefits, articles on multiple topics, games and brain teasers, discounts and rewards and recommendations for just about anything!

Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) - www.arohe.org

NAURA is a member of this organization. AROHE offers webinars on various subjects (i.e. Wellness and Social Connection) and a great newsletter with articles on subjects like: [Family Caregiving](#), [COVID-19 Updates](#) and [Financial Planning](#).

Benefits Resources -

NAU retirees can find information on health, dental and vision benefits, as well as optional retirement information, at these five sites:

Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) -

<https://www.azasrs.gov/content/health-care>

This is the place to start if you are contributing to the Arizona state retirement system. Open Enrollment guides are mailed to all retirees and Long-Term Disability recipients by mid-October.

Arizona Department of Administration

(ADOA) - benefitoptions.az.gov

ADOA announce in late summer/early fall their open enrollment period benefits.

NAU BCBSAZ PPO Plan - in.nau.edu/human-resources/benefits-offered/

NAU retirees can sign up for this plan during open enrollment through ADOA.

TIAA CREF - <https://in.nau.edu/human-resources/orp/>

This is an optional retirement plan for faculty, appointed staff and service professionals.

Fidelity Investments - <https://in.nau.edu/human-resources/orp/>

This is an optional retirement plan for faculty, appointed staff and service professionals.

Medicare - medicare.gov

This site offers good information on coverage, costs, and plan comparisons if you are considering a Medicare supplement or an advantage plan, as well as useful information about Medicare.

NAURA - in.nau.edu/naura/

This is the website for your retiree's association. We have updated the website, so it is more user friendly and has additional information that is relevant to our retirees.

Road Scholar - roadscholar.org

Opportunities to learn from home (virtually) or through travel (after COVID of course) abound from this site. There is a cost, but they have some terrific programs and airfare is included on many trips.

Silver Sneakers - tools.silversneakers.com

This benefit is available through some Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplemental plans. Check your plan for eligibility. They offer membership in gyms and YMCAs across the nation, online classes, and a newsletter with health and exercise information.

Social Security Administration - www.ssa.gov

This site provides a wealth of information. You can set up your own secure *my Social Security* to change your address or manage your benefits online.



WELCOME NEW RETIREES

Aston, Claudia Jean
Bennett, Kerry Lynn
Blalock, Karen JoAnn
Branton, Barbara Joyce
Brubaker, Robert Scott
Buzzard, Anne Elizabeth
Connelly, Ann Donell
Cook, Robin
Doshier, Sally
Dudley, Diane Lucille
Dunn, Stephen J
Gallegos, Beatrice Mary
Garcia, Eiko Lang
Gillman, Elane
Gleason, Twila Jean
Grisham, Erin Kathleen
Gurkowski, Terry
Lee, Rayma Ann
Lofquist, Christine Marie
Mihay, Martin David

Myers, Therese Marie
Neuer, Patricia May
Nunez, Vivian
Pangasa, Rakesh K
Pleasant, Jill Sherman
Reed, James S
Russell, Betty Ashley
Schilling, James
Settle, Melissa Ann
Sisk, Thomas
Tajc, Daniel P
Tajc, Wendy Jean
Vallen, Gary Keith
Waddell, Darla G



Parking Passes

- You can request your 2022-23 parking passes starting August 1
- Due to position cuts, please email your information instead of calling in.
- Register your vehicle by emailing ask. Parking@nau.edu and provide:
 1. A scan of your membership card or Vanco receipt
 2. License plate, make, model, color of all vehicles associated to the permit

If you are an existing lifetime member, you don't need to do anything unless you need to change your vehicle information.

NAURA Executive Committee Directory 2020- 2021

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL
<u>ELECTED:</u>		
President	Betsy Kerr	betsy.kerr@nau.edu
President-Elect	Kathi Zahl	koz1946@hotmail.com
Past President	Rich Bowen	rich.bowen@nau.edu
Secretary	Gae Johnson	gae.johnson@nau.edu
Treasurer	Greg Larkin	greg.larkin@nau.edu
 <u>APPOINTED:</u>		
Activities Chair	Sara Aleman	sara.aleman@nau.edu
Archivist	Harlan Johnson	harlan.johnson@nau.edu
Athletics Dept. Liaison	Harlan Johnson	harlan.johnson@nau.edu
Benefits Rep	NEEDED	
Legislative Concerns	NEEDED	
ASRS Liaison	NEEDED	
Member Records	John Nauman	johnknauman@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Sherry Markel	sherry.markel@nau.edu
Scholarship Chair	Carol Mandino	cmandino@gmail.com
Web Master	Leslie Mathews	leslie_mathews@hotmail.com
Highway Cleanup	Dick Coast	richard.coast@nau.edu
Admin. Support	Shannan Rice	shannan.rice@nau.edu

NAURA PRESIDENT LIST

1985 -	Chair Organizing Comm.	2004-2005	Don Riggs
	Glenda Lake	2005-2006	Harlan Johnson
1985-1987	Clayton Chance	2006-2007	Ben Zinnecker
1987-1989	Joe Rolle	2007-2008	Charles Barnes
1989-1990	J. Lawrence Walkup	2008-2009	William Nietmann
1990-1991	Bob Wooldridge	2009-2010	Zinnecker, Barnes, Nietmann
1991-1992	Persis Fuller	2010-2011	Walter "Hoppy" Hopkins
1992-1993	Bill Lyon	2011-2012	Don McCallum
1993-1994	Ray Hagelberg	2012-2013	David Best
1994-1995	Jim Fredrick	2013-2014	David Best
1995-1996	Chuck Baldwin	2014-2015	David McKell
1996-1997	Dan Julien	2015-2016	Warren Johnson
1997-1998	Chuck Aurand	2016-2017	Toni Fox
1998-1999	George Williams	2017-2018	Norman Bertram
1999-2000	Ken Bean	2018-2019	Kathe Shinham
2000-2001	Ernest Kurmes	2019-2020	John Nauman
2001-2002	Richard Neville	2020-2021	Rich Bowen
2002-2003	Don Gilbert	2021-2022	Betsy Kerr
2003-2004	Rosemary Gray		