

NAU Retirees FLASH

NAU Retirees Association (NAURA)
<https://in.nau.edu/naura/>

HOLD THE DATE! The **NAURA Fall Picnic** will be held **September 19, 2023 at Foxglenn Park**, 4200 E. Butler Ave in Flagstaff, AZ from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Come join the fun, and camaraderie and enjoy great food with friends from NAU! Stay tuned...we will send out a Spark with information about the cost and an RSVP date in August.
* **Time for Annual Members to renew dues for 23/24— see pg. 6**

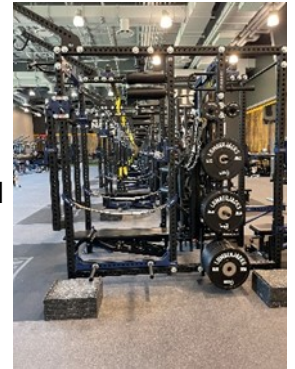


TOUR OF NAU STUDENT ATHLETE HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTER



Impressed doesn't come close to describing the new NAU Student Athlete High Performance Center! Folks, this is the real deal...this is an A+ facility with so many special features for students and coaches alike.

When you enter the building, you are presented with the Grand Hall which displays the NAU Hall of Fame, Donors, and student athletic awards. You'll also find meeting rooms and wonderful views on this level. On the tour which was arranged by our activities chair, Sara Aleman, there was so much to see, that I cannot begin to name each area.



From the huge weight room, beautiful locker rooms, and a state-of-the-art altitude training center, where you can set the altitude, and the air will change to that altitude so the athletes can train at 12,000 or 13,000 feet! From the street, the facility looks deceptively small, but it consists of 3 floors and 77,000 square feet of space. In addition to the weight room and altitude training room, there is a food bar for the athletes to carb-up or protein up after a workout, outdoor practice fields, a coaches training room that overlooks the training field and has a beautiful north-facing view of Flagstaff and the San Francisco Peaks. It also includes a student academic center with a large staff to assist athletes, a sports medicine area that employs athletic trainers and student physical therapy students and has three hydro pools; one warm jetted pool, another cold pool, and a third pool where the floor can be raised and lowered to assist athletic recovery. For an online pictorial, you can visit, <https://www.dlrgroup.com/work/nau-student-athlete-high-performance-center/> or you can arrange for an in-person tour by contacting: Mark Urick at Mark.Urick@nau.edu.



Carole Mandino

President's Corner

Dear Retirees:

So much has happened and changed in our world since I retired in 2020! It's only been three years since my retirement, and we've been through a pandemic, NAU has a new president and there has been much change on campus. Along with that change is a change in the location and department of our NAU office. We be moving in July from the Development Office on north campus to being housed at the NAU Center for Service and Volunteerism on south campus in SBS-West (building 70, room 6). We will also be welcoming fellow retiree, Nydia Nittmann, as the coordinator for the Retirees Association. This is a big change, but one that we are hopeful works out well. The Center for Service and Volunteerism (CSV) does just what its title says, they help place volunteers at NAU and in many communities throughout Arizona. We are hoping to connect with those of you who have expressed interest in volunteering to work with CSV to place you in meaningful roles. Your phone may ring with opportunity!

Like many of you, I joined the Retirees Association as a way to stay connected to NAU. I came in as the chair of the scholarship committee in the spring of 2021, then became chair-elect in 2022, and now, I am president! During my time with NAURA, I attended web-based seminars on Zoom, attended meetings, picnics, tours, luncheons and a meet and greet with President Cruz Rivera. I want to thank the NAURA leadership these past years, notably, past president, Kathi Zahl, and the previous president, Betsy Kerr. They led us through some pretty tough times—going into and coming out of the COVID pandemic. They led with integrity and trust, and I am thankful to have learned much from them. I would also like to thank Laurie Cates for being our NAU Administrative Support member. Of course, any board would not survive without the other elected and appointed persons, so a shout out to our Executive Committee on a job well-done this past year.

I am looking forward to meeting you at our Fall Picnic and/or our Holiday Dinner. We are planning to have the picnic in September and the holiday dinner in December.

Until we meet in person, if you have an interest, concern, or would like to volunteer with NAURA, NAU, or in your community, please contact either Carole.Mandino@nau.edu or Nydia.Nittmann@nau.edu.

I have been associated with NAU for almost 50 years as a student, alum, employee, or as a retiree. I bleed blue & gold and hope you enjoyed your association with NAU as well as I have.

Wishing you an excellent summer!

Carole Mandino
NAURA President 2023-
2024

Carole.Mandino@nau.edu



FLAGSTAFF COMMUNITY BAND

Sara Aleman

The Flagstaff Community Band holds a summer concert series at Heritage Square in downtown Flagstaff. Free Admission.

Saturday, July 15—starts at 5:00 PM

Friday, July 28—starts at 6:00 PM
*with the FCB JR. Band

Friday, August 11—starts at 6:00 PM



Heritage Square, Flagstaff

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.

Russell P. Balda—b. 1939. Passed 05/16/2022. Regent's professor, department of Biology, Through the Avian Cognition Center, Russ conducted research on the evolution of cognitive mechanisms in corvids, including field and laboratory studies of pinyon jays and scrub jays, integrating psychological and biological perspectives. Russ is best known for his demonstrations of the influence of sociality and seed hoarding on the memory system of corvids. Many of his important discoveries were made as a faculty member at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in partnership with his many graduate students and colleagues. He was an Elective Member (1971) and Fellow (1976) of the American Ornithological Society (AOS).

Dowling G. Campbell Passed on 04/07/2023. Dowling had a career at Northern Arizona University for 30 years as a Professor of English, Shakespeare, Southwestern Literature, Technical Writing, sometimes on interactive TV. Dowling was awarded the Favorite Teacher Award by his students in 1996. He was hired in 1972 by the Center of Integrated Studies at Northern Arizona University. He had a special fondness for students and wanted to make sure they learned to question and think!

Vicki L. Endres - b. 1953. Passed on 3/26/2023. She put herself through college, graduating from NAU with her Masters in Liberal Studies in 2006. She worked for 20 years at Northern Arizona University as the Thesis and Dissertation Coordinator in the Graduate College. Vicki loved to stay up to date on current events, politics and always had an eye for the beautiful scenery of the town she loved so much.

Ray C. Newton—b. 1935. Passed on 4/10/2023. Most of Ray's career was spent in higher education as a university professor at New Mexico Highlands University (1961-1972) and Northern Arizona University (1973-2000). He retired from NAU having served as chairman of the Journalism and Mass Communications department, Dean of the College of Creative and Communication Arts and eventually the Assistant to the President. Ray valued mentoring countless former students, many of whom he has been in touch with for decades. He also enjoyed camping and fly fishing, golf, coaching children and youth, and promoting educational opportunities by endowing scholarships throughout the state. Ray earned dozens of awards, recognitions and opportunities including: one of 10 "Outstanding Educators of America" award, Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Faculty awards, and National Coordinator and Organizer of writing workshops for "Reader's Digest."

NEWS! How to Subscribe to the NAU Review!

Several NAURA members have expressed interest in getting news from NAU. The NAU Review, published by NAU Communicaitons, is the official news source for Northern Arizona University. Anyone can subscribe by clicking on this [link](#) and filling out the form. Kerry Bennett

LEGISLATIVE REPORT .. In brief.. Stan Lindstedt

The Republicans are now back to 30 members so have the majority back. The replacement for Liz Harris is Julie Willoughby. She ran with Harris in 2022 as a team. She says she is NOT an election denier – seems that was one of the criteria established by the Maricopa County Commissioners for them to approve elevation to the legislature as Harris' replacement. The first budget bills were seen in committee Monday. Governor Hobbs has said that budget agreement was "close". Will the Democrats support the budget even if Governor Hobbs has negotiated with Republicans on it? The truth is in the details.

Governor Hobbs signed the bill that extends funding for the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind. This school has been in operation since 1912!! Normally its funding gets renewed for an 8-year period. The House passed an 8-year extension unanimously but the Senate refused to consider it for unknown reasons. This, of course, made those who run and attend this school become seriously concerned since they were never part of the legislative discussions and had no idea what the issues were. The Senate finally amended the bill to continue funding for 2 years and required a new assessment of operations – this despite the fact that a recent study of the school found NO issues. A final bill was passed but it only extended funding for 4 years. Governor Hobbs chastised the Republicans for putting the School through an unnecessary and arbitrary crisis.

Centennial Scholarship Recipients 2023



My name is **Jessica Marshall** and I am from Louisville, Colorado. I am double majoring in Biomedical Sciences and Chemistry with a Psychology minor and will be graduating from the Honors College at

Northern Arizona University in the spring of 2024. This financial support allows me to pursue research and internship opportunities, develop my leadership abilities, give back to my community, and focus my energy on my studies.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for receiving the NAURA Centennial Scholarship. I feel so fortunate to be recognized for this award, and it is truly an honor to be selected as the recipient of this scholarship. My family currently has four college-aged children, so receiving a scholarship like this is monumental for us.

Upon receiving my B.S. in Biomedical Sciences and Chemistry from Northern Arizona University, I plan to obtain an M.D./Ph.D in Neurology and aspire to practice medicine and conduct research on host-pathogen interactions in the central nervous system. I am excited by the potential of researching and developing preventative and treatment options for those affected by neurodegenerative diseases caused by pathogens. I want to create a career centered around giving back to my community and continuing the cycle of generosity that allowed me to be successful. I am committed to continuing to be a worthy recipient of this scholarship through academic excellence, my research endeavors, and my service to my community. I deeply appreciate your generosity.



My name is **Jeshua Scott**, and I was born and raised in Flagstaff Arizona. I am currently in my junior year of college studying for a bachelor's in secondary education physics, with a minor

in mechanical engineering. My love for both teaching and engineering has been heavily influenced by my father and grandfather who both worked and graduated from NAU. My late grandfather was a professor of electrical engineering and shared his technical thinking through board games and has challenged me throughout my early life to think critically and enjoy life to its fullest. My father taught at the Program for Intensive English and showed me the impact that teaching can truly have on people of all ages, cultures, and languages. I hope to teach at Coconino Highschool, the local high school that I graduated from, and after gaining a few years of experience, I want to travel the world teaching science at military base schools or schools for international children. For part of my childhood, I grew up overseas, so I would love to continue that experience

as an educator. The generous scholarship money from the NAU Retirees Association has been an incredible blessing. I want to sincerely thank you for this incredibly generous award. I am extremely grateful to receive this honor. This money will be put into savings to be used as tuition for a master's program in the future, or for housing so that I can stay in Flagstaff to teach. I want to continue the legacy of my teachers that I had in high school, inspiring future generations of educators and engineers, and working alongside my heroes is going to be a huge blessing. I have a hard time expressing the impact you have now had on my life and future, but thank you so much for your generosity.

NAURA HIGHWAY CLEAN UP ON MAY 5, 2023



Hi All! Thank you for spending your morning with the NAURA Highway Cleanup and we beat the rain!! This time we got 16 bags of trash, plus other assorted things that can't fit in the bags. Your work has helped keep our area clean and even though

most won't say it, I am sure a lot of people appreciate the work you did. I look forward to another successful venture in **October!** Good clean fun in the fresh outdoors!

Take care and have a great summer
Dick Coast

Retirees Comments on Features and Processes of ASRS and ADOA

Retirement begins as a time of new opportunities, new options, even new horizons. But it is also a time to make decisions among a myriad of choices. These leave many of us somewhere between "Dazed and Confused" and "I Can See Clearly Now," somewhere between an excitement of possibilities and a weight of decisions that must be made. For many NAU retirees, the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) and the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) play a major role in these decisions. The executive committee of NAURA would like to know your experience with the features provided by ASRS and/or ADOA and in particular whether you have encountered issues in the past or are currently encountering issues that have perplexed you, taken time undue to decipher, or led to overlooking a helpful feature. Perhaps there are things you wish you had known upon retirement about ASRS or ADOA, things you still wonder about, or issues that caused you difficulties. As we hope to be of help to members, we invite your comments about ASRS and/or ADOA that pertain to retirees. Send your comments to john.hagood@nau.edu. NAURA—ASRS Liaison.

The Road, Less Traveled



We have experienced travels by land, sea, and air to a number of countries, and we have visited all but four of the 50 states. Included in those travels have been many road trip adventures that took us to places that travelers often bypass. One of the roads less traveled is US Highway 85 cutting south to north across the western edges of Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. All three of those states contain significant areas of badlands, and any one area is so different from the others in terms of colors and features. We have toured badlands in all three of these states, and we would like to focus on those in North Dakota, for those lands are only 70 miles

from the Johnson Family farm, and we have spent much time in that area.

Several decades ago, a reporter for the Kansas City Tribune who had written some travel items for the newspaper, said he had heard people say there was no reason for tourists to visit North Dakota, so he decided to find out for himself. He went on a road trip to that state, and when he came back, he wrote an article entitled, "North Dakota: The Nation's Best Kept Secret".

One of the major attractions is Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which encompasses a significant part of the badlands. Roosevelt was a rancher in the badlands in 1884-1886, and he loved the land so much, he declared he would never have become President of the United States except for his experiences in the area that soon after his time there became the state of North Dakota.

Descriptions of the badlands area that was to be a national park came early. The Lakota called them bad lands. French fur trappers arriving at the end of the eighteenth century said they were "bad lands to cross", for they marveled at the ruggedness of the terrain. In 1864, General Alfred Sully led his U. S. Army cavalry troops well into what he called "hell with the fires out", yet he was so impressed with the formations and colors of the landscape, he also said he felt as though he was standing on the ruins of an ancient city.

Today, a city stands right at the entrance to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and that city has only about 120 permanent residents. The community of Medora and the national park attract an average of 600,000 visitors per year. Medora, itself, draws over 117,000 visitors to its outdoor amphitheater that offers the Medora Musical every summer (which features singers and dancers from coast-to-coast). The musical is a tribute to Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders and to America. The amphitheater is built into a large natural bowl in the landscape. Because of its size and capacity, escalators and elevators are provided to transport visitors to their seats. Also, the stage is large enough to accommodate horses with their riders.

The extensive, rugged national park offers a 36-mile loop drive with many overlooks, views of the Little Missouri River, herds of bison and wild horses, and a petrified forest that is home to the third largest concentration of petrified wood in the United States. We have hiked to the petrified forest, and most of the large specimens are stumps that were alive 55-67 million years ago. Many of the stumps are standing upright and measure as much as eight feet high. (Note the National Park Service photo at the top of the page showing one of the largest stumps.)

Gae's brother, Garry Brown, spent a good share of his life traveling the globe, for both work and pleasure.

When he was asked where he was going next, he would say, "Someplace I've never been". We have found new, out-of-the-way places so often on road trips, but our choice is to also revisit the truly enjoyable discoveries. Given the chance, we will be back with remembering our visits to the Nebraska and South Dakota badlands, as well.

Harlan and Gae Johnson



Treasurer's Report

Submitted June 30, 2023—Greg Larkin, Treasurer

Starting Chase Bank Balance: April 30, 2023	\$34,829.32
Revenue: Dues / Deposits	\$290.00 (7 memberships and 4 luncheons)
From Edward Jones	\$270.56
Vanco*	\$2,085.33 (12 luncheons and 34 member- ships)
Expenditures: Luncheon	\$1,606.92
Scholarships	\$9,105.88

*I will not show amounts from Vanco until they are actually recorded in a Chase statement. Hence, payments from Vanco will be slightly behind by roughly three weeks.

Total in Chase Bank Account: June 30, 2023	\$26,491.85
Edward Jones Account Balance: April 30, 2023	\$79,179.30
Loss in Account Value	(\$666.87)
Total in Edward Jones: June 30, 2023	<u>\$78,512.43</u>
Total in both accounts: June 30, 2023	<u>\$105,004.28</u>
*Scholarship Donations since April 1, 2022	\$1,130.00

ANNUAL MEMBERS DUES, ANNUAL NAURA PARKING PASS, & TRANSITIONS

The time has come for Annual Members to pay your \$30. dues for July 1 of 2023 to June 30 of 2024. If you have already paid, thanks! The annual parking permit window has been changed to match the NAURA year of **July 1 to June 30** so you can contact parking services to renew your parking pass now up to August 14. Next year we will be asking all Annual Members to pay dues and update their parking pass June 1-30 so your pass will start July 1 in the future. This helps parking services and new retirees. This policy does not affect Life Members who only pay once when they join. To renew you can pay online or printout a membership form, complete it, and mail it with a check as noted on the form. This link provides more details and the form (click on the Join/Renew Membership link in the gold box): <https://in.nau.edu/naura/>

Details on parking permits can be found at: <https://in.nau.edu/naura/parking-pass/>

Have a great rest of your summer! John Nauman, Membership Chair

NAU Retirees FLASH Newsletter

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Northern Arizona University
P. O. Box 5601 Flagstaff AZ 86011-5601

Editor: Sherry Markel and Thomas Carpenter

The FLASH is published as determined by the Executive Committee. Special editions are published as needed. The newsletters are mailed ONLY to **paid** NAURA members who do not have email and request a paper copy.

Material for publication is welcome, subject to Executive Committee approval.
Send articles to the editor at the above address or e-mail: sherry.markel@nau.edu

WELCOME NEW RETIREES



Canda E. Byrne

Laura Lee Crouch

Frank David Davidson

Walter Joseph Delecki

Steven Paul Farmer

Kurt John Fenske

Sharon C Lovich

Deborah J. Little McCormick

Renee M McCooley

Eric Michael O'Connell

Donald R. Peterson

Pamela Jane Powell

Erin K. Shelley

Chong H. Shin

James Frederick Slebodnick

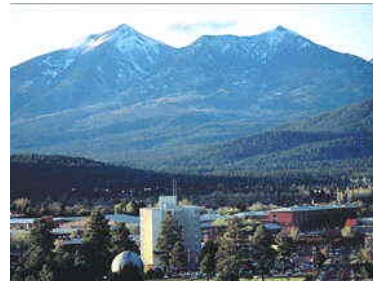
NAU Road Scholar Program

Our featured speaker at the May 5 NAURA luncheon was Mary Hansen, Director of NAU Road Scholar. Mary shared an overview of the origins of the national organization, which was founded in 1975 as Elderhostel, as well as insights into the operations behind the local Road Scholar program and how it got started at NAU. Today, Road Scholar offers more than 5,000 learning adventures all over the world with programs that combine travel and education.

NAURA member Kerry Bennett, who is a Road Scholar Ambassador, assisted Mary by talking about her own experience as a participant in multiple Road Scholar learning adventures, from Greece and Italy to Yosemite and Yellowstone.

If you would like more information about Road Scholar programs or would like to sign up to receive catalogs, you can contact Kerry at Kerry.Bennett@nau.edu.

Kerry Bennett
Chief Creative Officer, Illumination Science Writing & Creative Services



NAURA Executive Committee Directory 2023- 2024

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL
<u>ELECTED:</u>		
President	Carole Mandino	Carolem.naura@gmail.com
President-Elect	Rich Bowen	Rb@genterranenterprises.com
Past President	Kathleen Zahl	koz1946@hotmail.com
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	Bruce Fox	goldenbear196921976@gmail.com
Benefits Rep	Betsy Kerr	betsy.kerr@nau.edu
Highway Cleanup	Richard Coast	richard.coast@nau.edu
Legislative Concerns	Stan Lindstedt	stan.lindstedt@gmail.com
ASRS/ADOA Liaison	John Hagood	john.hagood@nau.edu
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Web Master	Leslie Mathews	leslie_mathews@hotmail.com
Admin. Support	Nydia Nittmann	Nydia.nittmann@nau.edu

NAURA PRESIDENT LIST

1985 - Chair Organ.Comm.-Glennnda 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	Elizabeth Kerr
2003-2004 Rosemary Gray	2022-2023	Kathleen Olivia Zahl
2004-2005 Don Riggs		