

# Jubilación

RETIREMENT

A UARA publication for retirees

Volume 29, No. 2

January 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Suzanne Van Ort, president, The University of Arizona Retirees Association*

Greetings and welcome to the New Year! Exciting opportunities are available through UARA as we begin this spring 2008 season. We have more than 1000 members who have joined in supporting UARA this year and we appreciate each person's commitment.

The UARA Executive Committee and Council have adopted Goals for 2007-2008 reflecting our commitment to serving retirees, strengthening our links to the University, sustaining UARA through social and educational functions, providing scholarships, and improving communication with external agencies. Built on the goals set forth in 2006-2007, UARA goals this year will provide direction to our activities in the coming months.

The fall luncheon at Skyline Country Club was well attended. UA President Robert Shelton and his wife Adrian joined us. President Shelton provided an update on the exciting accomplishments and national rankings attained by several University departments. UA Vice-President for External Relations Steve MacCarthy will speak at the April luncheon to be held on Saturday, April 12th, at Tucson Country Club. The winter luncheon is on January 31st at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch. Linda Pace has done an excellent job in arranging these three luncheons.

The UARA Council meetings provide wonderful opportunities to meet our retiree group and to learn from the invited speakers. The speakers this fall included: Vice-President for External Relations Steve MacCarthy who discussed the Statewide Perception Study; Liz Barta from the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center who provided information on the services of that unit as well as important poison prevention information for seniors; and Associate Vice-President for Government Relations Greg Fahey who described the legislative agenda anticipated for spring 2008. Lively discussions accompanied each of the speaker presentations.

This spring speakers will include: January, Lynne Tronsdal, assistant vice-president for Student Retention and vice-president for Enrollment Management; March, Associate Vice-President for Federal Relations Shay Stautz; May, Dean of Libraries

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Carla Stoffle. We invite you to join us for any or all of these informative and enjoyable meetings.

Council meetings, excepting January, are held the second Tuesday of the month from 9 – 11 a.m., in Room 104 of the Vine Building, located at 1125 N. Vine across from the new Poetry Center. Parking is available adjacent to the building. The one exception, January 15th, will be in Swede Johnson, 205. Please come and learn with us.

We look forward to a successful and productive spring and we welcome your participation. Best wishes for a Happy New Year! Thank you for your support of UARA.

*Suzanne Van Ort*

**UARA GOALS 2007/2008  
(Approved October 9, 2007)**

**Goal: Strengthen external relationships**

**Objective: Review and explore the function of UARA/University involvement**

1) Promote relationships between retirees and the University:

- a) Invite President Robert Shelton to UARA Council meeting and luncheons
- b) Create stronger, clearer Human Resources/retirees connection
  - Identify pertinent contacts in Human Resources
  - List and explore possibilities of areas we would like Human Resources to offer to retirees, e.g., UARA participation in retiree seminars
  - Identify how UARA can benefit Human Resources

**Objective: Formalize the relationship between UA and UARA**

- 1) Communicate with President Shelton to confirm: office space; internet access; UARA/Irving Yall Scholarship; graduate scholarship; contributions of volunteers to UA
- 2) Communicate periodically with UA Foundation regarding Sparks and scholarship accounts

**Jubilación**

**Objective: Improve cross communication between retirees and actives**

- 1) Include reports to/from Faculty Senate, Appointed Professionals, Staff Advisory Council
- 2) Provide copy of Jubilación for soon-to-be-retirees with cover letter and brochure to introduce them to UARA and invite involvement
- 3) Distribute Jubilación at retirement seminars and at the department level
- 4) Develop and disseminate revised UARA brochure
- 5) Publicize University events of interest to retirees in Jubilación, e.g., college seminars (Humanities series); publicize UARA activities to actives through the Wildcat

**Objective: Develop a constructive relationship with other units**

- 1) Legislative: University Federal Relations contact; ADVOCATS; Lobby Us Congress
- 2) Community: OASIS, PCOA, OLLI

**Goal: Sustain UARA**

**Objective: Provide social and educational functions that meet or exceed current standards**

- 1) Arrange three luncheons: October 18, Skyline Country Club; January 31, Tanque Verde Guest Ranch; April 12, Tucson Country Club
- 2) Offer two or more annual seminars of value to retirees

**Goal: Provide Scholarships**

**Objective: Provide Irving Yall Book Scholarship to Undergraduate Student**

**Objective: Provide Club 60 Graduate Scholarship to Graduate Student**

**Goal: Energize Council meetings**

**Objective: Increase Council by five active participating members by May 30, 2008**

**Objective: Monthly invited speakers (15-20 min.) (notice of speakers in Jubilacion)**

President Robert Shelton, VP External Relations Steve MacCarthy, Associate VP Government Relations Greg Fahey, Associate VP Federal Relations Shay Stautz

*“Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be.” – the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.*

**University of Arizona Retirees Association Mission Statement**

*Purpose:* to foster the benefit, interests, and well-being of the retired faculty and staff of the University of Arizona through social, educational, and promotional activities, as well as to encourage continuing contact between retirees and the University.

*Membership:* open to University of Arizona retired faculty, appointed professionals, staff, and their spouses.

## GREAT WEBSITE FOR SENIORS

*George Evanoff*

A website designed especially for adults 60 years of age and older who are looking for health information online can be found at

<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/listoftopics.html>

The web site's senior-friendly features include large print, short, easy-to-read segments of information and simple navigation. NIH Seniorhealth is a joint venture produced by the National Institute on Aging and the National Library of Medicine.

## COALITION MEETING AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Uwe Fink, Chair, Legislative Committee*

### Coalition Meeting

The annual Coalition meeting was held on November 5 in Phoenix at the new Arizona Education Association building. The Coalition consists mainly of retirees of the Arizona Education Association and the three Arizona universities. Jim Burke represented UARA. The topics discussed follow.

*Return to work issue.* The Arizona Education Association (AEA) pointed out a nascent problem with teachers retiring early, then being rehired by two private businesses: "Smart Schools" and "Educational Services Incorporated." These businesses hire retirees full time and then lease them back to school districts, thus avoiding the one year waiting time in the law and avoiding having to pay ASRS contributions. This started out as a well-meaning program to help rural school districts but is now starting to become a problem. The school districts are now using it to avoid hiring new young teachers and thus there are fewer younger people paying into the ASRS defined benefit plan. The Arizona Education Association asked ASRS to perform an actuarial study. It showed that this raised the employee contribution rate as well as the matching employer contribution rate by 0.08% each. While it does not appear to be a severe problem at present, ASRS is continuing to monitor the situation and is looking into possible legislative action should the problem become worse.

*Equity Legislation.* This legislation involves extending the same higher graded multiplier to those persons who retired before May 2001 as the persons who retired after that date. This legislation has been introduced for the past few years but has not been successful. Due to the state budget problems this year, it was felt that it was not a propitious time to submit it again; so, no action was taken on this item.

*Legislative Action.* A unanimous vote was taken to support the ASRS legislative proposals (described below) for this year.

### Legislative Issues

ASRS is looking at several legislative issues to alleviate the pressure on the contribution rates, which have been rising substantially over the last few years. These issues were brought up last year but failed to pass the legislature. The suggested changes will only affect new hires.

The major issues are summarized very briefly below. There are, in addition, a number of technical and procedural changes proposed which are not described.

*Rule of 85.* This would change the calculation of full retirement benefits (age plus years of service must equal 85) from the present rule of 80.

*Average Monthly Salary.* To alleviate "spiking" the last year or two of employment, retirement pay would be calculated for the five highest salary years out of the last ten years, instead of the present three highest out of the last five years.

*Employer Refunds.* Employees leaving employment before they are fully vested in the ASRS retirement system will only get 25% of the employer's contributions plus 4% interest. They will get all of their own contributions.

If you have any legislative issues or ideas that you believe should be brought forward, we would welcome your input.

Pronunciation guide:

HOO-BEE-LAH-SEEOWN = Jubilación

## U of A NEW SOLUTION COALITION

The University is developing a master email list of supporters. Greg Fahey, associate vice-president, Government Relations, spoke at a recent Council meeting. When queried how retirees could be of assistance to the University, he recommended the New Solution Coalition, a university listserv. All friends of the University who respond will receive legislative and other updates on issues of importance to the University via email. If you would like to be included, call or email our office (325-4366; uara@dakotacom.net) and indicate your interest together with your name and email address. UARA will serve as a collection point for retirees and will transmit the collected names and email addresses to the office of Greg Fahey.

## 48TH ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE January 2007 – January 2009

Southern Arizona Legislative Districts (Tucson Office) 40  
W. Congress St., #201, 85701,  
Senators/Representatives, 398-6000,  
FAX 398-6028;  
Phoenix Office: State Capitol, Senate Wing/  
House Wing, 1700 W. Washington 85007;  
Toll free telephone line 1-800-352-8404

#	Name/Party/Email	Phone
25	Sen. Marsha Arzberger (D) marzberger@azleg.gov	602-926-4321
	Rep. Manuel Alvarez (D) malvarez@azleg.gov	602-926-5895
	Rep. Jennifer J. Burns (R) jburns@azleg.gov	602-926-5836
26	Sen. Charlene Pesquiera (D) cpesquiera@azleg.gov	602-926-4326
	Rep. Pete Hershberger (R) phershberger@azleg.gov	602-926-5839
	Rep. Lena Saradnik (D) lsaradnik@azleg.gov	602-926-3398
27	Sen. Jorge Garcia (D) jgarcia@azleg.gov	602-926-4171
	Rep. Olivia Cajero Bedford (D) ocajerobedford@azleg.gov	602-926-5835
	Rep. Phil Lopes plopez@azleg.gov	602-926-3278

28	Sen. Paula Aboud paboud@azleg.gov	602-926-5262
	Rep. David Bradley (D) dbradley@azleg.gov	602-926-3300
	Rep. Steve Farley (D) sfarley@azleg.gov	602-926-3022
29	Sen. Victor Soltero (D) vsoltero@azleg.gov	602-926-5342
	Rep. Linda Lopez (D) llopez@azleg.gov	602-926-4089
	Rep. Tom Prezelski (D) tprezelski@azleg.gov	602-926-3424
30	Sen. Tim Bee (R) tbee@azleg.gov	602-926-5683
	Rep. Marian McClure (R) mmclure@azleg.gov	602-926-3312
	Rep. Jonathan Paton (R) jpaton@azleg.gov	602-926-3235

**United States Congress:** U.S. Capitol Switchboard  
(202) 224-3121; Toll free: 1-800-648-3516

**Senators:** 6 year terms: U.S. Senate, Washington,  
D.C., 20510 www.senate.gov  
John McCain (R) mccain.senate.gov/public/ 450 W.  
PaseoRedondo #200, Tucson, 85701, 670-6334;  
John Kyl (R) kyl.senate.gov/contact.cfm 6840 N.  
Oracle Rd., Tucson, 85704, 575-8633

**Representatives:** 2-year terms; House of Representa-  
tives, Washington, D.C. 20515 www.house.gov

1. Rick Renzi (R) www.house.gov/renzi Showlow,  
866-537-2800 (toll free)
2. Trent Franks (R) www.house.gov/franks Glendale,  
623-776-7911
3. John Shadegg (R) www.house.gov/shadegg Phoenix,  
602-263-5300
4. Ed Pastor (D) www.house.gov/pastor Phoenix,  
602-256-0551
5. Harry Mitchell (D) www.house.gov/mitchell Tempe,  
480-755-3343
6. Jeff Flake (R) www.house.gov/flake Mesa,  
480-833-0092
7. Raul M. Grijalva (D) www.grijalva.house.gov 810 E.  
22d St., #102, 85713, 622-6788
8. Gabrielle Giffords (D) www.giffords.house.gov 1661  
N Swan Rd., Ste. 112, 85712, 881-3588

**NEWS FROM ASRS***Keith E. Meredith*

We appear to be reaching the end of “the sky is falling” period of the current pension fund economic cycle. Since the early 2000s with the decline in the stock market, lobbyists and critics of Defined Benefit (DB) plans have been predicting massive failures in private and public pension plans and have pointed to falling funding levels and rising contribution rates as evidence of this pending disaster. Granted, some of these spokespersons raised important points for consideration. However, many were using the situation to leverage personal agendas and ideologies. A major thrust during this period was to move risk to the employee and away from the employer, whether that employer was a corporation or a government entity. This is an example of a contrary position that is often, if not usually, observed when a fund is stressed. A similar reaction was observed when ASRS had uncommon surpluses during the nineties when lobbyists and constituents pushed for increases in benefits for employees and decreases in contribution rates given the “overfunded” status of the plan. Extreme conditions provide opportunities for lobbyists and critics to push contrary positions. The trick is to maintain a long-range and consistent perspective that can be delineated reasonably and somewhat accurately given the multitude of assumptions that must be made. Trust me, this is no small task. Given the “crystal ball” nature of this venture it is somewhat gratifying to start reading validating reports across the country that are congruent with our projections.

The federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) just produced a report on the retirement benefits and funding status of state and local governments. The perspective represented in this report is a realistic view of the state and local government sector. It outlines an array of projections of funding levels that taxpayers will likely face in coming years. Some conclusions reached by the report include the following.

- Most pension plans are “on track.” Nationally, public pension funds on average will need to collect an additional 0.3 percent in contribution rates from employers and employees. Contribution rates will then peak and slowly begin to decline.

ASRS is slightly ahead of this trend. We will see our

first decline in contribution rates in 2008 and, according to our projections, will continue to demonstrate slight declines into the following years. This is after increases in contribution rates over the last several years. One must always remember that these are projections in a very volatile economic and political era. We must also be cognizant that there continue to be exceptions across the country where states, municipalities, trustees and/or other policy-makers have been negligent in their duties and have inadequately funded their pension programs or have engaged in fraudulent activities. These anomalies are frequently publicized as if they represented all programs when, in fact, they are an extreme minority.

- Many states and local governments face large financial hurdles in order to fulfill their pledges to pay other post-employment benefits (OPEB). The most notable among these are medical benefits promises. Beginning this year, state and local governments are required to report the cost of providing other post-employment benefits (OPEB) in addition to pension benefits. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), the source of generally accepted accounting principles for state and local governments, released statements 43 and 45, which contain this new reporting requirement. Many states will see their funding status decline resulting in higher contribution rates because of this requirement.

ASRS anticipated this change a year ago and has already included the requirement in the 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This requirement will have little or no effect on future Arizona CAFRs because of the nature of our medical subsidies that are funded out of a dedicated health-care trust fund. Other recommendations were made by the GAO report for suggested changes in the funding of health-care benefits. ASRS has already incorporated many of these recommendations into their programs.

In summary, your ASRS has weathered the storm of the past several years following the market downturn and appears to be moving into smoother waters. However, we must continue to be diligent in our efforts to mitigate the effects of such future downturns.

As a further note, the ASRS has been recently awarded two prestigious awards. The first award is the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting given by the Government Finance Officer’s Association for the June 30, 2006, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

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This is the nineteenth consecutive year the ASRS has earned this recognition. The second award is the Pension Standards Award for 2007 from the Public Pension Coordinating Council. The award recognizes the ASRS for “meeting professional standards for plan design and administration.” This is the third consecutive year the ASRS has earned the award.

It is better to receive awards for meeting or surpassing standards than to receive criticism for not having standards.

*As we reach our senior years, “Jumping for Joy is Good Exercise.”*

## END OF LIFE REALITY COSCO REPORT

*Janice Murphy*

The Council of Senior Citizens Organization (COSCO) includes representatives from all the senior citizen organizations in Tucson, as well as individuals who are interested in their programs. COSCO’s sponsor is the Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) (790-0504).

The November meeting of COSCO dealt with “End of Life Reality, What Needs to be Done?” This was well attended - additional chairs were brought in – an indication of the interest this topic creates. The speakers were Captain Norman Carlton, Tucson Fire Department; Dr. Bruce Parks, Chief Medical Examiner, Pima County Forensic Science Center; Marianne Schloss, Casa de la Luz Hospice; and Janet Jacobs, Funeral Consumer Alliance.

Briefly, if an individual expectedly, or unexpectedly, dies at home, dial 911. If the individual is under hospice care, call hospice and they will take care of everything. The process will take several hours. The second call that is made should be to a family member or friend who can be with you.

The Chief Medical Examiner’s Office could become involved if a doctor is not available to sign the death certificate or if there is some doubt as to the cause of death. They are involved in about 20% of the deaths in the area.

The goal of hospice is a respectful, peaceful end of life

for individuals. When a physician deems that there is only six months or more of life and when aggressive treatment is no longer wanted, the individual can be his/her own advocate. A case manager is assigned, medication is given to manage pain, a social worker helps individuals to put their affairs in order and deal with the legalities. Hospice allows family to be family.

The Funeral Consumers Alliance ([www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org); 520-721-0230) has been in Tucson since 1961. It is one of three affiliates in Arizona (Tucson, Prescott, Phoenix) and 130 in the United States. Its purpose is to provide members with low funeral pricing. The Tucson affiliate contracts with Hudgel’s-Swan Funeral Home. There is a one-time membership fee of \$40, \$10 annually thereafter, for those who can afford it, to pay for office staffing.

As an individual, ensure that everyone in your family knows your end of life wishes.

Funeral homes are regulated while cemeteries are not. The Federal Trade Commission publishes, “Funerals: A Consumer Guide,” ([www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov); 1-877-382-4357), from which the following excerpts have been taken.

“Funerals rank among the most expensive purchases many consumers will ever make... Thinking ahead can help you make informed and thoughtful decisions about funeral arrangements. It allows you to choose the specific items you want and need and compare the prices offered by several funeral providers. It also spares your survivors the stress of making these decisions under the pressure of time and strong emotions....

“The Funeral Rule, enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, requires funeral directors to give you itemized prices in person and, if you ask, over the phone.” A helpful guide follows:

### “PLANNING FOR A FUNERAL

1. Shop around in advance. Compare prices from at least two funeral homes. Remember that you can supply your own casket or urn.
2. Ask for a price list. The law requires funeral homes to give you written price lists for products and services.
3. Resist pressure to buy goods and services you don’t really want or need.

4. Avoid emotional overspending. It's not necessary to have the fanciest casket or the most elaborate funeral to properly honor a loved one.
5. Recognize your rights. Laws regarding funerals and burials vary from state to state. It's a smart move to know which goods or services the law requires you to purchase and which are optional.
6. Apply the same smart shopping techniques you use for other major purchases. You can cut costs by limiting the viewing to one day or one hour before the funeral....
7. Plan ahead. It allows you to comparison shop without time constraints, creates an opportunity for family discussion, and lifts some of the burden from your family.

**PRICES TO CHECK**

Make copies of this page and check with several funeral homes to compare costs.

“Simple” disposition of the remains:

- Immediate burial \_\_\_\_\_
- Immediate cremation \_\_\_\_\_
- If the cremation process is extra, how much is it? \_\_\_\_\_
- Donation of the body to a medical school or hospital \_\_\_\_\_

“Traditional,” full-service burial or cremation:

- Basic services fee for the funeral director and staff \_\_\_\_\_
- Pickup of body \_\_\_\_\_
- Embalming \_\_\_\_\_
- Other preparation of body \_\_\_\_\_
- Least expensive casket \_\_\_\_\_
- Description, including model # \_\_\_\_\_
- Outer burial container (vault) \_\_\_\_\_
- Description \_\_\_\_\_
- Visitation/viewing – staff and facilities \_\_\_\_\_
- Funeral or memorial service – staff and facilities \_\_\_\_\_
- Graveside service, including staff and equipment \_\_\_\_\_
- Hearse \_\_\_\_\_
- Other vehicles \_\_\_\_\_
- Total \_\_\_\_\_

Other Services:

- Forwarding body to another funeral home \_\_\_\_\_
- Receiving body from another funeral home \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery/Mausoleum Costs:

- Cost of lot or crypt (if you don't already own one) \_\_\_\_\_
- Perpetual care \_\_\_\_\_
- Opening and closing the grave or crypt \_\_\_\_\_
- Grave liner, if required \_\_\_\_\_
- Marker/monument (including setup) \_\_\_\_\_”

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- January 15**, Council meeting, Swede Johnson, 205 9 – 11 a.m., Guest speaker, Lynne Tronsdal
- January 22**, Seminar, Agua Caliente Park
- January 31**, Luncheon, Tanque Verde Guest Ranch
- February 12**, Council meeting, 1125 N Vine, 104 9 – 11 a.m.
- March 11**, Council meeting, 1125 N Vine, 104 9 – 11 a.m., Guest speaker, Shay Stautz
- April 8**, Council meeting, 1125 N Vine, 104 9 – 11 a.m., Guest speaker, Carla Stoffle
- April 12**, Luncheon, Tucson Country Club, Guest speaker, Steve MacCarthy
- May 13**, Council meeting, 1125 N Vine, 104 9 – 11 a.m.

**Perks of being over 55**

- Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- No one expects you to run into a burning building.
- People call at 9 PM and ask, “Did I wake you?”
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- There is nothing left to learn the hard way.

## THE HUMANITIES SEMINAR AN ADVENTURE IN LEARNING

*Cornelius Steelink*

Snow birds, retirees, Tucson residents, they all love the Humanities Seminar Series.

Now in its 24th year of existence, the Humanities Seminar Series continues to captivate adults who are in serious pursuit of intellectual stimulation and enrichment. A top-notch UA professor teaches each seminar. The seminars cover a wide range of topics, including classics, history, archeology, astronomy, religion, music, art, poetry and much more. Each three-hour class is held once a week for a ten-week period. Professor David Soren of the Classics department is director of the program.

Would you like to enroll in a class this spring? Three seminars are offered all starting the fourth week of January 2008.

**Women Writers of the Spanish Empire.** Amy Williamsen, Department of Spanish; Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., starting January 22.

**The Modern Psychological Novel.** Adele Barker, Department of Russian and Slavic Studies; Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., starting January 23, 2008.

**Political Shakespeare.** Peter Medine, Department of English; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., starting January 24. Fee: \$155 for each seminar.

Meeting room: The UA Poetry Center, Dorothy Rubel Room, 1508 E. Helen Street.

Parking: High Garage, Helen and Vine Street, \$5 parking fee for four hours.

Registration: Call Kirsten Miller: 626-7845 for registration forms and information.

## MORE ON WINE WITH FOOD

*W. "Marty" Greenlee, Professor Emeritus  
Department of Mathematics and Graduate Inter-  
disciplinary Program Advisory Council in Applied  
Mathematics*

While much that is written about wine extols the virtues of a vintage of a particular producer's wine, most of the wine marketed in the world is "jug wine" or "box wine." Even in France, only 35% of the wine produced has the "AOC" designation, which means that minimum requirements are set by law. Once in the Loire Valley we saw ladies in a village

near Amboise carry empty buckets to the local vintner to get their day's wine supply from his tap. Apparently many people that enjoy wine aren't concerned with the wine writer's nuances that were parodied on *Fraser*, the TV sitcom. If you like an inexpensive wine, but think it's a bit sharp, try chilling it. Chilling tends to dampen wine flavors, which works well with boxed wine (a wine cow, as one friend put it) stored in the fridge. Conversely, excessive chilling is a detriment to the flavor of first rate wine, including whites.

Aeration, or "letting a wine breathe," can be beneficial to the taste of red wine. However, my personal experience is that this only works with some wines that are at least moderately expensive, say over \$20 a bottle. The effect can be striking. On one special family occasion we opened two bottles of Chateauneuf du Pape, one produced by Vieux-Telegraphe (here and later some diacritical marks are missing) and the other from Beaucastel. Both were great, but about halfway through the meal the Beaucastel became sublime while the Vieux-Telegraphe didn't change. I have no idea how to tell this in advance, unless the vintner makes such a recommendation on the back label. Big bodied reds sometimes "open up" a bit if allowed to breathe. This can be hastened by decanting the wine, or via various aeration devices one can purchase. These will also remove sediment. The presence of sediment in a wine merely means that it hasn't been filtered. Many excellent wines will have a little sediment.

How do you find enjoyable inexpensive wines? In a word, shop (and eliminate those you don't like). There's a lot of wine available at \$5 or \$6 per bottle or less, and some of it is quite good. The big California wine makers, such as Beringer and Mondavi, make wine that sells at widely varying prices, and the lower priced ones can be quite tasty. Woodbridge wine from Mondavi is good wine at a bargain price. Charles Shaw or "three buck Chuck," sold at Trader Joe's, is remarkably smooth for the price, though I personally don't think it's very interesting. Riesling from Washington wine makers, such as Chateau Ste. Michelle or Columbia Crest, is bargain priced, good for sipping, and complements many foods well. These US wines, and many reasonably priced Australian wines, tend to be easily available at any time.

There are also bargain European wines available,

though you may well find that your supplier is out of your favorites. Italian Pinot Grigio, the same grape as Pinot Gris from Alsace or Oregon in a different style, is widely available at prices varying from less than \$5 on up. Some of it is sharp, but a lot is good. If you can find Placido Pinot Grigio it tends to be a real bargain (when available you'll find it in drug and grocery stores). The same is true of Placido Chianti, but I haven't seen that in stores for many months. Soave is another reasonably priced white wine from northeastern Italy. A real bargain here is Gaetano d' Aquino Soave at Trader Joe's for \$4. Nice Sicilian wine can be found here at good prices. The Italians have come a long way since some producers were caught exporting red wine made by coloring white wine with goat's blood some 40 years ago.

A common thread in the above paragraph is wines that come from regions in Italy not as famous and pricey as Piedmont (Barolo, Barbaresco, etc.) and Tuscany (Chianti, Brunello de Montalcino, etc.). There is a huge region in the south of France called Languedoc-Roussillon where lots of wine has been made at least as far back as Roman times. It used to be known for oceans of mediocre wine, but standards have improved. I've purchased very good red wine from Corbieres – that's an appellation, or wine region, in the Languedoc – from both Trader Joe's and The Rum Runner for \$10 or less. One that I have now, produced by Les Deux Rives, actually tells you what the mix of grapes is – 40% Grenache (Garnacha in Spanish), 30% Syrah (called Shiraz in Australia), 20% Mourvedre, and 10% Carignan. That's a blend of grapes common to wines from the Southern Rhone, usually at higher prices. To seek out deals like these it helps to know a bit about how wine from different places is labeled. In the US, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, wines are usually labeled by the dominant grape variety. In France, with the exception of Alsace, wines are labeled by the region. If you see a French Merlot, a grape used in Bordeaux but not in Alsace, it's wine that is only exported. It might be okay, but I pass on wine made only for foreigners. Perhaps the most important information on the label is the producer. That's who is responsible for the quality.

This brings up the subject of "what's in the bottle." Most wines are blends of different wine grapes. It's easier for vintners to turn out good wine year after year if they are allowed to blend. If you buy a California wine with the grape variety on the label, a minimum of 75% of the wine must be derived from that grape variety. In France, wines from Bor-

deaux and most other areas are blends, but wines from Burgundy are not. Red Burgundy is Pinot Noir, white Burgundy is Chardonnay, while Beaujolais is Gamay. Currently there is good white Burgundy available at Trader Joe's for \$10 - \$11, and a nice Pouilly Fume (dry Sauvignon Blanc) at the same price. Beaujolais is mostly inexpensive, and from a major "negociant" such as Georges De Boeuf or Louis Jadot, a pleasant, uncomplicated, light red. It's great with hamburgers and pairs well with the flavors of Mexican food too. I'm referring here to Beaujolais or the somewhat more upscale Beaujolais-Villages. Beaujolais Nouveau is released once a year in November for a sort of national "block party" in France. Sometimes it's flavored, one year with banana flavoring.

Enjoy.

***May your troubles be less, your blessings be more,  
and nothing but happiness come through your door!***

What I kept, I lost.  
What I spent, I had.  
What I gave, I have.  
--Persian proverb

Each time a man stands up for an ideal,  
or acts to improve the life of others,  
or strikes out against injustice,  
he sends a tiny ripple of hope,  
and those ripples,  
crossing each other from a million  
different centers of energy,  
build a current which can sweep down  
the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.  
--Robert F. Kennedy

Ehu ahiahi.

Evening twilight.

In English, "old age."

The Hawaiian expression is far gentler  
and infinitely more poetic.

--Hawaiian Proverb

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA®

Arizona's First University.



## CAMPUS WALKING AND SHUTTLE TOURS

### WALKING 2008 TOUR DATES

January 23	10:00 a.m.
January 30	10:00 a.m.
February 6	10:00 a.m.
February 13	10:00 a.m.
February 20	10:00 a.m.
February 27	10:00 a.m.
March 5	10:00 a.m.
March 12	10:00 a.m.
March 19	10:00 a.m.
March 26	10:00 a.m.
April 2	10:00 a.m.
April 9	10:00 a.m.
April 16	10:00 a.m.
April 23	10:00 a.m.
April 30	10:00 a.m.

### SHUTTLE 2008 TOUR DATES:

February 2	10:00 a.m.
March 1	10:00 a.m.
April 5	10:00 a.m.
May 3	10:00 a.m.
June 7	10:00 a.m.

The **UA Alumni Association** and **UA Visitor Center** invite all Tucson area visitors and community members to take a walking or a shuttle tour of the UA campus. Learn about the University's landmarks, history and traditions, its development as a land-grant institution and its status as a contemporary teaching and research University.

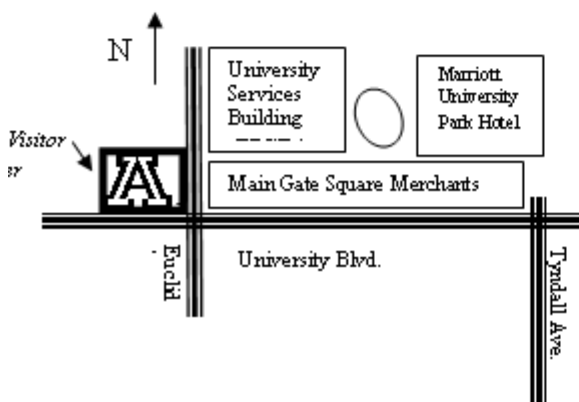
These tours are **FREE** and led by Visitor Center staff or alumni docents who provide great insight into our Wildcat community!

All tours lasts approximately 1-1/2-hours and begin at the **UA Visitor Center** located at **811 N. Euclid Ave.**

Sign up by contacting the Visitor Center at 621-5130 or email them at: [visitor@email.arizona.edu](mailto:visitor@email.arizona.edu).

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Metered parking is available onsite for \$1.00 per hour.

If you sign up for a walking tour bring a hat, sunscreen and don't forget to wear comfortable walking shoes!



**RESERVATION FORM FOR WINTER LUNCHEON  
(Please print, as you would like it on the nametag.)**

Retiree \_\_\_\_\_

Department or unit retired from (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to UARA (\$15.50 per person)

Mail Reservations to: Dianne Bret Harte  
723 N. Treat Avenue  
Tucson, AZ 85716

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**UARA WINTER LUNCHEON  
January 31, 2008**

**TANQUE VERDE GUEST RANCH**  
East End of Speedway

Proceed to the East end of Speedway Boulevard. Allow 20 minutes from Wilmot Road. At the end of Speedway you will see a sign announcing Tanque Verde Guest Ranch. You will turn left, then right and continue to the parking area. Follow the crowd to the dining area. Stop at the registration desk (first building), if you need assistance.

11:30 a.m.

Arrive early or stay later and enjoy the ambiance of a working ranch.

Meal is a self-serve buffet with multiple meat entrees, vegetables, salads, breads and desserts. Coffee and iced tea are available at the table.

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY JANUARY 24, 2008**

Reserve early – Attendance limited by room size; at-door registration is not accepted.  
No refund possible unless cancellation request is received three days prior to event.

\$15.50 per person

Questions, Attendance Issues/Cancellation Requests:  
Call Dianne Bret Harte at 323-2216  
No portion of this cost is tax deductible