THE EMERITUS COLLEGE AT ASU

"A Place and Purpose"
Who we are, in large measure, is defined by what we do.

THE EMERITUS COLLEGE AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY affords retired faculty the opportunity to continue to be who they are through ongoing intellectual, creative and social engagement.

When Per Aannestad retired from teaching astronomy, he didn’t stop thinking about the stars. Instead, Aannestad found unique opportunities to keep doing what he loved and today teaches a course in space technology at the University College-Buskerud in Konigsberg, Norway. He intends to take his engineering students to a rocket base in northern Norway where they will make and launch their own rocket.

Ronald Jacobowitz, professor emeritus of mathematics, uses his time to follow his passion — music — and performs classical piano concerts at the ASU School of Music; Bettie Anne Doebler, professor emerita of English, performs her concert of music dance and poetry on campus; and Taki Atsumi, professor emeritus of music, continues a full schedule of cello playing, teaching and performance.

These retired faculty, like more than 290 other retired ASU faculty, are all members of the Emeritus College at ASU who continue to pursue their life’s work and passion.

Since its inception in 2004, the Emeritus College has become a model organization for universities across the country. Unlike other retirement organizations that focus on benefits coverage and personnel-related matters, the Emeritus College offers programs in which members teach and conduct research, perform university and public service, and continue their own personal growth — at the same time providing the university and the community with an extraordinary resource of talent, experience and knowledge.

Dr. Richard Jacob, professor emeritus of physics, is the founding dean of the Emeritus College. “Many of us have spent a lifetime in teaching and community service,” says Jacob, who served as chair of the ASU physics department. “The Emeritus College gives us a place and a purpose for continued scholarship and research.”

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EMERITUS COLLEGE CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

The Emeritus College is truly a community of scholars. It has no curriculum, no student body and awards no degrees. The college structure involves centers, rather than departments, that serve as administrative focal points for several different types of studies and creative efforts.

- **Center for Mentoring** identifies opportunities for members to serve as mentors for tenure-track faculty and for students from high school through college.

- **Center for Issues in K-12 Education** connects members with partnerships that address educational needs of communities and encourages new collaborations.

- **Center for Innovations in Instruction** conducts discussions around distance learning and teaching the incarcerated, as well as other innovative educational initiatives.

- **Emeritus Center for Writing** sponsors creative and memoir writing workshops, writers’ working groups and Emeritus College Brown Bag readings.

- **Center for ASU History and Tradition** supports the writing of histories of ASU departments, centers and colleges.

- **Center for the Arts** promotes performance and display by emeritus artists. It established the Emeritus Art Exhibit in the College of Public Programs at the new Downtown Phoenix campus, where more than 150 pieces by members of the Emeritus College are on display for public viewing.

A PLACE AND PURPOSE

When ASU President Michael M. Crow established the Emeritus College, he entrusted it with “building a college that would help to distinguish ASU among the nation’s universities.” The Emeritus College at ASU has set a high standard for retired university faculty organizations and led the way in creating a valuable resource to the community and the university — exemplified by the quality of involvement and engagement of its members.

CHARLES MERBS is a member of the Emeritus College. An internationally recognized expert in forensic anthropology, Merbs received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin and came to ASU in 1973. Today, he serves as a research associate for the San Diego Museum of Man and teaches forensic anthropology to the over-50 crowd through the Tempe Enclave of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at ASU and the Emeritus College.

“I am now at a time in my life when I take as many classes as I teach,” says Merbs. “I take the classes because I want to, and I can empathize with others my age who wish to take classes for the sheer pleasure of taking them.”

JOHN BELL, also a member of the Emeritus College, received his doctorate from the University of Wyoming and, after a career in public education, came to ASU’s faculty in 1965. Today, he serves as director of the Emeritus College’s Center for Issues in K-12 Education.

“I recently had the opportunity to mentor a group of law students,” recalls Bell, “who were teaching classes of high-school students about rights and responsibilities according to the Bill of Rights. It was rewarding to hear their success stories of engaging students in the material they were presenting. It is a privilege to have these opportunities, and I am grateful to the Emeritus College for them.”
**Len Gordon**, a member of the Emeritus College, retired from ASU after nine years as chair of the sociology department and 11 years as associate dean for academic programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

"Last spring when a doctoral student was ill, I assisted with a sociology class on the subject of sports and politics," says Gordon, who earned his Ph.D. in sociology at Wayne State University and history degrees at the University of Michigan and Wayne State. "It was a joy to be able to help out, and as a longtime Detroit Tigers' baseball fan, I was able to work in some lively issues for the students to consider."

**Mark Reader**, a professor of political science and political theorist who has been influential in public issues, took up painting after a 50-year hiatus. A member of the Emeritus College, Reader earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and taught at Allegheny College prior to joining the faculty at ASU in 1967. Last fall, his art displayed as part of the Emeritus College art exhibit at the Downtown Phoenix campus.

"The college has taken a giant step forward on behalf of its members who pursue the arts, whether by profession or avocation," says Reader. "Especially meaningful to several of us and to the community is the emeritus art exhibit, which would not have been possible without the Emeritus College and the support of the College of Public Programs."

**Bettie Anne Doebler** echoes Reader’s sentiments. Doebler taught both interdisciplinary humanities and English literature at ASU before retiring in 1996 after 25 years of teaching. Today, she concentrates on writing poetry and teaching in the university’s interdisciplinary program. She has read her poems in various venues, including her poetry concert entitled *A Woman’s Life*, a staged performance.

"The Emeritus College provided me a new home on campus," says Doebler, who also co-edited the eight-volume series *Funeral Sermons Published for Women 1601-1630*. "The college welcomed my creative efforts with warmth and encouragement. It has been delightful to attend the many Emeritus College readings and to hear the wonderful poetry and prose."

**Ann Ludwig** also found in the college the opportunity to continue to express herself. Ludwig received international acclaim during her career for her choreography and produced more than 200 works. She came to ASU in 1979, bringing with her *A Ludwig Dance Theatre*, and served as director of graduate studies in the department of dance.

"Support from the Emeritus College, both moral and financial," says Ludwig, "has been an appreciated bonus in my production of dance in the community and region."
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— Richard Jacob
Founding Dean of the ASU Emeritus College

- The Emeritus College is an official unit of Arizona State University whose members are retired ASU faculty with emeritus status.
- The purpose of the Emeritus College is to give a home and focus to continued intellectual, creative and social engagement of retired faculty with the university.
- The Emeritus College fosters and promotes the scholarly and artistic lives of its members, prolonging fruitful engagement with and service to the university and the community.
- The Emeritus College provides the university a continued association with productive scientists, scholars and artists who have retired from their faculty positions but not from their disciplines.
MAKE A GIFT TO THE EMERITUS COLLEGE ENDOWMENT FUND

In order to continue to offer opportunities for members to engage in research, public-service programs and creative endeavors — and engage more members in these activities — the Emeritus College is asking for your support in raising $1 million (one million dollars) to build an endowment that will fund, for example:

- Honorariums for public-service projects, writing ASU departmental histories, public lecturing and participation in lifelong-learning programs
- Grants for research, mentoring and creativity programs
- Grants for creative performances and exhibits
- Expenses to attend conferences in the presentation of academic papers
- Publication fees for special projects

Please support the Emeritus College at ASU with your gift today.

Contact Richard Jacob at the Emeritus College for more information, 480.965.0002 or richard.jacob@asu.edu

Thank you for your support.

YOU CAN’T RETIRE FROM WHAT YOU ARE.

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