

gila gram

EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

EAC Alumni Develops Bowman Consulting Scholarships for Drafting Students

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EAC alumni develops Bowman Consulting Scholarships *for drafting students*

Chad Crockett, '03, Safford, Arizona, a principal with Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd., was instrumental in developing a Bowman Consulting Scholarship for Eastern Arizona College drafting students who wish to continue their education in civil engineering.

Chad graduated from Safford High School in May of 2003, and then in December of the same year, graduated from Eastern Arizona College with an associate degree in Computer Aided Drafting and Design. Starting his sophomore year of high school, Chad began taking AutoCAD classes through EAC's partnership with local high schools. Chad's associate degree from EAC was pivotal to finding employment with Trueline Engineering in Safford in 2006, following a two-year mission.

Chad transferred to Arizona State University in 2008 to pursue a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Trueline Engineering offered to pay his full tuition at Arizona State University if he agreed to return to Safford and continue working for the company. While attending

ASU, he worked remotely for Trueline Engineering through an online network on a part-time basis. He graduated from ASU during the recession in 2010. Due to the recession, finding employment in civil engineering was particularly difficult for many; his 2010 class had approximately 80 graduates and only a handful found employment in civil engineering. Following graduation from ASU, Chad returned to Safford

and continued to work for Trueline Engineering as a civil engineer.

In February of 2013, Chad earned his professional engineer licensure in civil engineering. Trueline Engineering was sold to Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd., in July of 2013. Bowman Consulting is a national multidiscipline engineering and survey consulting company headquartered in Chantilly, Virginia. In December

of 2013, Chad was promoted to the position of branch manager/senior project manager in Bowman's Safford Office. In November of 2018, Chad became a principal with Bowman. Most of his projects are infrastructure design, involving water, sewer, drainage, and roadway systems

for communities and private utilities.

During his career as a civil engineer, Chad continued his relationship with EAC, particularly with Doug Griffin, EAC Drafting Department professor and department chair. Bowman has employed close to 40 past EAC students since establishing an office in the Gila Valley in 2012. Bowman currently employs 16 past EAC students, most of whom earned their associate degree in Computer Aided Drafting and Design. Chad attributes his success in part to EAC's outstanding drafting program, hard work, determination, and unwavering support from his family.

Chad resides in Safford with his wife of 12 years, Kamala (Christensen) Crockett, and their three children. Kamala is also an EAC alumnus and former member of the tennis team. Kamala holds a degree in elementary education from Northern Arizona University.

If you are interested in developing a scholarship on behalf of your company, please contact David Udall, executive director, EAC Foundation and Alumni Association at (928) 428-8296.



Chad Crockett, '03

EAC receives \$2.9 million grant *to reform* developmental education

Eastern Arizona College received a \$2.9 million federal grant that is projected to boost graduation rates by reforming developmental education and advising with new technologies and fresh ideas that help students graduate more quickly. The U.S. Department of Education grant will account for up to 83 percent of the total overhaul cost.

Almost two-thirds of students who enter community colleges every year are found academically unprepared to engage in college-level work. In order to enroll, these students must typically take one or more “remedial” courses that do not count toward their college degrees. Research shows that this traditional approach to developmental education has little positive impact on student success. Instead, the remedial process causes students to fall behind peers, lose financial aid and other funding sources, or simply not show up for classes.

“One of the most important things we can do to increase the number of students who graduate with a degree or certificate is strengthen our remediation program,” stated Todd Haynie, EAC president. “In short, we must be more innovative about helping our underprepared

students spend less time and money catching up academically, and this grant allows us to do just that.”

The grant will fund the EAC “Inspire” program which includes three key elements:



Left to right: Almalia Berrios-Payton (Inspire tutor), Kristi Apodaca (Inspire career navigator), Candace Lines (Inspire career navigator), Tasha Layton (English and Writing Center associate professor), and Becca Webb (seated, Inspire tutor).

- Overhaul developmental education by blending credit-bearing classes with enhanced academic supports.
- Move the counseling department away from the traditional, passive model of waiting for students to initiate appointments to a “seek-them-out” process.
- Improve access for rural students by expanding online learning opportunities.

The framework for the Inspire program is patterned after the City University of New York’s Accelerated Study in Associate Program. Included within the program is a quasi-experimental design that allows researchers

to determine which components work best for specific populations. “We are particularly interested in making this work for our American Indian students,” stated Eldon Woodall, EAC director of grants. “These students face many unique challenges, and we want to provide the best support to help them achieve their educational goals.”

All EAC students are eligible to receive free support services from the Inspire program. To learn more, students should contact Inspire’s career navigators, Kristi

Apodaca at (928) 428-8316 or Candace Lines at (928) 428-8335.

“Student support has always been at the heart of everything EAC does,” stated Max Phillips, Title III SIP grant director. “This generous grant and the Inspire program will allow us to provide more proactive support by identifying potential risks in a student’s educational path and creating a safety net that minimizes negative impacts.”

HOMECOM

CLASSES OF '58, '63, & '64

It's pretty rare for a community college to have been in business sixty years ago. EAC is pleased to have been in business more than twice that many years! It's even more rare to have such a great group of alumni return to their alma mater after sixty years.

Last fall, alumni returned for a great weekend of homecoming festivities and reunion activities. The Gila Monsters from the Class of 1958 and the Classes of 1963 & 1964 traveled from states across the country, including Washington, California, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Alumni were full of spirit as they met at the Friday night reception. The live entertainment and special guest "Gila Hank" added to the rekindling of friendships and sharing memories.

On Saturday, reunion attendees enjoyed the homecoming parade, great food, tours of the Thatcher campus and Discovery Park campus, and the homecoming football game. To cap off the ending of a great day, the Gila Monsters beat Arizona Western 21-0!

Even after 55-60 years, these Monsters have incredible loyalty and school spirit! Thanks for celebrating with us.



Class of 1958 Reunion Attendees: Pat Bryce, Ben Bryce, Dwain Gale, Lila Busby McCain, Amadito Celix, Jack Rapier, JoAnn Farnsworth Rapier, Regina Shumway Nelson Cameron, Robert Cameron, Anna Jane Lazear Jarvis, Susie Thompson, Jerome Thompson, Sharen Chilson Norton, and Norman Norton.

WINING 2018



Class of 1963 and 1964 Reunion Attendees: Stephen Dennett, Harriet Hapgood Roberts, Ron Reed, Diane Frost Reed, Mary Grady, Delano "Dee" Matthews Goeman Dennett, Molly Boyd Steffens, Randy Roberts, Sally Bronk Gal, A. J. Clark, Gail Brooks Cully, Kurt Steffens, Peggy Lee, Charlotte Jones Farr, Travis Lee, Johny Johns, Doug Williams, Louella Williams, Jerry Farr, Regina Shumway Nelson Cameron, and Robert Cameron.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Class of 1969

And just like that - it's been 50 years since you've attended EAC! Tuition was only \$50 per semester. The average cost of a new car was \$2,500 and a home averaged \$14,950. Popular television included the premiere of "Hawaii Five-O" and "The Mod Squad," along with the final episodes of "Star Trek." Popular music at graduation was "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In."

Members of the Class of 1969 are invited to come back, renew friendships, share feelings of nostalgia, and catch up on the last 50 years. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Golden Anniversary Reunion of the Class of 1969 on Friday, May 10, 2019. Whether you graduated or attended one semester, come back and see your friends and the many changes that have been made to the campus.

The day will be full of enjoyable events. You will also have the opportunity to participate in the EAC Alumni Association Banquet and be honored at the 2019 Commencement. Register online at eacalumni.org/reunions.



Monster

Ali S. Montasser, '63, Friendswood, Texas, graduated in 1967 with a BS in Corporate Finance/Economics with a minor in Data Processing from the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. He first worked as a computer programmer for Brown Engineering at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, then as a computer systems analyst for Westinghouse Research and Development Center in Churchill, Pennsylvania. Mr. Montasser then became a principal and vice president of an economic development consulting firm (Tischler, Montasser and Associates) in Washington, D.C. He then took a position with The World Bank in Washington, D.C., as the principal financial (computer) systems advisor, focusing on the borrowing operations. In 1994, he took a position with NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., as the program manager of the Earth Observing System Data Information System. In 2002, Mr. Montasser transferred with NASA to the Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston, Texas, where he remains today as the Johnson Space Center privacy manager.

J. Dee Dennis, '98, Albuquerque, New Mexico, graduated from El Dorado High School in New Mexico and came to Eastern Arizona College to play baseball with the new head coach Jim Bagnall. Dee then attended the University of New Mexico where he graduated with a Bachelor



J. Dee Dennis, '98

of University Studies with a minor in Business. He successfully walked on with the University of New Mexico's baseball team and played first base for two seasons. He continues to be a supporter of the team today. After college, Dee met and married his wife Jennifer, and they are now raising a daughter and son.

Dee grew up with his father's electrical business, DKD Electric. Around the time he was attending EAC, his father sold the business, but Dee continued working at DKD. With the experience he gained working there, he was able to work in Sacramento for a year for an electrical contractor. His dad talked him into returning to DKD where they worked with partners to buy back DKD Electrical, LLC, and build it into a thriving business. They currently provide industrial and commercial electrical systems across the country.

Dee enjoys fishing and golfing and spending outdoor time with his family. He also serves as the vice president of the board of directors for the Children's Cancer Fund of New Mexico. Their family has been close

to this organization for many years since one of Dee's friends died of cancer as a teenager. Dee also supports Special Olympics twice a year with their Unified Golf Tournaments.

Diane Hubbard Smith, '77, Mesa, Arizona, graduated from Thatcher High School and began school at Eastern Arizona College. She enjoyed being part of the Pom Pom squad and the fun atmosphere. She met David Smith, an ASU student, and they married in March 1977. Together, they became real estate agents

and started Castle Rock Properties. They have enjoyed working at home together and running a successful business. They raised two daughters and two sons. Their youngest, **Sterling Smith, '08**, attended Eastern Arizona College as well. He met and married another EAC alum, **Julie Nilsson Smith, '10**. The Smiths are blessed to have all of their children and sixteen grandchildren living nearby.

Lydia Montoya Mata, '00, Thatcher, Arizona, came to EAC straight out of high school, hoping to get the education needed to enter the

computer field. She was a teacher's aide for Mr. Ed Hunter while working towards her associate degree. She was able to gain employment as a software technician after graduating. It was during this time that Lydia became an adjunct instructor at EAC and discovered a deep love for



Lydia Montoya Mata, '00

teaching. In 2008, after several years as an adjunct instructor teaching a variety of computer/Microsoft classes, Lydia joined the Computer Department as a full-time computer instructor. "I was thrilled when I received a full-time position here," she said. "I had not envisioned becoming a teacher and now I can't imagine doing anything else. It is such a joy to teach at EAC and to teach many of the classes I remember taking when I was a student here. I hope I can be the kind of influence on my students that my instructors were for me." Lydia graduated from Eastern Arizona College with an A.A.S. Information Specialist degree. She also holds an A.B.S. in Business Information

Alumnotes

Systems and a Master of Information Systems, both from the University of Phoenix. Lydia teaches a variety of computer courses both in-person and online. Colleagues and students alike appreciate her professionalism, dedication and ready smile. Lydia's lessons are well-prepared and she is always available to help students as they engage in the learning activities. Students describe her as kind, helpful, and knowledgeable, and feel they learn valuable skills and information in her classes that will help them achieve their goals.

Virgil Alexander, '67, Tempe, Arizona, married Lois Kathleen Campbell while attending EAC during the spring of 1967. They raised their family in Claypool, Arizona. Three of their children also attended EAC - **Kristil Alexander Busch, '90**, **Keith Alexander, '93**, and **Kandice Alexander Alt, '96**. Virgil worked for the Inspiration Power Plant, and after eight ownership changes he retired from Freeport-McMoRan with 42 years of service. Virgil's interests now include writing



Virgil Alexander's, '67, recent publications

books. His most recent book, *Murder in Copper*, was published by Aakenbaaken & Kent, who have also acquired publishing rights to his first three books, *The Wham Curse*, *Saints & Sinners*, and *The Baleful Owl*. Virgil's books are now published as the *Deputy Allred & Apache Officer Victor Series*, with the image of Baleful Owl as the series logo. To learn more, visit his blog at <http://virgilalexander.weebly.com/>

Edward W. Mack, '87, Duluth, Georgia, came to EAC after graduating from Safford High School and serving a mission in Australia for twenty-seven months, and living in Tahiti for nine months. His father **G. Wayne Mack, '40**, and mother Ruth Mack, were in Tahiti where his father served as president for that mission. His father was retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a Faculty Emeritus at EAC, where he taught criminal justice courses. In 1990, Edward completed a Bachelor of Science in Business Management at Western New Mexico University. He then moved to Provo, Utah. He worked at the Provo Police Department as a jailor when he met his wife Lorraine who was working as a dispatcher. Edward enjoys sharing that he and his wife met in jail. Since that time, Edward

has mainly worked in the chemicals industry. He is currently a solvent distributor for Whittaker Oil.

The Macks raised three sons and a daughter and enjoy their three grandchildren.

Ryan Maher, '09, and **Kashley Taylor Maher, '09**, met at EAC and married a few months after



Ryan Maher, '09, Kashley Taylor Maher, '09, with sons James and Jay

graduation. While attending EAC, Ryan majored in graphic design and was a member of the golf team. Kashley was a member of the Advance Team and majored in elementary education, completing her bachelor's degree at NAU. After graduation, they moved to Tempe where Ryan worked as an assistant golf course superintendent at Troon Golf, and Kashley taught first grade at Stepping Stones Academy.

After receiving a certificate in golf course turfgrass management from Pennsylvania State University, Ryan was offered a position as the golf course superintendent at Contra Costa Country Club in Pleasant Hill, Calif. Kashley currently works as the Corporate Administrative Assistant for the Bay Alarm Company, and is an English teacher with VIP KID. They are proud of their two young sons, James and Jay.

Alumni!

TELL US WHAT'S NEW

Send your information to:
Alumnotes - EAC Alumni Association
 615 N. Stadium Ave.
 Thatcher, AZ 85552
 or by e-mail at: alumni@eac.edu

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The individuals and organizations listed below are appreciated greatly for helping us continue making a difference in the lives of more than 100 students each year. The following donations were received between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018. Thank You!

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of
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Kimball Mack

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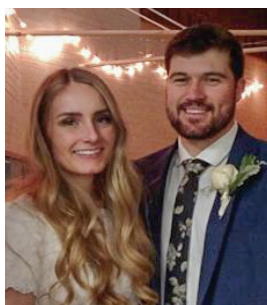
This publication reaches more than
30,000 EAC alumni and friends.

Contact us at alumni@eac.edu
or (928) 428-8295.

Wedding Bells Rang

May 18, 2018 for **Lily Hekekia '18** to **Aaron Gourdin, '18**.
 May 26, 2018 for **Kylie Temperly, '18** to **Parker Blair, '18**.
 May 27, 2018 for **Arbon Nordgran, '16** to **Nicholas Tellez, '18**.
 July 21, 2018 for **Taylor Barney, '17** to William Hancey.
 August 2, 2018 for Sarah Earl to **Seth Hawley, '18**.
 August 4, 2018 for Anne Marie Colson to **Nathan Taylor, '15**.
 August 4, 2018 for **Talitha Binnie, '18** to **Devon Kartchner, '15**.
 August 24, 2018 for **Chantel Merrell, '19** to **Brenden Wahl, '19**.

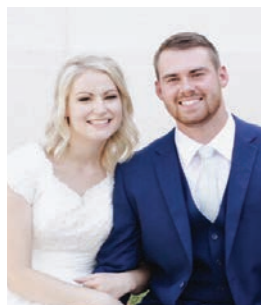
September 28, 2018 for **Mikayla Seller, '15** to **Mark Carpenter, '15**.
 October 20, 2018 for **Tasia Shupe, '18** to **Jacob Martin, '18**.
 November 10, 2018 for **Jaiden Barney, '17** to **Ryan Watson, '18**.
 November 10, 2018 for **Nicole Petersen, '18** to **Collin Hunt, '18**.
 November 10, 2018 for **Celeste Udall, '18** to **Tallon Hawkins, '18**.
 November 16, 2018 for Kilee Hunsaker to **William Faucett, '18**.
 December 21, 2018 for **Rebecca Peck, '18** to **Jakob Scarlett, '18**.
 December 22, 2018 for **Trekell Hammond, '16** to **Caleb Layden, '17**.



Hammond & Layden



Hekekia & Gourdin



Merrell & Wahl



Nordgran & Tellez



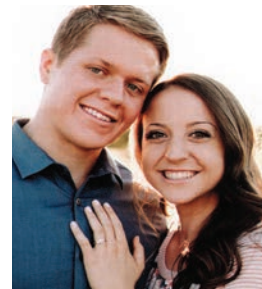
Petersen & Hunt



Seller & Carpenter



Temperly & Blair



Udall & Hawkins

In Memoriam

Conrad J. Caballero, '64 – June 26, 2018
 Diann Hunt Cook, '64 – July 6, 2018
 Edna H. Benefield, '93 – July 8, 2018
 Dean A. Curtis, '41 – July 9, 2018
 Marlin J. Boswell, '76 – July 15, 2018
 Ruby L. Moody Brown, '43 – July 30, 2018
 Jesse U. De Vaney, III, '71 – July 31, 2018
 Gordon L. Poer, '49 – July 31, 2018
 Larry A. Bulechek, '63 – August 1, 2018
 Bernice Marshall Colvin, '41 – August 4, 2018
 Karen Wright Denhalter, '53 – August 10, 2018
 Roselyn Brown Ferguson, '75 – August 18, 2018
 Margaret Curtis Tancy, '38 – August 20, 2018
 Geraldine Christensen Harrison, '43 – August 22, 2018
 Lawrence D. Elmer, '55 – August 24, 2018
 Dorothy Jean Hawk Hinton, '58 – August 24, 2018
 Arden A. Belvado, '87 – August 27, 2018
 Richard K. Bingham, '50 – August 28, 2018
 Richard A. Robertson, '76 – September 3, 2018
 Alfred Oron Berry, '46 – September 9, 2018

David Jones, '66 – September 10, 2018
 Olive Beth Kimball Mack, '41 – September 14, 2018
 Fae Carpenter Spencer, '48 – September 20, 2018
 Joel G. Crawford, '64 – September 25, 2018
 Michael C. Canisales, '71 – September 26, 2018
 Daniel X. Wray, '73 – September 30, 2018
 Lenora Buffington Bryce, '46 – October 2, 2018
 Brianna Varnam-Granatowski, '19 – October 4, 2018
 Daniel J. Merrill, '77 – October 8, 2018
 Monford Lewis, '53 – October 13, 2018
 James E. Hinton, '53 – October 14, 2018
 Gilbert Duwayne Little, '14 – October 15, 2018
 Rochelle Costner Poulsen, '59 – October 23, 2018
 Jay E. Ferguson, '43 – October 28, 2018
 Elizabeth Hicks Wise, '74 – October 28, 2018
 Jesus M. Pike, '04 – November 8, 2018
 Nelvin Stock, '48 – November 14, 2018
 Jeanne Russell Worthen, '52 – November 15, 2018
 Sharon Isaacson Crosby, '61 – November 16, 2018
 Gary M. Hurst, '69 – November 16, 2018

Ronald R. Starcher, '90 – November 17, 2018
 Kathryn "Kae" Payne Player, '66 – November 23, 2018
 Cheryl M. Glass, '88 – November 23, 2018
 Glenda Conyer West, '74 – November 23, 2018
 Reece F. Jarvis, '53 – November 24, 2018
 Peggy Anne Clancy, '87 – November 26, 2018
 David K. Saline, '75 – December 4, 2018
 Clella J. McBride Layton, '41 – December 8, 2018
 Clea Cluff Beach, '45 – December 9, 2018
 Gale D. Burnett, '56 – December 9, 2018
 John D. Summers, '68 – December 13, 2018
 Donald G. Bailey, '60 – December 13, 2018
 Felix Raymond Knight, '68 – December 15, 2018
 Donald E. Farr, '65 – December 16, 2018
 Jerry W. Anderson, '87 – December 16, 2018
 Marlene Russell, '12 – December 19, 2018
 Mary Sue Duane Bendle, '97 – December 28, 2018
 Lupe Leon Olivas, '88 – December 30, 2018

EAC ALUMNI TOUR

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII PARIS & NORMANDY FRANCE



HISTORIC JOURNEYS

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Schedule

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Depart from Phoenix. Travel overnight to France

Thursday, June 4

Arrival into Paris, Charles De Gaulle Airport. Depart for Normandy

Visit the city of Joan of Arc (Rouen) en route to Normandy

Visit to Arromanches, and enjoy the D-Day 360 Museum and film "in the round."

Friday, June 5

Morning transfer to the American Cemetery at Brittany

Visit Mont St. Michel for a tour of this one-of-a-kind medieval town and fortress abbey

Saturday, June 6 - D-day Anniversary

Tour other D-Day Sites including Pointe du Hoc and Utah Beach

Transfer to St. Mere Eglise to tour the town

Afternoon D-Day Memorial Parade Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day

Sunday, June 7

Morning transfer to the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach

Depart for Paris (approximately 4 hour drive)

Upon arrival in Paris, enjoy dinner in the Latin Quarter

Monday, June 8

Visit to the Eiffel Tower (a ticket will be provided to the second level observatory)

Guided tour of the city including Notre Dame, Champs Elysees,

Arch de Triomphe, Opera, and Montmartre

Dinner and evening in Montmartre

Tuesday, June 9

Visit to the Louvre Museum

Visit to Versailles

Wednesday, June 10

Morning departure for the airport, Charles de Gaulle

Depart for home on your scheduled airline



2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII. In commemoration of historic year, alumni from Eastern Arizona College are invited to join together on a tour of WWII Normandy and Paris France. While in Normandy our group will take part in official ceremonies as well as the D-Day Memorial Parade in Sainte Mere Eglise.

Please visit historicjourneys.com to register for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

8 day/6 night tour package: \$3899 per person

Inclusions:

Round trip airfare from Phoenix to Paris

First class hotel accommodations (based on 2 per room)

Full time private deluxe motor coach

Full time multilingual tour manager

Breakfast and dinner daily

Entrances as noted on the tour schedule



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William Bone, '50
Lois Ann Moody, '58
Jody Peck, '92
Nate Sorensen, '04
Molly Boyd Steffens, '64
Sandra Thompson, '81

Emeritus Director, EAC Alumni Association:

Nolan Reed, '55
Mary Kim Titla, '80
Dudley Welker, '52
George Lord, '66

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