ARIZONA COLLEGE EASTERN Your Contributions Change Student Lives (See story on page 2) Also inside: Class of 1969 Reunion 4 5 Class of 1970 Golden Reunion 6-7 **Alumnotes** 8 **Donors** EAC Named one of the Safest Colleges in the U.S. 9 and Wedding Bells 10 **Scholarships** 2019 Scholarship Banquet and In Memorium 11 Eastern Arizona College · Alumni Association Newsletter · Volume 37 Number 1 · Fall 2019

Your contributions change

The Eastern Arizona College
Foundation was created in
1967 to support the success of
the College and help bring financial
support to its students and programs.
Through the years, the primary focus
has been scholarship assistance. This
has meant financial assistance to
thousands of students since 1967.

Scholarship assistance at EAC comes in several different ways. Twice each year the Foundation sends appeals by mail, sharing the need for scholarship funds. These mailings seek donations for the general scholarship fund and sometimes are intended for a specific project. An envelope added to the GilaGram newsletters provides a convenient opportunity for alumni and friends of the College to support student scholarships.

A number of individuals, service clubs, and businesses wish to sponsor a scholarship on an annual basis. They establish scholarship criteria with the EAC Foundation, and determine a selection committee like the Alumni Association Scholarship Committee or EAC faculty. They send a donation annually and a student is chosen each year who meets the criteria. The scholarship donors can meet the recipients and receive updates on their progress at school, as well as attend recognition events on campus.

Some donors choose to create "endowed" scholarships. In these cases, larger donations are made to the Foundation. The endowment assets are invested and scholarships are funded only from earnings on the investments. This enables the scholarship to continue in perpetuity, honoring the individual(s) the donor wishes to be remembered.



Verlene Anderson congratulating Marshall Launer, the first recipient of the Jerry and Verlene Anderson Scholarship.

Recently four new scholarships were established:

The Jerry and Verlene Anderson Scholarship

This scholarship is given in memory of Jerry Anderson and in honor of Verlene Anderson, who was employed at Eastern Arizona College for 30 years. Jerry loved to work on automobiles in his free time while away from his job of 27 years at Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold in Morenci and Safford. He could fix almost anything he touched.

When Jerry passed away, the family decided that establishing a scholarship would be a great way to keep special memories alive and help students who need financial assistance.

The scholarship is awarded to students pursuing a certificate or degree in the automotive or industrial technical education programs.

This endowed scholarship will generate tuition funds in perpetuity in memory of Jerry and Verlene Anderson.

The Jeffrey R. Vaughn Memorial Scholarship

Jeffrey Vaughn came to Eastern Arizona College after graduating from Morenci High School. He was trained as an EMT and worked on ambulance crews for many years. He later completed the EAC Nursing Program and worked as a nurse. His wife Shelley and other family and friends established this scholarship in his memory. This endowed scholarship will provide continuous aid for students studying nursing

ige student lives.



Shelley Vaughn presenting the Jeffrey R. Vaughn Memorial Scholarship to Julio Cortez.

or emergency medical services.

The Brianna Varnam Memorial Scholarship

Brianna Varnam enioved her time at Eastern Arizona College, especially as a member of the marching band. After her tragic automobile accident last year, friends and family came together to fund this scholarship. In May, the Symphonic Band premiered a new piece of music that was composed in honor of Brianna, called "Chant, Songs,



Anali Eaton, the first recipient of the Brianna Varnam Memorial Scholarship.

and Celebration." Funds contributed each year will provide financial aid to deserving students who love music and want to continue those great experiences at Eastern Arizona College.

The Paula Dinsmore Daman Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Paula Dinsmore Daman who graduated from Eastern Arizona College in 1970. She came from Rincon High School in Tucson, Arizona. completed her associate's degree at EAC, and then went to the University of Arizona to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Art Education. Dyslexia was an obstacle for her but not a barrier. At EAC she was a cheerleader, student government participant,

swimmer, and was on the tennis team. She taught school for a period of time and then raised four children up through college. Paula's mother helped establish the Assistance League chapter in Tucson and Paula followed in her footsteps, helping to found the chapter in San Luis Obispo, California. This endowed scholarship was built to continue Paula's legacy of helping youth find hope for a brighter future through education.



The first recipient of the Paula Dinsmore Daman Memorial Scholarship is Brittany Adams.

We wish to thank all those who make scholarships possible at Eastern Arizona College. Whether you contribute through our annual fundraising drive or sponsor a scholarship directly, your assistance is greatly appreciated. Many students attending EAC are from backgrounds that require financial aid to make a college education a reality. With your generosity we have been able to provide a lifechanging opportunity of education to many students. Thanks again for sharing.

Class of 1969 Reunion

embers of the Class of 1969 returned to the Thatcher Campus for their Golden Anniversary Reunion. They met at the Gherald L. Hoopes, Jr. Activities Center to celebrate fifty years of progress since leaving Eastern Arizona College. After mingling, the alumni gathered for pictures and then boarded an EAC bus for a tour of the campus.

After the tour, they drove to Discovery Park's Circle D Ranch for lunch, sharing college memories and life experiences. Reunion attendees participated in the

Annual Alumni Banquet where they were recognized and inducted into the Alumni Association Emeritus Club.

At each of our reunions, alumni express surprise at the beauty of the campus, what things have changed, and how much their fellow classmates have experienced. It was a great day for renewing friendships and making new memories. Thanks to everyone who traveled to be part of this wonderful reunion.



Class of 1969 Reunion Attendees: Front Row - Yvonne Smith Hansen, Charles "Coach" Anderson, Nonine Anderson, Donna Ham, Geneva Escobedo; Second Row - Stanley John, Mike Davoli, Kenny Wills, Ella Hamblin Wills; Third Row - Ann Mickelson John, Sharon Green McBride, Susan Powell Bingham, Patricia Blazzard Davoli, Susan Holiday, Gordon Holiday; Fourth Row - Joseph Layton, Jo Hooper, Cindy Rice and Harry Rice.

Class of 1070 Solder Security and earth up on the last 50 years. Mark your calendary

an you believe 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 "I Dream of Jeannie" and "Get Smart," and color television sets often came in "furniture grade" wooden consoles. Elton John and the Jackson Five were the up and coming music stars.

Members of the Class of 1970 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 1970 on Friday, May 8, 2020. Whether you graduated or attended one semester, come back and see the many changes that have been made to the campus.

The day will be full of enjoyable events. You will also be part of the EAC Alumni Association Banquet and be honored at the 2020 Commencement. More information on reunion details will be mailed to class members.

When is my reunion?

Interested in having a reunion with your classmates? Homecoming reunions can be organized for any group: single class year, several class years, music groups, athletic groups, etc. Fiftieth-year reunions are traditionally held at the end of the spring semester on the same day as Commencement. We make it easy for you! Contact the EAC Alumni Association at (800) 678-3808, ext. 8295 or (928) 428-8295 or by email at alumni@eac.edu. We'd love to hear from you!

Monster Alui

Gary F. McBride, '53, Safford, Arizona, recently shared a little with us about his memories at EAC and his Automotive instructor, Carl Kyser. Carl was the first automotive Instructor in the history of EAC. The first class was in the fall of 1949. It so happened that Garv was a member of that class. Gary went through three semesters at what is now EAC and then in January of 1951 he was in St. Paul. Minnesota, as a full-time missionary for his church. He returned to EAC and finished the program. In the Spring of 1953, Gary graduated and received his AA degree in Auto Mechanics. The automotive program has been continuously offered by EAC right up to now. Gary feels fortunate to have been the automotive Instructor at this institution from the Fall of 1966 to the Spring of 1988. Various people over the years have donated to the Carl Kyser Scholarship to benefit the lives of future automotive students at EAC.

Bruce A. Larson, Tucson, Arizona, coached basketball and baseball at EAC from 1952 to 1957. During his tenure, the basketball team qualified for the NJCAA National tournament three times, including a second and third place finish. Bruce was then hired by Weber College for two years. While there, his team won the NCJAA tournament. The University of Arizona, Bruce's alma mater, offered him the job of head basketball coach where he remained from 1961-1972. Bruce and his wife. **Betty Bryce** Larson, '52, raised five children. Four of their grandsons later attended EAC. Seth L. Merrill, '04, also played basketball for the Gila Monsters with coach Chuck LaVetter. Seth now works in the financial services industry. **Tanner B. Merrill, '05,** attended Weber State University and received a bachelor's degree in technical sales. He is an agency partner in an insurance group. Jace T. Merrill, '09, completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting at Utah State University and a Master of Accounting degree at University of Utah. He currently works as an assistant controller of a digital

publishing firm. **Preston S. Merrill, '16,** is currently attending Arizona State University pursuing a degree in biochemistry.

Coach Larson just reached his ninety-third birthday. He's doing well and cherishes his memories at EAC and the life-long friends he made with so many students during the 1950s.

Geneva Escobedo,
'69, Tucson, Arizona,
has written a book,
Dichos de mi Padre,
and the book is a
finalist in the Best
First Book Non-Fiction
category for the 21st
Annual International Latino
Book Awards. This award
program was created for La

program was created for Latino Literacy Now in 1997 by Edward James Olmos and Kirk Whisler.

Robert Badger, '72, Nauvoo, Illinois, met his sweetheart, Elynn, '71, while attending EAC. Robert & Elynn are grateful for the wonderful opportunities they had at EAC to find their spouses, further their educations, have great teachers and mentors, and make many wonderful friends. Robert worked for SRP in St. Johns, Arizona, for 40 years as an electronic engineer at the Coronado Generating Station. Robert and Elynn have eight children, all of whom attended EAC. Robert Jr., '91, Jennifer, '95, Christine Burk, '99, James, '02, Kimberly, '02, Paul, '14, Kelly, '10, & Lynette, '08. Robert and Elynn now have grandchildren that have been attending EAC, Hyrum, '19 & **Joshua** (currently attending).

Steve Peru, '77, Flagstaff, Arizona, transferred to Northern Arizona University where he obtained a bachelor's degree in

Applied Sociology. He continued coursework at NAU to receive a Master's in Public Administration. He worked as a community aide at Coconino County Community

Services and eventually became the county manager. He retired after a 32-vear career with the county and worked for W.L. Gore & Associates for six years. For four years he served as the President/CEO of the United Way of Northern Arizona. He recently became the Chief Development and Government Relations Officer of Coconino Community

College. He is excited to be back in the community

be back in the community college system where he started 42 years



Steve Peru, '77

Billy Lewis, '88, Silver City, New Mexico, graduated from St. Johns High School in Arizona. He played football at Eastern Arizona College in the Fall of 1987 and then transferred to Western New Mexico University to play football. One of his teammates was John O'Mera who later came to EAC and became the winningest coach in school history. Their coach, Bob O'Mera, was John's father who enjoyed a successful coaching career. Bob was an assistant coach at EAC while John was the head coach.

Billy remained in the Silver City area working for Phelps Dodge Mining Company for six years. He later purchased WESCO Environmental, Inc. He and his wife Corinne both work in a business that provides pollution control equipment service and repair. WESCO specializes in precipitators and bag houses and other projects at

mnotes

mines, power plants, and refineries that need help keeping the environment clean during their production processes.

Billy and Corinne raised two children. Billy looks back with fond memories of the people in Thatcher who treated him so well while he was at EAC. He specifically mentioned great folks like Deanna and Greg Brockmeier, Don Conrad, and Ladd Mullenaux.

Olivia Kemmer Holt, '11, Tucson,

Arizona, is proud to say that she graduated

from EAC's excellent nursing program in December of 2011. "The nursing faculty at EAC was so amazing and supportive of me throughout my nursing education and are still supporting me today as mentors." stated Holt. After EAC. she went on to receive her BSN and

MSN in nursing



education. She currently works part-time as an emergency room/trauma nurse at Banner University Medical Center's level 1 trauma center and is full-time nursing faculty at Pima Community College. Recently, she graduated with her doctorate of nursing practice degree from

Grand Canyon University. Starting fall of 2019, she is teaching nursing full-time at Brigham Young University Idaho.

Included is a picture of her at her DNP graduation with her EAC nursing instructors. Carolyn McCormies, EAC nursing director, served as her practice mentor through her DNP program. Sara Lemley, EAC nursing faculty, served as her practice mentor through her MSN-Ed program. Shelley Vaughn, EAC nursing faculty, served as her content expert for

her DNP direct practice improvement project.

Lawrence Chavez, '13,

Thatcher, Arizona, attended EAC for two years and played baseball as a Gila Monster, After leaving EAC he moved on to Colorado State University at Pueblo where he was a starter while earning his bachelor's degree. The 2019 season was the fourth year for Chavez in professional baseball. He has been named the Pecos League (Independent Professional Baseball) 2019 Pacific Division Offensive Player

of the Year. Chavez is now involved in his second year as an EAC assistant baseball coach

and has initiated a master's program. He works closely with EAC Head Coach John Chalmers in all phases of the Monster baseball program. In addition to his on-field duties, Chavez oversees the Monster baseball strength and conditioning program. While attending EAC Lawrence

met **Yvanna Nee Bejarano, '13,** of Thatcher, who played softball for Coach Kate McCluskey. Currently Yvanna is completing her final year in the Pharmacy Doctoral Program at the University of New Mexico.

Vicente Reyna, '14, Phoenix, Arizona, attended Eastern Arizona College as a student at Safford High School. He graduated one year early from high school to transfer to the University of Arizona. He completed bachelor's degrees in law and Spanish in 2017. During his last semester, he also interned with the Arizona State Senate. After graduating, he became a full-time employee as a policy advisor with the Senate. He will complete a Master of Public Administration at Arizona State University this December.

Taylor Hollestelle, '18, Alamosa, Colorado, was named Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Player of the Week in March. Playing for Adams State University, Hollestelle has hit for a .365 average with five home runs, 20 RBI's and 21 runs and only struck out four times out of 74 at-bats.



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

EAC Foundation Donors

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 January 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2019. Thank You!

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Gifts in Memory of

Warren A. Campbell Donna-Lee "Termite" Shaw Cecil Charles R. Rhodes Frances I. Smith Brianna L. Varnam Jeffrey R. Vaughn

safest colleges in the nation

EAC named one of the safest colleges in the U.S.

astern Arizona College was recently recognized as one of the top 25 safest universities and colleges in the United States. Data from the U.S. Department of Education's Safety and Security and the FBI's Uniform Crime Report were analyzed for the main campuses of public, private, and non-profit schools.

EAC was the safest school in Arizona and ranked #21 overall. Except for off-campus property crimes that were reported, EAC would have been #2 in the nation. Even so, the ranking is another great reason why alumni and others around the nation choose to attend EAC.

For more information about the analysis, go to https://www.yourlocalsecurity.com/blog/your-guide-to-the-nations-safest-college-campuses/

As campus safety becomes a growing concern across the country, we are pleased to see that EAC remains a safe place to prepare for the future.



Wedding Bells Rang

January 3, 2019 for Natalie J. Stewart, '19 to Mateos Y. DeSpain, '19. January 4, 2019 for Macy F. Sibley, '20 to Chad J. Daley, '18. January 19, 2019 for Katie A. McMullin to James M. Hundley, '17. February 1, 2019 for Destany S. Merriman, '20 to Ruben A. Llamas, '20. February 2, 2019 for Allyssa Wylie, '19 to Tyson D. Martindell, '18. February 9, 2019 for Annae Flake, '18 to Jacob D. Flake, '18. February 16, 2019 for Abbey R. Carter, '19 to Benjamin I. Nuttall, '17. February 23, 2019 for Emily N. Bushman, '17 to Jacob Converse. March 1, 2019 for Gwendolyn E. Nuttall, '12 to Alan W. Bryce, '05. March 2, 2019 for Holly M. Smith, '20 to Dennis "Denny" Richardson, '18. March 2, 2019 for Amilynn Webb, '19 to Brandon E. Palmer. March 8, 2019 for McKenna C. Stevens, '17 to Bradley A. Gunnell.

March 9, 2019 for Madison T. Mullins, '19 to Tyler L. Lucas, '17.

March 9, 2019 for Abigail N. Peterson, '19 to Liam Q. Hall, '20. March 9, 2019 for Kaitlyn C. Poche, '20 to Farrel C. Layton.

March 16, 2019 for Ashlyn C. Bierman, '19 to Caedon P. Ervien, '20. March 23, 2019 for Elizabeth B. Sampson, '17 to Dallin H. Ferrin, '17. March 29, 2019 for Jenny Sorensen, '10 to Jason Whitlock.

April 13, 2019 for Amelia Ola Chambers, '17 to Riley Sean Manley.

April 27, 2019 for Leisel M. Griffin, '18 to Stephen A. Bahr.

April 20, 2019 for Carlee S. Richardson, '18 to Ethan E. Anway, '18. May 18, 2019 for Mackenize L. Smith to Joseph D. Hill, '20. May 24, 2019 for Ashleigh Peterson to Spencer R. Norton, '16. June 28, 2019 for Kirsty Arbizo, '19 to Hunter Cochran.

June 29, 2019 for Cyndle Allred, '17 to Kade C. Whitmer.

June 29, 2019 for Katrina D. Long, '18 to Jason T. Pritchard.



Arbizo & Cochran



Peck & Scarlett



Sorensen & Hitlock



Stewart & DeSpain



Webb & Palmer

Scholarship Awards

Recipients of the 2018-2019 Donor Scholarships

Albert & Nellie Calderon Scholarship	Jaim'ee Rodrigez	
Allen & Marie A. Cress Memorial Scholarship		
Alumni Association Scholarship		
Kirsty Arbizo, Maura Shumway, Emily Hakes, Rhett Layton,		
Kamee Bell, Bayli Heap, Annette l	Heap, Savanah Shumway,	
	Abigaiol Fry, Kyle Perkins	
Anna Deane Millett, Don & Carlotta Pace Scholarship		
Ashley Marie Beals Memorial Scholarship		
Belle & Arnold Greenbaum Scholarship	Jessica Richins	
Bernstein Brothers Memorial Scholarship		
Bette N. Smith Nursing Scholarship		
Brianna Varnam Memorial Scholarship		
Dallace Butler Memorial Scholarship		
Debra Mullenaux Memorial Scholarship	Paige Jackson	
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Douglas Michael Loeb Memorial Scholarship		
Matthew Ebright, Brandon Faber		
Dr. David G. Lunt Choral Music Scholarship		
Dr. Pam Rule Scholarship	·	
Dr. Dorine Chancellor Athletic ScholarshipNathaniel Po		
Dr. Ron Keith Memorial Scholarship		
E. James Lee & Jacqueline McFadden Lee Scholarship		
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Helen Johnson Bone Scholarship	Ariella Garcia, Tathra Shiflet
Helen Papas Memorial Scholarship	Kiev Brown
Matthews Koger Scholarship	
Jeffrey R. Vaughn Memorial Scholarship	
Jody Buzicky Women's Athletic Scholarship	-
John Mickelson Scholarship	
Kalvert W. Lines Scholarship	
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Spencer L. Kimball ScholarshipRo	
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Kristie and Patrick Putnam Scholarship	
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Mary Kim Titla Scholarship	
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Ora Deconcini-Martin Scholarship	
Phyllis Martin Lord Scholarship	
Pizza Edge Scholarship	
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Safford Lions Club Scholarship	
Safford Rotary Club Scholarship	•
Sarah Lamoreaux Memorial Scholarship	
Stephanie Ann Udall Memorial Music Scholarsh	
Sumitomo - McMoRan Scholarship	=
Cumitomo 17142/101444 Cumomomp IIII	Danielle Machus
United Way of Graham & Greenlee Counties Sc	
Katelin Stergion, Ashleigh Hernandez, Cyd	÷ .
Stailey, Chayla Quintana, Michael McGrath, Nathan Willey, Shari Burnett, Britta	
Ewing, Brooklyn Kempton, McKayla Wilson, Julia Fer	
Virginia Rae Barr Memorial Scholarship	•
Walter & Julia Rogers Scholarship	
Wilford Stailey Memorial Scholarship	
William J. Bone Scholarship	

2019 Scholarship Banquet



The United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties Scholarships were presented by Adam O'Doherty (left) and Shaylee Richards (right).



The Bernstein Brothers Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Stephanie Peck (left) by Susan Bernstein (middle) and her granddaughter Raellie Bernstein.



The Bowman Consulting Scholarship was presented by Chad Crockett (left) to Johnny Griffin (right).

In Memoriam

Melbern G. "Meb" Webb, '61 – January 3, 2019 Donna-Lee Shaw "Termite" Cecil, '49 - January 4, 2019 Evelyn Layton Bigler, '49 - January 5, 2019 Norma Tyler Weddle, '50 - January 6, 2019 Nathan T. Kempton, '52 - January 14, 2019 Ray K. Ferguson, '47 – January 19, 2019 James C. Cage, '70 – January 19, 2019 Richard Dick May, '56 - January 20, 2019 Robert C. Lopez, '63 – January 21, 2019 Jack B. Schneider, '51 - January 22, 2019 Joe R. Calvillo. '76 – January 22, 2019 Sidney Bigler, '35 -January 23, 2019 Vangie Beals Padilla, '07 – January 27, 2019 Cornelio A. Lopez, '65 – January 31, 2019 Thomas J. Williams Jr., '17 – February 1, 2019 Roxsanna Goodman Black, '62 - February 5, 2019 Parker R. Lynch, '18 - February 11, 2019 Ronald C. McEuen, '54 - February 14, 2019 Glenda Granatowski Saulters, '03 - February 18, 2019 Tresa Anderson McKinnon, '38 - February 21, 2019

Terrell "Terry" Taylor Haws, '70 - March 4, 2019 Arthur "Ken" Crockett, '74 - March 8, 2019 J. Christopher "Chris" Wile, '16 - March 9, 2019 James J. Bell, '68 - March 11, 2019 Robert L. Layton, '62 - March 15, 2019 Marilyn Merrill Lindner, '74 – March 13, 2019 Danny K. Haralson, '68 - March 18, 2019 Rulon D. Skinner, '50 - March 19, 2019 Manuel "Poncho" Martinez, '53 - March 20, 2019 Timothy "Timoteo" G. Campos, '78 - March 23, 2019 John W. Naegle, '18 - March 24, 2019 Charles G. Benson, '67 - March 25, 2019 Sammy I. Judd, '62 - March 31, 2019 Steven L. Brown, '53 - April 2, 2019 Dennis C. Durr, '80 - April 9, 2019 Karen E. Lee Lines, '95 – April 9, 2019 Dorothy Parker Luttrall, '60 - April 10, 2019 Jenna L. Brinkerhoff Mosley, '60 - April 27, 2019 Richard Saccuci, '70 - April 27, 2019 Ruben C. Licano, '76 - April 28, 2019

Lori Gibbons Wood, '93 – May 1, 2019 Gayle R. Nelson Chappell, '84 – May 3, 2019 Manuel A. Jaramillo, Jr., '79 – May 3, 2019 Glorianna Nosie, '78 - May 15, 2019 Justus I. Villalba, '13 - May 16, 2019 Rita Huber Smith, '49 - May 22, 2019 Travis J. Nosie, '17 – May 30, 2019 Dwight Fisher, '57 – June 2, 2019 Sally A. Holguin, '85 - June 6, 2019 Carlos F. Colvin, '42 – June 10, 2019 Darwin G. Dixon, '59 - June 10, 2019 Noland C. Potts, '63 - June 11, 2019 Floyd C. Misak, '58 – June 13, 2019 Betty J. Wright Elmer, '59 - June 14, 2019 Richard W. Boring, '95 - June 18, 2019 Daniel J. Howard, '71 – June 20, 2019 Roy M. Claridge, '54 – June 20, 2019 Merle L. Dunaway, '73 - June 24, 2019 Kimberly Gardner Hull, '83 - June 26, 2019



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