

gila gram

EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE



Join Dr. Bruce Bishop for his final Spring Sing

(See story on page 2)

Also inside:

- 3 Open Letter to American People**
- 4-5 Alumnotes**
- 6 Donors**
- 7 Softball Reunion**
- 7 Wedding Bells**

Choir alumni invited to join Dr. Bruce Bishop for his final Spring Sing

Dr. Bruce Bishop, EAC's director of choral music, will retire at the end of the Spring 2018 semester. Alumni are invited to join him on stage during a special Spring Sing performance on April 28.

The long-held tradition of music excellence at EAC has been enhanced through Dr. Bishop's tremendous efforts and dedication. Since 2001, he has shared exceptional musical moments in the choir room and on stage with hundreds of EAC students. From his A Cappella Choir to his Men's Chorus and The Guyz and Company, Dr. Bishop has consistently conveyed his love of music, attention to detail and musicality.

Throughout his career, Dr. Bishop has been a vital part of EAC's student experience. He is known for his ability to work with students and bring out the very best in them. Students and co-workers have praised him for his focus on professionalism and musicianship; his instruction and direction is the highest caliber and he prepares students for continued study at university levels. According to Dr. Bishop, EAC's students are "wholesome, good, honest and hard working, and they possess all the values we want to instill in the next generation of Americans."

Dr. Bishop came to EAC from the University of Wyoming where he was a music instructor and the director/producer of the Centennial Singers. He received his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University, his master's

from the University of Wyoming and his doctorate degree from the University of Arizona.

Dr. Bishop once stated, "Music is the language of the soul. It allows us to understand and communicate human emotion. The landmarks of life can be expressed and the feelings encapsulated in powerful music. Birth of a baby, falling in love, death of a loved one, education, overcoming challenges - these and many other life experiences can be more completely understood through the power of vocabulary music."

Please attend Dr. Bishop's final Spring Sing on April 28 from 7:30 – 10 p.m. at the EAC Fine Arts Auditorium. Choir alumni are invited to be part of this special day of singing, sharing old times, renewing friendships and building new memories. Register at www.eacalumni.org/BruceBishopReunion to be part of an alumni performance that will take place during the concert. Be sure to print the music that is



Dr. Bruce Bishop acknowledges choir members during applause given at recent performances.

included on this site and attend the alumni practice at 1 p.m. on April 28.

We extend our appreciation to Dr. Bishop for helping us better understand the "landmarks of life" through music, and we wish him the very best throughout his upcoming retirement.

“Open Letter to American People” by Vasile Teris, '52

Editors Note: Vasile Teris was born on Sept. 11, 1930, in Constanta, Romania. He immigrated to the United States in 1951 and attended EAC in 1952. Vasile held EAC and people living in the Gila Valley in the highest regard. In 2017, he published the following “Open Letter to American People” through social media to show gratitude for his American citizenship. Vasile passed away on Feb. 7, 2018, at the age of 87.

My name is Vasile Teris. I left my native country in 1947 at the tender age of 16 years old, after five years of suffering the cruelties of wars in Europe, the barbaric occupation of German and Russian Troops, and the tyrannical beginning of the communist party with its liberal ideas. I decided alone to leave my country, my mother, father, sisters, brother, relatives, friends, and the beautiful places where I spent my fragile years of my youth, to seek a better place in this world where a man can live in peace, to be free and to say and do what he wants, to the extent of the law of the country in which he lives. I traveled to a few countries, mostly to France and Germany for four years working to support myself and waiting to immigrate to a country who was accepting refugees that escaped from the countries that were devastated by wars in Europe, preferably to the United States. I applied for a visa and I was lucky to find a sponsor, and after a long interrogation and medical examination I received a visa to enter into the United States as a student. In October 1951, I embarked on the ship in Bremen Haven, Germany, and I sailed towards the Atlantic to the United States. I took a long sad look behind me towards old Europe, the cradle of civilization, ruined by wars, greed, and tyranny of men hungry for power. I turned then looking towards the west with joy and hope of new beginnings in America.

My first place was a college in Safford, Arizona. As a student I attended classes in the

morning and worked in the afternoon, and all day Saturdays learning American language and culture and working to pay my expenses. Although the town was small, the people were wonderful, polite, honest, friendly, and helpful. After almost one year I left seeking other places to enrich my knowledge of American experience and culture. I traveled through many states and cities, and in 1953 I arrived in Los Angeles. I found a job in a cabinet shop starting at the bottom, with minimum wage, and learning the business. After three years I became a foreman, and after four years I opened my own furniture shop, which helped me to make a good living, to raise a family of four, three kids and a wife, to buy property and save some money for retirement without the help of the government. I am proud of the fact that I did it alone. I paid taxes with my first check that I received working for Sears in Arizona, and over the years in different states, and even today at the age of 87 I still pay taxes, which I consider as paying rent to this country for letting me live free and safe among you. For liberty is not free. I believe that every man, woman, and child should do their best according to his or her talents and ability to work to improve themselves, to be proud of the country in which they live, and through their work to help others achieve the same for the preservation of all generations to come. We should be respectful and grateful to all working men and women that work no matter in which profession: gardeners, carpenters, mechanics, doctors, nurses, office workers, policemen, firemen, armed forces, writers, philosophers, and teachers, which I consider the noblest profession, for they are modeling the young minds to be able to choose one of the above, for they are the future of all countries, for which the planet depends. Like all Americans, I've been collecting social security for a while, in which I have paid ever since I started to work in 1951 in Arizona. But, I realized lately that I receive more than I have paid in over



Vasile Teris, '52, was a longtime resident of Harbor City, Calif.

the years, therefore I have decided to give back the benefits of social security, not to the government, but in the form of donations to different foundations. Mostly to ones that help wounded American veterans, to those brave men and women that have sacrificed so much to keep us safe from the ravages of war in this country and abroad.

I cannot in good conscience accept money from hard working Americans who work tirelessly, and many struggle to feed their families after what this country has done for me.

With all my heart, and deep within my soul I want to thank all Americans who have welcomed me with open arms to this America and to let me live among them for such a long time in this wonderful country. May God bless you all and -guide you to a better future and may God bless all the people on earth and enlighten them so we can all live in peace and liberty to be able to achieve our dreams, and to keep our beautiful planet from decaying into oblivion. *Vasile Teris (Harbor City, Calif., 2017)*



Monster

Ashley Bowler Names, '11, Safford, Ariz., graduated with three Associate Degrees from Eastern Arizona, including one in nursing in May of 2011. Nursing was not her initial interest, but the more she looked into it, the more it seemed the best fit for her. After graduation, she started her career on the medical/surgical unit in an outlier hospital in Graham County. At this position, she learned the skill sets that would later lead her to her current passion in ER nursing. In September of 2012, she came back to the Gila Valley as a full-time ER/trauma/charge nurse. Ashley worked diligently to obtain numerous certifications to increase her knowledge and skill set in this discipline. In the fall of 2014, while still working full time in the ER, Ashley started working in the outpatient surgery center at Barnet Dulaney on an as needed basis, which would later lead to a part-time position as the ASC Manager. From May 2013 to August 2015,

she attended online classes at the University of Arizona to obtain a Masters in Nursing with an emphasis in Clinical Systems Leadership. Her focus soon shifted

from ER nursing to flight nursing. In October of 2015, Ashley was hired by Air Methods LifeNet as a flight nurse. Amazing opportunities came about while working in this discipline. Ashley came back to EAC in August 2016 as a clinical instructor to help with the same program that started her on her amazing journey in nursing. It was not until March of 2017 that she decided to shift her focus back to ER nursing and begin travel nursing. Travel nursing has allowed Ashley to see various parts of the country while maintaining a suitable means of stability and opportunity for herself and her family. Ashley shares, "I am indeed grateful for the opportunity



Ashley Bowler Names, '11, and her husband, Joe

I had at EAC to pursue nursing because without that none of this would have been possible."

Shaun C. Nua, '02, Annapolis, Md., After playing football at EAC and graduating with his Bachelor's degree, Shaun became an All-Mountain West Conference selection at BYU. He was then drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers and earned a Super Bowl ring as a rookie with the team in 2006. Nua then played four seasons with the Steelers. He obtained a job as a graduate assistant coach



Shaun C. Nua, '02

at BYU for three seasons. Nua then coached six seasons for the Navy football team. During this time he received many accolades and became a highly sought after coach. Nua is now coming back to Arizona because he has been chosen by Herm Edwards to be the defensive line coach for ASU.

Esperanza "Hope" Ruiz, '95, Glendale, Ariz., after earning her AAS degree at EAC Hope was highly recruited and accepted a position with the University of Mary in North Dakota. She earned first team All-American honors while playing softball in only two short years. She earned top conference and regional honors consecutively as a shortstop. Hope helped play a major role in two conference titles consecutively.

During her first year at the University of Mary, Hope's batting average was .480 with an on-base percentage above .600 and several home runs. That season the Marauders had a perfect record of 21-0 in the North Dakota College Athletic Conference and a 26-7 overall record. Her efforts didn't go unnoticed as she was

chosen to the All-NDCAC and all-region teams and was named the NDCAC MVP. During her junior year she earned first team All-American recognition, which is an extremely rare honor.

As one of four upperclassmen in 1997, Hope had another excellent season and her team finished with a record of 23-14 and another conference championship. At the end of her career, the team received All-NDCAC and All-Great Plains region recognition and NDCAC MVP honors for the second year.

Crae Wilson Jr, '91, is enjoying a new position as the Morgan High School principal in Morgan, Utah. Wilson previously served as principal at Pima High School in Pima, Ariz. Out of 15 candidates that applied for the position, which included three from within the Morgan High School district, Wilson was unanimously chosen by the hiring committee.

Frank Endfield Jr., '72, and Pauline Watson Endfield, '72, recently stopped by the EAC Alumni Visitors Center while in town for a grandchild's basketball game. They enjoyed reminiscing about their experiences at EAC and seeing the progress that has taken place. As students at EAC,



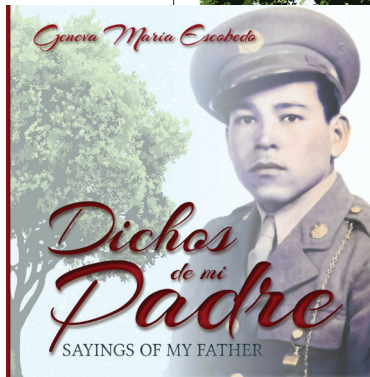
Frank Endfield Jr., '72, and Pauline Watson Endfield, '72

Frank and Pauline participated in clubs and the choir and completed their last year as a married couple. They transferred to Arizona State University where Pauline earned her bachelor's and master's degrees. She taught elementary school

Alumnnotes

and coached basketball for Whiteriver School District for 45 years. Currently, Pauline teaches at Cibecue Community School and also serves as athletic director and basketball coach. Frank has served in law enforcement and worked as a mental health counselor. He is actively involved in his community, serving eight years as tribal councilman and eight years as a board member for the Whiteriver School District. Frank and Pauline raised two sons and three daughters and have fourteen grandchildren.

Geneva Escobedo, '69, Tucson, Ariz., enjoyed a 30-year professional career in higher education and retired from Pima Community College in 2016. Geneva published her first book, *Dichos de mi Padre* (Sayings of my Father). This book contains 20 dichos with related stories about growing up in Safford. It also shares the Escobedo family history and a brief history of Solomon. Geneva's niece graduated from EAC and her son, Eric, is currently attending EAC.



*D*ichos de mi Padre is a personal reflection of dichos, also known as folk wisdom, passed on from grandparent to parent to child. Dichos, are something everyone can relate to in life. They are universal. The stories contained in this book give the reader insight into Mexican culture, family traditions and values, and spirituality. You will also learn about family history.

Dichos de mi Padre honors our ancestors and expresses the pride of being a Mexican-American. We all stand on the shoulders of our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, uncles and aunts. They influence us and contribute to who we are. This is a book about family and the richness of our connections and the values we hold dear.



GENEVA MARIA ESCOBEDO was born in Safford, Arizona. She began journaling during her college years and joined two women's writing groups to pursue her goals to write and publish poetry and short stories. Her writings have been published in *Our Spirit, Our Reality: celebrating our stories*; *SandScript*; and *Cababi Art & Literary Magazine*. In 2015, Geneva contributed a short story and family recipe to *Frijoles, Elotes, y Chipotles, Oh My! & Other Tummy Tales*.



Dichos de mi Padre is Geneva's first book. She enjoys writing about Mexican culture, family, spirituality and personal growth.

Geneva completed her B.S. in Business Administration at Arizona State University and her M.B.A. at the University of Phoenix.

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EAC's head softball coach and Wellness Center supervisor, Kate McCluskey, welcomed twenty-six former EAC softball players at a reunion held during Homecoming 2017. Coach McCluskey has been at EAC since 1990 and is always thrilled to meet with former players and hear about their careers and families. Pictured are: **Standing** (from left) - Lisa Walton, Emily Espenel, Cynthia Garduno, Lyssa Hendrix, Daniella Aragon, Andrea Shelley, Tania Jones, Kate McCluskey, Carin Geiger (back), Stephanie Baca, Jill Yuen (back), Angelica Carley, Autumn Lopez, Bea Maldonado, Kyerra Ledesma, Adge Dominguez, Hope Ruiz - **Sitting** (from left) - Virginia Ruiz, Anita Garcia (back), Noe Esperas, Dani Cruz, Michelle Teo, Molly Kornmeyer, Arlett Geiger, Tashauna Fuentes, Monica Chavez

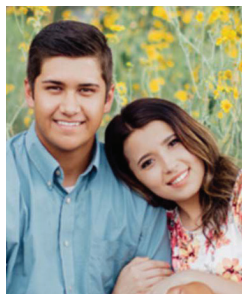
Wedding Bells Rang

July 7, 2017 for **Laura John, '16** to **Allen Hernandez, '16**.
 July 27, 2017 for **Demi Kempton, '13** to **Dillon Hancock, '17**.
 July 29, 2017 for **Brielle Daley, '12** to **Brandon Bryce, '17**.
 August 5, 2017 for **Sadie Radmall, '17** to **W. Nicholas Orr, '17**.
 August 12, 2017 for **Heather Shiflet, '17** to **Jacob Heslop, '17**.
 September 1, 2017 for **Alyssa McBride, '17** to **Kyle Martin, '17**.
 September 16, 2017 for **Brinley Bryce, '16** to **Ali'I Tavesi, '17**.
 October 14, 2017 for **Gentry Evans '17** to **Davis Kempton, '12**.
 October 14, 2017 for **Marissa Green** to **Koby Alva, '13**.
 October 21, 2017 **Kelly Jo McCormies, '17** to **William Masten, '14**.
 October 28, 2017 **Alexandra Aguilera** to **Nathan Weech, '17**.

November 10, 2017 for **Johnna Johnson, '15** to Trent Patterson.
 November 11, 2017 for **Tori Johnson, '13** to Braylen Uchytill.
 November 24, 2017 for **R. Riley Phillips, '17** to **Chad Shurtz '18**.
 December 16, 2017 for **Catherine Sanchez, '17** to **Robert Mulleneaux, '16**.
 December 16, 2017 for **Olivia Crockett, '17** to **Levi Jeffs '17**.
 December 16, 2017 for **Kylie Russell, '16** to **Shawn Clonts, '16**.
 December 16, 2017 for **Sarah Green, '17** to **Joshua McDougal '18**.
 December 29, 2017 for **Morgan Ellett, '15** to Al Larsen.
 December 30, 2017 for **Megan L. Jorgensen, '14** to Stetson Kizzar.



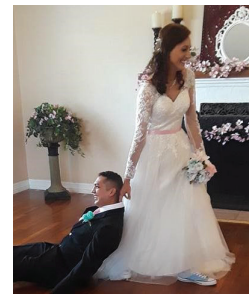
Alexandra Aguilera &
Nathan Weech, '17



Brinley Bryce, '16 &
Ali'I Tavesi, '17



Olivia Crockett, '17 &
Levi Jeffs, '17



Laura John, '16 & Allen
Hernandez, '16

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