

gila gram

EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

Pictured: EAC President Todd Haynie announces the Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences degrees at a press conference on Jan. 18, 2024.

ELAINE ROBAK RAD LAB DEDICATION

A Tribute To Compassion

(See Story on Page 2)

**Also
Inside**

3

Scholarships

6

**Monster
Alumnotes**

10

**In
Memoriam**

11

**Wedding
Bells**



Elaine Robak

RAD LAB A Tribute to Compassion DEDICATION

Honoring Elaine Robak's contributions to Eastern Arizona College's Radiologic Technology Program, and the lasting impact of her philanthropy.

Students, faculty, administrators, and members of the Graham County Community College District Governing Board met for a touching ceremony on November 16. As a result of her generous contributions to Eastern Arizona College, the home of Eastern's Radiologic Technology Program was named the Elaine Robak Radiology Lab.

Elaine Robak began her professional life as a public-school teacher. Later, she worked as a teaching associate at University of

members experience. The Robaks also donated a significant amount to support the expansion of the Radiologic Technology Program at EAC.

The dedication event included performances by Eastern's choral group Encore. Program Director Adam Bingham shared the history of the Radiologic Technology Program that is now in its second year. The program will have its first graduates this spring.

President Todd Haynie spoke about the privilege of meeting

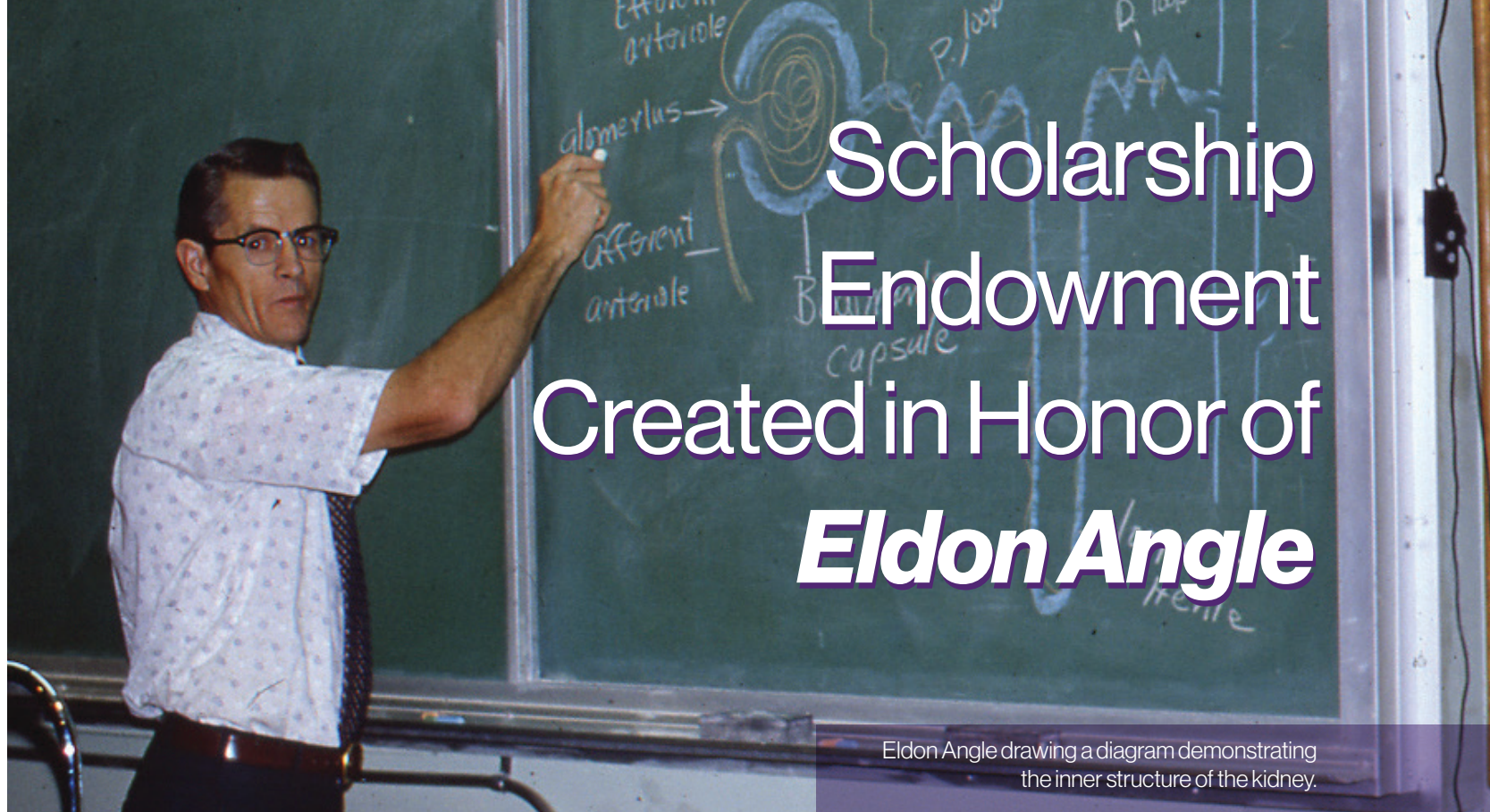


EAC's new radiologic technology laboratory is named in honor of Elaine Robak (third from left)

Arizona while earning her master's degrees in Spanish and higher education. In her early 30s, Robak switched to nursing and attended a community college in Phoenix for her nursing degree. For the next 32 years, Robak was a postpartum nurse and later a diabetes educator. She has since retired and relocated to Tucson. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Robak and her husband, Robert, took a road trip to Thatcher and visited EAC's Discovery Park. They became acquainted with Mr. David Udall from the EAC Foundation and started sponsoring scholarships for the nursing and theater departments. The more Elaine and Robert learned about EAC, the more they grew to love the College and the special feeling that students and community

Elaine and Robert Robak and shared appreciation for their outstanding generosity. He also mentioned how fitting the choir's performance of Coldplay's "Fix You" matched the celebration of healthcare training that helps medical professionals identify and fix community members in need. President Haynie then dedicated the facility as the Elaine Robak Radiology Lab.

To learn more about sharing donations that bring transformative changes in the lives of students, contact David Udall at the EAC Foundation at (928) 428-8295. ●



Eldon Angle drawing a diagram demonstrating the inner structure of the kidney.

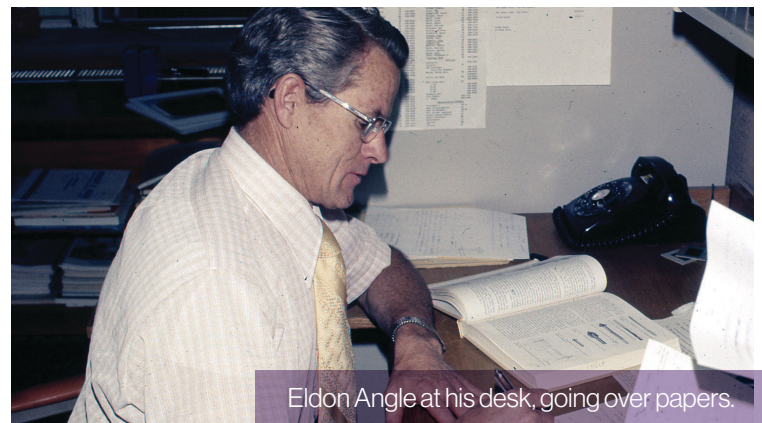
A native of Franklin, Ariz., Eldon Preston Angle graduated from Central High School in Kirtland, New Mexico in 1948. He spent one year at Eastern Arizona Junior College, before receiving a mission call to the Northern States Mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Upon obtaining his mission release, Mr. Angle served two years (1953-55) with the Information and Education Division of the US Army. After his honorable discharge, Angle worked as manager of the Dale King Farm in Willcox. He entered the University of Arizona in 1956 and received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree in 1958. From 1958 to 1960, he managed the Tucson Egg Ranch. He then taught agriculture at Snowflake Union High School for five years.

Eldon began teaching at Eastern Arizona College in 1965. He started as an instructor for agriculture courses. Over time, he moved to courses in zoology, human anatomy and physiology, and general biology. Before retiring in 1992, he also taught courses in residential house wiring and plumbing, both of which he learned on his own as a home builder—a side business that was a big part of his family's experience.

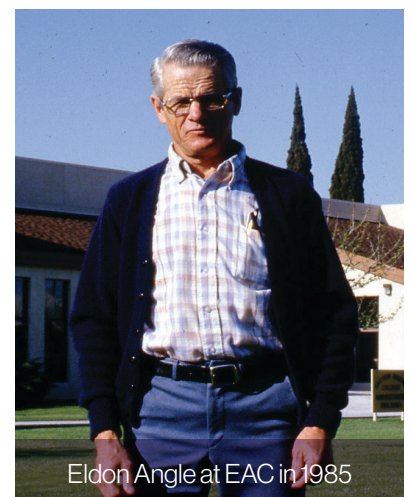
The Angles raised eight children, all of whom attended Eastern, along with many grandchildren over the years.

An anonymous donor wished to honor Angle and his career at EAC by establishing a scholarship endowment that will fund scholarships for students in the nursing or other allied health programs. Earnings from this endowment will create scholarships year-after-year in perpetuity. ●



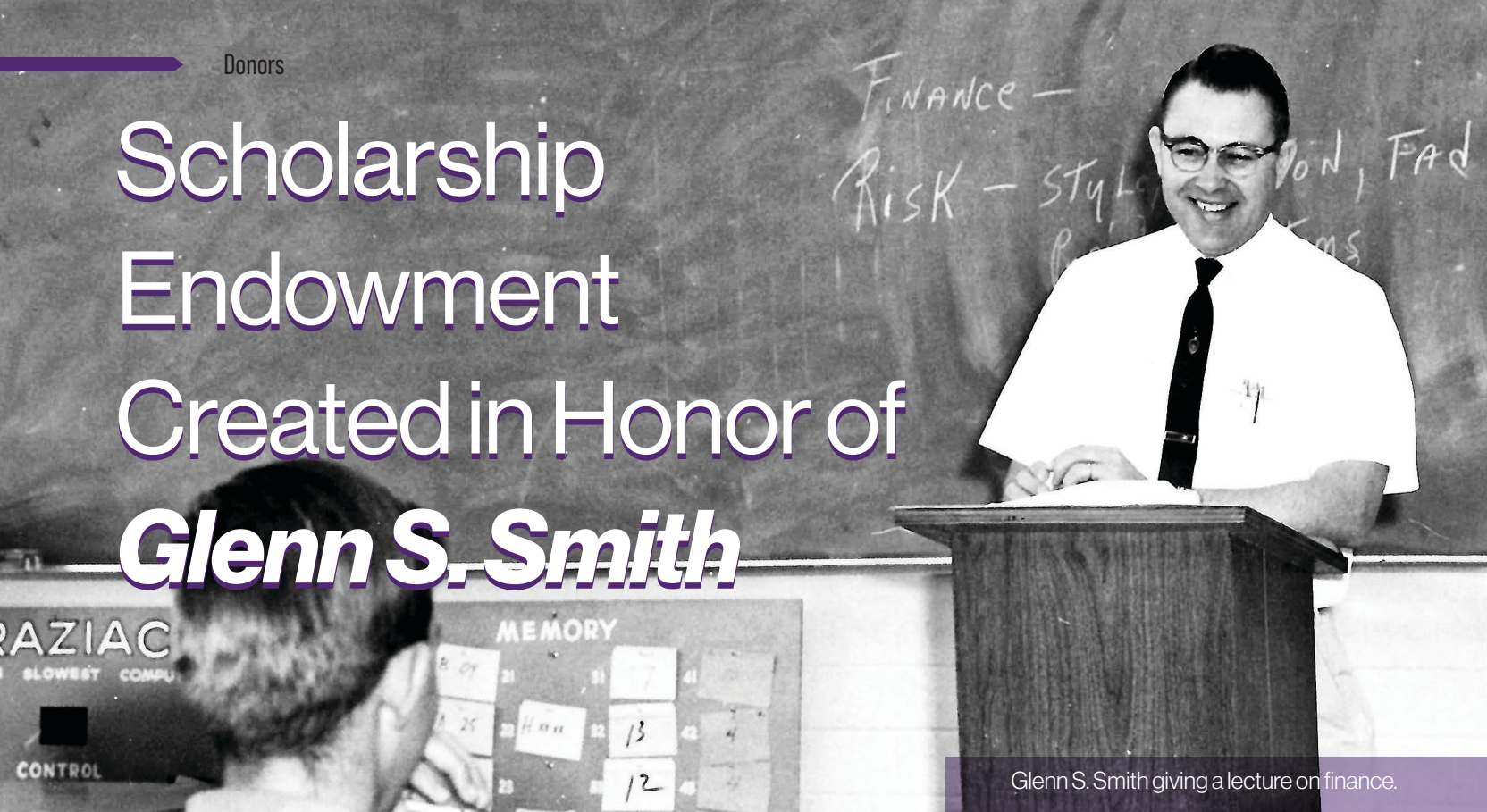
Eldon Angle at his desk, going over papers.

“Earnings from this endowment will create scholarships year-after-year in perpetuity.”



Eldon Angle at EAC in 1985

Scholarship Endowment Created in Honor of *Glenn S. Smith*



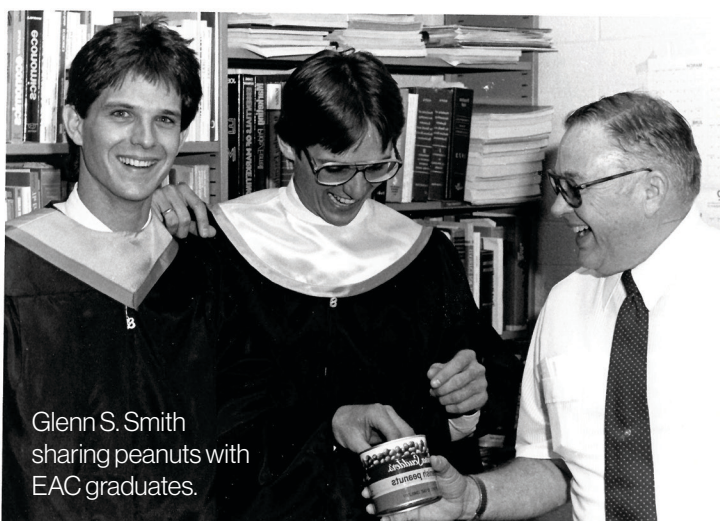
Glenn S. Smith giving a lecture on finance.

Glenn S. Smith taught business and accounting courses at Eastern Arizona College from 1966 to 1990. Many might not know that he enlisted in the Air Force right after graduation from Globe High School and became a navigator during World War II. He remained with the Air Force Reserve until 1972, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He was also very active with the Rotary Club and was the DECA club sponsor at EAC for many years.

Glenn and his wife, Joye, raised seven children, all of whom attended Eastern. Two of them now work at the College.

Many of Glenn's students made their choice to pursue the business world (accounting, finance or starting a business) because of his great introduction to these areas of study. One of Glenn's students wished to remember him by establishing an endowment that will fund the Glenn S. Smith Memorial Scholarship in perpetuity.

This scholarship will benefit students pursuing one of EAC's business programs. ●



Glenn S. Smith sharing peanuts with EAC graduates.



Glenn S. Smith helping a student.

EAC Foundation Donors

The individuals and organizations listed below are greatly appreciated for helping us continue making a difference in the lives of more than 250 students each year. The following donations were received between **July 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.**

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Elaine McBride Mattice, '43, celebrated her 100th birthday. More than 200 of her closest family and friends attended her party.

Elaine was born in Glenbar, Ariz. to Howard and Elsie McBride, and was the youngest of 12 children. She was raised on a farm and always had chores to do. Elaine attended Pima Schools and had many friends. She met Rue Mattice in high school. They were married on Feb. 12, 1942, and sealed in the Mesa Arizona Temple a few days later. Rue joined the military, and they moved to Austin, Texas. Not long after completing training, he was transferred to Fort Wayne, Ind., and then flew to their final destination, Dulag Leyte, Philippines. Elaine moved back to Arizona to attend Gila Junior College (Eastern Arizona College today).



Elaine McBride
 Mattice, '43



Top left to right: Linda Laurier, Marge Pittman Wintermute, '66.

Second row, left to right: Mari Pat Levine, '67, Terry Raftery.

Rue lost his life in a heroic accident shortly after the war ended.

Elaine moved to Phoenix and attended Arizona Southern University (ASU). She started working for Valley National Bank, (Chase Bank today) in 1949. Elaine worked as a purchasing officer for all the branches in Arizona. She retired from banking in 1985.

Elaine enjoys playing and watching golf. Elaine always had a love for arts and theatre and continues to attend when she can.

She enjoyed traveling with friends and was able to see many wonderful places. On her 89th birthday, she went skydiving with her hairdresser and crew. When asked if she would do that again, she said, "Absolutely!"

Elaine has been a lifetime member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and has served in many callings. Her most recent was serving in the Mesa Arizona Temple for 23 years and then the Phoenix Arizona

Temple for three years.

She still drives her Black KIA Soul to keep her young and independent. Elaine lives on her own and takes care of herself and her home. She loves a good movie night out and dinner with family and friends. Elaine keeps up with technology on her iPhone. She enjoys reading the Arizona Republic, keeping her mind sharp.

Linda Turben Laurier, '66 fondly remembers her roommate **Terry Raftery, '66**, from the

Alumni!

Tell us what's new!



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

LUMNOTES MONSTER ALUMNOTES MONSTE

Wesley Taylor Dorm at Eastern Arizona Junior College. They remained friends over the years, communicating frequently, visiting one another's homes, laughing, and sharing college memories.

At her 50th reunion, Terry shared a memory of when they fooled the security guard by stuffing clothing and hanging it out the dorm window to look like someone was trying to sneak out.

Linda is a retired teacher living in the Phoenix area.

Boyd Larson, '90, and **Julie McBride Larson, '87,** met as students at EAC while Julie was attending the Northern Arizona University (NAU) education program on the Thatcher Campus. They left in 1990 after Julie finished her Bachelor's in Elementary Education. The Larsons moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and continued their studies. Boyd earned a Bachelor's in Fine Arts at the University of New Mexico (UNM). While at UNM, he became an emergency medical technician and paramedic, then trained to become a physician's assistant. Julie earned a Master's in Education and Technology.

Through their schooling, the Larsons raised a family of six children. Two of their children later attended EAC – **Jacob Larson, '15,** and **Adam Larson, '16.** Adam met his wife, **Witney Jewkes Larson, '16,** while attending EAC.

The family enjoys skiing, tennis, and mountain biking. Boyd and Julie look forward to retirement and spending time with their family.

Howard (Howie) Houston '90, will retire from teaching Theatre at Alhambra High School in Phoenix in May 2024. He credits his teaching, passion, and love of the art form to his mentor, the late Dr. Crae Wilson,



Left to Right: Keith Alexander, Gary Sorenson, Hyrum Gray, '23, Aaron Burk

who taught at EAC from 1977-2008. Dr. Crae was a legend in Arizona for college and high school theatre arts. Crae gave theater scholarships to young high school students around the world to get them to be a part of his program at EAC. Howie received an acting scholarship in 1987.

After transferring, Howie graduated from the University of Arizona, with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts and went on to receive his teaching certificate.

Of the many things Howie is grateful for in his career, he is most proud of four former students becoming theatre teachers, continuing Dr. Crae's legacy. At Alhambra, Howie developed a reputation for being a fun, compassionate, and loyal teacher who created memorable productions.

Howie has been a proud member of the State Board for Arizona Thespians for over 20 years and received a legacy award for years of volunteer work and dedication.

In retirement, Howie plans to buy an RV and travel around the country, visiting friends and relatives, experiencing new things, and enjoying life.

Hyrum Gray, '23, was appointed to attend the US Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Hyrum shared, "EAC has given me the tools and credentials to qualify for an appointment at West Point. Without learning....skills from professors who care about me, I would not have had the academics to survive and thrive at West Point. EAC's been an amazing stepping stone and something I will never forget."

Gray always wanted a military career but didn't feel he had the academic background to attend a prestigious college. He credits EAC's deans and professors for preparing him for advanced studies at West Point.

"I had a low GPA in high school, so I came here to EAC to redeem myself," said Gray. "Two EAC deans, Gary Sorensen and Aaron Burk....took me under their wings. They mentored me and talked to me about the options I had in life and....showed me how to be a scholar....It's the people that you meet who are the most amazing, and EAC is a hidden gem in that respect."

Outside the classroom, EAC's faculty, staff, and the larger Gila Valley community, helped Gray develop the necessary contacts to gain admission into the West Point academy. Keith Alexander, EAC's chief government relations officer, contacted Senator Krysten Sinema's and Congressman Juan Ciscomani's offices, and Deans Sorensen and Burk wrote letters of recommendation for him.

Dr. Clayton Hargis with the Mount Graham Regional Medical Center and Vance Bryce, executive director of the Graham County Chamber of Commerce, helped Gray by sending letters and making contacts.

"I was working at Gila Hank's Café when I got a call from Major Nicole Bisacchi," said Gray. "She said, 'Hey, this is last minute, but you've received an appointment, and I need you to accept it within the next day for it to be valid. Do you have any questions?'... I accepted the appointment over the phone....As soon as I hung up, I yelled out, 'I got the appointment! I'm going to West Point!' and everyone at Gila Hank's cheered."

Gray's scholarship to West Point amounts to approximately \$350,000 and covers tuition, room, board, and medical

"Hyrum was one of the most tenacious students we've ever had," said Aaron Burk, EAC's dean of STEM and allied health. "He just kept after it. He knows what he wants, and he works until he gets it."

Gray hopes to major in pre-medical sciences and minor in Arabic or Chinese. He says his goal is to pursue a medical career in trauma or reconstructive surgery.

When asked what advice he'd give someone considering EAC, Gray stated, "EAC's professors care about your success and want you to learn. So, get good at asking questions, and be consistent with your homework." ●

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Thatcher Campus Revival

A fusion of tradition and innovation, EAC redefines educational spaces for the next generation.

Eastern Arizona College began a multimillion-dollar renovation project last fall on its Gherald L. Hoopes Jr. Activities Center and Mark Allen Hall that will upgrade facilities and create spaces where students gather, access services, and connect with one another. The project is scheduled to be completed in May 2024. Though hours and locations may vary, Gila Hank's Café, the Campus Store, the EAC Foundation, Lee Little Theater, and Mark Allen Hall's recently renovated living spaces will remain open throughout construction.

Revitalizing Spaces

"This renovation project will deliver meaningful results with significant efficiencies in cost and scheduling," said Todd Haynie, EAC president. "Both buildings have become functionally obsolete and expensive to operate. New interior finishes, an emphasis on energy-saving strategies, and creating shared spaces

will serve future generations and keep EAC at the forefront of higher education for years to come."

Renovation of the Activities Center will encompass 15,250 square feet and create a vibrant hub that offers usable, up-to-date spaces for students and the community. Improvements include:

- /// an expanded Gila Hank's Café that offers a food-court-like experience with more concept food offerings;
- /// designated space for EAC's NJCAA eSports team that includes PC and console games;
- /// usable outside access into the EAC Monster Pit from the south side of the building. The EAC Monster Pit will also include highly functional offices for the Associated Students of Eastern Arizona College;

- /// a new eastside location for The Campus Store with expanded space and storefront offerings.

The Activities Center's Main Dining Hall, Lee Little Theater, and the EAC Foundation offices will remain in their current locations during construction and after the renovation is completed.

Mark Allen Hall was EAC's main student union when it opened in 1964 and renovations will bring back the building's shared spaces to improve student learning and living. The renovated area encompasses 10,030 square feet and will include:

- /// a student kitchen and consolidated laundry area in the building's old dining hall, which was closed in 1993 when food services moved to the Activities Center;
- /// quiet spaces and a designated study room added upstairs in the old laundry

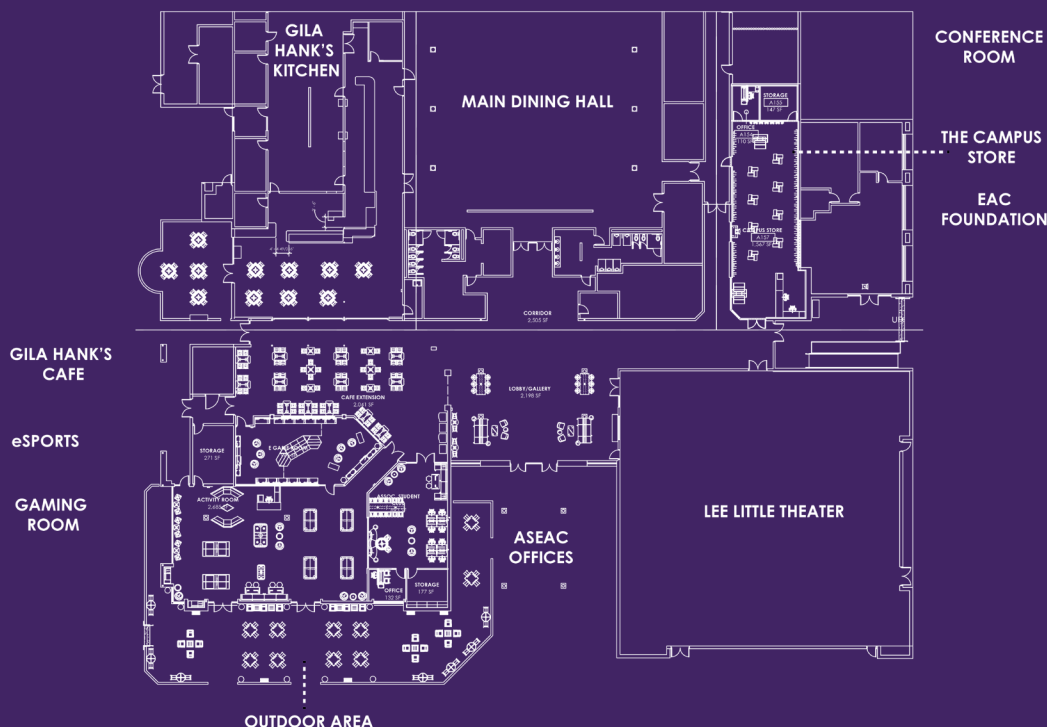


Figure 1 — Gherald L. Hoopes Jr. Activities Center

facility locations;

- /// a completely redesigned commons area with new amenities;
- /// a newly designed main entrance on the east side of Mark Allen Hall, complete with landscaping that directs students into the building.;
- /// improved access and an outdoor plaza for students to gather on the west side of the building.;
- /// energy efficient windows, doors, and lighting throughout the project.

Crafting Tomorrow's Campus

This project also includes several thousand square feet of renovations to the grounds surrounding both buildings, including: infrastructure upgrades, two ramadas, outdoor furniture, lighting, and landscaping.

"This renovation project is the result of feasibility studies that helped us determine the best course of action for our campus community," said Haynie. "It will allow us to

offer student housing, dining, and shared spaces that align with contemporary student expectations with a 70% cost savings over using new construction."

Significant funding was a result of appropriations secured by District 19 legislators, including: Senator David Gowan, Representative Gail Griffin, and Representative Lupe Diaz. Remaining costs were paid from reserve funds that have been set aside by the EAC Governing Board.

CORE Construction has been chosen as the contractor for this renovation project. CORE has offices across the country and provides exceptional building services in 13 markets. CORE was the general contractor for Arizona State University's Lantana Hall, the Sun Devil Stadium Southeast Plaza Renovation, and the University of Arizona Hillenbrand Aquatic Center Improvements. In 2023, CORE Construction was ranked as the number one general contractor in Arizona by AZBIGMEDIA. ●



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Plan for your future
like you'd shop for healthy foods

When we go shopping, it is best to have a list. When we do, we don't forget to pick up that needed item, and we are also less likely to buy too much. Lists make sense. Planning pays.

When you think about the important people and charities in your life, have you written a plan to take care of them? If the peace of mind that comes with planning and the possibility of significant tax savings appeal to you, we have done the work for you. We make it easy.

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Our guides and ideas come with no cost and there is never any obligation. Call or email us to help you prepare a beautiful list for life.

To learn more, contact David Udall at the EAC Foundation at (928) 428-8295. ●

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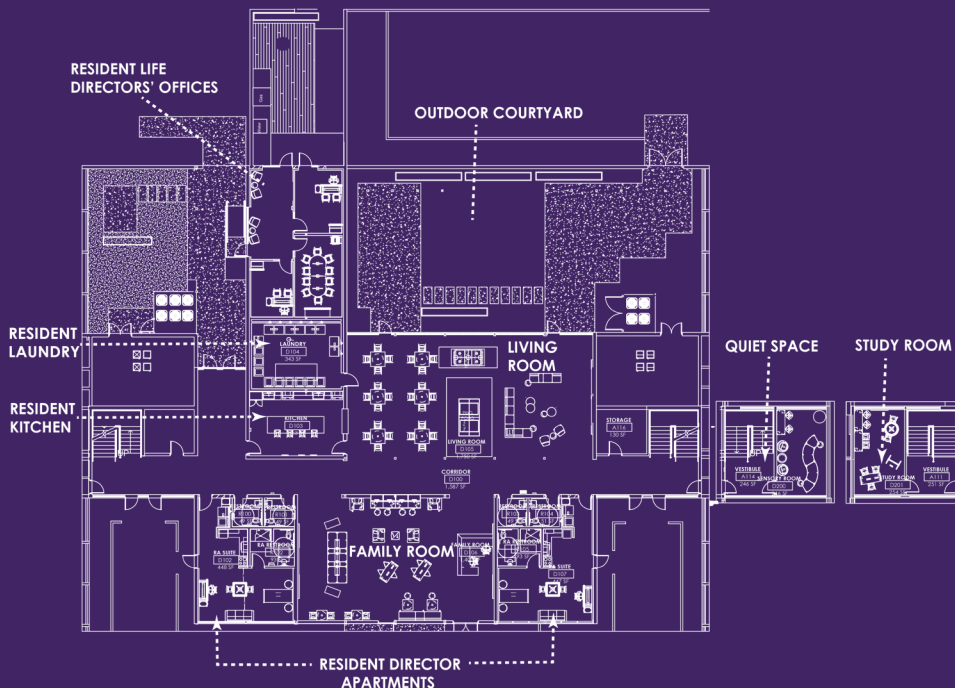


Figure 2 — Mark Allen Residence Hall

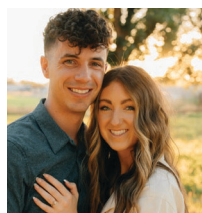
In Memoriam

Ruben A. Jaramillo, '15 – July 6, 2023
John M. Babich, '76 – July 8, 2023
William E. Cariveau, '89 – July 10, 2023
Charles "Bob" Pursley, '80 – July 14, 2023
Cynthia S. Ybarra, '17 – July 19, 2023
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Charlene H. Brown, '89 – July 29, 2023
Thomas Lopeman, '71 – July 30, 2023
Laurence E. Webb, '72 – July 31, 2023
Mikeal L. Smith, '70 – August 1, 2023
William "Bill" Aiello, '64 – August 1, 2023
Dennis I. Lunt, '68 – August 4, 2023
William H. Preston, '66 – August 4, 2023
Willard M. Hirschi, Former Faculty – August 5, 2023
Betty "BJ" Ray, '87 – August 7, 2023
Theron K. Hatch, '61 – August 8, 2023
Eugene L. Watson, '76 – August 10, 2023
Karol Lyn Lunt Woodall, '77 – August 10, 2023
Joan Mortensen Cardon, '68 – August 19, 2023
Darce A. Ridgley, '63 – August 19, 2023
Elton Crocker, '70 – August 24, 2023
Arthur M. Sanchez, '56 – August 26, 2023
Linda S. Stewart Arquette, '85 – August 27, 2023
Shirley Larson Dawson, '63 – September 3, 2023
Rosemary Castenada, '10 – September 4, 2023
Adolph John Cubitto, '63 – September 4, 2023
L. Kimball Romney, '69 – September 5, 2023
Sarah E. Graham, '79 – September 8, 2023
Joe M. Cueto, '60 – September 16, 2023
Dawn M. Hinton, '78 – September 17, 2023
Fred D. Richards, '49 – September 20, 2023
Janet Marshall Hoopes, '65 – September 22, 2023
Rosa Lee Horn, '08 – September 24, 2023
Christina S. Lauver, '91 – September 26, 2023
Ted L. Ferrin, '54 – September 27, 2023
Juan R. Rascon, '76 – October 4, 2023
Wayne H. Flake, '75 – October 6, 2023

W. Brandt Stewart, '69 – October 7, 2023
Dawnee P. McEuen Robinson, '70 – October 11, 2023
Karen Stowell Layton, '54 – October 15, 2023
Kenneth V. Lindsey, '66 – October 15, 2023
Debra Rhoton, '74 – October 17, 2023
Joyce Larson, '50 – October 18, 2023
Norma J. Reed Larson, '51 – October 18, 2023
Donald Thatcher, '67 – October 22, 2023
Elsie J. Hamilton Norris, '72 – October 23, 2024
Annalea Carroll Johnson, '11 – October 24, 2023
Orlando W. McBride, '67 – October 27, 2023
Michael M. Howell, '87 – October 29, 2023
Joyce N. Thompson Ford, '51 – November 4, 2023
James B. Whitmer, '62 – November 12, 2023
Jack W. Phillips, '77 – November 14, 2023
Terry L. Raftery, '67 – November 14, 2023
Michael L. Mills, '75 – November 16, 2023
Debra Thygerson Rhoton, '74 – October 17, 2023
Viola O. Andazola, '79 – November 20, 2023
Kenneth O. Lake, '48 – November 23, 2023
Lot D. Smith, '54 – December 2, 2023
Teresa Garcia Abeyta, '71 – December 4, 2023
Harrison Talgo, '78 – December 5, 2023
Harrison B. Owens, '67 – December 18, 2023
Jordan L. McBride Terry, '17 – December 18, 2023
Deanna J. Phillips Nielsen, '57 – December 20, 2023
Gloria D. Vasquez, '64 – December 21, 2023
Rory C. Long, '05 – December 23, 2023
Kenny R. Jensen, '13 – December 29, 2023
Julie A. White, '85 – December 30, 2023

Wedding Bells

June 16, 2023	Brooklyn Searle + Nathan McMaster '15
July 21, 2023	Rachel Fox '22 + Bradyn Bryce '22
September 23, 2023	Maliah Mae Warden + Adam Joseph Fox, '18
September 29, 2023	Amanda Sampson '23 + Aaron Hatch '23
October 10, 2023	Merilee Durfee '98 + Ryan Jones
October 19, 2023	Sarah Chipman + Talon Brown '20
November 18, 2023	Hailey Udall + Gavin Bryce
December 15, 2023	Lynzee Passey '24 + Collin Mack '24



Searle + McMaster



Fox + Bryce



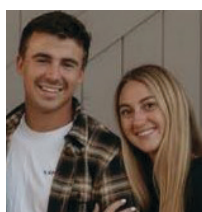
Warden + Fox



Sampson + Hatch



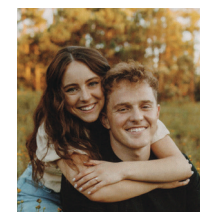
Durfee + Jones



Chipman + Brown



Passey + Mack



Udall + Bryce



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