



Bertrand N Bostrom

November 12, 1932 - April 30, 2013

Bert N. Bostrom, age 80, died on April 30, 2013 in Prescott Valley, Arizona. He was born in Marshalltown, Iowa on November 12, 1932. He moved to Arizona as a teenager, graduating from Phoenix Union High School and earning degrees from Arizona State University – including BA in Journalism, a MA in English, and a Doctorate in Education in Curriculum and Instruction.

Bert had a long and distinguished career as teacher, consultant and mentor. Bert taught English, Journalism, and Photography at Tolleson, Phoenix Union and East High Schools from 1957-1967. He developed the annual AZ High School Publication Workshop from 1970-1982. He joined Northern Arizona University in 1967, where he progressed from Assistant Professor to Professor of Journalism. In 1984, he became Director of the University Advisement Center, an advising program for undecided freshmen students. Bert served as a national officer of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, and received its highest award, the Wells Memorial Key, in 1984. He wrote a history of the Society, titled “Talent, Truth and Energy: 75 years of Service to Journalism.”

Other awards included NAU’s Distinguished Faculty Award and President’s Award for Outstanding Service, as well as the Arizona Press Club’s AIPA Lifetime Achievement Award. He was named Outstanding Academic Adviser by the National Academic Advisers Association, Arizona Newspaper

Association's University Journalism Teacher of the Year and the Phoenix Jaycees' Outstanding Young Educator.

Bert was a charter member of Trinity Heights United Methodist Church of Flagstaff. He unselfishly gave of his time to serve on many committees and was Lay Leader for many years. He moved to Cottonwood in 1991. Nepha and Bert were very active in the Prescott Valley United Methodist Church after they moved to the area in 2002.

Bert was a "news junkie" who loved classical music, travel, baseball and gardening. He took great professional pride in the successes of his former students; many of whom stayed in touch right up until his death. Colleagues and students alike will miss his love of teaching, his generosity, his keen interest in others and his dry sense of humor.

Bert is survived by his wife, Nepha, whom he married in 1996; his three children from his first marriage: David (Debby), Steven (Amy) and Deborah (Stan); two from Nepha's previous marriage: Jennifer (John) and Chris (Jeanette); 14 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; his brother, Edwin, and sister, Beverly; and two nephews, Derrick and Damon.

A Memorial Service for Bert will be at 1pm on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at Prescott Valley United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Bert's honor may be sent to Prescott Valley United Methodist Church or the Good Samaritan Society Prescott Hospice. Hampton Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements

Tribute Wall

DJ

“September, 1957: I was starting my Senior year at Tolleson Union High School. I had an open spot in my schedule and the school's only Journalism Class was at 6th Hour. The school had a new young Journalism teacher fresh out of ASU: "Mr. Bostrom". I signed up.

It was great fun! And for some reason, I'll Never know why, Mr. Bostrom named me Editor-in-Chief of the "WOLVER-NEWS". That was the beginning of my 39 years in Journalism (mostly in television and radio).

Mr. Bostrom and I got in touch about once every ten years. He followed my "FACE THE STATE" career on Channel 10. Our last face-to-face meeting was in 1994 when he came to Phoenix for the launch of KTWC 103.5.

Thanks, Mr. Bostrom, for heading me down the Journalism Road.

Don Jerome

Don Jerome - October 04, 2013 at 11:39 AM

EC

“ I was so sorry to read in the Republic of Bert's passing. Bert was an enthusiastic mentor for me and many of my NAU journalism classmates. He was inspirational, practical, and funny. I appreciate so much his help in launching my career. My sympathies to his family.

Elizabeth Hannan Cree - June 10, 2013 at 09:10 AM

JA

“ Bert " 30" REST IN PEACE

Jaime A. Ontiveros...phoenix az - June 08, 2013 at 09:04 AM

KE

“ My sweet friend, Bert, I will miss you always. You had a heart as big as I have ever seen and you were never afraid to show love and compassion. The world is a different place since you left. Michael and I will be forever grateful for your matchmaking skills. Rest well, good man.

Karen Elkins - June 07, 2013 at 11:20 AM

KE

“ My sweet friend, Bert, I will miss you always. You had a heart as big as I have ever seen and were never afraid to show love and compassion. The world changed the day you left. Michael and I will be forever grateful for your matchmaking skills. Rest well, dear man.

Karen Elkins - June 07, 2013 at 11:03 AM

JP

“ So sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. He was always so nice to me as a kid when we were growing up. Take care Debbie and Steve. Love, Jill Peterson

Jill Peterson - June 06, 2013 at 07:18 PM

RL

“ My friendship with Bert goes back to being colleagues on the founding faculty of Phoenix's East High School. Since Bert's father was an esteemed Phoenix Union High School board member, when we new faculty were introduced to each other at that first faculty-staff gathering - there were just two of us selected from South Mountain - the name Bostrom was one which came as a surprise to me.

It took very little time for East High to become established as a highly functional and successful educational institution, with both Bert & I in positions where our students had immediate opportunities to display talents. It was no wonder that NAU drew him to Flagstaff for the premier part of his amazing career, and years later, after retirement, Bert & I would enjoy most pleasant times of reminiscing when he attended CACBand concerts on summer evenings in Prescott. What a fantastic person, educator and friend who will never be forgotten. Rich Longfield

Richard Longfield - June 05, 2013 at 04:22 PM

MS

“ I loved being in his class when I returned to college after 20 years. He made learning fun, had great stories to tell, and encouraged creativity.

Martha Shideler - June 03, 2013 at 12:29 PM

WW

“ Bert was my advisor and friend during a good part of my college experience at Northern Arizona University. He was instrumental in helping me attain the Journalism Department scholarship which paid my tuition fees and hiring me as The Lumberjack newspaper mail clerk on a work study program. I am entirely grateful for all he did in encouraging me to attend NAU and helping me afford a college education. He took pride in teaching, the students who made up his entourage and the accomplishments he obtained through Sigma Delta Chi. He will be sorely missed.

William H. Wittenborn - May 14, 2013 at 05:22 PM

KD

“ I met Bert my senior year while he was visiting our Journalism Class at Glendale High School in Glandale, AZ. He was so engaging and enthusiastic about NAU's Journalism Department, that I really started considering NAU. Then he told us about a scholarship offered by the Arizona Republic Newspaper that we could apply for. (Don't end a sentence with a preposition!!) Thanks to Bert, that scholarship helped me through my 4 (spell out four) years at NAU during which he was my advisor and mentor. To this day, every time I write a lead paragraph, I hear his voice and see his endless editing that shaped my future. I have stayed in the field for the past 37 years and often think of Bert's influence. He was a gentle giant and the genuine caring he showed each of us lives on as his legacy. I hope we all continue to honor him by paying it forward. I send my sympathy and prayers to his family who I know will miss his presence every day. Special thanks to Nepha Franks for keeping us "in the loop" during the past year. You two had a special marriage and I'm grateful to have known you both. Kathy Meell Davidson

Kathy Davidson - May 13, 2013 at 05:59 PM

IM

“ When I decided to start my NAU life in summer school, instead of waiting until fall, I went to Flagstaff to see what I needed to do. I stopped by the Creative Arts building and quite accidentally bumped into BB. He stopped his day, sat me down in his office and lined me out with what I needed to do. After that session, my only problems at NAU were self made.

He had such a positive influence on so many lives. How fortunate we have been.

Irv Mitchell

Irv Mitchell - May 12, 2013 at 09:32 PM

DL

“ Bert was a motivator, a mentor and one of the best teachers that I've ever had. He always found time for me even when I was continuing my education in the military. I considered him a good friend and I will miss him greatly.

Dave Lorenzen - May 12, 2013 at 07:50 PM

ML

“ Bert was larger than life for some of us. He was my boss, my teacher, a mentor and my friend when we were older. I remember his pushing us to be more than we all thought possible. I even hear him giving me advice in my head when I'm at work now. While we will miss him immensely, I know his family must be bereft and my sympathies go out to them at this difficult time.

Marti Weirich Lorenzen

Marti Lorenzen - May 12, 2013 at 07:46 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joann Stager - May 04, 2013 at 04:00 AM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Joann Stager - May 04, 2013 at 03:57 AM

RB

“ You were one of my favorite teachers and mentors in the Journalism School at Northern Arizona University. You touched so many lives and a lot of your students are still working journalists. Thanks Bert

Rich Boyd, Flagstaff/Retired Broadcast Journalist

Rich Boyd - May 02, 2013 at 10:49 AM