



NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY

YUMA
Branch Campus

Mr. Jacques-Andre Istel
Museum of History in Granite
Felicity, CA 92283

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Dear Mr. Istel:

This is a long overdue letter to thank you for your gracious hospitality on the occasion of the gathering of the winners of your history contest managed by the Yuma Sun. I enjoyed meeting you and your wife and experiencing the awe-inspiring creation that is the Museum of History in Granite.

When I and my friend from San Diego arrived, we were treated warmly and attentively. After placing our feet on the official center of the world, we watched the video which gave us the background that we needed to begin to appreciate the significance of your work in Felicity. As we started to view the various sections of the rows of granite panels, I quickly developed a high level of respect and appreciation for the quality and informative value of the work.

I have told many people of my experience that day and always emphasize the quality and even perfection of what you have constructed. The materials, design, and the engineering of the structures, including the chapel, are of the highest quality and, most assuredly, built to last for a long time. Obviously, it has been a labor of love and dedication.

As I mentioned to you, our students at the Yuma Campus of Northern Arizona University frequently come to us with serious deficits in their knowledge and understanding of U.S. history. As I was viewing your panels, it soon dawned on me that they would be an excellent instructional resource for them. The highlights and significant events in our country's history are easily viewed and assimilated. The layout and physical movement required to view each historical event would, I believe, be very helpful to our students who are often confused about the chronology of their nation's history and the impact that certain events had on how the nation developed.

I intend to make every effort to use your museum as a resource for our Academic Student Success Center to assist our students in gaining a solid knowledge of both U.S. and world history which will allow them to perform at a higher academic level in their courses and on their exams. For the students in our teacher education programs, it is required that they pass the State teacher certification exams and these cover English language arts, science, math, and social studies. In almost every case, our students are weakest in social studies which cover World and U.S. history, economics, geography, as well as civics and government.

Again thank you for your wonderful hospitality. I very much enjoyed meeting you and your wife. My visit with you was an experience that has stayed with me and inspired me to ponder ways that your labor of love could help our students. I look forward to meeting you both again someday soon. As I work on ways to use your museum as a resource for our academic programs, I will keep you apprised of my progress.

Very sincerely yours,

Russell R. Prust, Ph.D.
Chair, Education Department