A scholar, teacher and physicist, you earned your B.A. in Mathematics and Physics in 1955 at San Francisco State College, participated in the 1956 Bikini nuclear tests and then received your M.S. in Physics from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to receiving your PhD in Theoretical Physics from The University of Colorado you were honored to be chosen a Fulbright Scholar to Italy. You went on to hold a Postdoctoral Research position at the University of Michigan Institute of Science and Technology and served as an Instructor in Physics.

During your tenure at The University of Toledo, which began in September 1965, you had a distinguished career in instruction at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, teaching courses from General Physics to General Relativity and Cosmology. You mentored a number of M.S. and Ph.D. students, several of whom have gone on to distinguished careers in academics and industry.

During your research career at The University of Toledo you published papers in high-energy theoretical physics, solid state, general relativity, atomic theory, penetration of radiation in dense materials, and specialized in applied plasma physics. You were invited to The Institute of Theoretical Physics in Boulder, The Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, The University of Adelaide in South Australia and served as a consultant to several National Laboratories. You were a leader in forming a consortium consisting of The University of Toledo, Photonics Imaging Inc., and Sandia National Laboratories. The consortium modeled the plasma interactions for plasma displays. This three-year study was funded with more than four million dollars from the Department of Energy. You continued your research in this area after retirement from The University of Toledo in 1997. This work was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, of which you were Principal Investigator. The University of Toledo Chapter of Sigma Xi recognized your outstanding research throughout the years when it designated you the recipient of the Dion D. Raftopoulos Award for Outstanding Research in 1997.

You are held in the highest esteem by your peers in the field of theoretical physics, by physicists throughout the physics community, and by those students who were fortunate enough to have studied with you. You have devoted years of your life to a career of teaching, research and service, throughout which you have maintained uncompromising standards of excellence.

In recognition, then, of your faithful service to this University, and as a tribute from your faculty colleagues, you are commended publicly and named by the Board of Trustees to the rank of Professor Emeritus.

Post Retirement

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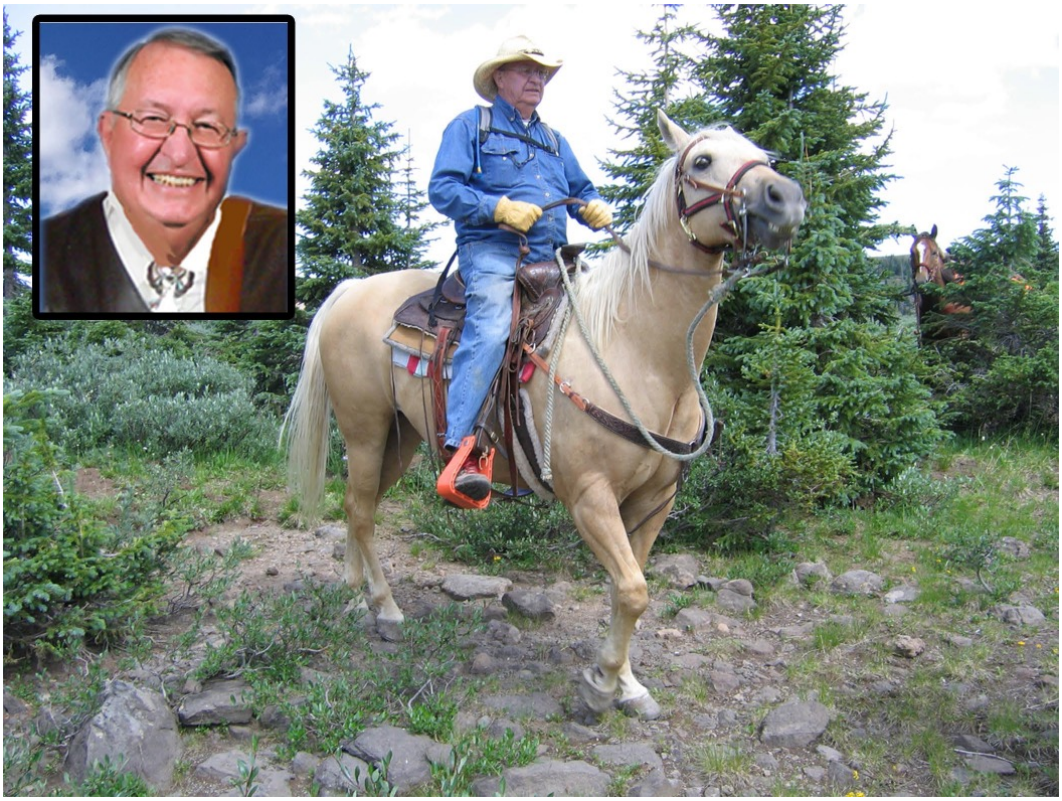
After retirement and relocating from Toledo to Prescott, AZ, with his wife Dorothy Ann, Prof. Williamson continued his supported research on plasma displays for several years as an Adjunct Prof. of Physics at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. He and Dorothy traveled extensively in the country, Europe and took many cruises. He continued to publish in physics journals and to be a referee for nine international journals. In Prescott he has served as the President of the Summit Point Homeowners Association, President of the Prescott Outings Club, Board Member of the Local Sons of the American Revolution, President of the Prescott Archaeological Society, and established the Prescott Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors. (He was nearly eight years old at the time and was one of the many witnesses of the attack on Pearl Harbor). As a banjo player he organized Monday Night Bluegrass jams and led a Monday Night Bluegrass Band to play at local establishments, city events, and senior living communities. He continues to be active giving popular lectures on physics, astronomy, his recollections of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and playing bluegrass and melodic banjo at local retirement centers. He and his wife continue to enjoy retirement and often reminisce about the wonderful times they have had together for the past sixty-three years.



Some of my last publications while in the Department of Physic & Astronomy

1. W. Williamson, Jr., P. J. Drallos and V. P. Nagorny "The Physics and Modeling of an AC Plasma Display Picture Element". Advanced Flat Panel Display Technologies, Proceedings SPIE-The International Society for Optical Engineering, V2174, 163-171 (1994).

2. V. P. Nagorny, P. J. Drallos, W. Williamson, Jr. "The Dynamics of a High Pressure AC Gas Didcharge Between Dielectric Coated Electrodes Near Breakdown Threshold". J. of Appl. Phys. 77, 3645 (1995).

3. P. J. Drallos, V. P. Nagorny, and W. Williamson, Jr. "A kinetic study of the local field approximation in simulations of AC plasma dispay panels", Plasma Sources Science & Technology 4, 576-590 (Nov. 1995)

4. F. Salvat, J. M. Fernandez-Verea and W. Williamson, Jr. "Accurate Numerical Solution of the Radial Schrodinger and Dirac Wave Equations", Comp. Phys. Commun. 90, 151-168 (1995).

5. P. J. Drallos, V. P. Nagorny, and W. Williamson, Jr. "Electron Driven Rates in He/Xe Glow Discharges", J. Appl. Phys. 79, 3861 (1997).

6. D. D. Ryutov, V. P. Nagorny, P. J. Drallos, and W. Williamson, Jr. "Effective Secondary Emission Coefficient for Rough Cathode Surfaces", Comments on Plasma Physics and Controlled Fusion, vol.18, 37 (1997)

7. S. Ambalanath, A. D. Compaan, J. Gottschalk, A. Shvydky, C. E. Theodosiou, and W. Williamson, Jr. "Dynamics of a plasma discharge: current waveform and optical emission" MRS Spring Meeting March 31-April 4, 1997. Symposium G paper G9.11

8. J. R. Gottschalk, O. Shvydky, A. D. Compaan, C.E. Theodosiou, and W. Williamson Jr. “Time-resolved electrical and optical measurements in a plasma display panel”, Publication in IEEE: Plasma Science Oct. 1998