

Romance takes flight

Airport doubles as wedding site

BY TONY NATALE
THE TRIBUNE

Mary-Lou Galician and David Natharius wanted a big wedding.

But because of their heavy travel commitments, the first available opening was not until next summer.

"We realized we were ready now, and that it was the right time for us," said Galician, 51, a journalism and mass communications professor at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Telecommunication at Arizona State University — and who also has written and spoken extensively on romance.

So, at 6 p.m. Friday at the British Airways Executive Club First Class Lounge at Terminal Four at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, the couple tied the proverbial knot.

Judge John Ore of the Tempe Justice Court presided while a few friends, relatives and British Airways officials stood by.

A few hours later, they boarded an airplane for London and Paris and a five-day honeymoon, followed by a two-week lecture tour in the European capitals sponsored by California State University-Fresno.

Natharius, 62, a professor of speech communications and humanities at Cal State-Fresno, and Galician recently bought a home in Tempe.

For more than two years,



RICK D'ELIA/FOR THE TRIBUNE

Cake and a kiss: David Natharius and Mary-Lou Galician share cake and a kiss after their wedding in the British Airways Executive Club lounge at Sky Harbor Airport.

however, the couple, who met at a conference at ASU, had a long-distance romance with Natharius flying some 600 miles from California to visit Galician in Tempe whenever possible.

Natharius is taking early retirement and, after the protracted courtship, now resides in Sun Devil territory with his new bride.

"We decided a week ago to get married at the airport just before our flight to London," Galician said.

The ASU professor, whose

research focuses on the Romanticization of Love in the Mass Media, is currently working on a book titled *Getting Real About Romance: How Mass Media Myths About Love Can Hurt You*.

"One of the themes of my work is how couples should be realistic," Galician said. "Well, our wedding is not only realistic, but it's romantic, too," she said.

The author did not say whether there would be a chapter in her new book based on any first-person experience.