

ASU lands Goldwater Scholars

For the first time in school history, four ASU undergraduates have won national Goldwater Scholarships in one year. The \$7,500 awards are the nation's premier undergraduate awards for students in the natural sciences, math and engineering. ASU has had 33 Goldwater scholars over the past 13 years.

The students, and their areas of study, are:

Shannon Fortin of Phoenix is conducting brain cancer research at T Gen. She plans to become an oncology researcher and is a leader in the ASU Society for Women in Science.

Paul Schmit, Glendale, has been working with atomic force microscopes at the Biodesign Institute. He hopes to become part of an international team of physicists and engineers developing alternative energy.

James Cronican, Omaha, has received an Edson Student Entrepreneur Initiative grant to research the feasibility of constructing a reliable, automated system for plasmid preparation that will save time and money in enzyme research.

Lawrence Mikelson, Mesa, works in chemical and materials engineering on making and testing phononic crystals.

Social Work programs earn award

The ASU School of Social Work in Tempe, the Department of Social Work at ASU's West campus and the Northern Arizona University's Department of Sociology and Social Work, collectively are being honored this year by the American Public Human Services Association for outstanding contributions to the field of human services, with its Academic Excellence Award.

ASU and NAU were nominated by David Berns, director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES).

Berns noted that ASU and DES have been collaborating since the early 1990s to grow a professional and experienced work force, particularly in the area of child welfare.

The award also recognizes the advanced educational opportunities offered for existing DES child welfare staff to pursue a master's degree in social work, covering the cost of books and 80% of salary during the educational leave. This program has offered supervisors advanced education in social work and encouraged staff members

in rural areas who work with under-served populations to continue their education.

ASU and São Paulo museums create partnership

The ASU Art Museum is one of 17 included in an international partnership program supported by the American Association of Museums.

The ASU museum will partner with the Museu de Arte Contemporânea at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. Each participating staff member will spend a month working on site at the partner's museum.

The proposed project will include kiosks in each museum's lobby where visitors will be able to view works from the permanent collections of the other museum and learn more about the history of the works.

This project expands the ASU Art Museum's programming initiatives in Latin American art. Six exhibitions are scheduled over the next three years, featuring work by artists from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and Mexico.

Biodesign Institute dedicates second phase

"To attract top talent and capture grant money for the discoveries of tomorrow, you need world-class facilities," said George Poste, director of the Biodesign Institute at ASU, at the dedication ceremonies for the Institute's Building B.

A 175,000-square-foot facility that will house between 400-500 employees, Building B brings the Institute's total to nearly 1,000 researchers, students and staff. The new facility connects to the first building, a 172,000-square-foot facility that was dedicated in December 2004.

The Biodesign Institute creates a confluence of scientific disciplines that fuses biology, engineering and computing under one roof. Building the institute was made possible by public funding in 2000 from Proposition 301 and the support of the Arizona legislature, which provided funding for Building B in 2003.

The facility was recently named *R&D Magazine's* 2006 Laboratory of the Year in an international competition.

Bitter receives Lifetime Award

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) is awarding its Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics Education to Dr. Gary Bitter, professor of educational technology in the ASU College of Education.

The award honors up to two members of NCTM each year who have exhibited a lifetime of achievement in mathematics education at the national level. The NCTM is the world's largest mathematics education organization.

Bitter's academic and research interests are related to successful anytime, anywhere e-learning, and the integration of technology into the curriculum on student achievement and attitude.

ASU lands key defense projects

Two teams of ASU researchers will lead major projects funded by highly sought-after grants from the Department of Defense Multi-disciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) program.

Four Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering faculty members will be the lead team for an aerospace research project that could receive up to \$6 million in MURI grant funds to develop techniques for monitoring the structural health of aircraft.

In addition, a team from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which includes faculty and graduate students, could receive as much as \$2.6 million to develop inexpensive lasers based on a new family of silicon-based semiconductors. Enabling silicon to perform optical functions will affect almost all sensing, security, communication and computing systems, according to the Department of Defense.

Professor receives "Dream" award

Dr. Matthew C. Whitaker, ASU assistant professor of history, African and African-American Studies, and Justice and Social Inquiry, received the 2006 Martin Luther King Jr. "Living the Dream" award from the Phoenix Human Relations Commission and Equal Opportunity Department.

The award recognizes individuals who exemplify King's ideals through their commitment to human relations and social justice.