

Backus new president of ASU Research Park

Chuck Backus is the new president of the ASU Research Park in Tempe. He succeeds Jack Pfister, who retired after 12 years as board president.

Backus most recently was vice president and provost of ASU's East campus. He was involved in the Park's inception in the College of Engineering, overseeing the Park when it was an experimental farm. During Pfister's watch, the Park gained financial solvency and economic success.

ASU President Michael Crow says Backus will provide the knowledge and leadership to augment the Park's efforts in fostering sustained social advancement and economic growth through research.

The 324-acre ASU Research Park is home to more than 30 research and development companies, and corporate and regional headquarters, and more than 2,000 employees. Oversight of the Park is provided by a 16-member board.

Glass honored for role in education research

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) presented ASU Professor Gene V. Glass the AERA's Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education Award for his extraordinary scholarship in promoting powerful uses of research.

A past AERA president, Glass was cited for providing the education research community "...with significant methodological tools for more than 40 years."

Award Chair Annemarie Palincsar noted that Glass will always be linked to the term "meta-analysis," in recognition of sophisticated analytical techniques he introduced in the 1970s. She added, "Whether applied to the study of psychotherapy, the efficacy of special education, or the issue of class size, his work has advanced the field's capacity to integrate and learn from its collective research."

ASU takes Mars to China

In an exhibit never before seen outside the U.S., ASU will present "Welcome to Mars!" in May at the Haidian Exhibition Hall in Beijing, as part of China Science & Technology Week.

ASU is the first educational institution outside of China to be invited to stage an exhibit at this event which last year was attended by more than three million people.

A team of ASU faculty, staff and students, led by ASU Regents Professor Dr. Phil Christensen will staff the exhibit. "Welcome to Mars!" will include a variety of interactive adventures designed for students of all ages and will provide a basic understanding of Mars and its environment, present the challenges of exploration and make Mars a real place.

ASU is Academic Host for International Science Fair

The Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2005, presented by Agilent Technologies, is being held in Phoenix May 9-13 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza. ASU is the Academic Host for the event, which brings together approximately 1,400 finalists from science fairs in more than 40 countries who will compete for \$3 million in scholarships and grants.

Several hundred ASU faculty, staff, students, retirees and Emeriti Faculty will be supporting the ISEF as volunteers, interpreters, judges, exhibitors, technical support or other positions.

This is the first time the ISEF has been held in Phoenix.

U.S. Navy rewards two Fulton School researchers

Raja Ayyanar and Junshan Zhang of the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering have been named recipients of an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Program award, given to outstanding new faculty to support naval research.

The projects both professors are working on will further understanding of naval research in priority areas that include electrical power systems and wireless sensor networks.

Zhang also was the recipient of a 2003 National Science Foundation CAREER award, given to young faculty deemed to be among the most promising new researchers in the nation.

ASU was one of only four universities in the nation to have dual award winners and the Department of Electrical Engineering was the only department to have two winners.

ASU senior receives Mellon Fellowship

Erin McCarthy of Glendale, an ASU senior in English literature, has won the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, a major award given to exceptionally promising students in the humanities.

The fellowship covers full graduate tuition and fees for the first year of doctoral study and also a stipend of \$17,500.

McCarthy is the only Arizona student chosen out of about 90 awardees. She is president of the Associated Undergraduate Scholars of English and graduates summa cum laude this month.

ASU, Phoenix team up for community park

ASU, the city of Phoenix and its Parks and Recreation Department, the Local, Regional and State Parks Heritage Fund, and the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority, teamed up on a \$3 million joint project to develop a 40-acre community park at ASU's West campus.

The park is being built at the southwest corner of the campus, at the intersection of 51st and Sweetwater Avenues. The first phase, to be completed later this year, includes two irrigated grass sports fields – one for soccer and one for general use.

"Multi-use projects such as this are extremely important to us since they provide the community with additional avenues to serve varied interests and activities," said Ted Ferris, president and chief executive officer of the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority.

Senior lecturer receives Excellence in Teaching Award

Miko Foard, a senior lecturer in Japanese language, has received the 2005 Excellence in Teaching Award from the Board of Directors of the Southwest Conference on Language Teaching.

The award recognizes significant contributions to the teaching of second languages and to the profession of foreign language education. She was cited for her "classroom enthusiasm and dedication" and her extensive professional service and community action.

ASU students tutor, mentor Valley children

At least 300 students, who are part of ASU's Academic Community Engagement Services (ACES) program, have traveled to 19 Valley locations to help children with math and reading, offer enrichment in science and art, and help the children with their homework.

Last semester, ASU students provided more than 17,000 hours to help children learn. Over the last 11 years, 5,600 ASU students have worked with more than 58,000 children.