

NEWS

You Need To Know™



FEBRUARY 2007

Grant fuels grad student research

ASU will receive \$1.85 million from the Science Foundation of Arizona (SFAz) as part of the foundation's Graduate Student Fellowship program.

SFAz invests in partnerships between non-profit research institutions and industry; other science, engineering and math programs; and in the education pipeline to help Arizona create a knowledge-driven economy.

The \$1.85 million awarded to ASU will fund about 37 graduate students for up to \$50,000 each, says Andrew Webber, ASU associate dean of graduate students.

"The funds will provide us with the ability to attract top-notch students in three areas: sustainable energy, the diagnosis and prevention of infectious diseases, and the interfacing of mechanical and computational technologies with people," Weber says.

Custom MBA for Jobing.com

The W. P. Carey School of Business at ASU has been selected by Jobing.com to deliver a custom-designed 22-month MBA program for company employees.

Jobing.com, a leading Arizona provider of locally-focused recruiting, online job search and talent management solutions, supports employee development and advancement across all roles and functions in the organization.

The program enables Jobing.com employees to continue a regular work schedule while earning their MBAs.

Aaron Matos, Jobing.com founder and chief executive officer, said, "We chose to partner with ASU because of its international reputation, the high quality, breadth and depth of their faculty, as well as their ability to customize a program to fit our specific requirements. We know what we need to accomplish – and ASU will help us get there."

Special stop at Biodesign Institute

Kyle Bryant, who has a rare neuromuscular disorder called Friedreich's ataxia, is cycling 2,800 miles to raise awareness and research funds to help find a cure for the disorder. He made a stop at the ASU Biodesign Institute, which recently launched a center to fight mitochondrial diseases such as Friedreich's ataxia.

Ron Bartek, president of the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance, said they selected the Institute as a stop because it "is leading an exciting international collaboration, developing therapeutic approaches that are extremely promising of significant, near-term benefit to those with Friedreich's ataxia."

First Fulbright Scholar for Nursing

The ASU College of Nursing and Healthcare Innovation has its first Fulbright Scholar.

Manal Al-Zadjali, from Oman, is seeking a Master of Science in Community Health degree to become the first master's degree-prepared community health nurse in her country.

Al-Zadjali is working in Breaking the Cycle Community Health Care, an ASU academic nursing center in downtown Phoenix. Her goal is to return to Oman with an education that will enable her to develop evidence-based practice interventions. She aims to reduce chronic disease in her country, particularly diabetes.

Gift boosts global engagement

ASU's commitment to global engagement received a major boost in the form of a \$1 million contribution by long-time Phoenix civic leaders and philanthropists Gregory Melikian and his wife Emma Ordjanian Melikian.

Their gift will fund the expansion of international programming at ASU's Russian and East European Studies Center, a unit in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences that will be renamed The Melikian Center.

Center programming features the internationally recognized Critical Languages Institute, which offers intensive instruction every summer in less commonly taught languages of Eastern Europe and Eurasia, including Armenian, Albanian, Macedonian, Tatar and Uzbek.

"Programs like these are at the heart of ASU's global engagement efforts," said ASU President Michael Crow.

Professor recognized for international work

The Chinese Computer Federation (CCF), the national society for computer scientists

and engineers in China, recently recognized ASU professor Stephen S. Yau's accomplishments in computer research and contributions to development of computer science and technology in China.

Yau is a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and director of the Information Assurance Center in the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering.

For three decades, Yau has organized research visits to universities and institutes throughout China, served as keynote speaker at several conferences and coordinated visits, talks and exchanges with academic and research centers throughout the country.

New materials school launched

ASU's new School of Materials, jointly administered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering, was launched in mid-January.

Allison Engstrom, president of Material Advantage, a club for ASU materials engineering students, said the materials field provides a foundation for many of the advances in metals, polymers, ceramics and composites that are making aircraft safer, automobiles more fuel-efficient, industries more environmentally friendly, medical devices more effective and communications technologies more versatile.

The school's more than 130 graduate students and 70 undergraduate students are guided by more than 50 faculty members whose interests reflect ASU's goal to foster intensive collaboration between scientific, technological and entrepreneurial disciplines.

ASU rising

ASU has risen again in the national rankings for freshman National Merit Scholars, attracting a higher number of these bright students than almost any other public university in the U.S.

With a record 188 National Merit Scholars in this year's freshman class, ASU ranks third among public universities and eighth among all schools, ahead of Yale, Princeton and Stanford. The ASU student body includes 606 National Merit Scholars overall. These scholars score in the top one-half of one percent of all students who take the Preliminary SAT midway through high school.