

NEWS

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BofA funds ArtsWork

ASU's Herberger College of Fine Arts received a \$1 million grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to create the Bank of America ArtsWork Endowed Fund.

The grant will be exclusively devoted to supporting arts programs that serve disadvantaged youth in Phoenix who might otherwise not have access to arts education.

ArtsWork was created in 1996 to unite ASU artists and scholars with community leaders to benefit disadvantaged children through a focus on arts education.

Studies have shown that because art is emotionally engaging, it offers a vehicle of creative expression and emotional release, often providing an alternative outlet to delinquent behavior or truancy.

New index ranks ASU programs in top 10

A new national assessment of faculty scholarly productivity ranks ASU's doctoral programs in the top 10 U.S. research universities in three disciplines: geosciences, marketing, and kinesiology and exercise science.

ASU's geosciences was ranked fifth in the new Faculty Scholarly Productive Index, produced by Academic Analytics. ASU's marketing department along with kinesiology and exercise science were ranked ninth.

The index measures the annual productivity of faculty based on a number of factors, including publications (books and journal articles), citations of journal publications, federal research funding, and awards and honors.

New faculty reflect excellence, diversity

ASU's faculty has grown rapidly in five years, with the new faculty members reflecting the values of excellence and diversity that are hallmarks of the New American University.

One indicator of excellence is the growth in the number of faculty who are members of the National Academy of Science, the National Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Royal Society of London, in addition to Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize winners.

Between 2002 and 2006, these numbers

increased from six to 25, with five of the new faculty appointed to two or more of these prestigious societies.

Additionally, the percentage of tenured and tenure-track faculty who self-identify as members of racial and ethnic minority groups has increased 34%, from 309 in fall 2002 to 414 in fall 2006.

Increases include Asian American/Pacific Islander (43.2%); Hispanic (24.1%); African American (20%); and Native American (68.8%).

ASU's new faculty members include senior professors with numerous books, performances, patents, major grants and center directorships to their names.

Follow your neighbor's example

Peer influence is an under-recognized factor in energy conservation, according to ASU Regents Professor Robert Cialdini.

In a recent survey, 2,000 California residents provided three overwhelming reasons why they try to conserve energy: protecting the environment, being responsible citizens and saving on energy costs. The lowest-rated reason was because their neighbors were conserving.

"However, what we found was that this lowest rated factor had the highest correlation with reported energy conservation on the part of the people surveyed," said Cialdini.

To strengthen their claim, researchers placed cards in hotel rooms encouraging guests to reuse their towels, each displaying one of three reasons: respect for the environment, the sake of future generations, or a message stating that the majority of guests reused their towels. The third message generated 30% more towel reuse than the other two messages.

"Peer influence is a powerful and fundamental rule of adult social influence, but it's an under-recognized rule," Cialdini said.

Biodesign Institute aids chemical defense effort

The Biodesign Institute at ASU has been awarded one of six research projects as part of a \$14.4 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) effort to develop improved antidotes for civilian populations vulnerable to chemical agent poisoning by a terrorist attack.

The overall effort is named the Counter-ACT (Countermeasures Against Chemical Threats) Center of Excellence. Tsafrir Mor, a researcher in the Biodesign Institute and assistant professor in the School of Life Sciences, will be the lead investigator of the five-year, \$2.67 million ASU portion of the award.

Mor's project is based on two inter-locking themes: one focused on the design of human enzymes with new activities to neutralize nerve agents, and a second using plants to express proteins of human origin in high quantities.

Preclinical studies have shown that a family of human proteins, called cholinesterases (ChEs), is an effective antidote against nerve agents. The enzymes act like "molecular sponges," soaking up and neutralizing the harmful organophosphates before they do damage.

Law College clinic receives grants

Meridian Bank and its parent company, Marquette Financial Cos., have provided grants totaling \$25,000 to the Civil Justice Clinic at ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

In the clinic, law professors and their students help low- to moderate-income clients resolve legal problems and disputes involving issues of fair housing, predatory lending, economic development and other areas of concern to bankers and banking regulations.

This is the second year Meridian Bank has supported the clinic.

ASU moves up in Peace Corp rankings

As testament to ASU's growing commitment to global engagement, alumni serving in the Peace Corps have bumped the university to No. 19 on the list of top 25 large schools with graduates serving as volunteers.

ASU was cited by Peace Corps as "one of the most impressive movers," seeing its ranking jump 16 spots.

Since Peace Corps' inception, 757 alumni of ASU have joined its ranks, making the university the No. 45 producer of volunteers of all time.

ASU graduates are serving in 37 of the 72 Peace Corps countries.