

ASU junior receives 2007 Truman Scholarship

The Truman Scholarship Foundation committee recognized ASU junior Megan McGinnity as a force to be reckoned with and, accordingly, awarded her a \$30,000 scholarship and a summer internship with a federal agency in Washington, D.C.

The Truman scholarship is the nation's highest undergraduate leadership award given to about 75 college juniors each year, each of whom has outstanding leadership potential and the intent to pursue careers in public service.

While McGinnity was volunteering for eight months in a state-run orphanage in Romania, she learned about human trafficking and wanted to learn more. She applied for, and received, a Circumnavigators Scholarship to study the economics of such transactions around the globe.

"There are vast profits in buying and selling people," McGinnity says, adding that the U. S. Department of State "estimates that each year 800,000 people are sold or forced to work against their will."

McGinnity reports that poor education, poverty, naiveté and cultural customs spur the problem but, "it is driven by huge profits that fuel organized crime and even terrorism."

A graduate from Mesa's Mountain View High School, McGinnity plans to enter a joint master's program in foreign service and economics following ASU graduation in May, 2008.

ASU Center shares grant to boost nonprofit education

ASU's Center for Nonprofit Leadership and Management is part of a consortium funded by the U. S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

The two-year \$65K grant will assess existing degree and non-degree programs in nonprofit management, social entrepreneurship and philanthropic studies in the U. S. and Europe.

The ASU center, selected because of its more than 20-year track record in offering nonprofit education, will work with overseas experts at the Università di Bologna (Italy), Ersta Sköndal Högskola (Sweden) and Oxford Brooks University (United Kingdom),

which are hoping to develop programs of similar caliber.

Federal panel appoints law professor

Guy Cardineau, professor at the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, has been appointed to a federal panel charged with making recommendations about the development and use of genetically engineered agricultural products.

Cardineau, a faculty fellow in the college's Center for the Study of Law and a research professor at ASU's Biodesign Institute, was appointed to the USDA Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture.

Center executive director Gary Marchant, says the appointment "confirms Cardineau's status as one of the nation's leading experts on the science, policy and law of biotechnology."

Trust commits \$7.8 million for scholars

The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust is committing \$7.8 million over the next four years to fund college scholarships for students in Arizona and Indiana whom traditional scholarship programs typically overlook.

"The Nina Scholars have faced incredible challenges in their lives," says Frank E. Russell, chairman of the Trust, "and many of the scholars we have met since the program began in 2001 have told us that, without the Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholars program, they would not have realized the dream of a college education."

The program extension includes full tuition, an annual \$2,750 living allowance for each scholar, books and class fees. It also covers the program's administrative cost and funding a full-time Nina Scholar coordinator at each school who provides counseling and assistance to the scholars.

Nina Scholars are 25 years or older with dependents, college-age students and adults with physical disabilities, or college-age youth who were raised in the foster care system and are self-supporting.

ASU unveils entrepreneur initiative

ASU's Advanced Technology Innovation Collaboratory (ATIC) has been created to provide a solution to the problem of where entrepreneurs and startups can go to build

their product ideas. ATIC takes entrepreneurs innovations from paper to an actual prototype.

ATIC complements ASU Technopolis' entrepreneurial education, coaching and networking services to entrepreneurs in the Valley.

"The Advanced Technology Innovation Collaboratory provides engineering, design and product development services to entrepreneurs and small- to medium-sized enterprises who have a solid, innovative product idea," says Bulent Bicer, ASU's senior officer for corporate relations.

Among ATIC's first clients is a local small enterprise, Kutta Consulting Inc., that received a Small Business Innovation Research grant to provide incident commanders (IC) with two- and three-dimensional imaging visualization tools necessary in tracking where first responders, such as firefighters, are located in a building once they go in. The tool will help ICs direct resources more efficiently and effectively, lowering the risk of loss and saving lives.

Two win NSF Career Awards

Panagiotis "Takis" Mitropoulos, assistant professor in the Del E. Webb School of Construction, and Peter Wonka, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, recently received National Science Foundation Career Awards, given to recognize scientists and engineers who demonstrate the potential to be leaders in advancing knowledge in their fields.

Mitropoulos will use his grant to support research aimed at reducing the more than 1,200 fatalities and 400,000 serious injuries that occur each year in the U.S. during construction work.

Wonka is developing three-dimensional computer modeling techniques for use in areas such as urban planning, simulation and training programs, movie production techniques and computer games.

Three other faculty members in the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering have received awards in the past year: Karamvir S. Chatha, assistant professor, who is working on next-generation microprocessors; assistant professor Hasan Davuclu, who is creating language and methodology for computer software that helps schedule and automate consumer tasks; and Cody Friesen, assistant professor, for research and education outreach in nanomechanics.