

NEWS

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JULY 2007

Space fame for Rice

James Rice, of ASU's Mars Space Flight Facility, was one of the initial eight inductees into the Space Camp Hall of Fame at the U. S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Rice is a faculty research associate in ASU's School of Earth and Space Exploration. As an astrogeologist, he works primarily on NASA's Mars Exploration Rovers, named Spirit and Opportunity.

The honor recognizes Rice's work as a former Space Camp staff member and his work at ASU with the Mars Rover. Among those inducted with Rice was Wernher von Braun (posthumously), widely considered the founding father of the U. S. manned spaced program.

New head of AzTE

Augustine Cheng, associate general counsel and head of Columbia University's Patent & Licensing Group, has been appointed the managing director of Arizona Technology Enterprises (AzTE), the company that handles technology transfer for ASU and Northern Arizona University.

"It's truly an extraordinary time to be at ASU," says Cheng. "In a very short period of time, there has been remarkable progress on all fronts. In the specific area of technology transfer the university is now well-positioned to begin moving into a tier that has been traditionally dominated by research institutions such as Columbia."

AzTE is a subsidiary of the ASU Foundation.

Whiz kid scholars at Barrett

Nearly 50 seventh-graders and another 90 eighth- and ninth-graders from throughout Arizona are spending part of their summer at Barrett, the Honors College at ASU to take rigorous advanced math classes, study digital animation or engineering, and read Plato, Sartre and Thoreau.

For fun, they'll swap ideas on philosophy, write papers in class and study biology and architecture.

The students are part of the Barrett Summer Scholars Program, now in its second year. All are gifted youngsters who have scored in the 97th percentile or above on a state-recognized cognitive ability test.

ASU hopes the taste of campus life at a major university will whet their appetite for more, creating a pipeline of talented students who will enroll as freshmen in a few years. It's part of the Access ASU initiative, to increase the number of Arizona children who see college in their future.

Nathaneal Burrell, an eight-grader who attended last year and returns this summer, says his favorite experiences were getting to hear talks by retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and astronaut Sally Ride.

"These students are very bright, so their intellectual level is comparable to very good college students," says Thomas Martin, Barrett lecturer. "They are enthusiastic, since this is an adventure into college life, which is still *terra incognita* for them."

Native Americans in Cyprus

This summer, six ASU Native American students took part in an international multicultural festival at Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus.

The students, all women selected from 15 applicants, participated by demonstrating traditional native dance, language, story telling and singing.

Selected were: Juanita White, junior in psychology; Ki-Shan Lara, doctoral student, education; Nikki Borchardt, law; and Karen-Irene (Kimi) Serna, Randilynn Boucher and Michelle Descheenie, all students in the American Indian Studies program.

ASU 10th in Directors Cup

The ASU athletic department finished 10th in the U. S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup standings, as ASU's top 10 finishes in women's indoor and outdoor track and field, women's basketball, baseball and softball led the way to its 11th straight top 20 finish.

ASU's finish also ties its second-highest overall mark and is the third time in seven years it has finished in the top 10 overall.

Highlighting ASU's finish were:

- A pair of NCAA championships earned by head coach Greg Kraft's women's indoor and outdoor track and field teams;
- A fifth-place finish for the ASU women's basketball team, led by coach Charli Turner Thorne, that advanced to the Elite Eight for the first time in school history and finished with a 31-5 record;

- A return to the College World Series for the Pac-10 conference champion Sun Devil baseball team for the second time in three seasons, finishing fifth overall under head coach Pat Murphy and with a 49-15 record;
- A repeat trip to the Women's College World Series for head coach Clint Myers' softball team where they placed seventh overall with a final record of 54-17.

Bioinformatics award to researcher

The highest honor for lifetime achievement in biomedical informatics has been awarded to Ted Shortliffe, founding dean of the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix, and a faculty member of ASU's Department of Biomedical Informatics.

The award was presented by the American College of Medical Informatics.

The husband-and-wife team of Shortliffe and Vimla Patel recently left Columbia University to join ASU where Patel serves as professor and interim chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics.

A major focus of the program is teaching students to make the most effective use of medical information in treating, curing and preventing disease.

Pinal County transition

The Future at Pinal; Making Choices Making Places, a report commissioned by the Pinal County Board of Supervisors and conducted by the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at ASU, sets the stage for the most significant planning process the county has ever done.

The report includes lessons Pinal can consider in view of what Maricopa and Pima counties have experienced, six "placemaking" goals and 17 "cool tools" that could be used to improve prosperity and quality of life.

The Future at Pinal is available online at www.morrisoninstitute.org.

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