

Research expenditures grow again

ASU's research expenditures grew to \$218.5 million in the fiscal year that ended June 30. This represents a growth of \$15 million, or 7.4 percent, over last year's total of \$203.5 million.

R.F. "Rick" Shangraw, ASU's vice president for research and economic affairs, adds that, at these levels of research expenditures, ASU ranks in the top tier of universities without a medical school and an agricultural school.

He adds that ASU is poised to earn more in research as it continues to bring on line new world-class research facilities and ramps up its science expertise. Shangraw sees a maturing of ASU research efforts, which should result in securing larger grants for the university.

Smithsonian honors Yzaguirre

Raul Yzaguirre, ASU presidential professor of practice and director of the ASU Center for Community Development and Civil Rights in the College of Public Programs, was honored with a lifetime achievement award as part of the first-ever Smithsonian Latino Center Legacy Awards ceremony.

Yzaguirre is being recognized for his 30 years as president and chief executive officer of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest constituency-based national Hispanic organization and a leading Hispanic "think tank" in Washington, D.C., and for his role as founder and director of the ASU Center for Community Development and Civil Rights.

Grant supports early education

A \$4.4 million Early Reading First grant awarded to the Mary Lou Fulton College of Education will help a team of ASU researchers and community-based agencies improve the school readiness of nearly 1,000 culturally diverse children enrolled in 14 public and private preschool classrooms in Mohave County and the Fort Mohave Indian Nation.

The research coalition aims to ensure that children living in this community enter formal schooling with the necessary cognitive, oral language and early reading skills needed to succeed, says Jay Blanchard, an ASU professor of psychology in education.

"This approach is driven on best practices, founded on scientific reading research and driven by ongoing assessment and progress monitoring," Blanchard says.

ASU unveils new school

ASU's Downtown Phoenix campus has a new school on the block.

The School of Letters and Sciences, providing instruction in humanities, social sciences and natural sciences for Downtown Phoenix campus students, offers a core of liberal arts classes and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies.

With the school's location in the center of the city, opportunities are unparalleled for community partnerships that enhance student engagement. Potential partnerships include collaborations with downtown museums, school districts and other organizations.

"Downtown Phoenix is experiencing a renaissance," says Frederick C. Corey, director of the new school. "The School of Letters and Sciences is positioned well to leverage its locale and become a full participant in the rebirth of downtown Phoenix."

ASU ranks high in nanotechnology

ASU is ranked sixth overall and scored in the top 10 of three categories in this year's *Small Times* magazine university rankings, a survey-based scorecard of microtech and nanotech research and commercialization.

ASU led the pack in commercialization, partly because of its number of microtechnology and microelectromechanical systems patent filings, and because of the commercialization of those technologies by Arizona Technology Enterprises (AzTE).

ASU also made the top three in the facilities category, behind University of Albany-SUNY and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is ninth in education, where it beat out Cornell University.

Arntzen earns national acclaim

ASU Biodesign Institute researcher Charles Arntzen has been doubly honored by the White House and the American Society of Plant Biologists for his leading role in science policy, and for his lifetime contributions in research and teaching.

Arntzen, a Regents' Professor who also holds the ASU Florence Ely Nelson Presidential Chair in Plant Biology, has provided expertise and national service since 2001 on the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology.

Arntzen was part of a six-member panel that met with President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Energy Sam Bodman in the Oval Office to present a report on the nation's energy needs, and new technology options to meet them.

Program jolts technology education

The shortage of homegrown computer scientists has prodded the National Department of Education to fund programs that address this need. ASU and the Scottsdale Unified School District were awarded a \$600,000 three-year grant through the department's Fund for the Improvement of Secondary Education to pilot a class on service-oriented computing (SOC), a process that links "packages" of existing software composition codes to create applications.

SOC is being adopted by Microsoft, IBM, Oracle and Hewlett Packard, but typically it is not taught until graduate school.

"Students at the high school grade level can master this new technique," says Wei-Tek Tsai, a computer science and engineering professor at ASU. "SOC can reinvigorate American students' interest in computer science. We're speeding up to a whole new gear in computer technology. We need an education system that's moving at the same pace."

The partnership to bring technology classes to Scottsdale schools is a program component of SkySong, the ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center.

Sharpes awarded Senior Fulbright

Don Sharpes, a professor in the Emeritus College, has been awarded a Senior Fulbright to Denmark beginning in October to research teacher attitudes towards Danish Moslem immigrant population's integration into Danish society. The research involves cooperation with colleagues at the University of Aarhus and surveys all regular, vocational and folk school teachers via Danish teacher association Web sites.

"News" update

Our subscription process is changing to a self-subscription service. To continue receiving *News You Need To Know*, please visit <http://www.myprefs.com/?@ASUInsight> and fill out the subscription form.