

# NEWS

## *You Need To Know™*



NOVEMBER 2007

### ASU is top producer of Fulbrights

ASU is one of the top universities for producing 2007-2008 U.S. Fulbright Fellows, according to the Oct. 26 edition of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

ASU has a record 16 students who are studying abroad on Fulbright awards this academic year, ranking the university fourth among public research institutions. ASU is 14th overall among all research universities. Eighteen ASU students were offered the awards this year, and 16 accepted.

ASU candidates were among the most successful in the nation, with 40 percent of students who applied being chosen to receive the grants. Most leading schools have a 25 to 33 percent success rate.

### Weather records find home at ASU

In his new position within the United Nations-affiliated World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Commission for Climatology, ASU's Randy Cerveny will maintain the world's extreme weather records as the world Rapporteur on Climate Extremes.

"In this position, we can correlate information on climatology in the world and see what direction global warming is taking us," Cerveny says. "The longer the database is up and running, the more valuable it will become."

### CLAS wins second Academic Bowl

ASU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) dominated the final round of competition to win the second annual ASU Academic Bowl.

The quick-witted, evenly matched team members, all graduates of local high schools in Tempe, Mesa, Chandler and Phoenix, each won \$4,500 scholarships in the final competition, which took place in the studios of Eight/KAET-TV. With majors ranging from math to Japanese, Erin Hutchinson, Carlos Ross, Ken Lan and Eli Bliss drew on their wide knowledge of history, biology, geography and pop culture.

The national-level competition questions came from the College Bowl championship program, a tournament that takes place on campuses across the country.

### Minority health research gets boost

The Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC) at ASU's School of Social Work is the recipient of a five-year, \$7.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The award establishes SIRC as a "Center of Excellence" focused on improving health and reducing health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities in the U.S.-Mexico border region.

This renewable funding solidifies SIRC's research agenda on cultural strengths and resiliency factors found to be characteristics of specific populations.

### ASU receives rare accreditation

ASU's Child Development and Family Studies Lab School has been granted accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), a recognition achieved by less than 10 percent of early childhood programs nationwide.

"We're proud to have earned the mark of quality from the NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards," says Cathy Kirk, director of the Child Development and Family Studies Lab School, located at ASU's West campus.

NAEYC is the nation's largest organization of early childhood educators and others dedicated to improving the quality of programs for children from birth through third grade.

### Team finds new human origins

Evidence of early humans living on the coast in South Africa, harvesting food from the sea, employing complex bladelet tools and using red pigments in symbolic behavior 164,000 years ago, far earlier than previously documented, was reported in the Oct. 18 issue of the journal *Nature*.

The international team of researchers reporting the findings includes Curtis Marean, a paleoanthropologist with ASU's Institute of Human Origins, and three graduate students in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change.

These new findings move back the timeline for the evolution of modern humans while also showing that lifestyles focused on coastal

habitats and resources may have been crucial to the evolution and survival of these early humans.

### ASU partners to develop biofuel

ASU has announced a significant research partnership with energy company BP and Science Foundation Arizona (SFAZ) to develop a renewable source of biofuel.

The renewable biofuel project is the latest in a series of SFAZ's Strategic Research Group (SRG) awards. The SRG program is designed to award resources to cultivate research partnerships within the state by leveraging state funds with matching industry investment to create a competitive advantage for Arizona.

"This project illustrates the type of high impact research that is possible when state, industry and academic leaders converge on an urgent societal problem," says George Poste, director of ASU's Biodesign Institute. "We are delighted to be part of an international research effort to reduce our dependency on oil and develop cleaner, sustainable sources of energy."

### Grant advances biomedicine

Under the "Partnership for Personalized Medicine," the Virginia G. Piper Trust has committed \$35 million and the Flinn Foundation has contributed \$10 million to bring together a wide range of resources within Arizona to advance personalized medicine.

The cornerstone of the partnership is the creation of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Personalized Diagnostics that draws upon the scientific strengths of the state's leading bioscience entities: ASU's Biodesign Institute and the Translational Genomics Research Institute.

Many recent breakthroughs in medicine focus on treatment; this partnership emphasizes prevention while reducing medical costs.

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