

# NEWS

## *You Need To Know™*



JULY/AUGUST 2008

### ASU makes the grade in science

ASU placed sixth on the Thomson Scientific's U.S. University's top 10 list in the subject area of ecology and environmental sciences. The rankings, developed for 21 subject areas, were derived from an examination of 9,200 publications (from 2001 to 2005) associated with the Thomson's University Science Indicators database.

"This national ranking illustrates the long standing success and impact of our life sciences research enterprise at ASU and arises directly as a result of attracting outstanding faculty in our ecological, evolutionary and environmental sciences," says Sid Bacon, dean of natural sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

### Scholarship targets 'gap' students

A \$1 million endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation, plus an additional \$50,000 bridge grant for the 2008-2009 academic year, will provide scholarships annually to 20 or more ASU students attending the West campus.

The scholarship fund targets adult students returning to school after a gap in their pursuit of a bachelor's degree. Unlike many other scholarships, Osher Re-entry Scholarships are available to part-time as well as full-time students.

"We're interested in seeing more people earn a bachelor's degree," says Andy Lynch, program officer for the Bernard Osher Foundation. "Students returning to school later in life often have family and financial obligations greater than those of traditional students. At the same time, re-entry students regularly receive less financial aid support. The Osher Re-entry Scholarship is intended to fill that gap."

### Cancer research drives partnership

A U.S.-based personalized medicine initiative led by scientists from the Biodesign Institute, Translational Genomics Research Institute and Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center has secured its first major international collaboration with the government of Luxembourg.

The Partnership for Personalized Medicine, formed last fall with funding support from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and Flinn Foundation, will explore the development of novel diagnostics for lung cancer.

The goal of the Luxembourg lung cancer

project is to advance research in personalized medicine by pursuing research projects to develop molecular diagnostics for specific diseases. The research projects center on the selection and validation of biomarkers to more effectively diagnose and manage disease from early detection through therapeutic follow-up.

### Faculty to design language tools

Two faculty members in ASU's Department of Speech and Hearing Science, and a faculty member in the Mary Lou Fulton College of Education, have been awarded a \$1.6 million grant to develop a Spanish-language screening measure to identify children at risk for language impairment. The four-year grant has been funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences.

There are no measures of language impairment designed specifically for Spanish-speaking children. Existing tools have been translated from English to Spanish with the assumption that a translation is a valid measure. However, the tools do not take into account changes in language complexity, cultural background or literacy. This can result in unidentified language impairment in children who need treatment, or in children who have typical language abilities being identified as having a language disorder.

### Magazine best in the nation

*ASU Research Magazine* has won the gold medal as the best university research magazine in the United States. The award was presented as part of the 2008 Circle of Excellence program sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) based in Washington, D.C.

"We've won a lot of gold, silver and bronze medals from CASE in past years for illustration, design and individual writing, but this is the biggest award our magazine has ever won in my 23 years as editor," says Conrad J. Storar, director of ASU Research Publications.

To date, staff members at Research Publications have won 28 awards for their work in 2007-2008 alone. The honors come from six different regional, national and international professional communication organizations.

### SkySong helps spark local economy

ASU's SkySong, a cutting-edge international business, retail and innovation center, officially opened March 27. In late May, SkySong celebrated two more milestones: the completion of the second building and Ticketmaster's arrival into the second floor space.

ASU at SkySong currently has partnerships with more than 20 global startups and mid-sized companies and houses more than 10 ASU units, including the Edson Student Entrepreneur Initiative and ASU Technopolis. The center is projected to help generate new knowledge-based jobs for the local economy and help connect ASU graduates and researchers with key partners.

The iconic SkySong shade structure anchoring the plaza will be installed later this year. For more information on SkySong, visit [skysong.asu.edu](http://skysong.asu.edu).

### ASU one of top choices for Hispanics

ASU has been recognized by the journal *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* as one of the top choices for Hispanic students in the country.

The magazine's May 5 issue ranked the top 100 colleges for Hispanics mostly based on the numbers of degrees awarded to Hispanic students and the quality of the institution. ASU ranked 20th overall in the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics and placed in the top 10 in bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics in the academic areas of agriculture, architecture, communications and education.

ASU also ranked 19th overall in Hispanic enrollment among four-year colleges, No. 22 in the number of doctoral degrees awarded to Hispanics and 76th in master's degrees awarded to Latinos.

### Important "News" update

As Arizona State University strives to promote environmental stewardship, Media Relations and the Office of Public Affairs are offering an alternative subscription process to save natural resources.

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