

NEWS

You Need To Know™



MAY 2009

Let the sunshine in

ASU President Michael Crow, along with other ASU officials and representatives of Arizona Public Service, CarbonFree Technology and Integrys Energy Services, recently gathered at the university's Tempe campus to celebrate the completion of the first phase of solar installations at ASU.

The solar panels have the capacity to produce 1.88 megawatts of electricity – enough for nearly 500 Arizona homes. The combined installations comprise the largest solar portfolio on a single U.S. university campus.

Humans studying humans

Many of the greatest challenges of our time deal with understanding individuals, groups and institutions that might engage school and society differently from one another.

A new doctoral program in anthropology and education introduced by the Mary Lou Fulton College of Education aims to prepare a new generation of scholars and educators to tackle these issues and promises to position ASU as a leader in this field of study.

The new ASU program, one of about 10 nationwide, is designed to produce highly qualified researchers, educators and policy-makers who understand the intimate relationship between language, culture, curriculum and policy.

"The impetus for developing this program came from our realization that we have a critical mass of faculty who are doing cutting-edge research in the key areas of educational anthropology," says Joseph Tobin, one of the program's coordinators and a Fulton College faculty member. "With our recent hires, many of the leading figures in the field are now on our faculty."

And the award goes to...

Brian Williams, the anchor and managing editor of "NBC Nightly News," the nation's top-rated evening network newscast, will be this year's recipient of the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism.

Williams will receive the 26th Cronkite Award from ASU's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at a luncheon ceremony Nov. 18 at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel.

"As someone who grew up idolizing Walter and having come to know him in adult life, I know that there is no greater name in our profession," Williams says.

"I am overjoyed that Brian Williams will accept the 2009 Cronkite Award from ASU," Cronkite says. "A fastidious newsman, Brian brings distinct credit to our profession, adding not only his brilliance but grace and elegance as well. He does me great honor by accepting this award."

In honor of President Obama

In recognition of President Barack Obama's commitment to educational access and to an entire career dedicated to public service, ASU is naming and expanding its most important scholarship program in his honor.

Obama will be addressing members of ASU's graduating class, along with their families, friends and the university community, at spring commencement ceremonies at 7 p.m., May 13, at ASU's Sun Devil Stadium.

The program ASU is naming and expanding as the President Barack Obama Scholars is the ASU Advantage program, part of ASU's Sun Devil Promise, which supports low-income students who wish to receive a university education.

This fall, ASU expects to enroll more than 1,500 Arizona students in the President Barack Obama Scholars program.

USA Today lauds super seniors

Once again, an ASU senior has been chosen as one of the top 20 students in the country by *USA Today*.

Charlene Bashore, who at 22 already is involved in highly sophisticated DNA research, is featured as one of 20 students named to its "All-USA College Academic First Team" for exceptional intellectual achievement and leadership.

ASU has had more students named to the prestigious award than any other public university in the nation, with 12 students winning first-team honors in 17 years. Only Harvard and Duke have had more students win the honor.

Eric Anderson, a senior majoring in bioengineering and medicinal biochemistry, was named to the second team of 20 students. Hundreds of students were nominated by colleges and universities across the United States.

A national team of judges selects top students based on grades, leadership, activities and how students extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. Each first-team member receives a \$2,500 cash award, in addition to a photo and profile in the newspaper.

Bashore is a biochemistry major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and her undergraduate research is in rapid DNA sequencing.

Anderson has been doing brain and breast cancer research at Translational Genomics Research Institute for three years, investigating possible diagnostic and therapeutic genetic targets.

Beetle named for Stephen Colbert

"What has six legs and is way cooler than a spider?" asks a riddle on the cover of a birthday card sent to Stephen Colbert by entomologists Quentin Wheeler at Arizona State University and Kelly Miller at the University of New Mexico.

The answer - *Agaporomorphus colberti* - is a diving beetle from Venezuela named by Wheeler and Miller to honor Colbert, the satirical host and executive producer of Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report."

Knowing Colbert's fondness for recognition and for presents, the scientists sent the political satirist a framed print of the beetle as a birthday gift to mark his 45th birthday on May 13.

Wheeler and Miller are no strangers to shameless promotion, especially when it comes to shining attention on biodiversity and the field of taxonomy. The pair have named beetles to honor the late rock 'n' roll legend Roy Orbison and his widow Barbara (*Orectochilus orbisonorum*); for fictional "Star Wars" character Darth Vader (*Agathidium vaderi*); and for former President George W. Bush, former Vice President Dick Cheney, and former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (*Agathidium bushi*, *A. cheneyi* and *A. rumsfeldi*).