NEWS
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ASU
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

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ASU partners with Google

Arizona State University researchers and scientists have created two new features for Google Earth 5.0, the popular online application that lets users tour Earth, the starry sky and Mars. The first of the new features allows anyone, anywhere, to recommend places on Mars to photograph with ASU's THEMIS camera on NASA's Mars Odyssey orbiter. The second new feature shows the most recent infrared images of Mars sent back to Earth from the THEMIS camera.

THEMIS is the Thermal Emission Imaging System, a multiband infrared and visual camera designed at ASU by Philip Christensen, a Regents' Professor of geological sciences in the School of Earth and Space Exploration. Christensen is THEMIS' principal investigator and the director of the Mars Space Flight Facility on the Tempe campus.

"These two features, developed by our staff in cooperation with programmers at Google, will help everyone have a lot more fun exploring the Red Planet," Christensen says. "Using the new feature, people can recommend sites, and these recommendations go to mission scientists. If a public suggestion matches what the researchers choose, we'll notify the person who suggested the site and let them see the image as soon as we do."

Center helps set ideas into motion

Antonio Garcia, a professor in the Harrington Department of Bioengineering in ASU's Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering, wants to see ASU students make the leap "from being learners to becoming doers."

Garcia will be helping them do just that through his new ASU Foundation Professorship. Using resources provided by the professorship to establish a research center, Garcia aims to offer students mentorship in developing their ideas for improving health care technology.

Beginning in the upcoming fall semester, the Center for Engineering and Translational Biomedicine will invite applications from students with promising proposals for new medical devices and technologies.

Much of Garcia's research has been focused on improving medical diagnostics and methods of administering medicinal drugs in places where access to hospitals, clinics and medical professionals is limited, such as rural areas, military battlefields or underdeveloped countries. Initially, Garcia wants to bring to the center students – from undergraduate to postdoctoral – whose interests align with this area of research.

Cronkite School wins again

The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication finished first in the nation in the Hearst Journalism Awards, a prestigious competition often called the "Pulitzer Prizes of college journalism."

ASU now has won the Hearst competition twice in the past three years and finished first or second in four of the past five years.

"This is the result of incredibly passionate, smart and dedicated students working closely with inspiring faculty members," says Christopher Callahan, dean of the Cronkite School. "We are tremendously proud of our students winning this prestigious national competition for the second time in three years."

The Cronkite School finished first by competing in a broad range of categories on a variety of platforms: multimedia, photojournalism, print, radio and television. Cronkite finished second in broadcast news, fourth in print and 10th in photojournalism.

More than 100 accredited journalism schools around the country compete in the annual Hearst Journalism Awards.

Washington looks to ASU

Nancy Grimm, a faculty leader of ecology, evolution and environmental science in ASU's School of Life Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is one of the authors of a new and authoritative federal study assessing the domestic impacts of climate change.

The "Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States" report was released June 16 by the U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy, which advises the president on the effects of science and technology on domestic and international affairs.

The report's main message is that climate change already is having visible impacts in the United States, and the choices that are made now will determine the severity of its impacts in the future.

The report compiles years of scientific research and takes into account new data not available during the preparation of previous large national and global assessments. It was produced by a consortium of experts from 13 U.S. government science agencies and from several major research institutes and universities, including Arizona State University.

Grimm, whose research concerns the effects of human activity on nitrogen cycling and retention in deserts, cities and streams, contributed to the report's chapters on water, society and the Southwest.

NFL kicker completes MBA online

As a Dallas Cowboy, Billy Cundiff kicked a record seven field goals in one "Monday Night Football" game in 2003. Today, his determination and drive have helped him to complete his master's degree in business administration (MBA) degree and land a venture capital job through the W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. He went through the school's highly ranked online MBA program while attending NFL training camp.

"This is the best two-year investment I could have ever made," says Cundiff, who has spent five years in the National Football League. "The W. P. Carey MBA – Online Program gave me the flexibility to attend training camp with the Atlanta Falcons while still pursuing my degree."

After stints in Dallas, Tampa, Green Bay and New Orleans, he decided to use the NFL's education benefits to go for his MBA.

"I didn't know where I was going to be next, so I needed to start thinking about what I was going to do post-football," Cundiff says. "I decided getting an MBA from ASU would be the right thing to do, since it would help me with my eventual transition out of football. In the meantime, this MBA program allowed me to keep up my workout routine and continue to try out for teams."

Cundiff took his first MBA classes while attending training camp after signing with the Atlanta Falcons.