

# Inauguration

A supplement to ASU Insight

March 12, 1990



Lattie F. Coor will be inaugurated as the 15th president of Arizona State University at a 2 p.m. ceremony Thursday in Grady Gammage Memorial Auditorium. All members of the university community are encouraged to attend the ceremony and other inaugural week events.

John Phillips photo

## ASU on high ground as it enters new era

ASU's 15th president, Lattie F. Coor, will be inaugurated this week in a ceremony rich with the traditions of the university. The investiture of a new president signals the beginning of a new era for any institution, and that seems a good time to take stock, to examine where the institution is now, to provide a point from which to measure the era ahead.

That is the purpose of this supplement to *Insight*. The staff of the News Bureau asked each of the deans and vice presidents to help us identify the people, programs and activities that define ASU today, that put us on the academic map.

This special edition is being inserted into every copy of this week's *Insight*, and another 2,500 copies are being distributed to the guests attending President Coor's inauguration and other friends of the university.

We hope it will be a lasting piece that you will keep and refer to and show to your friends when they ask

## Inauguration week calendar

- Research presentation, 8 p.m., Tuesday, MU Maricopa Room. Susan Kieffer, professor of geology and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, speaks on "Research: Living It, Loving It and Sharing It."

- Cultural diversity presentation, 2-4 p.m., Wednesday, MU Arizona Room. Blandina Cardenas Ramirez, director of the Office of Minority Concerns, American Council on Education, covers "Minority Research Agenda for the Future," and Ronald Takaki, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, addresses "The Multicultural University of the Future."

- Inaugural concert, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Gammage. Henry Charles Smith conducts the University Symphony Orchestra. Lattie F. Coor narrates the opening number, Benjamin Britten's "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra."

- Undergraduate education presentation, 7:45 a.m. continental breakfast, 8:30 a.m. program, Thursday, AED Auditorium, Frank Newman, president, Education Commission of the States, addresses "Understanding the Urgency of Changing the American Undergraduate Education."
- Inauguration ceremony, 2 p.m., Thursday, Gammage.

## Coor's 4 pillars are instruction, service research, diversity

By Lattie F. Coor

Inaugurations, in addition to their medieval pageantry, offer a moment for a university and its new president to reflect together on the current state of things and the prospects for the future.

I am particularly interested in having the occasion of my inauguration as the 15th president of ASU serve as a moment of stock-taking and of rededicating ourselves to the major tasks that lie ahead.

Arizona State University has come a long way in recent years. Its emergence as a major national university is now assured. With it comes an opportunity to serve this Valley and this state in ways that could well be a model for other major universities and the society they serve in the years ahead.

While I have been impressed with the developments at ASU over the years, I find, in the few short weeks I have been here, a much more substantial university than I had envisioned. There are more good people doing excellent work here than I realized. The reputation of ASU throughout the nation is very high indeed, with great expectations that we will become an even more significant university in the future. Our basic strengths are much greater than many in metropolitan Phoenix and in Arizona realize, and I have been particularly pleased at the interest shown in our accomplishments and our plans for the future by leaders throughout the Valley and the state.

At the same time I find such strength within the university, I find that we are less sure of ourselves, of what we are and what we should be than is appropriate for a university of such importance. In part, that is a result of the rapid growth of the last decade and a half; in part it is the result of the multiple tasks we must undertake, serving as a major national research university, and at the same time meeting the very important and broad educational needs of the Valley and the state.

At the top of our agenda, therefore, must be a collective effort to define a clear coherent vision of the Arizona State University we wish to create, one that will serve us well as a guide for our future, and one that can be easily understood and fully embraced by all whom we serve.

It is my hope that in the course of our discussions during this inaugural week we will begin to develop a clear vision for ASU and will set in place a framework for creating the kind of university we envision.

Central to our definition of ourselves is a commitment to high-quality undergraduate instruction. The pace of growth has made it difficult for us to sustain a balanced commitment to all of the qualities we seek in an undergraduate education. We must move swiftly and decisively to ensure that all of those qualities are in place for every student we now serve, and for those we will be serving in the years ahead.

As well, we must continue to define the role we wish to play as a major national research university. Our activity there is growing rapidly, and its nature and direction can substantially enrich the university's ability to contribute significantly to Arizona and to this region.

At the same time, we have an unparalleled opportunity to energize this campus with the richness of the cultural diversity of Arizona and of the Southwest — in our student body, our faculty and staff, in the curriculum, and in the research, teaching, and other activities that are central to the university.

And finally, we hold the capacity to help this valley and this state advance substantially its economic vitality, through the creative use of the people and programs at ASU. We have begun to find ways to tap that capacity, and will be looking actively in the weeks and months ahead to increase substantially the ways in which we can serve.

In my inaugural address, I will seek to spell out more clearly the ways in which Arizona State University will set its course for the future and realize its destiny as one of the best, most important and most widely recognized universities in the United States.

I look forward to working with all of you in the articula-