A different kind of school

Reinventing learning to help high school students excel

Highlights from another year of innovative breakthroughs
The ASU Alumni Association partners exclusively with Liberty Mutual to help you save $782 or more a year on auto and home insurance.¹

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For a free quote, call 888-680-5644 or visit LibertyMutual.com/ASUalumni

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This organization receives financial support for offering this auto and home benefits program.

¹ Average combined annual savings based on countrywide survey of new customers from 1/1/15 to 1/29/16 who reported their prior insurers’ premiums when they switched to Liberty Mutual. Savings comparison does not apply in MA. ² Based on Liberty Mutual Insurance Company’s 2014 Customer Satisfaction Survey in which more than 81% of policyholders reported their interaction with Liberty Mutual service representatives to be “among the best experiences” and “better than average.” ³ For qualifying customers only. Accident Forgiveness is subject to terms and conditions of Liberty Mutual’s underwriting guidelines. Not available in CA and may vary by state. ⁴ With the purchase of optional Towing & Labor coverage. Applies to mechanical breakdowns and disabilities only. Towing related to accidents would be covered under your Collision or Other Than Collision coverage. ⁵ Optional coverage in some states. Availability varies by state. Eligibility rules apply.

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Welcome to a new year!

No matter where you are — enjoying snow-sprinkled views or hitting the trails under a desert sun — we hope it’s a bright year of promise ahead.

Why not make 2018 a time of growth? We’ve gathered experts from a variety of fields at ASU for their tips to optimize your life. Whether it’s embracing minimalism or expanding your vocabulary or doing some cyber spring cleaning, they share their expertise so you can make this the best year yet. (We’ve already set our calendar reminders to change our passwords.)

And because no new year is complete without a moment of reflection, we’ve gathered the top stories of the past year so you can see the stellar work being done at ASU. Yeah, it’s OK — go ahead and brag a little to your friends: Sun Devil Nation is changing the world for the better.

This issue also holds new ways of looking at the world around us, from diving into an ocean of fascinating research to reinventing education for nontraditional students. A new year is about change; let’s embrace it.

We’re all on a journey to become the person we each want to be. ASU can support you in that; the university offers professional development opportunities, cultural and educational events, and a rich menu of kid-centric activities — because those little ones in your household are on their own journey to becoming more. The signature spring event, Open Door, offers five nights of free activities across the Valley, letting families explore the labs and learning spaces of ASU with scores of hands-on ways to tinker and play. Learn more about that in our “Go” section.

No matter who you are or where you are, ASU offers chances to learn and grow at your own pace whenever you’re ready.

Nobody’s perfect. But we can keep striving to be better.

Let ASU be a partner in a new year of an amazing you.

— ASU Thrive team
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pinterest.com/arizonastate  
soundcloud.com/asualumni  
itunes.asu.edu  
alumni.asu.edu/linkedin
Sun Devil hoops


Open Door

What happens every day at the most innovative university in the U.S.? Come experience it firsthand!

Polytechnic campus

Come experience flight simulators, air traffic control simulators, the wonders of algae and new-age cars; play classic video games and enjoy dance and theater performances. Jan. 26, 4–9 p.m. opendoor.asu.edu/polytechnic

Downtown Phoenix campus

Tour the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s state-of-the-art media complex, check out the nutrition kitchen, investigate cadavers, create your own comic strip and get a glimpse of the new Beus Center for Law and Society. Feb. 10, 1–6 p.m. opendoor.asu.edu/west

West campus

Explore interactive activities in mathematical and natural sciences, humanities, arts and cultural studies, education and business. Examples may include: Rubik’s Cube Competition, Create Your Own Board Game, Forensic Science Frenzy, Black Widow Spider Science, Music Quiz. Meet the Arizona Autobots, Minecraft Photo Booth and more! Feb. 10, 1–6 p.m. opendoor.asu.edu/west

Tempe campus

Get a behind-the-scenes look into the spaces that house ASU’s most innovative projects, including the Biodesign Institute, Mars Space Flight Facility, Marston Exploratory Theater and more. Learn about rare poisonous insects, space exploration, volcanoes, drones and robots, medical breakthroughs and Mayan discoveries. Interactive activities offer a spectrum of experiences across the sciences, engineering, humanities and the arts. Feb. 24, 1–6 p.m. opendoor.asu.edu/tempe

Thunderbird campus

Sample a global leadership class taught by Thunderbird’s world-class international faculty, learn a new language, participate in Chinese New Year celebrations, scale the rock wall, learn how to play rugby, get a henna tattoo and meet students and staff to get a feel for what has become known worldwide as the “Thunderbird mystique.” Feb. 17, 1–5 p.m. opendoor.asu.edu/thunderbird

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Transform Dr. King’s teachings into community action. Join ASU changemakers to address contemporary issues facing our nation through acts of volunteer service. This day of service is part of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. Saturday, Jan. 13, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., multiple campus locations. Service Family. asu.edu/mlk

At left, visitors to the Thunderbird campus play “Igo,” the Japanese name for a game that originated in China.
Alan Sonfist’s “Views of New York City: Ancient and Contemporary,” a serigraph, is a gift of Kimberly Cramer.

This land is their land—to reimagine

From iconic 1970s land art to contemporary interpretations of the landscape, this exhibition from the permanent collection features artists who have built new relationships with their environments. “Terrestrial” looks at how artists perceive urban and rural spaces, especially in relation to human intervention and the passing of time. This exhibit is supported by the Evelyn Smith Exhibition Fund.

Through Feb. 3, ASU Art Museum
Free Ticketed Family
asuartmuseum.asu.edu/programs-and-events

It's never too late to travel with your fellow Sun Devils

From Egypt to Argentina and Cuba to Italy, ASU Alumni’s Travel and Tours programs offer dozens of trips to immerse yourself in the culture, history and cuisine of destinations around the globe. Trips organized by season. Travel options through fall 2018 are now available.

Ticketed
alumni.asu.edu/travel

A day for Devil donation

Sun Devil Giving Day is ASU’s university-wide day of giving. When you make a gift, you join with more than 100,000 like-minded Sun Devils in advancing ASU. Tax-deductible donations may be made to specific colleges, programs or causes.

March 22 Donation
givingday.asu.edu

Pat’s Run

Pat’s Run is held annually to honor Pat Tillman’s legacy. Proceeds from the 4.2-mile run/walk benefit the Tillman Scholars program. Kids 12 and younger can register to run/walk 0.42 miles from the Kids Corner to Sun Devil Stadium.

Saturday, April 21, expo at 6 a.m., race begins at 7:05 a.m., downtown Tempe to Sun Devil Stadium
Ticketed Family
pattillmanfoundation.org/pats-run

Emerging 2018: Luna City

Come see, hear, touch, smell and play the future in our unfolding story of human habitation on the Moon and beyond. Emerge will transform the state-of-the-art Galvin Playhouse on ASU’s Tempe campus into a rich, immersive experience of a lunar community grounded in space science research and the inspirational vision of Kim Stanley Robinson, writer at large.

March 17 Free Family
emerge.asu.edu

Check in at events to earn Pitchforks and rewards!

Try the Sun Devil Rewards app for event listings, news, games and more. Download link at sundevilrewards.asu.edu.

See asuevents.asu.edu for events at ASU. Athletics event and ticket information is at TheSunDevils.com.
Team sequences genome of iconic saguaro cactus

The saguaro cactus is one of the most recognized and studied of all cacti, but despite this, relatively little is known about its evolutionary history. After decades of taxonomic and demographic studies, a group led by researchers from ASU, University of Arizona and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México is using next-generation sequencing methods to decipher the saguaro cactus genome in hopes of understanding the evolution of its adaptations to life in an extreme environment and its relationship to other large cactus species.

For 1st time in 20 years, Thunderbird to benefit from new facilities

After a multiyear assessment of how to enhance opportunities for the Thunderbird School of Global Management’s growth and success, the iconic school will soon be moving to ASU’s Downtown Phoenix campus. A new building is expected to be complete by January 2021 — the 75th anniversary of the school — and will feature space for classrooms, meetings, enclave and hoteling space for its graduate and executive education programs.

Thunderbird CEO and Director General Allen Morrison, who has led the school since its merger with ASU in 2014, called the move “an exciting new chapter in the history of a transformational institution.”

“This is an incredible opportunity for Thunderbird to broaden its mission and have an even greater impact on students and the businesses and organizations with which the school partners,” Morrison said.

The university is working collaboratively with the city of Glendale to redevelop Thunderbird’s existing 140-acre campus at 59th Avenue and Greenway Road into a multipurpose project that serves the community’s interests.

Researchers use a smartphone to diagnose disease

ASU Biodesign Institute researcher Tony Hu and postdoctoral researcher Dali Sun have developed a simple mobile technology for clinics and health organizations on the front lines of triaging outbreaks of infectious disease around the world. The two have taken a $60,000 state-of-the-art technology and reduced the cost to $2,000 in hopes of making diagnostics more affordable to limited-resource areas, particularly in the developing world.

Using 3-D printing, Sun custom-fabricated their first prototype, which contains an easy-to-use mobile phone attachment that slides on like a smartphone case, and a condenser to help focus light onto a sample. The test is sensitive enough to give a result from just a single drop of liquid prepared from a patient’s blood sample using a custom, patented sample prep kit that Hu’s lab has developed.
Going for foods labeled ‘healthy’? Think again

Trying to watch what you eat? Do you reach for the foods labeled “healthy” rather than treats marked “indulgent” in order to cut down? Not so fast. New research by Naomi Mandel, a professor of marketing in the W. P. Carey School of Business, found that study participants ate more potato chips after drinking a shake labeled “healthy living” than people who drank one marked “indulgent.” It’s in line with a previous study by Mandel and other ASU researchers that found dieters will actually eat more food and calories if the portions are presented in small sizes and portions.

University partners in transformative housing complex for sex-trafficking survivors in US

ASU is a partner in one of the first facilities in the United States to offer long-term housing to victims of sex trafficking and their children. Called Starfish Place, the 15-unit apartment complex is in north Phoenix and offers furnished two- and three-bedroom units. Interns from the ASU School of Social Work will help staff the facility and work with tenants and their children. A $50,000 grant from the ASU President’s Office and the College of Public Service and Community Solutions will pay for the internships, therapeutic opportunities such as yoga and cooking classes and the costs of a program evaluation.

Teaching in the dark for Puerto Rico

ASU Assistant Professor Manuel Avilés-Santiago lost all contact with family in Puerto Rico for nine days post-Hurricane Maria. He channeled his nervous energy into a Facebook site for the Puerto Rican diaspora that has now received more than a million posts, serving as a central source of information. He also began teaching the first part of his Intro to Human Communication class in the dark, “as a metaphor for the lack of knowledge about Puerto Rico, and also as a way to experience the literal darkness and uncertain times that our university peers are facing in Puerto Rico,” says Avilés-Santiago. Faculty from at least two other universities have replicated it.

Indie filmmaker reels in film students for sci-fi thriller shot at ASU

“The Nutty Professor” (1963), “A Star Is Born” (1976), “Jerry Maguire” (1996) and — coming soon — “Rhea.” An in-production feature film is joining the ranks of those in which ASU’s Tempe campus has had a costarring role. “Rhea” is setting itself apart from its predecessors in a unique way, however, by putting ASU’s film program into focus. The movie, a futuristic sci-fi production, marks the first outside film production to involve the participation of ASU students in key production roles.

“It was interesting because by the end of the second week, they were like regular crew — they had jobs, they understood what they were doing — and this was not an easy shoot,” says filmmaker Robert Conway (pictured above). “These were six-day weeks and long days. It was a lot to put on the students, but they were really dedicated.”

Keep up with the headlines at ASU by subscribing to the ASU Now newsletter at asunow.asu.edu/subscribe.
Building tomorrow: 3 things to know about 3-D printing

1 It's all about you
Customization is king. Medical exoskeletons are being 3-D printed, and the majority of hearing aids are now manufactured the same way. You want Kevlar in this color but not that color? You can do that.

2 Nature paves the path
What conditions are right for a 3-D-printed part? Nature dictates a lot of designs, such as honeycomb structures, which can absorb energy. Traditionally, they are hard to manufacture.

“We can create structures we couldn't before and study their properties.”
— Dhruv Bhave, ASU Polytechnic School associate professor

3 New materials
Before additive manufacturing, people were able to design materials, but not make them. Now we can — Kevlar and nylon can be combined, for instance.

Ski boots made expressly for you. Whitewater oars that cannot break. Featherweight motorcycle helmets inspired by nature. Hot new jobs. These are a few of the things additive manufacturing — usually called 3-D printing — is going to bring. On this page are three things to know about additive manufacturing.

Samples of 3-D polymer printing, with the honeycomb composed of nylon and carbon fiber and the fan made of ABS plastic.
Review

‘PLANTING’ VACCINES

Leading research emerges from ASU laboratories. In scientist Qiang “Shawn” Chen’s lab, student researchers like Reshma Suresh Kumar have helped develop the world’s first plant-based Zika vaccine that could be more potent, safer and cheaper to produce than any other efforts to date. It’s the same approach ASU research pioneer Charles Arntzen used when he played a key role in developing an experimental treatment used during the Ebola outbreak. Biodesign Institute faculty and student researchers have continued to pursue plant-based vaccines and therapeutics to combat West Nile virus, dengue fever, nerve agents and even cancer.
January

Campaign ASU 2020 launches
ASU embarks on a campaign to raise funds, accelerate its mission and support life-changing actions, such as developing an Ebola treatment, caring for the homeless and opening pathways to higher education. Donations will fund scholarships, research, labs, arts initiatives and more.

ASU grad, faculty member is Phoenix’s first poet laureate
ASU doctoral graduate and faculty member Rosemarie Dombrowski begins a two-year term as Phoenix’s first community poet, serving as the city’s ambassador of literacy and art.

February

Leading a NASA deep-space mission
ASU’s Psyche Mission, a journey to a metal asteroid, is selected for flight, marking the first time the school will lead a deep-space NASA Discovery Program mission and the first time scientists will be able to see what is believed to be a planetary core.

Researchers explore algae as renewable fuel
As part of a nearly $6 million collaborative project with three U.S. Department of Energy labs, ASU researchers work to pinpoint which algae is best-used as a source for renewable energy.

A top producer of Fulbright faculty and student scholars
ASU has six faculty and 15 students in the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program. Among research institutions for 2016-2017, ASU came in at No. 6 for awards to faculty members, and placed within the top 20 for producing student Fulbright scholars.

An ASU discovery is central to the launch of iCarbonX, a diagnostic powerhouse that uses a single drop of blood to detect diseases that involve an immune response — like cancer, autoimmune and neurological diseases.

March

ASU alumnus and MacArthur ‘Genius’ fellow wins Pulitzer Prize
Matthew Desmond earns a Pulitzer Prize for his nonfiction work “Evicted,” detailing the plague of evictions among the nation’s poor. Desmond is a graduate of ASU’s Barrett, The Honors College.
Top producer of the world’s elite scholars

ASU joins the ranks of an elite group of universities with Rhodes, Marshall and Churchill scholarship winners. Three students from Barrett, The Honors College put ASU in the company of Harvard, Stanford and the University of Chicago as the only U.S. institutions with all “Big 3” scholars.

“It’s really exciting because ASU is also the most innovative school; the potential here is unlimited, and there’s a lot happening behind the scenes.”
— NGONI MUGWISI, ASU RHODES SCHOLAR

A rapid test to stop the spread of tuberculosis

A TB test that takes just hours to complete and outperforms all others on the market is created by ASU scientists in collaboration with maverick scientists from Texas and Washington, D.C. A quick diagnosis is critical in reducing the risk of spreading this deadly, worldwide disease.

ASU jumps nine spots to No. 13 in the U.S. for producing Peace Corps volunteers currently serving around the world.

April

One of the nation’s top universities for commercializing tech

The Milken Institute lists ASU as one of the fastest-growing and one of the top universities in the country for tech transfer. ASU surges 20 spots in the rankings, vaulting ahead of Harvard, Johns-Hopkins, Duke, USC and UC Berkeley. Technology transfer success is measured by patents, licenses issued, licensing income and startups formed.

Paralyzed student invents therapy device, launches company

Dan Campbell, a robotics engineering major, invents AmbulAid to help people with neurological damage — like himself — learn to walk. The “gait training” system helps launch his venture, DK Therapeutics, makers of affordable physical rehabilitation tools. For his groundbreaking therapy device, he is awarded $35,000 in the first-ever Glowing Minds Consumer Product Challenge, sponsored by the Center for Entrepreneurship in ASU’s W. P. Carey School of Business.

Faculty members collectively rank No. 2 in nation for NSF awards

ASU faculty earn 14 National Science Foundation early-career awards, ranking second in the U.S. among all universities and among the top three for engineering schools, ahead of Stanford, UC Berkeley and Carnegie Mellon. The awards recognize the nation’s most promising junior faculty members and provide them with funding to pursue excellence in teaching and research.

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Director of design and creative placemaking programs for the National Endowment for the Arts, Jason Schupbach joins ASU as director of The Design School at the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

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May

Starbucks’ Schultz addresses ASU grads, including first graduating class from partnership
ASU spring commencement honors more than 13,500 new grads, including more than 260 graduating through the Starbucks College Achievement Plan. More than 7,000 Starbucks employees are currently participating in the program. Starbucks graduate Aristotle Jefferson says, “As a first-generation college student it’s been a dream come true. The program has allowed me to help break the cycle of poverty.”

June


ASU wins 6 prestigious awards for photovoltaics
ASU’s U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Awards total $4.3 million in grants. ASU ranks first among recipients in Photovoltaics Research for two years in a row, ahead of MIT, Stanford and UC Berkeley.

July

Fiske Guide to Colleges names ASU a ‘best buy’ for excellence and value
The only Arizona university to earn this recognition, ASU is described by Fiske as an institution “where ‘massive innovation’ is the norm and where an interdisciplinary culture is seen as the best means of developing ‘world-changing ideas.’”

August

adidas-ASU Global Sport Alliance is launched
Bringing together education, athletics, research and innovation, the alliance will explore topics that include diversity, race, sustainability and human potential – all through the lens of sport. The alliance awards scholarships to 100 adidas U.S. employees to pursue degrees through ASU Online. The partners plan to scale the program internationally in the coming years.

“adidas and ASU see the world as a place to be disrupted.”
— MARK KING, ADIDAS NORTH AMERICA PRESIDENT

Researcher’s findings lead to FDA ingredient ban
Rolf Halden, director of the Biodesign Center for Environmental Health Engineering, has long researched the detrimental effects of certain antimicrobials. After 15 years of studying triclosan and triclocarban, Halden has gained the attention of the Food and Drug Administration, which will now prohibit the sale of personal-care products containing these ingredients.

Tooker House brings innovation to engineering residential experience
Engineering students moving into the new Tooker House at ASU are part of the first voice-enabled residential community on a university campus. Amazon donates 1,600 Amazon Echo Dots to ASU, and students use the devices to immerse themselves in the growing field of voice-technology development.

The Mayo Clinic and Arizona State University Alliance for Health Care reaches a significant milestone when Mayo Clinic School of Medicine welcomes its first 50 students in Scottsdale, Arizona.

———
ASU team among top-10 finalists in international SpaceX competition
ASU students join peers from Northern Arizona University and Embry-Riddle to form AZLoop, a team tasked with developing mass transit at speeds of up to 750 mph. The breakthrough would make the trip from Phoenix to San Diego possible in about 30 minutes. The team’s work space and hyperloop test track are located at ASU’s Polytechnic campus.

September
‘Three-peat’: No. 1 in innovation
For the third year in a row, ASU earns the No. 1 position in the U.S. News & World Report rankings for “most innovative schools” in the country, recognizing the university’s groundbreaking initiatives, partnerships, programs and research. More than 1,500 universities are considered in the ranking.

October
Launching a tourism college...in China
ASU opens its first permanent location in China, Hainan University-Arizona State University Joint International Tourism College. Its goal: enroll as many as 300 students annually in the program pairing ASU degrees and Hainan degrees.

November
New state-of-the-art academy at ASU West for young geniuses
The new home for the Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars Academy offers a modern teaching, learning and discovery environment for highly gifted students in grades 7–12. HYSA students participated in the design of the new building.

Supporting patient-driven diabetes care
Dana Lewis, a type-1 diabetes patient and citizen scientist, develops a hybrid closed-loop artificial pancreas to automate insulin delivery, an effort supported by a half-million dollar grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

December
ASU alumna Reyna Montoya is honored as a Forbes “30 Under 30” for social entrepreneurship, and by NBC Latino 20 for her community achievements in the greater Phoenix area.

Building the world’s largest telescope
ASU teams with universities and science institutes to build the world’s largest telescope. The transformational “Giant Magellan” will produce images with 10 times the sharpness of the Hubble Space Telescope and is designed to look back further in time than ever before.
ASU is a top knowledge engine with a rich diversity of highly ranked programs led by the world’s top minds that produces research that solves pressing global and local issues through powerful partnerships.

Research

One of the fastest-growing research universities

Over the last 10 years, ASU has emerged as one of the country’s fastest-growing research universities among those with $100 million+ in annual research expenditures — ahead of Harvard, Yale, Duke and others.

Top 10 in U.S. for total research expenditures among institutions without a medical school, ahead of Caltech, Carnegie Mellon and Princeton

Top 5 in U.S. for interdisciplinary science total research expenditures ahead of MIT, UCLA and Carnegie Mellon

Top 10 in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funding among all U.S. institutions without a medical school, ahead of Princeton, Georgia Tech and Carnegie Mellon

Top 10 in U.S. for NASA-funded research expenditures ahead of Stanford, Columbia and UCLA

Athletics

Best of the field

Among the top 2017 awards: NCAA titleholder for women’s golf: Monica Vaughn; NCAA titleholder for women’s hammer throw: Maggie Ewen; No. 1 in the country, triathlon; Missy Farr-Kaye, WGCA National Coach of the Year.

Highest-ever Academic Progress Rate

In May, the NCAA announces ASU has achieved Sun Devil Athletics’ highest-ever four-year Academic Progress Rate, second only in the Pac-12 Conference to Stanford.

Graduating with success

Sun Devil Athletics ties its all-time high 87 percent Graduation Success Rate for its student-athletes in 2017, maintaining its upper-echelon status in the Pac-12 Conference.

Three ASU teams lead the conference in GSR, with all three at 100 percent: men’s swimming and diving, softball and women’s tennis.

Coach Missy Farr-Kaye and Monica Vaughn led nationally in golf.

Support

With the 2017 launch of Campaign ASU 2020, the ASU Foundation generates record-breaking philanthropic contributions from all sectors.

100k+ donors

including individual, corporate, foundation and other private gifts advancing ASU excellence

$220+ million in total support

representing a record year in fundraising, generating new opportunities at the nation’s most innovative university

$40+ million in scholarship support

directly awarded to need- and merit-based ASU students
Academics

Hundreds of prestigious faculty
recognized by the National Academies are members and fellows in the most elite fellowships, earning the world’s highest awards, including:
5 Nobel laureates
6 Pulitzer Prize winners
3 MacArthur fellows

Top 25 in U.S.
U.S. News & World Report ranks more than 40 ASU programs — including engineering, business, science, public affairs, law and education — in the top 25 in the nation.

A top producer of Fulbright faculty scholars
ASU is one of the nation’s top producers of Fulbright faculty scholars and top 20 in the nation for students in the 2016–17 academic year, tying with Cornell, Georgia and Texas.
— 2017 Chronicle of Higher Education

Gold standard for honors programs
Barrett, The Honors College outperforms Duke, UC Berkeley and others in Fulbright Scholars success rates, while producing prestigious Marshall, Rhodes and Churchill scholars.

Best and brightest
ASU is a top destination for prestigious Flinn Scholars, nearly 60 percent of whom chose to attend ASU over the last 10 years.

A top-10 university for graduate employability
Ahead of MIT, Columbia and UCLA
— 2016 World University Rankings, Times Higher Education

A top-10 university for Silicon Valley careers
among schools with the most undergraduate and graduate alumni hired by the 25 biggest Silicon Valley employers in the last year, ahead of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, UCLA
— Hiring Solved

A half-million ASU alumni
have positively impacted our global community, excelling and achieving after graduation.

Top 0.4 percent in the world
ASU is listed in the top 0.4 percent of 27,000 degree-granting institutions worldwide by the 2017 Center for World University Rankings, while eight academic programs, including business and anthropology are recognized as top-10 programs internationally.

#1 public university for international students for three consecutive years
— 2017 Institute of International Education report

A top U.S. STEM university
Segmenting the U.S. and Canada into seven distinct regions, Popular Mechanics lists ASU as the No. 1 university in the Southwest Region among its top “innovative and exciting schools best preparing students for tomorrow through STEM classes, academic clubs, undergraduate research and strong ties to industry.”
Across America, PM ranks ASU ahead of Harvard, Columbia, Cornell, Stanford, UC Berkeley and USC.
“Growing up without a family to help me, college seemed to be an impossible dream. Life changed when I discovered the generous, giving hand of scholarships. How crazy is life? I can go from aging out of foster care to finding my place at Arizona State University.”

You may not have been there when Courtney was applying for scholarships, but when you give to ASU, you ensure her hard work leads to a brighter future. **We don’t always see our generous donors, but you’re always in the picture.**
An ASU researcher gave Charlie Rolsky a chance to make a difference — and he pays it forward.

A Phoenix couple whose business is based at ASU scored a $150,000 investment from two judges on the TV show “Shark Tank” in late fall. Maria Luna and Hector Rodriguez invented a payment and tipping app called Bravo and pitched it on the entrepreneurship competition, which is judged by a team of successful businesspeople. The pair are part of ASU’s Venture Devils program, which is in the Office of Entrepreneurship + Innovation and provides space, mentorship and access to funding opportunities to those within ASU and in the larger community.

An artist dives into his work’s inspiration.
An ocean of
ASU researcher Rolf Halden gives Charlie Rolsky a chance to make a difference — and Charlie pays it forward by helping others find their way

With tattooed sleeves, the beard of a Sumerian general and a passion for the now, he tends to stand out. The impression comes across that he is savoring every moment and making the most of everything life offers.

Rolsky was born in Southern California and raised in Washington and Montana. “We lived in the most beautiful places,” he says. He grew up outside; camping, fishing, hiking. His mother fought the development of wetlands in Montana. His grandmother lived in the redwoods. “My family was really environmentally conscious,” he says.

He’s working on a doctorate in biology with a focus on microplastics, and assessing environmental stressors as an indicator of species, human and ecosystem health. What the latter means can be summed up in two words: whale poop.

“I have a fascination with the ocean the way some people do with space,” Rolsky says. “When you’re sitting on a boat, you don’t know what’s underneath you. It’s so hard to study things in the ocean. You can’t just take them out and put them in a lab and replicate the same setting.”

Killer whales are his favorite animal

“Marine mammals — they surface and then they go under,” he says. “You have (just a moment) to study and then what are you going to do?”

He did an internship studying killer whales. Usually to take a sample from a whale, you take a biopsy sample. That involves getting close to the whale and taking a chunk out of its hide. Needless to say, that stresses the whale. Rolsky and his colleagues used a noninvasive way of taking a biopsy: a trained rescue dog that alerts them when it smells killer-whale poop. The dog stood on the bow of the boat, the boat followed the whale, the dog would alert team members when the whale did its business and they’d scoop up the sample with a net.

Out on the ocean on that internship, getting his hands dirty, Rolsky found his calling. Collecting samples, taking them into the lab and analyzing the data, he saw the whole flow of how the process worked.

“That one internship just blew the roof off for me,” he says. He knew he wanted to be a scientist.

There was a problem, though. When he was an undergrad, he struggled with grades and a health condition.

“It hindered me in the sense it was overwhelming and I took it on on my own,” he says. “I needed to ask for help, and I didn’t. It was a battle for me to balance everything. I thought I could balance too many things, and I definitely couldn’t.”

His grades took a hit. Flash-forward to getting into a research lab as a graduate student. He needed an adviser.

“There’s not a lot of easy options to get into a research lab,” Rolsky says. “My grades weren’t the best when I was an undergrad, so I had to rely on my resume to get me places. I shopped myself around to a lot of different professors, but their ruler for measuring success is usually your GPA. I got shot down left and right.”

He connected with a student of Rolf Halden’s who worked in aquaculture. All three of them went to lunch, where Rolsky showed his ideas to Halden.

Halden is an expert in determining where mass-produced chemicals wind up in the environment, how they affect health and how to remove them from contaminated water and soil. The Food and Drug Administration
recently banned the sale of personal-care products containing antimicrobials that contaminate the environment — a direct result of Halden’s research. He is the director of the ASU Biodesign Center for Environmental Health Engineering. A lanky German with a winning smile, he stands out for also being sharply dressed on campus.

“Once I learned who he was, I didn’t think I had a chance in hell of working with him,” Rolsky says. “I sat down and I said, ‘Here’s my resume. I’m really sorry. Back when I was an undergrad — ’ And he said, ‘I don’t care about that. What are you doing now?’ That’s when the conversation started.

He looked at me as more than a GPA. Who are you? What are your passions? What’s your work ethic? Stuff like that.”

Rolsky walked away from lunch without a good feeling. “He basically crapped all over (my ideas), in a really good way because I was new,” he recalls. “I left and called my mom and said, ‘Well, that was a massive failure. Now I feel like an idiot.’ Then he sent an email saying something like, ‘We’re excited to have you. Welcome to the team.’”

Rolsky had won Halden over with his enthusiasm. Grades don’t always convey a person’s capacity, Halden says. “Sometimes bad grades can be a reflection of an educational environment that is not ideally suited for an individual,” Halden says. “Being a very large university, ASU is a place where people with different learning styles have a better chance finding the right niche. A history of having not-so-great grades doesn’t mean he couldn’t do great work. Charlie is proving this more and more.”

“I sat down and said, ‘Here’s my resume. I’m really sorry. Back when I was an undergrad — ’ And he said, ‘I don’t care about that. What are you doing now?’”

— CHARLIE ROLSKY

Assembling a scientist
Halden says he looks for people who like what they’re doing. Passion makes a difference. He explains why he invited Rolsky into his lab.

“(People) can be extremely smart, but absent of motivation, what should be an exciting journey of discovery becomes a chore only,” he says. “It’s much easier to work with people who are self-motivated and just direct them, to give them pointers on what they might be doing next. It was beneficial to us both. He already had the motivation, and all he needed was a little more instruction on how to apply his skills.

“I wouldn’t say I took a chance on him. Yes, based on his academic accomplishments, not everyone would have taken him on, but Charlie has become such an integral part of our team that we are just happy to have him around and work with him.”

Halden pushed Rolsky toward microplastics. He will finish his PhD in about a year and a half. He wants to be back on the water, getting his hands dirty at a place like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Currently he is working on a survey of plastics in California waters.

“We’re encountering negative stuff,” Rolsky says. “Not a surprise.” It’s an area where very little research has been done, making it a ripe career field.

“We don’t know much about it, and it’s one of those problems where it’s so expansive, that once we do learn bad things, it’s not good,” he says. “It’s not one little problem in one little area. Microplastics are all over the world. Every country can get worried.”

Halden says with some nudging Rolsky has come into his own.

“I think he’s really broadened his horizons and focused in on a major challenge that is the mass production of unsustainable materials that have become part of our way of life and we don’t want to do without,” Halden says.

Rolsky says he didn’t know where he’d be if Halden hadn’t encouraged him in that direction. A good scientist is assembled from different pieces.

“I had done the field work, I’d gotten decent at writing, but he taught me how to be a scientist,” Rolsky says. “He taught me how to ask the right questions and see things through the glasses of a scientist.

“You can think you’re good at things, but it takes someone like that to show you the proper way of executing stuff. He really opened my eyes to how to be the best scientist possible. You can see from your perspective all angles.
of a certain concept, but then you take it to him and he adds 10 more things to it.”

To Rolsky, Halden represents what’s needed in science. “A lot of people don’t know how to communicate or to find creative ways of communicating science to non-science people,” he says. “He can communicate well, he brings creativity out of people, and he pushes you to be the best researcher possible.”

Now Rolsky is reaching out. He gets samples sent to him from all over the world by ordinary people interested in science.

“The great thing about Charlie is that he was super open, super clear to his students that he wanted to help them find research opportunities from the get-go.” — ANNA GUERRERO

“Everyone has a generic idea of what a scientist should be and how they should talk and what they should look like,” he says. “When you can be the opposite of that, it’s a positive thing to me. ‘Oh, he doesn’t talk like a scientist, and he’s funny and has tattoos and looks weird.’ If you can be an exception to that and get people to care about science in a funny way, then I think that’s pretty cool.”

Paying it forward
As a teaching assistant, Rolsky tries to get as many students into research labs as he can because it helped him so much. Over the past three years, he has helped 28 students get into lab positions. “I had to figure out how to get into research labs on my own,” he says. “Now it’s like an equation I can pass off to anyone and it’s pretty successful. I haven’t had a student fail yet.”

Anna Guerrero was one of his first. A first-year grad student, she is pursuing her master’s in biology and society. Rolsky was her teaching assistant in her Introduction to Biology lab.

“The great thing about Charlie is that he was super open, super clear to his students that he wanted to help them find research opportunities from the get-go,” Guerrero says. “Undergraduate research is becoming more and more integral to the success of an undergraduate in the science field. He’s like, ‘Hey, if you want to get into a research lab, please come to me. I will help you brainstorm who you should contact and use my contacts to help you get in.’”

Guerrero is interested in how scientists transform their experiences into data, words and pictures. She is particularly interested in “invisible” scientific phenomena, things too small, large or abstract to see with the naked eye.

“We got her into a really amazing position,” Rolsky says. “She has a knack for art and science, so we paired her with a researcher who depicted anatomical structures in a really cool way.”

Guerrero says Rolsky was probably the only reason she got into a lab.

“I came to him with this interest
in art, but I also like science," she says. "I didn’t know who would need that or where should I go. He said, ‘Oh, there’s this woman, her name’s Rebecca Fisher. She’s really cool and her papers she publishes usually have these really wonderful illustrations, so she has a history of working with illustrators. I know her; I’ll vouch for you.’ ... I think that’s why she gave me an interview in the first place.”

Guerrero went to work in Rebecca Fisher’s anatomy and physiology lab.

“I can draw — I’m a scientific illustrator,” Guerrero says. “In anatomy and physiology it’s super-helpful to have an illustrator to draw the phenomena you’re seeing. Sometimes when you’re taking pictures of 20 muscles, you don’t want every muscle in the picture; you just want to isolate one. So she took me on; I did some drawings and figure work for her early on. She kind of inducted me into the lab into dissections, and then I helped her on a few projects.”

As a thank-you, she drew Rolfsky a picture of Darwin with the caption “Darwinning.” Rolfsky came up with the idea to put it on a T-shirt. Now they design and sell science-based T-shirts for charity (find their designs at teespring.com/stores/lab-casual).

“One of Anna Guerrero’s scientific illustrations, looking deep into the DNA of chromosomes.

“He is a sought-after instructor people go to repeatedly,” Halden says. “This is all very impressive. The students like him and can relate to him, which makes learning so much easier and fun.”

Rolfsky says his journey has been about finding a niche and a place to make his mark.

“You find the right people,” he says. “I tell my students about finding your pod — you find the right people who are always going to lift you up and provide you with opportunities. As long as you’re nice to people and make an effort to reach out and talk to them, I think that should be the standard.”

Anna Guerrero and Charlie Rolfsky help connect people to science.

be that person, especially with younger students who wouldn’t know how to do it.”

Rolfsky is a natural teacher. He has received awards and recognition for his contributions to education at ASU.
A doctoral student and teaching assistant in biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Charlie Rolsky travels great distances to study plastic pollution (the samples pictured here are from Japan and San Francisco).

“I enlist the help of the public to collect beach sand saturated with microplastics around the world,” Rolsky says. “I then analyze these to better understand the impact plastic pollution has on humans and the environment.”

Because he researches plastics, he makes a point to be as sustainable as possible, using a reusable water bottle, cutlery and shopping bags. His mini binoculars have been with him since age 6, a gift from his grandmother.

Uncovering the tools of the trade

One person using reusable bags over their lifetime would remove more than 22,000 plastic bags from the environment.

Top row, left to right: Reusable straw, reusable cutlery, red reusable shopping bag, Plastic Pollution Coalition pamphlet, wallet, earbuds, beach sand sample, tweezers, keys. Middle row, left to right: Whale poop stickers, binoculars, notebooks, pens, beach sand sample, business cards, plastic samples, bottle and vial for lab testing, water bottle. Bottom row, left to right: Sun Card, Tums.
Floating new ideas

An artist shares his inspiration

“My current body of work seeks to make a connection between two very opposite styles, hyperrealism and the classical technique, non finito. This was inspired by my hunger to tell stories of young African immigrants, like myself, in the diaspora having to juggle with two or more cultures and not feeling completely relatable to any.”

– Papay Solomon, senior studying painting in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
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Prepare

v: to make ready beforehand for some purpose or activity; to put into written form

A different kind of school
ASU Prep Digital's online classes give high schoolers room to move fast, heal and rope a few calves. 28

Get ready for a great year
Smarten up your 2018 with monthly tips from a range of ASU experts. 37

PLUG IN
What will your life look like
five, 10, 20 years down the line?
It's an outlook
Sun Devils Athletics' Alonzo Jones tries to instill in student-athletes. 37

Alonzo Jones and ASU freshman defensive back Alex Perry.
Saddling up for a different kind of school

ASU Prep Digital’s online classes give high schoolers room to move fast, to heal and to rope a few calves

Story by SEAN HOLSTEGE
Photography by JAROD OPPERMAN
The chickens are clucking and the sun has yet to emerge over the cotton fields around Coolidge, Arizona, but Hunter Kelley is already busy. He has to collect the eggs, feed the horses, cattle and other livestock. He has a rope in his hand — he always has a rope in his hand — and big ideas about the future in his 15-year-old head. Studies have to wait for the tall, lean boy.

A world away in South Phoenix, a big day awaits Nalani Monenerkit at her family’s stucco bungalow. She’s turning 14. A large Spider-Man “Happy Birthday, Nalani” banner hangs over the kitchen table.

After breakfast, she’ll walk down the hall, its walls filled with her artwork and school portraits. The girl with the long dark hair will plant herself in a plain metal swivel chair and dive into her online coursework. She’ll be fixed there, in her T-shirt and jeans with the holes in the knees, at a modest desk in her small bedroom for hours without break.

Nalani’s ideas about the future are less crystalline. She’s still trying to figure out high school.

In nearby Queen Creek, Maya Rodriguez is awake ahead of a tiring day. She readies for the trek from the big suburban house on a cul-de-sac to Phoenix Children’s Hospital. That’s where she attends routine occupational and physical therapy sessions. They are both her burden and her inspiration.

Maya, still just 14, has big ideas for her future, too, but to get there she needs a little help in school.

Enter ASU Prep Digital, a slate of online high school classes, a new initiative of ASU Preparatory Academy, innovative charter schools with an emphasis on providing premium environments for learning. Those are a bridge for Maya. They help her complete her studies when her medical condition wears her down in the classroom.

ASU Prep Digital, introduced in August, offers these young students and hundreds more like them choice. Independence. Flexibility. Futures. The online high school coursework enables students to take as many or as few classes as they want, when they want and where they need.

For some, that’s not always a traditional classroom.
Yet traditional classrooms sparked the idea. Arizona State University looked at its prep schools around the region, saw what worked and wondered why high schoolers couldn’t prepare for college just as well if they took the same courses online.

The prep academies were like a dandelion flower, its seeds drifting into the homes of Hunter, Maya, Nalani and hundreds more in Arizona. Seeds took root around the country and the world. The idea germinated in classrooms within seven Arizona school districts, places like Miami where rural school administrators struggle with threadbare resources.

For students, educators and ASU itself, ASU Prep Digital represents a nascent experiment, an education lab. The people running the program don’t like that word, experiment. It smacks of uncertainty. They prefer “prototype.” There is a strategy.

For them, the goal is to help reinvent learning in Arizona and grant students who may someday enroll in a university a better chance to succeed once they arrive.

For the youngsters enrolled in ASU Prep Digital, the experience resembles a tryout. Hunter, Maya and Nalani all say they hadn’t been certain what to expect.

Meeting different needs
Each teenager discovered ASU Prep Digital differently. Each needed something different. But all three wanted something better than they had.

Hunter wanted a more flexible schedule. When his guidance counselor told him about ASU Prep Digital, he saw a perfect fit.

“This relieves all the stress because now I can do all my work ahead,” he explains.

That frees up time to drill at roping calves, riding bulls and other rodeo skills — skills that can earn big prize money.

Nalani needed a better place to learn. In junior high school, she wanted to learn at her own, faster pace. The teachers had to balance fast and slow learners. Disruptions made matters worse.

“I felt I was being held back and it was moving at too slow a pace,” she says. “This is quieter. It’s more designed to work for an individual student.”

At first, when she and her mother attended a presentation, she had doubts about studying at home exclusively. She changed her mind.

“I was excited to do it. Some of my family was concerned about my social life,” Nalani says, but she has had plenty of time for both studies and friends.

Pace posed a different challenge for Maya. She lives with multiple sclerosis, and with it comes chronic fatigue, nerve pain and medicine that causes drowsiness.

“School was pretty hectic,” she says of her life at ASU Prep Poly High School, a charter school in Mesa. She placed in advanced classes but opted out. “I would have gotten too far behind.”

With online classes, she can pace herself, rest if necessary, and continue learning. When her Poly teachers told her she could mix her classes, it made perfect sense.

ASU, too, saw opportunity. The university could better serve driven students and those at resource-starved rural schools.

“We partner with superintendents to fill those gaps. For instance, it’s hard to find highly qualified physics teachers,” explains Amy McGrath, chief operating officer for ASU Prep Digital.

The university brought her and CEO Julie Young on board last January, after they introduced a similar concept in Florida.

In Miami, a mining town of around 2,000 people tucked in the mountains 80 miles east of Phoenix, Glen Lineberry discovered ASU’s efforts in meetings about addressing the state’s teacher-shortage crisis.

The principal of the Miami Junior-Senior High School jumped at the idea. “A lot of the kids here come from pretty difficult situations,” Lineberry says.

One in five residents lives below the poverty line, U.S. Census Bureau data show. One in four never finished high school, and fewer than half went any farther.

Along U.S. 60, the boarded-up storefronts tell much of the story.

The school runs on less money than it had a decade ago, even after inflation, Lineberry says. His teachers explain history and economics with books written before 9/11 or the Great Recession.

ASU Digital Prep offered the chance to plug a gap — qualified teachers in biology and English at the sophomore level. Students take the certified ASU online classes, but with a teacher in the room.
“leading the class.” This is blended learning.

“The advantage for ASU is to have a friendly lab to work in,” a real-life place to try it, Lineberry says.

What a day is like
It’s early afternoon on a recent Thursday and Hunter Kelley is cantering across a dirt field on a brown horse. He’s back at home after roping calves at the Lonestar Equestrian Center for two hours.

Hank, a gray, blue-eyed hound; and Zoe, a small black-and-white Toy Aussie, trot across the drive to greet him. He’s wearing a white straw Stetson hat, a blue button-down shirt, boots with spurs and jeans with gloves tucked in the back pocket.

He offers a tour of the 5-acre farm at the end of the gravel road. Here sits a bucking barrel. The Kelleys fashioned it from a 55-gallon drum, galvanized pipe and springs. After dinner, Hunter will mount the contraption and his brother will pump it to resemble the jerking of a bucking bull.

Around the corner lies a disused alfalfa field next to the cow pasture. The family drove recycled oil pipes into the ground to form the perimeter of a practice rodeo arena.

As he walks into the large house with vaulted ceilings and custom timber posts, Hunter is still twirling his practice rope. “I rope anything with a pulse. I’ll rope the chickens,” he says, showing a smile with braces.

After a ham and cheese sandwich, Hunter heads into his bedroom to study. It’s all wood and metal, in hues of brown and tan. Homage to the West.

A half-dozen cowboy hats hang on racks and elk horns. A painted wooden poster of John Wayne sits on the bedside table framing the gleaming rodeo belt buckles.

Hunter lays stomach-down on the bed, unfolds his laptop and begins today’s online lessons. He’s still wearing his hat, but that doesn’t stop him from being the only student in his leadership class to communicate by video. The other dozen students type their answers into a chat board. His instructor’s voice over the computer praises him for courage.

The history lesson entails analyzing photos from the Battle of Wounded Knee, differentiating between the objective observation of bodies in a ditch and the subjective interpretation that they had been massacred and dumped.

Hunter runs through his exercises quickly, once calling a teacher on his cellphone to clarify an assignment. Hours later he’s done and planning an evening of rodeo, dinner, more roping on

“it gives me the flexibility I need to make my education whole. If this works out the way I want it to, I’ll have time to do everything to learn, to heal, to learn how to help myself and to learn how to cope with everything.”

— Mayan Rodriguez, 9th Grade

Maya Rodriguez (center) greets friends at ASU Prep Polytechnic in Mesa. The 14-year-old takes most of her classes in person, but ASU Prep Digital’s algebra and English courses allow her to complete her studies when multiple sclerosis wears her down.
another dummy in the yard and an hour on the bucking barrel.

“At ASU they say: ‘Eat the frogs for breakfast,’ meaning, get the hardest assignments done first,” Hunter says. “You have to be self-disciplined to do online school.”

Nalani Monenerkit is.

It’s her birthday, but she’s not texting friends. Inside her home in South Phoenix, she’s at the small desk in her bedroom, working. Silently. For hours. Without pause.

She’s taking biology, history, leadership, algebra, English and Spanish.

Above the tidy desk, a dry-erase board hangs on the wall. She has written the schedule for all her live sessions for the rest of the week.

Today is biology. The teacher plays a short documentary with David Attenborough explaining the sustainability of the planet. It’s the first time Nalani has joined this live lesson, which lasts about an hour.

The teacher directs the lesson from live streaming video, seen in one panel on the screen. The lesson is in the middle. Communication happens in a separate chat box.

After the video, Nalani answers a question about what she took away from the clip. She says Earth could sustain only 1.5 billion people living the lifestyle of the typical U.S. resident.

“Nalani, I like yours,” the teacher says. She writes down all the questions on sticky notes before she answers them online.

In history, she’s asked to copy the PowerPoint text about European explorers. In handwriting that never strays over the lines, she complies, and slips the paper in a color-coded binder. No papers stick out.

And so it goes — math, English and so on, as a row of Cabbage Patch dolls looks down from a shelf overhead. The only sound is the hum of the small desk fan and gentle taps on the keyboard.

Nalani has more stamina than her grandmother, who retires to the bedroom across the hall. After homework, the two will chat, play with the dog or go to the park. No mention of birthday plans. She’ll hang out with friends on the weekend, she says.

“It’s not a damper on my social life,” Nalani says of studying at home full time. “I’m pretty happy with it.”

For Maya Rodriguez, most days...
Online courses are a bridge for Maya Rodriguez of Queen Creek, letting her to keep up while attending routine occupational and physical therapy sessions. She takes only algebra and English online; her four other classes are with the other freshmen at Poly.

She's out the door by 9 a.m. On this day, it's Halloween. Pumpkins line the porch behind spiderwebs and lawn decorations. It's the kind of neighborhood where 100 kids might show up for trick-or-treat, says Maya's mother, Grisele Rodriguez.

Today, Maya exchanges the obligatory ASU maroon uniform polo for an ensemble of black sweats and huge round glasses. She's aiming for Edna Mode from "The Incredibles." With her shoulder-length brown hair and round face, she pulls it off.

She shoulders her floral backpack and jumps in the blue Honda Fit for the five-minute drive to school.

She walks through the glass doors and onto the colorful linoleum floors of Sacaton Hall. A flood of students arrives all at once, breaking the quiet. Some see Maya. A boy says hi. A girl with braids gives her a hug.

Then she's off to Room 105, where 16 students scattered around square tables will be learning about DNA and mitosis, while Maya — as a "guest student" doing independent study — sits at a table near the corner and practices algebra.

She flips open her silver Chromebook and logs in. She shows another independent-study girl a picture on her iPhone explaining her costume. She has already taken off the bug-eye spectacles, even as other students show off and chatter about their costumes.

The class quiets down. Only the teacher's voice and the hum of the air conditioner are audible. Maya is wrestling with an algebraic equation full of fractions.

She pulls out a green pen and scribbles formulas on the table, coated with a white dry-erase board. After a few cross-outs, erasures and pauses, the computer program ALEKS tells her she's ready to move on.

So it goes for most of the 90-minute period. Occasionally Maya gets distracted by the biology lesson, or students discussing the cloning of dogs. Maya smiles quietly and giggles at some of their goofy comments, and then sweats out another equation.

Some mornings, especially after therapy, Maya is too fatigued for independent study. She catches up at home.

"I wasn't too sure about it at first, because I thought online school would be full time and I didn't know if I was OK staying home all day and not spending time with my friends," she says. "Later I learned I could do a hybrid program, and I thought that was pretty cool."

Maya is one of more than 900 students enrolled in ASU Prep Digital classes. The school launched in August and offers options to take all or some high school courses online.

In Miami, the idea is catching. "It's going really well. The kids really like it," Lineberry, the principal, says. "They get that this is a big leap for us."

He adds that "not every 15- or 16-year-old kid has the self-discipline," and that leaving them alone with computers and no guidance would have been a mistake.

A group of four sophomores and freshmen all say they prefer the blended online classes.

"I like that you have access to it in and out of class and you have two sources for each class: your teacher and the web. I prefer when the teacher is there because they can answer a question right away," says freshman Katelin Followill, 15.

Jayden Gross, 16; Riley Guthrey, 14; and Mycala Stapleton, 16; all nod in agreement.
All four say they are learning English and biology faster than they would in a regular class.

**Future ambitions**

In his bedroom window, Hunter keeps a notecard with a quote from John Wayne.

“Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway,” it reads.

Hunter is saddling up. ASU Prep Digital enables him to pursue his dream of being a champion rodeo competitor and running his own business, just to bring in steady income.

“With this, I can do my work on the road. I have a hotspot and I can do my work anywhere on a laptop,” he says. When he recently traveled to a rodeo contest in Phoenix, he finished his work in the car.

That’s the difference between perfecting his craft and not. He plans to compete in a national rodeo contest in Las Vegas in December.

If Hunter were still full time at Florence High School, “I’d have to miss out,” he says. Instead, he’s getting several hours of rodeo practice in a day and plans to take college-credit courses through ASU Prep Digital toward a business degree after high school.

Nalani hasn’t decided on her future yet. She knows she wants to go to ASU. The playbills on her wall show her love of theater. Her mother, Verna Monenerkit, says Nalani drives herself hard and has talked about a career as a lawyer, a fashion designer or both.

Nalani can’t articulate yet what ASU Prep Digital means to her. But she’s clear on what life would be without it.

“I probably would have been really bored and slacked on academics, and not really done too well,” she says. “I probably wouldn’t have been interested in ASU. Before, I didn’t really know where I wanted to go.”

For Maya, it’s all about what’s possible now. “It means the world to me,” Maya says.

“It gives me the flexibility I need to make my education whole,” she adds. “If this works out the way I want it to, I’ll have time to do everything to learn, to heal, to learn how to help myself and to learn how to cope with everything.”

Inspired by her therapists at Phoenix Children’s Hospital, Maya wants to be a children’s occupational therapist herself. Her visits are her salvation.

“My break is going to my appointments and doing my stretches and working out and having fun and seeing all the little kids doing the same things as me,” Maya says. “When you walk in there, your heart just melts to see all the babies.”

She can picture how her goal is attainable, even if she might have to take longer to get there.

But ASU Prep Digital is not exclusively focused on the self-disciplined, hard-driving kids like Maya, Nalani and Hunter. Administrators such as McGrath have plans, too.

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Nalani Monenerkit, 14, updates her schedule on a whiteboard in her South Phoenix bedroom.

She’s taking six classes through ASU Prep Digital, and the pace suits her.
Her goal is to sign up 15,000 enrollments by August 2018, a tenfold increase over the current target. A year later, she aims for 20,000.

In addition to the part- and full-time online students, ASU also wants to grow the ranks of blended classroom students.

“We are trying to illustrate what the future of education looks like.”
— AMY McGRATH, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, ASU PREP DIGITAL

The university is not just offering those “gap” classes to help struggling high schools bring in subject experts. ASU Prep Digital offers 50 high school classes, ranging from freshman to senior level, in courses that include Arabic and psychology.

ASU Prep Digital is supported with state revenues for full-time Arizona students and a reduced tuition rate for part-time Arizona students. Students enrolling outside of Arizona or internationally pay tuition. Private philanthropy has also provided support to assist with early-stage development. In addition, ASU offers 70 college-level courses for a fee.

“It’s kind of unprecedented,” McGrath says. “We want to drive kids to (college) where they can succeed, to advance when ready, instead of being confined by a traditional school.”

Success will be measured by hitting national benchmarks for evaluating subject mastery.

“We are trying to illustrate what the future of education looks like,” McGrath says.

At Miami High School, Lineberry credits the university. “We are meeting expectations and beginning to work on how to expand our curriculum,” he says, noting that online classes won’t end Arizona’s chronic teacher shortage, but they help.

The four freshmen and sophomores all say they plan to go to college. This is a town where one in 10 do, according to census data. Their parents, many current and former copper mine employees, want better for them.

“I’d like (ASU) to continue with it and keep the program going so people behind us can have a better future. Learning is a big part of your life. Kids will have a better future if they learn,” says Miami sophomore Jayden Goss.
Get ready for a great year!

**Smarten up your 2018 with tips from ASU experts**

Who doesn’t want to lead a championship life? Alonzo Jones has one of the best jobs at Arizona State University: associate athletic director for inclusion and championship life. We’ve gathered advice from Jones and a variety of ASU experts on ways to prepare for a better year ahead. There are tips for every season, starting now — so you can hit the ground running!

**Stories by** MARY BETH FALLER, EMMA GREGUSKA, SCOTT SECKEL AND MARSHALL TERRILL

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**WINTER**

**Look up**

Winter offers a particularly bright and clear sky for stargazers. Patrick Young, an astronomer in the School of Earth and Space Exploration, encourages stargazers to appreciate the stellar life span they’re witnessing. “As the year begins, go outside when night has fallen and look to the south to see the constellation Orion. The darker your sky, the better, but you can see the bright stars even from the city; short of the sun and moon it’s the easiest thing in the sky to recognize,” he says. “In a moment you’ve connected with the entire span of a star’s life from the newborns nestled in the nebula that appears as the middle star of the sword to bright red Betelgeuse teetering on the edge of a violent death.”

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**WINTER**

**Do flu season right**

About 30 percent of Americans have low vitamin C status, so ASU nutrition Professor Carol Johnston recommends considering supplements during the winter months to ward off nasty bugs. “Research at the School of Nutrition and Health Promotion at ASU reports a 45 percent reduction in colds and cold symptoms in young adults taking 1,000 milligrams of vitamin C daily during the winter months,” says Johnston, associate director of ASU’s nutrition program. As a bonus, the supplement also increased physical activity levels of participants compared with the placebo treatment. Johnston also recommends favoring fist bumps over handshakes during flu season, along with frequent handwashing.

Vitamin C supplements or citrus can help ward off illness.
Change your passwords

Although you should be changing your passwords more often than once a year, it’s a good way to start the new year off right.

“Sometimes the number of passwords we need to keep track of can seem overwhelming,” says Kim Jones, director of New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences’ Cybersecurity Education Consortium. “This unfortunately makes things so much easier for the bad guys.”

If it’s something you find really difficult, you may want to consider purchasing password management software, such as LastPass or KeePass.

“March is a great time to clean that data off of your systems and free up space.”
— Kim Jones

Lend a helping hand

April is National Volunteer Month. It’s a good time to spring into action, says ASU law Professor Victoria Ames. She believes everyone has talent that can benefit their communities.

“Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes and can make a big difference by donating just a few hours of time,” says Ames, who notes that there is no shortage of volunteer opportunities in the Phoenix area, including the Arizona Legal Center at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. “Volunteering has the added benefit of bringing people who share like-minded values together for the greater good.”

Neal A. Lester, director of ASU’s Project Humanities, says of the long-running homeless outreach program Service Saturdays: “The outreach is transformative, to witness what a kind word or gesture, or a pair of shoes and socks can do for those who are without. Such support to others gets us out of our heads and allows us to witness the power of both our individual and shared humanity.”

For information, call 480-727-7030 or visit projecthumanities.asu.edu.

Freshman STEM elementary education major David Benjamin bags apples to hand out during a Produce on Wheels Without Waste event.

Insights from Alonzo

Alonzo Jones is in charge of the “life skills” programming for student-athletes at ASU, teaching them how to balance all parts of their busy lives.

“It’s a wraparound for the student-athlete to ensure that for as much as they’re giving their institution, their institution is giving as much back to them,” says Jones, an ASU alumnus.

An energetic and motivating speaker, he tailors his message to the age of the athlete. Freshmen learn about decision-making, stress and wellness, while sophomores become engaged in the ASU community.

“After the sophomore year, it’s all about, ‘What are you going to be doing the day after graduation?’” he says.

A little verbal shortcut that Jones and the department have come up with is “45” — reminding the young adults that one day, they’ll be 45 years old.

“It’s a reminder that students must prepare now for a good quality of life later,” Jones says.

His advice? You have different identities and must choose which one to wear and when.

There’s plenty of time for social interests and fun, as long as “the intellectual self is the lead guardian of your life,” Jones says.

“Your social side is obsessed with the moment. It’s obsessed with fun. It marks milestones by Fridays. … So I ask the students: Will you one day be 45?”

It’s good advice for everyone of any age: Have fun, but make sure you’re also thinking past Friday.
**SPRING**

Embrace minimalism

One way to make an impact on everything from your finances to your health to your environment is to embrace the minimalism movement. Chris Wharton, interim director of the School of Nutrition and Health Promotion, calls it “voluntary simplicity.”

The goal, he says, is to simplify your life by buying less, eating more simply and using your body more often for things like transportation or entertainment. “The results can be profound,” Wharton says. “So if you’re thinking about how to be healthier, skip the faddish diet or cultish exercise regime, and instead try simplifying your life. The results could be better and more multifaceted than you thought possible!”

His blog, Practically Awesome (practicallyaweso.me), explores minimalism in more depth.

**SUMMER**

Improve your vocabulary

Getting the kids prepped for the upcoming school year can be a good motivation to expand your own mind. “The key to learning new vocabulary is excitement,” Regents’ Professor of English Elly van Gelderen says. She recommends looking for new words in your own areas of interest to stay motivated. There are plenty of resources online, such as World Wide Words, where you can find “great-sounding words” and click to find out their meanings. “Select new words to memorize, keep a list of the ones you like, put them in a sentence, and review them,” she says. Also, learning about the history of language is a good supplement to vocabulary and can help keep you engaged. For example, the words “cool” and “glacial” are related.

**SUMMER**

Prepare for the worst

Summer headlines are full of natural disasters, from forest fires to hurricanes to monsoon floods. Cheryl Schmidt, a clinical professor in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation who has been a volunteer nurse for the American Red Cross since 1974, says it’s easy to become complacent, especially if you live in an area that faces less risk of natural disasters.

“But any area is at risk for man-made disasters such as apartment fires, overturned tankers transporting toxic chemicals or even terrorist attacks,” she says.

She encourages everyone to make a written plan of what they might need if they had to leave their home on short notice and never return.

Each individual and family should personalize their lists and supplies, preparing them to quickly evacuate the area or to shelter in place.

Find more information at redcross.org and ready.gov.

At a minimum, people should have a “go-bag” containing:

- One week’s worth of daily medications, or at least a list of medications.
- Copies of important papers (or scanned documents on a USB drive) such as proof of insurance for house and vehicle.
- Water and nonperishable food.
- A first-aid kit.
- A flashlight with extra batteries.
- A small, battery-powered radio.
- A change of clothing.
- Personal hygiene supplies.
Try opera — no, really

Many people have a view of the opera as stuffy, loud and indecipherable. But that's not true, says Brian DeMaris, artistic director of Lyric Opera Theatre. “Operas come in all different shapes and sizes,” he says. “Not all are big, scary and intimidating. Many are quite funny, and most are absolutely beautiful.” He discovered opera in college and says he was surprised by how entertaining and relevant it was. Phoenix has several to offer, including ASU’s own Lyric Opera Theatre, producing two operas and two musicals per year.

Stop and listen

When the holidays get too hectic, sit outside and listen — “headphones off, phone silenced,” says School of Arts, Media and Engineering Associate Professor Garth Paine, who studies sound in the wilderness. Focus on a single sound and how it relates to others. “Listen to the reverberation off the buildings, hear the open or closed quality of space and, most of all, sense yourself being present … and part of that ecology.”

In the cloud and also here on Earth

Take it from Kim Jones: “Nothing ever goes wrong with technology … until it does.” The upcoming holiday season is a great time to make sure all your data is backed up and stored in a secure fashion. “Do not depend exclusively on cloud-based services to store your critical data,” he says. Instead, invest in a local external hard drive and keep a copy of your data locally.

Enter the “Rise Up” Hamilton Sweepstakes.

Sun Devil Rewards is your shot to get tickets to Hamilton – the Broadway spectacular appearing at ASU Gammage in February.

Sun Devil Rewards

Download the app today for free entry into the sweepstakes and daily chances to win.

sundevilrewards.asu.edu  SunDevilRewards
TRIPLE THREAT
The Sun Devils triathlon team brings the heat in three sports: running, cycling and swimming — and recently won their second straight title, garnering an invite to the White House. What’s your triple talent?

Sophomore triathlete Sarah Quintero is majoring in supply chain management.
Hacks for Humanity

Sometimes changing the world involves fun and games — and innovative thinking. For the 36-hour hackathon in October called Hacks for Humanity, participants from all over the world gathered, utilizing their technology and teamwork skills to create apps and websites to better the community.

Left: Eddie Lai, a chemical engineering major, lies on a table to rest his eyes while his long-time friend and teammate, Gaurav Deshpande, works beside him.

From left: Qi Wang of Xian, China; 16-year-old pre-med student Ty Muhammad of Phoenix; and industrial engineering student Jeanbat Busisi of the Democratic Republic of Congo laugh as they work on Gabby, an app designed to monitor the health of seniors by tracking their motion and heart rate and contact emergency help if needed.
Left: Jacob Robinson, Julia Cannon, Mohitn Doshi and Anthony Nicholas gather around team member Summer Gautier, a 16-year-old high school student.

Left: TJ Cuddy and Mohammad Aldaaja work on their team's application, "RecognizeWe," while relaxing on chairs made of balloons and masking tape. The team was awarded third place at the hackathon.

Above: After a long day of hacking, teams take a break and participate in a “silent disco.” Each participant wore wireless headphones and danced to synchronized music.

Above: Participants at the Hacks for Humanity event on Oct. 7 gather into groups and disperse throughout the Stauffer Building at ASU.

Above: Participants at the Hacks for Humanity event on Oct. 7 gather into groups and disperse throughout the Stauffer Building at ASU.
Sun Devil Athletics upping its game

6 New powerhouse head coaches
• Zeke Jones leads the wrestling program and is the 2016–17 Pac-12 Coach of the Year.
• Bob Bowman—Olympic swim team coach—has elevated Sun Devil swimming and is the 2016–17 Pac-12 Coach of the Year.
• Missy Farr-Kaye, 2016–17 Women’s Golf Coaches Association National Coach of the Year and Pac-12 Coach of the Year, has three NCAA titles as a Sun Devil.
• Cliff English has led the women’s triathlon program to back-to-back national championships in the team’s first two years.
• Bobby Hurley led the men’s basketball team to an undefeated, NCAA top-5 national ranking early in the 2017–18 season.
• Herm Edwards heads the Sun Devil football program, seeking to reinvent the way football is approached at ASU.

5 National champions
• 2016 and 2017 Women’s Triathlon National Championships
• 2017 Women’s Golf team and individual national champions
• 2017 Track & Field individual national champion

37 Pac-12 Titles
2 Team
35 Individual
Most recently, the 2016–17 men’s wrestling team, under head coach Zeke Jones, captured its first title since 2006.

4 Consecutive Territorial Cup Series championships
ASU and UA sports teams compete against one another in 20 common varsity intercollegiate sports. For a school to be the winner of the Territorial Cup Series Trophy, it must win more than half the annual competitions.
The thing about evolution and revolutions: They are messy. Some don’t turn out well. And neither is always understood or appreciated at the time.

Arizona State University is attempting to revolutionize and evolve the Sun Devil Football program at the same time, with the polarizing naming of Herm Edwards as its 24th head coach.

In doing so, ASU wants to stop a revolution of another kind, the one in which a constant parade of coaches cycles through college football programs at great expense. Sportswriters call it “the carousel.”

The thing about a carousel: It never goes anywhere but in circles. It hasn’t worked for ASU.

For too long ASU football has been middling. Fired head coach Todd Graham won 46 games and lost 31. His predecessor, Dennis Erickson, had a 31–31 record. ASU hasn’t been to the Rose Bowl since 1997 or won one since 1987. It hasn’t won a conference championship outright since 1996.

ASU wants to get off the carousel. “We have got to end that; otherwise you will never be able to compete in a rigorous Pac-12,” says Ray Anderson, ASU’s vice president of university athletics.
The university is endeavoring to re-engineer the football program. Most of the recent headlines focused on Edwards the man. Few paid much attention to the reasons underlying his selection.

“We’ve had a great football tradition. We’ve had a great football program. We’ve had great football coaches,” ASU President Michael M. Crow says. “But we haven’t been able to build this culture of winning and achieving on all dimensions. We get some of them right for a while, but we can’t sustain it over time.”

Crow talks of attracting top scholars and athletes, of football players only going on to the pros after graduating with a degree.

At his introduction, Edwards talked of preparing great men, not just football players. He spoke of coaching as teaching and football know-how as the pursuit of knowledge. He said he only took the job because he believes in “the vision.”

He sounded at times like his master sergeant father and at other times like a thundering preacher from the Sunday pulpit. At all times, his words trumpeted commitment. “That’s important to me,” he said repeatedly at his inaugural press conference.

But it’s not about the man. It’s about the plan.

“Let’s say you wanted to improve the four-year graduation rate, as we have. You don’t just wish for it, or think about it or pray for it. You have to go in and alter all aspects,” Crow says.

“I’m a big believer in the old adage that your performance is a function of your design,” Crow adds. “What we’re doing here is altering our design. We’re altering the way things are structured so that we can get a chance at an enhanced outcome.”

Essentially, ASU wants the football program to resemble more closely the structure of an NFL franchise: a unified front of owners, general managers and top coaches, all pulling in the same direction with recruitment, development, strategy and tactics.

Too often in college football, ASU is saying, the head coach is the football program. If that coach failed, he’d be fired, usually at high cost, and the carousel would turn again. If the coach excelled, another university would recruit him and all his trusted assistants. The carousel would turn again.

“The college model has the head coach thinking he has to do it all and control it all. Therefore he gets distracted from the primary duties,” Anderson says.

Under the new system, Edwards will focus on critical jobs: closing the deal with top recruits, coaching the coaches, developing players and managing game plans. The rest will be delegated or shared. More resources will go toward scouting, and a back office will handle logistics.

Edwards will get a five-year, escalating contract, averaging $2.5 million a year. Compensation grows with results.

“It is a very modest contract, by design, because it was never about the money for Herm,” Anderson says. “Pay for performance is what our whole deal is about. It’s not traditional at all.

“This new structure gave us the opportunity to break out of the status quo, which is mediocrity for the last 30 years.”

Within days of Edwards’ appointment, the coach hit the recruiting trail. Recruiting is important to him. And Edwards’ pedigree as a motivator is important to ASU.
But you can’t win football games only with heart. Football is physical chess. You can have the best, most-devoted athletes in the world, but they won’t win without a good game plan. And a game plan is no good without the players to execute it, or the coaches to craft it. Sometimes buy-in is slow to come in big, traditional institutions.

In the devilish details is where Edwards’ appointment hit headwinds with the public and punditry. In snap online polls on azcentral.com and House of Sparky, four readers in 10 said it was a mistake.

Sportswriters at CBS gave the announcement an F grade and called it a “head-scratcher.”

Writers cited Edwards’ mediocre record as an NFL coach for eight years. Others said he hadn’t been on the sideline since 2008 and not as a college coach since 1989. Writers wondered in print if the appointment weren’t a “buddy hire,” because Anderson used to be Edwards’ agent.

“There’s too much at stake here to hire a buddy,” Anderson said in response. “This was about the right fit at the right time.”

He expected criticism.

“The reaction wasn’t unanticipated because change really stuns people and in some cases scares people,” he says.

He attributes the outside backlash to a lack of understanding and says he “totally gets it.”

Many, for instance, didn’t know that ASU slipped to 58th in recruitment, among 65 teams in the Power Five conferences. Or that not one high schooler in California, ASU’s main recruiting ground, pledged to come here last year.

“If you want the players that are going to go out and win at a consistent rate, we weren’t doing those things,” Anderson says.

He, Crow and Edwards all point out that while Edwards spent the past eight years as an ESPN expert, he watched more clips of more teams than he ever could as a coach.

“He’s more plugged in than people think,” Anderson says.

And, they all point out, Dick Vermeil coached the St. Louis Rams to a Super Bowl win in 2000, 18 years after quitting the NFL and after 15 years as a TV expert.

ASU has been here before, selling change to skeptics. Often the university ended up winning critics over with results.

Many in academia scoffed at the notion behind the New American University: that ASU could serve its mission to provide an education to any who meet the requirements for admissions and to improve graduation rates at the same time. Accessibility and excellence were mutually exclusive, the critics said.

Yet, in 16 years the university nearly doubled in size and the graduation rate reflected that growth, rising from 27 percent to 53 percent.

ASU combined earth and space sciences into one department. It resulted in NASA research grants and missions to outer space.

In the athletic department, ASU has added four sports; brought in marquee names like men’s basketball coach Bobby Hurley and swim coach Bob Bowman, longtime mentor to the most successful Olympian of all time, Michael Phelps; and won 37 Pac-12 championships and five national championships. Three students competed in the Rio Olympics.

In the classroom, the metrics come closest to “the vision.”

Two charts in the latest athletics department annual report track linear progress of student athletes’ academic success. Both climb steadily like a bull-run stock market ticker.

One shows graduation rates among athletes climbed from 69 to 87 percent since 2006. That’s an all-time high for ASU, ranking second in the Pac-12 only to Stanford. Three sports set records for graduating athletes.

The other chart measures the Academic Progress Rate, a calculated formula the NCAA requires to gauge how well athletes are staying in school. It has risen every year and now stands at 990. Universities must maintain a 930 rating or better to compete in NCAA tournaments.

That’s important to Anderson and company.

“If we had players come out of here to be Rhodes Scholars I’d be prouder of that than if they were on a Super Bowl team,” he says. “Because we’ve prepared them for a leadership position for life.”

– Ray Anderson, ASU vice president for university athletics

4

New sports added

hockey, women’s triathlon, women’s lacrosse, men’s tennis

6

Olympians

three current athletes and three coaches represented Arizona State at the 2016 Rio Olympics

990

Academic Progress Rate (single year)

all-time high for Sun Devil Athletics, up from previous best in 2014–15

7

Pac-12 Scholar-Athletes of the Year

since Anderson has led the teams. ASU is second in the conference for Pac-12 Scholar Athletes of the Year overall with 32 since the first awards in 2007–08.
Zero hero

Tra Holder, senior
Jersey number: 0
Height: 6'1"
Position: guard
Major: Sociology

1,000 point club
Tra is the 36th member of the Sun Devil 1,000-point club

5 straight
From Dec. 28, 2015, to Jan. 14, 2016, Tra was the first Sun Devil to post five straight 20-point games since James Harden (freshman season 2007-08).

2nd-most free throws
Tra has made and attempted the second-most free throws in Sun Devil history. Coming into this season, he has made 374 of 506 free throws in his career.

“Tra looks very relaxed when he’s shooting the deep shot. He’s taking good ones and not taking poor distance shots. It’s something he has worked on. All the credit to what he’s done in the offseason.”
—Bobby Hurley, head coach ASU men’s basketball

The team
ASU’s average points per game in 2016-17 was its best since 1997-98, then averaging 84.5.

328
Number of ASU-made three-pointers

0
Tra wears the number “0” on his jersey to represent “zero excuses”
Champs take on Washington
After capturing the 2016 Women’s Collegiate National Championship in the program’s first NCAA season, the Sun Devil women’s triathlon team brought home the title once again in their own backyard in 2017. Head coach Cliff English and the women captured the team title and swept the podium for individual awards in Tempe on Nov. 4 at Tempe Town Lake and were invited to the White House on Nov. 16 as part of National Champions Day.

NBA G League partners with ASU
As part of its new era, the NBA G League, the NBA’s official minor league, is not only offering players more tools to improve on the court, but off of it, too.

The NBA G League Education Program is designed to better prepare players for post-playing careers. The program will be run in partnership with Arizona State University and Game Plan, a student-athlete development platform.

ASU will offer NBA G League players the opportunity to take classes and earn their degree through the university’s online undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Players may also take courses through ASU’s Global Freshman Academy, which allows students to earn ASU academic credit that can be used once they are enrolled in a degree program. Game Plan will provide its athlete development suite of eLearning courses, assessments, virtual mentorship and career marketplace.
A pivot point of history

It’s a small stack of paper, bound in an inexpensive leather — but its humble dimensions belie its importance at a crucial moment in U.S. history.

“The Federalist” — a first edition of which ASU and its School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership have acquired — spells out arguments that played key roles in both the New York and Virginia ratifying conventions, votes that helped secure the passage of a fledgling nation’s constitution and, it can be argued, the continued existence of that nation itself.

Like many startups today, “The Federalist” was put together in great haste and under tremendous pressure. Its arguments provided a playbook for the pro-ratification side and eventually became a key source for interpreting the Constitution and explaining its principles. Even today Americans turn to it for answers to fundamental political questions.

“Indeed the book has become one of the key works for understanding politics in general because of its deep insights into human nature and the essential tasks of governing,” says Peter McNamara, a Hamilton scholar at ASU. “It is America’s one great contribution to political philosophy.”

“Hamilton: An American Musical” — which touches on “The Federalist” — will run at ASU Gammage from Jan. 30 to Feb. 25.
Connect

TRIBUTE
More than 500 fans celebrated the annual Sun Devil Legends Luncheon during homecoming with ASU Hall of Fame football players and coaches.

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The Last Frontier beckons 63
6 ways to jump-start your career today

1. Revisit your resume. It’s a brave new world in job searching. In the old days, resumes were flattering synopses of job roles and successes. Today it’s essential to take a brand-new approach. Cindy Parnell, executive director of Career and Professional Development Services, says it’s important to use keywords from the job description itself to show you meet the job’s qualifications. Next, pepper your resume with storytelling — for example, if you mention a project you took on, describe the objectives and outcomes. “Employers want to know what candidates accomplished, versus what their job responsibilities were,” Parnell says. “You want to represent your accomplishments well, using numbers, percentages and dollar amounts to showcase the scale and scope of the work you produced.” For more resume pointers, go to: eoss.asu.edu/cs/alumni/resumes.

2. Curate your cover letter. This all-important self-marketing tool is your way to wow recruiters. “It’s a demonstration of your written communication skills,” Parnell says. “Employers often use cover letters to quickly assess if a client meets the qualifications for a position.” That’s why it’s important to tailor your content to the specific job posting. Explain why you’re enthusiastic about the position, then delve into how your background prepares you for the role. Be sure to edit for flow and clarity. And you can’t be too careful when it comes to typos! Before you write, read: eoss.asu.edu/cs/alumni/cover-letter.

3. Learn how to ace an interview. Practice makes perfect, and confidence is key. Brush up on your interview skills with a free, virtual practice interview tool on the ASU Career and Professional Development Services website, eoss.asu.edu/cs/alumni/interviewing. Parnell reveals how to shine during today’s popular behavior-based interviews. Think of the acronym STAR — and use concrete examples to describe Situations, Tasks, Action steps and Results.

4. Build your network. It’s important to maintain and build your professional network as you seek your next career move. Whether in-person or online, the right connection might hold the key for the next big thing. Stay active on LinkedIn, follow up with new connections and have your 30-second “commercial” — or elevator pitch — down pat. “Follow various LinkedIn company profiles so you stay up to date on what’s happening in your industry,” Parnell advises, adding, “List your professional associations to show you have breadth and depth of connections, networks and information related to your industry or sector.”
5 Explore your options.
Today, the average person will change jobs 10 to 15 times over their lifetime, according to one estimate. To help you thrive in this dynamic job environment, the new ASU career services program, Handshake, allows students and alumni to post a profile on a site that connects them to more than 7,000 employers and recruiters who are focused on hiring ASU graduates; check job postings; stay up to date on events, workshops, professional networking and career fairs; and make an appointment with an ASU career adviser for free, a lifetime benefit for alumni. Find out more about Handshake at eoss.asu.edu/cs/handshake.

6 Keep learning.
Just because you have a degree, it doesn’t mean your education is over. Everyone needs to update their skills to perform their jobs better and to set themselves apart from the competition. To meet that need, ASU has launched a new series of continuing education courses, with most of them online and self-paced, ranging in price from free to $399. A set of classes on project management can be taken one at a time, and those who finish all 12 can be eligible for industry certification. Other courses include professional writing, customer service and health care. Look for alumni discounts in the coming months. cpe.asu.edu

Be sure to visit alumni.asu.edu/career for additional resources on excelling in these areas. Let ASU help you conquer 2018!
Cody Ballentine ’12 BA celebrated his “Arizona return,” in December, headlining his “Desert Frostover” concert at the Marquee Theater in Tempe. A film and media major at ASU, Ballentine performs soulful pop and rhythm and blues and has created a name for himself in studio and on stage, working with some of the biggest producers and songwriters in the world. In a full-circle Sun Devil connection, Ballentine is represented by Bradley Davis ’12 BS, a W. P. Carey School of Business graduate and senior vice president at Justin Timberlake’s Hollywood-based audio studio, Davis, a film and media minor at ASU, teamed with Ballentine throughout their Sun Devil days and the classmates have found a successful space in the national entertainment industry.

2000s

Heather Burgener ’09 BIS has been chosen to serve as a senior sales executive covering the Arizona region for internet radio pioneer Pandora Media. She will be responsible for developing and managing successful advertising programs and opportunities for key clients.

Freddy Saavedra ’09 BAS, ’13 JD received the Regional President of the Year award from the Hispanic National Bar Association. He was honored during the 42nd annual HNBA convention. Saavedra is currently HNBA Region XIV president and served 11 years in the U.S. Army before entering the field of law.

Venita Blackburn ’08 MFA, an instructor in ASU’s College of Integrative Sciences and Arts, recently published “Black Jesus and Other Superheroes: Stories,” winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in fiction. In addition to the Prairie Schooner recognition, Blackburn has earned a Bread Loaf School of English fellowship and three Pushcart Prize nominations, awarded for “best poetry, short fiction, essays or whatnot”.

Joey Eschrich ’08 BA, ’11 MA editor and program manager at the ASU Center for Science and the Imagination, has joined faculty members Michael G. Bennett and Ed Finn as editor of “Overview: Stories in the Stratosphere,” a collection of science fiction stories, art and speculative timelines exploring the near future of the stratosphere. Eschrich also holds a graduate certificate in gender studies from ASU.

Prescott Smith ’06 BS, ’12 MBA has been selected for the 2017 Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy as one of just 33 leaders from across Arizona chosen for this year’s program. Smith is director of community outreach and public affairs for Phoenix-based public affairs firm Technical Solutions.

Maja Aurora ’03 BA and Rebecca Blume Rothman ’01 MFA were recently appointed to new positions with the arts and culture division for the city of Tempe. Rothman joined the department as director of public art, and Aurora was promoted to director of arts engagement. Their new responsibilities will focus on the city’s arts programs and providing engagement opportunities in accessible cultural, social and educational experiences.

Kevin Litwin ’03 BA, a vice-chair commissioner for the state of California’s Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation division, recently helped pass a bill into law to ensure the current OHV Program will continue as a permanent program within California State Parks. Cycle News called the bill “historic” with “precedent-setting broad support from both the conservation and OHV communities.”

Matthew Desmond ’02 BS, ’02 MFA
Desmond has won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction for his book “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City.” A graduate of Barrett, The Honors College at ASU, Desmond is also a recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, commonly known as a “Genius Grant.” “Evicted” follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads.

Anthony Ranallo ’02 BS, a Merrill Lynch wealth management advisor, was recently named to the Financial Times’ 401 Top Retirement Advisors list for 2017. Ranallo has more than 15 years of experience working with institutions and individuals, focusing on investment management and 401(k) consulting.

Tony Felice (Anthony Sanfelice) ’02 BIS
Felice was appointed by Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton to sit on the Phoenix Fast Track Cities Initiative ad hoc committee, tasked with eradicating HIV as a public health crisis by 2030. Felice, founder of Arizona-based The Felice Agency, also recently appeared on the Phoenix Business Journal’s annual “20 Names to Know” for marketing and advertising.

Christopher Zambakari ’06 BS was featured as a keynote speaker at a recent public forum, “In Search of Stability and Durable Peace in South Sudan,” hosted by the Nile Institute for Peace and Development. Zambakari launched his own international consulting and advisory services agency, the Zambakari Advisory, in 2015 and is recognized as a voice in international peace initiatives. His address at the forum covered the role of the UN Mission in South Sudan in the protection of civilians.

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Kathy Peach has realized two of her lifelong ambitions, connecting her ASU research to her publishing success.

Truth be told, the fulfillment of her first dream set her up for success in realizing her second.

Lifelong dream No. 1: Kathy attended ASU and Barrett, The Honors College, earning a degree in childhood/early childhood special education in 2014.

Lifelong dream No. 2: She wrote and published a children’s book, “The Tiniest Tumbleweed.” In October, “Tiniest” netted “mightiest” results: Peach’s tale of friendship and hope, featuring a small tumbleweed and baby sparrow, was selected Best Inspirational Children’s Book of the Year by the Book Publicists of Southern California.

The links between her dreams? Peach’s book, her first, was published in January 2016 as a result of her honors project at Barrett. As a Barrett student, Peach found a way to combine her interest in writing with psychologist Albert Bandura’s notions of self-efficacy — that everyone has the ability to achieve; more simply, peoples’ belief in themselves spurs them to take action. She decided to write a children’s book as her honors thesis project.

“It was through Barrett that the two concepts were united and my first children’s picture book was created,” she says. “It’s really hard to say whether the thesis drove the book or the book drove the thesis.”

What is clear: The award floored her. “There are no words to express how surprised I was to receive the call from my publisher that ‘The Tiniest Tumbleweed’ had been selected,” Peach remembers. “I cried for hours.”

“The Tiniest Tumbleweed” shares the story of the lives of two Sonoran desert characters, a tumbleweed and sparrow, that enter life with physical limitations — they are both very small. Both worry they will not be able to accomplish the things their larger brothers and sisters do, like making seeds and flying.

“Will I be as big and strong as my brothers and sisters?” both tiny characters ask.

The wisdom of Mother Tumbleweed’s response resonates with young and old alike: “Perhaps not, but you will be as big and strong as YOU will be, and that is just fine, just fine indeed.”

“I’ve said a thousand times that I wish every child in America could go to bed with a copy of ‘The Tiniest Tumbleweed’ tucked under his or her arm. The message of this sweet book is filled with hope and encouragement. All children deserve that,” Peach says.

Her Barrett Honors College experience gave her confidence in her ability to produce quality work, she says. “There is a certain amount of pride that results in being able to tell a publisher that your work is backed by a 70-page honors thesis. There’s credibility in that statement. Barrett provided me the opportunity to earn that credibility.”

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Truth be told, Kathy Peach’s lifelong dreams are a reflection of her advice to all, young and old: “First and foremost, believe in the dream.” — Nicole Greason
and Creative Appropriations in a Networked Culture.” The collection of essays explores uses of Shakespeare in a variety of 21st-century contexts.

Amy Jo Hahn ’01 MMC, a published historian and romance author, has published her first nonfiction history book: “Lost Rochester, Minnesota.” The book explores the lost beginnings of Rochester, home of Mayo Clinic, focusing on the late 1800s to early 1900s.

Melissa Ho ’01 BA, ’01 BS, a shareholder of Am Law 100 firm Polsinelli, has been selected as the recipient of the 2017 Children’s Law Center Clinic Award in recognition of her pro-bono service on behalf of the Phoenix-based Children’s Law Center’s guardianship clinic program. Ho is a white-collar crime and government investigations attorney.

Bethany Johnson ’01 BSD started a new role as science and technology studio leader for Chicago design firm SmithGroupJJR. In this position, Johnson is expanding the Chicago office’s project portfolio and supporting the firm’s existing initiatives. Johnson brings more than 15 years of architecture experience with collaborations for award-winning projects.

Akshay Sharma ’01 MSD is returning to Virginia Tech as the university’s industrial design chair, following his work as a designer at Autodesk and as a researcher at Gartner’s Carrier Network. Sharma says of his industrial design work: “Industrial design isn’t about designing products. We design happiness and empowerment.”

O Christine M. Emmons Lindsay ’00 BS, formerly southwest region director of sales at Pandora Media, was promoted to regional vice president, responsible for the internet radio pioneer’s southwest and Rocky Mountain regions.

1990s

Erica Maria Litz ’94 BS, ’02 MFA, poet, editor, writer and author, has published her second poetry collection: “Dark Fish and the Sermon of St. Anthony.” Her first such collection is “Lightening Forest, Lava Root.”

Megan Huff ’93 BA, a self-described “transit geek,” has been appointed vice president and managing principal of Ross and Baruzzini’s Macro division, one of the leading rail, transit and public safety radio systems engineering consultancy firms in the U.S. She will oversee the development of consultancy, planning and engineering services in rail, transit and other mission-critical industries.

Mark Mitchell ’93 BS, a third-generation Arizonan and mayor of Tempe, Arizona, has been honored with the 2017 AZBio Public Service Award by the Arizona Bioindustry Association, recognizing his leadership and support of Tempe’s growing life science industry. Mitchell served three four-year terms on the Tempe City Council before winning the mayoral election in 2012.

Nicole Carroll ’91 BA, vice president of news and editor of The Arizona Republic and azcentral.com, has been recognized with the National Press Foundation’s prestigious Benjamin C. Bradlee Editor of the Year Award. Most recently, Carroll led USA Today’s project “The Wall,” which documents the impact of the proposed border wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

O M.O. Thirunarayanan ’90 PhD debuted a photography exhibit, “Art That People Step On,” at the Graham Center Gallery at Florida International University. The exhibit features his catalogue of the mundane things we ignore every day: a smudge on the ground, a crack in a wall, an oil stain on concrete and more.

1980s

Mike Treash ’89 MPA was named senior vice president and COO of Health Alliance Plan in Michigan. He brings 25 years of experience in health care and financial services that includes extensive experience serving in senior leadership positions.

Karina Bland ’87 BS, ’97 MMC has been recognized by the Arizona Newspapers Association at the recent 78th ANA Fall Convention for her first-place work in the “Best Column, Feature or Criticism” category for her “A Farewell Unforgotten.” “Farewell” is the heartbreaking story of an abandoned baby’s death, the processes involved when family can’t be contacted and how infant Micah was finally laid to rest.

Susan Goudy ’87 BSW, ’94 MSW has announced the debut of her book, “The Journey from Fear to Love is Shorter than You Think.” The author says the book “enables readers to heal from the trauma associated with sexual harassment and assault.” This is Goudy’s second book, coming on the heels of “My Big Idea Book,” a tract written for readers looking for daily support and encouragement to achieve business and personal success in today’s unpredictable world.

Dan Draz ’85 BS, a fraud risk management expert, has launched a series of 60-second news features under the name of “Detective Dan.” The radio show helps listeners avoid the victimization of crimes like identity theft, cybercrime and other emerging security risks. Draz is founder and principal of Fraud Solutions, a Chicago-based consulting firm working for clients around the globe.

Royal Norman ’84 BS, chief meteorologist for Arizona’s 3TV (KTVK), has been recognized for his career achievements with the inaugural Distinguished Alumnus Award by ASU’s School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning. Norman has more than 30 years of experience as a meteorologist, and has been with 3TV since 2001.

Lois Roma-Deeley ’84 BA, ’88 MFA has authored “The Short List of Certainties,” exploring “the many ways in which we are blind to the depths of our fears and to the heights of our noblest selves.” “Certainties” is her fourth collection of poems. A CASE Professor of the Year, she is the recipient of a 2016 Arizona Commission on the Arts grant.
‘I have a dream’ stirs soul, awakens senses

“I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.”

So began Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, delivered from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963, to an estimated crowd of 250,000 civil rights supporters. His 1,667-word speech is recognized as a defining moment of the Civil Rights Movement.

On Jan. 17 at 11 a.m. at ASU’s West campus, the speech, the dream, the soul-stirring call for an end to racism in the United States comes alive, delivered by Charles St. Clair, a faculty member in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, and a highly decorated director and producer of film and video.

While the Emmy Award winner's re-enactment is the highlight of the “March on West,” it is but a piece of a West campus tradition that dates to 1991. Over the previous 26 presentations, it has grown to feature interactive educational presentations about the Civil Rights Movement, each time drawing participation by hundreds of middle school students who ultimately produce posters and recreate the historical “March on Washington.” The event is hosted by the West campus and is free to the public.

“It is an honor to share this unforgettable speech with a group of young people,” St. Clair says. “It is my hope that among the thousands of young minds who hear the speech there are those among them who will realize that they, too, have the opportunity to make a difference.

“I seek not to change their world, but choose to change their minds about their world. That’s a very tall order, but what better way to do it than with Dr. King’s words that inspired the minds and touched the hearts of millions.”

King’s address was ranked as the top American speech of the 20th century in a 1999 poll of scholars of public address. With a single phrase, he joined the likes of Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson in the ranks of those who have shaped modern America.

Join ASU faculty, students and alumni (and the hundreds of middle schoolers who bring the culminating “March” to life) to relive Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech. The march begins at 11 a.m. at the West campus’ iconic Paley Gates in front of campus and ends in the Sands/Kiva Courtyard, where St. Clair will deliver King’s speech.
to the 2018 edition of “The Best Lawyers in America” in a review by her peers in a process designed to yield the top five percent of lawyers in each state. A top-rated civil rights attorney in Tempe, she was recognized for her accomplishments over the past 31 years, representing defendants in personal injury litigation.

Ted Simons ’81 BS, managing editor and host of “Arizona Horizon” on Arizona PBS, has been inducted into the Silver Circle Society of the NATAS Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter, an achievement reserved for media veterans in the southwest who have shown exemplary service throughout their career. Simons, who joined Arizona Horizon in 2007, has guided the public affairs program, digging into stories of import with countless national and local politicians and newsmakers.

1970s

Dave Brownstein ’79 BS recently completed his eighth successful medical mission to the Solomon Islands with the Marovo Medical Foundation. Brownstein and health care providers and volunteers travel to the villages of Marovo Lagoon each year to help provide locals with medical goods and services.

Neil Giuliano BA ’79, MEd ’83, has been selected Valley Leadership’s 69th Man of the Year for his long-term contributions and commitment to the greater Phoenix community. Giuliano will be honored for his vision, innovation and service in March. Giuliano served as mayor of Tempe, Arizona, from 1994 to 2004 and is currently the president and CEO of Greater Phoenix Leadership.

1960s

Trixie Poor Johnson Garcia ’69 BAE, a retired high school French teacher, has published, at age 70, her first book, “You’re Welcome, Purdy High!” The book recently received this online review: “Through hilariously funny, far-fetched escapades, a teenage girl recounts her high school years while, at the same time, revealing small-town life in the early sixties. A delightfully wacky and engaging romp back in time!”

Mark Vinson ’77 BArch, ’91 MS, retired after 30 years of service with the city of Tempe, Arizona, as historic preservation officer, city architect and design/preservation/long range planning manager. A fellow in the American Institute of Architects and certified by the American Planning Association, Vinson is now engaged in private practice as principal of VinsonStudio PLLC and recently published his second book, “And TiKo-Tu? The Midcentury Architecture of Greater Phoenix’s East Valley.”

Lawrence E. Moore ’74 MM, a veteran in brand advocacy and communication, has been appointed to the 11-member board of trustees for Alliant International University, Alliant is part of Arist Education System, a global system of universities focused on health and human sciences.

Melanie (Petersen) Bridges ’72 BS, past board member and officer of the Arizona Women’s Golf Association and current chair of the course rating committee, was recently honored as the 2016 Kathy Ehrlich AWGA Volunteer of the Year.

Diane Tooker ’61 BAE and Gary Tooker ’62 BSE have been honored with the unveiling of the Fulton Schools Residential Community at Tooker House, an immersive community in a collaborative, technology-laden living and learning setting built specifically for engineering students. Together, the Tookers have made contributions to ASU through the ASU Foundation for A New American University for more than 30 years. “Innovation has a new home address at Tooker House,” said Kyle Squires, dean of the Fulton Schools of Engineering, at the unveiling.

Sun Devil weddings

Danna (Remillard) Wiseman ’13 MEd and Sean Wiseman ’04 MEd were married on April 30, 2017, at The Paseo in Apache Junction, Arizona. Both Sun Devils currently work at ASU — Danna as manager of early outreach and summer programs for the W. P. Carey School of Business, and Sean as director of student engagement at the West campus.

Vanessa Fonseca-Chávez ’13 PhD and Raúl Chávez were married at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Mesa, Arizona, on Oct. 6, 2017. Vanessa is an assistant professor of English at the ASU Polytechnic campus.

Janel Willert ’77 BS and William (Bill) Gass ’05 MBA were married on Feb. 4, 2017, at Valley Presbyterian Church in Paradise Valley, Arizona. They honeymooned on Oahu and Maui in Hawaii and are now at home in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Esteban Santino Estrada was born to Linda Judith (Portillo) Estrada ’09 BS and Ramon Estrada ’10 BAE on Oct. 6, 2017. Esteban is pictured with three-year-old sister Emma Sofia Estrada.

Stephanie (Sheppard) Lerdall ’09 BA and Blake Lerdall ’09 BS were married on Sept. 16, 2017, at Gallery 1028 in Chicago, witnessed by a crowd of many fellow Sun Devils. The couple is settled at home in Chicago.

Sun Devil births

Adam Warner Carpenter was born on April 22, 2017, to two Sun Devil parents, Fletcher Carpenter ’12 BS and Nicole Carpenter ’12 BA. Adam joins sister June Alice in the Carpenter family.

Jaxxson Staley was born on June 21, 2017, to Amanda Wood ’07 BA and Kenny Staley in Cookeville, Tennessee.

Mackenzie Therese Vu was born to Allison Davis Vu ’05 BS and Michael Vu on June 23, 2017, in Mission Viejo, California. Mackenzie’s grandmother is Lynda Imdieke Davis ’77 BS.
Are you missing out on Devil-ish fun in your town?

Alumni chapters across the country (and even around the world) offer opportunities to get together and meet fellow Devils, network, rekindle old friendships, promote your alma mater and have fun. Chapters sponsor a wide range of activities, from networking events and Sun Devil game-watching parties to outdoor recreational activities and service-oriented volunteer projects. Many chapters give back to the next generation of ASU students by providing mentoring services, hosting Sun Devil Send-Offs for incoming ASU students or awarding scholarships. To find an alumni chapter near you, check out the table of local and special interest chapters.

Staying in touch with alumni chapters
Connect with your chapter at alumni.asu.edu/chapters

Facebook  Instagram  LinkedIn  Email

Geographic chapters

Utah (Salt Lake City)  Western Arizona (Lake Havasu)  Western Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh)  White Mountains (Pinetop, Arizona)  Wisconsin (Madison)  Yuma, Arizona

Special interest chapters
Aguila  ASU Black Alumni  ASU Chinese Alumni Club  Catholic Newman Center  Devil's Horns  Devils' Advocates  Doran Community Scholars Alumni  Hispanic Business Alumni  Iranian American Club  LDS ASU Alumni Chapter  Leadership Scholarship Program  LGBT Devils' Pride  Los Diablos  Medallion Scholars Alumni Club  Native American Alumni  S DFA Scholar Alumni  State Press Club  Stickmens Club  Veterans

Don't see a chapter you're looking for? Send an email to Trish Thiele-Keating, assistant director, chapters and clubs, at Trish.Thiele-Keating@asu.edu
Spring into action

Pay it forward

Sun Devils support their local communities around the country through ASU Cares, an annual volunteer service project organized by the ASU Alumni Association and its chapters. Throughout March, ASU Cares will offer opportunities to get involved in your communities and have fun while making a difference for others.

For more details, visit alumni.asu.edu/volunteer/asu-cares.

Run in Tillman’s honor in your town

More than 3,500 runners in more than 30 cities nationwide will lace up their running shoes in April to participate in Tillman Honor Runs, designed to support the Pat Tillman Foundation and honor an ASU alumnus and American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice. This is a chance to join fellow Devils in support of Tillman Scholars who are impacting their communities.

To learn more about Tillman Honor Runs, or to participate, visit alumni.asu.edu/volunteer/tillman-honor-runs.

Chicago chapter

Just three of the 100+ Chicago Tillman Honor Run participants in 2017.
Sun Devils with real app-titude

ASU alumni take innovation to heart – developing mobile apps and software tools that simplify processes, form connections and improve lives

HEROES for Students

Innovators Richard S. Ressel Jr. ’12 MEd and Christopher Reina ’09 MALM, ’15 PhD

This web-based tool connects professionals in the Phoenix community with K–12 teachers looking for a speaker on a specific topic. HEROES for Students brings professionals to speak to students to inspire them and demonstrate the importance of education. The venture received funding as a finalist in the 2014 ASU Innovation Challenge awards. Learn more at heroesforstudents.org

QualarisAudit

Innovator Daniel Bishop, ’09 BSE

After Bishop graduated from ASU, he joined two fellow classmates in moving to Pittsburgh to start grad school. While there, he co-founded Qualaris, an opportunity created by the 2010 Affordable Care Act, which requires hospitals to improve health care quality and curb readmission rates. Qualaris provides hospitals a mobile software program that helps educate hospital employees and track and analyze best practices for patient safety. Learn more at qualaris.com

Stress Less TRE

Innovator David V. Berceli, ’07 PhD

An international expert in trauma intervention and conflict resolution, Berceli has released an iOS and Android app to assist people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, also known as PTSD. He created a set of Trauma Releasing Exercises (TRE) that help release the deep chronic tension created in the body during a traumatic experience. Berceli specializes in processes that enable people to manage personal trauma as well as bring healing and reconciliation between diverse groups. Learn more at traumaprevention.com/app
The Last Frontier beckons

Here’s your chance to relax, unwind and enjoy the inherent celebration and grand times of a gathering of ASU and Pac-12 alumni, all while soaking in the scenic marvels of America’s Last Frontier.

The 10-night “Glacial Adventures of Alaska” cruise sails June 19–29 from Seattle, journeys through the fabled Inside Passage and stops in seaside and fishing communities such as Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway and Sitka. From icy, broad-shouldered glaciers and burly brown bears to wooden boardwalks and quaint storefronts to breaching whales and majestic snow-capped mountains, this promises to be the trip of a lifetime.

The cruise features the on-board wit and wisdom of Sports Illustrated’s award-winning writer and author Rick Reilly, joined by Pac-12 ambassadors (including Don Bocchi, who has represented Sun Devil Athletics for more than 30 years) along with private Pac-12 “tailgates,” an All-Pac-12 welcome reception and commemorative Pac-12 gift.

For more information, visit alumni.asu.edu/alaska.
New roots

The revitalization of Palm Walk was completed in the fall, when all of its 110 aging trees were replaced with date palms. Alumni shared their memories of the campus icon.

“It reminds me of all of the people who have walked down that path. Following in their footsteps — purely majestic to me. To think that we walk similar paths, and all the paths that may come after, even grandchildren, makes me proud to be a Sun Devil.”

— Denice Darling-Diab, who completed three degrees at ASU after returning to school as a parent. Her oldest two children graduated from ASU, and her youngest son and husband are now ASU students.

Husband and wife Charlie Diab and Denice Darling-Diab take a spirited stroll down Palm Walk.
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For three consecutive years, Arizona State University has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the country’s “most innovative” school, ahead of No. 2 Stanford and No. 3 MIT. ASU is where students and faculty work with NASA to develop, advance and lead innovations in space exploration. This is where Nobel laureates and Pulitzer Prize winners teach master learners. ASU’s nationally ranked programs inspire the best-qualified graduates and have positioned the university as a “top-tier” recruiting and hiring institution by more than 50 of the country’s leading corporations, according to professional recruiters and rankings services around the world.

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