

# Famous ASU alumni

**A sampling of the actors, athletes, businesspeople and leaders who attended the university before stepping onto larger stages**

By Lisa Robbins, ASU News  
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**Editor's note:** This story was featured in the fall 2026 issue of [ASU Thrive](#).

Before they were actors, athletes, businesspeople and leaders, they were ASU students. See which stars attended the university before stepping onto larger stages.

**Ludwig Ahgren**, '17 BA in English (literature) and journalism — YouTuber with several million subscribers

**Roger Allers**, '71 BFA — filmmaker, co-directed “The Lion King”

**Eric Anzalone**, '12 BA in film (film and media studies), '18 MAS in film and media studies — member of disco supergroup The Village People from 1995–2017

**Barbara Barrett**, '72 BS in political science, '75 MPA, '78 JD — businesswoman, former secretary of the U.S. Air Force

**Matt Barrie**, '01 BA in broadcasting — ESPN SportsCenter anchor, college football studio host

**Melissa Belote-Ripley**, '79 BA in communication — won three Olympic gold medals in 1972

**David Breschel**, '12 BA in film (film and media production) — screenwriter, Oscar winner

**Amanda Brown**, '93 BA in political science — wrote “Legally Blonde”

**Michael Burns**, '80 BS in political science — vice chair of Lionsgate Studios

**Tony Carrillo**, '04 BFA (drawing) — creator of “F Minus” comic strip

**Carlota Ciganda** — three-time Olympian in golf

**Joey Daccord**, '20 BA in business (business administration) — first Sun Devil in NHL, goalie for Seattle Kraken

**Desiree Davila-Linden**, '06 BA in religious studies and BS in psychology — won the 2018 Boston Marathon

**Christine Devine**, '87 BA in broadcasting — news anchor, winner of 16 Emmys

**Josh Doan** — pro hockey player now with the Buffalo Sabres

**Lu Dort** — 2025 NBA champion with Oklahoma City Thunder, now with Atlanta Hawks

**Jerry Dumas**, '55 BA in English — cartoonist of “Sam and Silo”

**Bridget Everett**, '95 Bachelor of Music Performance (voice) — star and executive producer of HBO series “Somebody Somewhere”

**Herman Frazier**, '77 BS in political science — won gold and bronze medals at the 1976 Olympics in sprinting

**Mary Temple Grandin**, '75 MS in agriculture — animal behavior expert, autism spokesperson

**Derrick Hall**, '91 BA in broadcasting — president and CEO of the Arizona Diamondbacks

**James Harden** — third overall NBA Draft pick in 2009, enters his 18th NBA season in 2026–27, two-time Olympic gold medalist with the USA Men’s National Team

**Jan Henne Hawkins**, '72 BA in education (physical education) — won two gold, one silver and one bronze Olympic medals in swimming

**Reggie Jackson** — Hall of Fame baseball player and five-time World Series champion

**Tayari Jones**, '00 MFA in creative writing — novelist with two books in Oprah's Book Club

**Merrill Kelly** — helped the Arizona Diamondbacks reach the World Series in 2023

**Ashley LeMieux**, '11 BA in English (literature) — best-selling author

**Amy LePeilbet**, '04 BA in sociology — won a gold medal in soccer at the 2012 London Olympics

**Laurie Leshin**, '87 BS in chemistry — first female head of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory

**Michael Longfellow**, '16 BA in English (literature) — actor and comedian on “Saturday Night Live”

**Léon Marchand**, '25 BS in computer science — won four individual gold medals in swimming at the 2024 Summer Olympics

**Ruth McGregor**, '74 JD — former chief justice of the Arizona Supreme Court

**Al Michaels**, '66 BA in broadcasting — sportscaster since 1971 and five-time Emmy Award winner

**Phil Mickelson**, '92 BA in psychology — five PGA major titles, the World Golf Hall of Fame

**Barbara Munk**, '79 BS in chemistry — co-inventor of Fresh Step Kitty Litter, worked to get FDA approvals for several prescription medicines

**Dustin Pedroia** — 13-year MLB career with the Boston Red Sox

**Dwight Phillips**, '01 BS in communication — won a gold medal in men’s long jump at the 2004 Athens Olympics

**Jon Rahm**, '16 BA in communication — PGA golfer who won two major championships

**Michelle Randolph**, '23 BA in film (film and media studies) — actor in “Landman” and “Yellowstone” spinoff “1923”

**Anthony Robles**, '11 BIS — pro wrestler, inspired the 2024 film “Unstoppable,” starring Jennifer Lopez and Don Cheadle

**John Shufeldt** '95 MBA, '05 JD — founder of NextCare Urgent Care and MeMD, entrepreneur, investor and author

**Spencer Silver**, '62 BS in chemistry — co-inventor of Post-it Notes

**Cam Skattebo**, '24 BA in liberal studies — NFL player, New York Giants

**Kate Spade**, '85 BA in broadcasting — co-founder of designer brand Kate Spade New York

**Brenda Strong**, '82 Bachelor of Music Performance — actor in “Desperate Housewives” and two-time Emmy Award nominee

**Pat Tillman**, '97 BS in marketing — played with the NFL’s Arizona Cardinals, recipient of Silver Star and Purple Heart medals for his military service

**Spencer Torkelson** — first overall pick in 2020 MLB Draft by the Detroit Tigers

**Jordyn Tyson**, '26 BA in liberal studies — selected No. 8 in the 2026 NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints

**Kevin Warren**, '88 MBA — attorney and president and CEO of the Chicago Bears

**Danny White**, '95 BS in agribusiness — former All-Pro Dallas Cowboys quarterback, two-time Arena Football League champion head coach

**Jeri Williams**, '88 BA in theatre — former police chief of the Phoenix Police Department

**Ryan Wood**, '96 BA in history — co-founder of Under Armour

**Margaret H. Woodward**, '82 BS in aerospace engineering — retired U.S. Air Force major general, first woman to command a U.S. combat air campaign

**Peterson Zah**, '63 BAE in industrial education — first Navajo Nation president

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*This story originally appeared on [ASU News](#).*

**Main image**



From left: James Harden, Dr. John Shufeldt, Reggie Jackson and Michelle Randolph

**Text image(s)**



Barbara Barrett. Photo by Sidharth Sivaprasad



Amanda Brown. Photo credit: Allstar Picture Library Ltd/Alamy



Bridget Everett. Photo courtesy of HBO



James Harden. Photo credit: SIPA USA/Alamy



REGGIE JACKSON DH

Reggie Jackson. Photo credit: RLFE PIX/Alamy



Jon Rahm. PA Images/Alamy Stock Photo



Michelle Randolph. Photo credit: Matthew Taplinger/CBS



Peterson Zah. Photo by Tom Story

## Gallery



Léon Marchand



Anthony Robles (right)



Dr. John Shufeldt



Spencer Silver