Emerging from a challenging and transformative two years, members of the ASU community join together to keep growing and supporting one another.

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A day in the life of ASU in 2022

In a world so dramatically changed in the past two years, I am humbled by the gifts that each one of us is given. As I looked out upon our 18,400 graduates at commencement ceremonies, my message to the Class of 2022 was to give thanks to those who have helped them get to graduation day. Not one of us arrived to where we are today alone. Giving thanks is what this issue is about. It celebrates our community at its best — acknowledging that, regardless of age or where we are on our path, we build a brighter future when we continue learning and lifting each other up.

— Michael M. Crow, president, Arizona State University
Kateryna Smagliy speaks with Mary Leonard, founder of Love In ALX, which helps Ukrainian refugees find housing in Poland. Before her current embassy position, Smagliy served as director of the Kennan Institute Kyiv Office, promoting Ukraine’s public and cultural diplomacy, and led the Anti-Crisis Humanitarian Program of the International Renaissance Foundation. She also worked for the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.
WASHINGTON, D.C. — One week before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, Kateryna “Katja” Smagly moved to Washington, D.C., for her post at the Embassy of Ukraine.

Previously, the McCain Institute selected her as a 2019 McCain Global Leader to focus on strengthening democracy in her country. She calls the late Sen. John McCain one of democracy’s biggest supporters. He demonstrated “there are people ready to act in support of their values,” she says.
Kateryna Smagliy’s day in the life, fighting for democracy

Wake up just after sunrise

Prepare for the day

Attend daily staff meeting with ambassador

Eat lunch while reading through notes for the night’s presentation

Meet with a group of analysts from Washington-based think tanks in the afternoon

Meet with Mary Leonard who started a nonprofit to help Ukrainian refugees find housing in Poland mid-afternoon

Meet with supporters at the Ukraine House late afternoon

Present and answer questions at George Washington University event during the dinner hour

Arrive home late in the evening

Eat a small snack

Go to sleep

During the 12 hours of her working day, Smagliy met or talked to dozens of people in her official capacity as a diplomat today.
PHOENIX — “Stand with Ukraine” The mural, on a wall on the east side of Seventh Avenue just north of Encanto Boulevard, is in the bright blue and yellow colors of Ukraine’s flag and includes the country’s symbol, the sunflower, and the support message. Iryna Demianiuk, '22 Master of Architecture, is from Ukraine and led the effort in her Subversive Design class in The Design School. The Ukrainian Association of ASU came up with ideas for a mural and the class created a digital model.
“The war has been happening in our country for eight years, since 2014, and not that many people know that unfortunately. Now more people are aware, but we still wanted to bring it more to light.”

— UKRAINIAN IRYNA DEMIANIUK, ’22
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
Journeying toward the stars

A gifted student bridges life between two worlds

Photos by CHARLIE LEIGHT
Story by MARSHALL TERRILL

MANY FARMS, Ariz. — Kiera Charley is a star student — a Flinn Scholar, starting college at 16 — but for her and other Native American students, intellect alone doesn’t conquer all the barriers they have to face to complete college. Through her hard work and determination and with the support of her education-focused family and purposefully designed Native American support system at ASU, Charley is excelling.

Read the story of Charley’s and her family’s journey at magazine.asu.edu.
Grandmother Agnes Benally ties string to hold up Kiera Charley’s deer-hide leg wraps as they prepare for a traditional prayer ceremony before Charley leaves for ASU.
High achievements Charley, only 16 years old when she started at ASU last fall, is a Flinn Scholar studying to become an astrophysicist. She is a member of the Navajo Nation and grew up in Many Farms near Chinle in remote northeastern Arizona next to Canyon de Chelly.

Expanding knowledge, strengthening bonds
Friends from the Navajo Preparatory School, Charley (left) and Northern Arizona University student Keona Hosteen, meet at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society national conference’s expo.

Studying the stars
“Kiera’s ancestors have spent generations studying the stars and used that knowledge to build communities that aligned with the sun and the stars to bring beauty, humanity, harmony, peace, prosperity and strength to their communities,” says Monica Tsethlikai, an associate professor in ASU’s T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics.
The Begay-Charley family  Father Jeroy Charley, sister Ciera, Kiera, brother Jeryn and mother Erika Begay have all made commitments and sacrifices for education, which they value highly. Kiera is the third generation to attend a university. Her maternal grandmother, Lorraine Begay, and her mother both graduated from NAU. In preparation for college, Kiera’s parents sent her to the Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, New Mexico, and kept two residences — including one about an hour from the school.

On weekends, they traveled home to Many Farms, where last August they held a prayer ceremony in a tipi seeking protection and success for Kiera at ASU.
From the top of Tempe, new views

1908

A growing campus  1 Sun Devil Stadium  2 Manzanita  3 University Towers  4 Veterans Way/College Avenue light rail station

2008

A new skyline emerges  1 University House Tempe  2 College Avenue Commons  3 New residential buildings

2022
TEMPE — Hohokam people have cherished the high point now known as Hayden Butte for generations. Also known as “A” Mountain, the vantage point has been a recurring spot for artist Mark Klett, a Regents Professor at the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts and a Distinguished Global Futures Scholar at the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory. Sourcing a historical image as a reference point, he has made new photos to capture the view in progressive works.
Mixing science and dance to explore and explain, a nationally recognized ocean scientist shares the origins of her love for nature.

Photos by JEFF NEWTON

Emulating nature
Jenkins teaches local students science dance techniques, including “flocking,” modeled after the way starlings fly in harmonized, breathtaking murmurations.
From Baltimore to Arizona
Jenkins grew up in Baltimore, and her family fished. “Crabbing was my favorite activity,” she says. Her love for being outdoors, for biodiversity and for fishing all seeded her purpose now as an ocean sustainability scientist. On Centennial Lake, (from left) brother Benjamin, mother Phyllis, Lekelia “Kiki” Jenkins, brother Leonard Jenkins and uncle Jerome Howard spend time together.

Right: Jenkins and Benjamin, preparing for the day on the water.

BALTIMORE, Md. — Lekelia “Kiki” Jenkins helped forge a field exploring marine conservation technology, which studies ways technology can protect the ocean environment. Her science has earned her many top honors, including her appointment to the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. In addition, the associate professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society at ASU uses dance to help people better understand conservation problems and envision solutions. Go behind the scenes with her to get to the heart of her work, her inspirational effect on others, and her love for Earth’s natural beauty and wildlife.
Connections nationwide supporting STEM

Mentoring future scientists is important, Jenkins says, especially for people who don’t often see themselves represented in STEM. On a Saturday in April, she visited with local university students from scuba and science clubs, exploring nature at a state park.
Collaboration is key

Jenkins’ work involves helping find and develop ways to protect both ocean life and fishers’ livelihoods. This involves working with, learning from and bringing together stakeholders.
Science dance
Jenkins, a dance minor in college, has always loved dancing and has used it as a way to understand and express concepts and emotions throughout her life. She has helped further pioneer the field of science dance, which seeks to communicate key aspects of technical research through body movement.

Through her “Sea Turtle Science Dance” and other works, Jenkins uses choreography to explain science. The dance has won awards at the International Sea Turtle Society competition and has been covered by the radio program “Science Friday.”

kikijenkins.com/scidance

“ASU is different. I can do science dance here as scholarship. It’s accepted and supported.”

— LEKELIA “KIKI” JENKINS, OCEAN SCIENTIST AND DANCER
PHOENIX — Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company is one of the world’s 10 most valuable companies. Its $12 billion plant in Arizona will be TSMC’s first factory in the U.S. in two decades and is the largest foreign direct investment in Arizona history. The site uses the large red crane at right. The last two projects the crane worked on were major league sports stadiums.

TSMC is directly hiring high-tech roles for its new foundry

Each microelectronics job creates five additional jobs for suppliers and vendors

SOURCES: TSMC, ASU, L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT THE W. P. CAREY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Learn about ASU’s work on semiconductors at impactarizona.asu.edu.
Playing the pandeiro is Samuel Peña, assistant director in the popular music program, practicing with Zach Smith.
PHOENIX — Fusion on First is a 16-story, 283,000-square-foot tech-driven project that immerses Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts students in the heart of the arts district along the light rail. Designed by the internationally recognized architecture firm, Studio Ma, the building includes sustainability features, and houses studios, classrooms, offices, and exhibition and event space all under the same roof to create a complete focus for creativity.

Zachary Smith, a junior during the spring semester majoring in popular music, works on a song he wrote. He goes by the stage name Zach Montana. He was invited to appear on “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” in February with his dad, Curly Smith, after his TikTok video listening to his dad’s song from the 1970s went viral.
Live feed  Music students perform while doing a live Instagram feed from their classroom. From left in the photo above, Diego Ajca Alejo, Mark Wetzel, Cameron Jeong at the microphone, Sophia Bavishi and Zach Smith.

Watch the video at instagram.com/asupopmusic.
Make it work Graduating senior Milena Santiago creates one of the looks from her four-piece capsule collection, originally produced using 3D digital software, reducing waste and allowing her to make very precise technical edits. Santiago used denim scraps for the top. She says the purpose of her brand, Papillon, is to bring new life to old garments.

“Fusion on First provides a great home for the fashion program, as there is space and technology to help students’ ideas become reality.”

– MILENA SANTIAGO, ’22 BA IN FASHION
Five years ago, the Garcia family was at a crossroads. Their two boys at that time weren’t challenged in school. “They weren’t getting the science and math they needed,” Marisol Garcia explains, “and we wanted our sons to get the best education they could get.”

So she and her husband began looking for solutions and heard about ASU Preparatory Academy, a network of charter schools focused on STEM and college prep.

Now, five years later, all three of her kids attend ASU Prep in downtown Phoenix, and Garcia has switched jobs to be closer to them. “I was traveling for work a lot,” she explains. In order to be home more often, she took a job at ASU Prep.

Noah, age 15, is in 10th grade and working ahead in math. He’ll start taking college classes as an 11th grader. Kaiden, age 13, is in eighth grade. Her youngest, Raider, 9, is in fourth grade.

Noah started taking high school math classes as a middle schooler
Noah takes his studies seriously and is excited about his education. “ASU Prep isn’t just focused on students getting accepted to college,” he says. “They also give you the tools you need to earn scholarships.”

Marisol and Raider
“The teachers [at ASU Prep] do a great job of keeping the kids engaged,” says Marisol, pictured left with her son Raider. A fourth grader, Raider says his favorite subject is math, largely because his teacher makes it fun with games like long-division bingo. Because she changed jobs to be closer to her three boys, she and Raider often eat lunch together.
The kids love it here. The staff is amazing. We wanted our sons to get the best education they could get.”

— MARISOL GARCIA, MOTHER OF THREE STUDENTS AT ASU PREP
TEMPE — A new chapter in service New graduate and Marine Corps veteran Devon Cristales, ’22 BS in management with a minor in real estate, receives a fist bump from Mark Davis, an Army veteran, during the Veterans Honor Stole Ceremony organized by the Pat Tillman Veterans Center. Cristales is part of a group of nine Marine veterans studying at ASU who were all members of the same unit serving at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, also known as 29 Palms. Cristales says, “This was all a dream years ago and it’s finally come true. It means the world.”

Retired Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster spoke during the ceremony: “It is an honor to be with those who have served our nation, and then gone on to study here at ASU. To develop further the knowledge, the skills, the abilities that will permit you to go on and make even greater contributions to our nation and all of humanity.”
TEMPE — This spring, Carbon Collect Ltd. installed the first commercial-scale MechanicalTree based on Klaus Lackner’s research and developed by the company. It rises 33 feet high and can pull carbon from the air 1,000 times faster than a same-size tree. It was assembled and installed on the Tempe campus. Carbon Collect plans to scale the technology worldwide.

Check out the MechanicalTree in Tempe between ISTB7 and Biodesign C next to the University Drive/Rural light rail station.

Learn more at carboncollect.com.
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