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Anthony Robles, Sun Devil Sports Hall of Fame

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The official publication of Arizona State University
Summer 2023, Vol. 26, No. 3

**Contributors**

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An assistant professor in management and entrepreneurship at the W. P. Carey School of Business, she focuses on employee identity, organizational justice and the work/non-work interface.

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**Sabira Madady**
A student photographer from Afghanistan, she is pursuing medical studies.

**Anna V. Smith**
An associate editor for the High Country News Indigenous affairs desk, her work has appeared in outlets such as The New York Times, Audubon and Mother Jones.

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The official publication of Arizona State University
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If you would prefer to receive only a digital edition of the magazine or to unsubscribe, please update your subscription at: news.asu.edu/content/subscribe.

ASU Thrive (USPS 024-438; ISSN 1940-2929) is published quarterly by the Arizona State University Enterprise Brand Strategy and Management. PO Box 875011, Tempe, AZ 85287-5011. 480-727-5440. Subscriptions are sent to all ASU alumni. For detailed information about supporting alumni traditions, scholarships and programs, visit alumni.asu.edu/give-back/donate. Periodicals postage is paid at Tempe, Arizona, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to ASU Thrive, Attention: Circulation, PO Box 875011, Tempe, AZ 85287-5011. Permissions: Portions of this publication may be reprinted with the written permission and proper attribution by contacting the ASU Thrive editor. ASU Thrive can be accessed online at news.asu.edu/thrive-magazine.

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**Boldly step into your next chapter**

**Congratulations! You did it.** You graduated and are commencing on the next phase of your journey. And you did it with help — from your family, your friends, your mentors, your professors, your classmates, your inspirations.

I am excited for the future — for your future. The rate and scale of positive change in all things has accelerated. Major innovations, some that your Class of 2023 will create, are changing the world for the better at an astonishing pace.

And because of the opening of our hearts and minds to other people and our acceptance of people different than us, the outcome — if we stay focused and work hard — is going to be something we’ve never seen before: unbelievable social and economic progress at the global level.

Here’s my message: Start realizing that all that negative energy out there is you being manipulated by somebody else, usually for a profit and usually for some reason that is not wholesome. Start realizing that the world is making progress and is moving forward in better ways and that you have this unique opportunity to take your new empowerment as a graduate of this institution and make it matter.

Know that even though you have graduated, we are always here for you. Lifelong learning is key for all of us. You probably already know after your time here that in addition to college degrees, ASU has learning options from K-12 to midcareer to post-retirement. More than 310,000 learners are gaining the technical and soft skills needed to succeed in today’s and tomorrow’s careers through the offerings from our Learning Enterprise. We aim to support you with career help, networking, films and workshops, artists’ exhibits, alumni events and more.

Congratulations again. Hopefully this issue’s stories of students and alumni making a difference in the world will inspire you to make a positive difference in the ways that only you can.

**Michael M. Crow**
President, Arizona State University

[michaelcrow](https://twitter.com/michaelcrow)

[asuprescrow](https://twitter.com/asuprescrow)

[presidentcrow](https://twitter.com/presidentcrow)
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Graduating fashion student Heidi Stierli (right) with her designs. She earned a New York City internship.
Check in to events to earn Pitchforks and rewards!
Sign in to Sun Devil Rewards in the ASU app for event listings, news, games and more. Earn and be rewarded!
sundevilrewards.asu.edu

**Spotlight on Latino art**

“A pattern, a trace, a portrait: Four Artists from CALA Alliance’s Residency Program” showcases new and existing work by Carolina Aranibar-Fernández, Diana Calderón, Estrella Esquilín and Sam Frésquez. These Latino artists each present discrete installations that weave together universal themes of memory, loss and grief while highlighting issues related to place and the destruction of our natural environment.

Wednesday–Sunday through June 18, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., ASU Art Museum, 51 E. 10th St., Tempe, register by calling 480-965-2787
asuartmuseum.org

Free Family

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**3D view into space**

The Marston 3D Astronomy Show, led by the School of Earth and Space Exploration students and staff, features state-of-the-art planetarium technology that uses 4,000 projection systems to create 3D stereographic renderings of Earth and space-related visuals. Learn about new opportunities on the moon, material return missions from asteroids and Mars, the deployment of an instrument to gather data from the moon of Jupiter, and the exploration of iron- and nickel-rich objects in the outer part of the asteroid belt.

June–August, Marston Theater, Tempe campus, ISTB4
sse.asu.edu/3d-astronomy
Free Family

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Sun Devil Generations
Sun Devil Generations is a family-friendly program designed for young Devils from birth to sixth grade. This is an opportunity to enjoy unique and memorable experiences while also cementing a lifelong relationship between the little Sun Devils in your life and your alma mater. Sun Devil Generations events take place throughout the year.

Click on the link to register for an event
alumni.asu.edu/engage/sun-devil-generations
Free    Family

Sun Devil Send-Offs
Each summer, ASU Alumni chapters host regional Sun Devil Send-Offs with Sun Devil Celebrations occurring locally to meet and welcome incoming families and students to ASU. Somewhere between a pep rally and a maroon-and-gold jubilee, send-offs help ease the transition to college for incoming first-year, international and transfer students.

July–August
alumni.asu.edu
Free    Family

For alumni teachers
As the new school year comes to a start, the ASU Alumni Association wants to provide alumni educators with ASU swag to share their alma mater in the classroom. Requests for packs — filled with ASU-branded items — are accepted while supplies last.

Request a teacher pack
alumni.asu.edu
Free

‘Beetlejuice’
He earned his stripes on Broadway. Now the ghost-with-the-most is coming to Tempe. Based on Tim Burton’s beloved film, this hilarious musical tells the story of Lydia Deetz, a teenager whose life changes when she meets a recently deceased couple and a demon with a thing for stripes. With an irreverent book, an astonishing set and a score that’s straight out of the netherworld, “Beetlejuice” is a remarkably touching show about family, love and making the most of every Day-O.

Tuesday, Aug. 22–Sunday, Aug. 27, ASU Gammage
asugammage.com
Family    Ticketed

Visit ausuevents.asu.edu for events.
Visit thesundevils.com for athletics.
Peeking Inside the Black Box: How Do We Know When Science Can Be Trusted?

How can we know when to trust scientific research to inform our decisions about health and behavior? Participate in this behind-the-scenes investigation of the scientific world and learn how reliable research happens, how to spot pseudoscience and how to navigate the messy realities of scientific research. This course is taught by Kjir Hendrickson, professor at the School of Molecular Sciences.

Tuesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 1–2:30 p.m., Tempe Public Library
lifelonglearning.asu.edu

Understanding Inflation and Its Nasty Cousins: Shrinkflation and Skimpflation

As countries around the world navigate rising prices of essential goods, inflation and its two nefarious cousins — shrinkflation and skimpflation — are rearing their heads. Join Hitendra Chaturvedi, a professor of practice in the Department of Supply Chain Management at the W. P. Carey School of Business, for this in-depth investigation of the causes and impacts of inflation, shrinkflation and skimpflation. ASU alumni receive a free class (up to two sessions) with an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute membership.

Fridays, June 16, 23, 1:30–3 p.m., Zoom
lifelonglearning.asu.edu

Mindfulness minis

The ASU Center for Mindfulness, Compassion and Resilience presents short, guided meditations you can easily work into your day. Start your week with intention by practicing a meditation on one of many topics such as self-care, muscle relaxation, unity and compassion to name a few — all under 20 minutes.

mindfulnesscenter.asu.edu/meditations

Free    Family
Stay in the know
Update your info to receive invites to special events and more.
[alumni.asu.edu/update]

Linking together
When Sun Devils connect and help one another, great things can happen. Visit the official ASU Alumni LinkedIn page and search the ASU alumni network for local connections in your area. Locate new employment opportunities and find out what other ASU alumni are doing.
[alumni.asu.edu/linkedin]

Wherever you are
Make the most of your alumni experience
Take advantage of ASU resources for your career, family, vacations and more.
[alumni.asu.edu/services]

Soft skills, solid results
ASU CareerCatalyst has grown its new “Professional Skills for Everyone” series, adding “Collaboration” and “Workplace Culture” to an innovative portfolio of courses. Professional skills — or “soft” skills, including communication, emotional intelligence and teamwork — are critical for success in the workplace, yet many professionals haven’t had the opportunity to learn them in an educational setting — until now.
[careercatalyst.asu.edu]

Network by finding your chapter
ASU Alumni chapters are a ready-to-join network to make new friends, make business connections and share Sun Devil Pride. Attend meetups to catch up with friends or make new connections.
[alumni.asu.edu/chapters]

Events for budding and established entrepreneurs
From conferences to competitions, whether you are a small business owner or simply curious about entrepreneurship, events in the ASU community of business builders are a great way to grow your network and get plugged in.
[entrepreneurship.asu.edu/events]

New grads: We’re here for you
We’re here to support you as you navigate the transitions ahead long after you graduate. ASU offers alumni access to career resources for life and has launched new and expanded resources for lifelong learning through ASU for You.
[asuforyou.asu.edu]

See asuevents.asu.edu for additional ASU events.
“What we’re doing on the ASU West campus is related to our design as the people’s university. We’re going to find a way for jobs for everyone and a path to dignity for everyone, in every possible way.”

— MICHAEL M. CROW, ASU PRESIDENT

FUTURE-PREPARED

West Valley expansion

In the heart of the West Valley, the ASU West campus pulses with energy. For nearly 40 years, the campus has upheld its commitment to the 15 communities in west Phoenix, driving opportunities for learners of all ages. Home to 19 colleges, schools and departments, ASU West offers more than 125 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including forensics, business, engineering, education and honors curriculum.

Today, ASU West is poised to accelerate the West Valley’s growing economy through workforce development, community resources and a robust talent pipeline. The campus will launch three new schools: the School of Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, in the W. P. Carey School of Business; the School of Interdisciplinary Forensics, in the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences; and the School of Integrated Engineering, in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering. The campus is adding a four-story, 55,000-square-foot academic building and a 134,264-square-foot, 500-bed residence hall.

Read more at campus.asu.edu/west.
Update in the news

Largest NSF grant in ASU history
New ground-breaking X-ray laser being built.

Lake Havasu celebrates 10th anniversary.
ASU startup receives funding to advance fire-safe battery research

Recently, Safe-Li, an ASU startup that licensed breakthrough battery technology, earned acceptance into Shell’s GameChanger program and won $300,000 in seed funding. ASU Regents Professor Jerry Lin, inventor of the technologies and chief scientist at Safe-Li, designed a patent-pending technology for a unique coating method for battery manufacturing. The aim is to make batteries fire-safe, while improving battery performance.

Raincoats made of algae could be the future of sustainable fashion

Charlotte McCurdy wants to take sustainability to the next level. Instead of just buying less, she wants to create consumer products out of materials that are carbon negative.

McCurdy, an assistant professor of industrial design in The Design School at ASU, works at the intersection of research, design and sustainability. She teaches industrial design and a class titled Design for Ecology and Social Equity.

A few years ago, she created a translucent raincoat made of a carbon-negative, algae-based plastic substitute.

Called “After Ancient Sunlight,” the work was part of “Nature — Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial” in 2019, won the Experimental category in 2019 Fast Company Innovation by Design and was shown at the Design Museum in London.

Algae is efficient at converting solar energy to stored chemical potential energy — so it sequesters carbon and is therefore carbon negative instead of carbon neutral.

For her contributions to greener living, McCurdy has been recognized as a sustainability innovator in a recent commercial for Genesis electric vehicles, which features her work on a dress created with top designer Phillip Lim as part of the ONExONE Conscious Design Initiative.

See the video at charlottemccurdy.com.
**ShadowCam sends back images of moon’s darkest, coldest places**

ShadowCam, an ASU-operated NASA instrument aboard South Korea’s Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter, reached the moon near the end of 2022. The camera can see into the moon’s permanently shadowed craters — places astronomers have never seen before. ShadowCam’s first image sees inside the Shackleton Crater, near the lunar south pole, and the instrument is now sending back more images so the ASU team can calibrate its systems in preparation for its mapping mission. 

Space scientists say those shadowed craters, some of the coldest places in our solar system, may contain water ice. Principal Investigator Mark Robinson, a professor in ASU’s School of Earth and Space Exploration, says the big question is, “How much water?”

“We have hints that [deposits are] there from much lower-resolution experiments,” Robinson says. “But the picture’s really fuzzy. So we’re trying to sharpen the picture down to the scale of a meter.”

*The Marvin crater interior is in permanent shadow; the exterior is not permanently shadowed.*

Robinson and his team have been operating the camera from ASU’s Science Operations Center since 2009. He says it will take six months to a year for ShadowCam to generate enough images to draw conclusions.

See the latest at [sse.asu.edu](http://sse.asu.edu).

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**Students assist medical companies as part of ASU, Mayo Clinic program**

Hugo Domínguez will soon hire for his medical instrument company, Abanza Tecnomed, and he already has someone in mind: Ryan Ellazar, a graduating senior in the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, who has been shadowing Dominguez as part of the ASU and Mayo Clinic MedTech Accelerator program.

The accelerator pairs students to serve as interns with medical instrument companies. The program is a win-win for the companies and the 11 student interns.

More at [mayo.asu.edu](http://mayo.asu.edu).

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**Intel grants allow ASU professors to expand, diversify microelectronics workforce**

Semiconductor chip manufacturer Intel is helping boost the number and diversity of semiconductor workers through its Broadening Participation in Science and Engineering Higher Education grant program. Trevor Thornton and Hongbin Yu, both professors of electrical engineering in the School of Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering, are using the Intel grant to provide hands-on semiconductor experience to students at ASU and the Maricopa Community Colleges.

“Companies like Intel are building huge factories in metro Phoenix and around the country. We need a skilled workforce to work here.”

— **TREVOR THORNTON, PROFESSOR OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

Thornton and Zachary Holman, an ASU associate professor of electrical engineering, will coordinate eight internships at ASU facilities and four open positions in a new summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in partnership with the National Science Foundation. Thornton and his collaborators will recruit students from their classes at both ASU and the Maricopa Community Colleges — each are U.S. Department of Education-designated Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

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**Keep up with the headlines at ASU by subscribing to the ASU News e-newsletter at news.asu.edu/subscribe.**

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*NASA/KARI/ASU; SAMANTHA CHOW/ASU*
The world’s first compact X-ray free electron laser “will give us a new tool to look at medical science and semiconductors and all kinds of imaging in different ways.”

— WILLIAM GRAVES, CXFEL PROJECT CHIEF SCIENTIST

National Science Foundation awards largest grant in ASU history for X-ray laser

The National Science Foundation is awarding ASU $90.8 million in funding — the largest NSF research award in the university’s history — to advance groundbreaking research in X-ray science. The NSF award will support a five-year project to build the world’s first compact X-ray free electron laser, or CXFEL. This one-of-a-kind, room-sized X-ray laser instrument will fill a critical need for researchers to explore the intricacies of complex matter at atomic length and ultrafast time.

The CXFEL will allow scientists to observe biology’s molecular processes in detail — important for understanding human health and developing new medicines and drugs. It will also help investigators advance renewable energy research, quantum technologies and semiconductor manufacturing. It shrinks the technology’s size and cost so it can be housed in a university, medical or industrial setting.

Learn more at biodesign.asu.edu/cxfel.
Using X-ray light to reveal COVID-19’s secrets

One aspect of SARS-CoV-2 that makes it so infectious and challenging to control is its ability to outwit the body’s immune defenses. A new study examines NendoU (pronounced nenn-doh-YOU), a viral protein responsible for the virus’s immune evasion. The structure of this crucial protein is explored in detail, using a technique known as serial femtosecond X-ray crystallography.

The Biodesign Center for Applied Structural Discovery, which has made critical advances in structural studies of this kind, is directed by Petra Fromme, a Regents Professor in ASU’s School of Molecular Sciences and the lead investigator of the study. Funding was provided by a grant from the National Science Foundation and the BioXFEL Science and Technology Center.

NendoU, a protein used by the SARS-CoV-2 virus to hide from the immune system.

“This work is so exciting as it shows for the first time that the differences in flexibility of the protein play an important role in the functional mechanism,” Fromme says. “This will be critical for development of drugs against NendoU, with potential to reveal the presence of the virus to the immune system, which can then react and hinder serious infections.”

Learn more at biodesign.asu.edu/applied-structural-discovery.

Trust but verify for better AI

A team at ASU’s Center for Accelerating Operational Efficiency is testing a tool to help the U.S. government acquire artificial intelligence technology that people feel confident using. The project is starting with TSA officers.

“If you believe that our values in the U.S. will lead us to do more good than harm to the world, then we have to remain competitive in these high-tech areas like AI,” says Erin Chiou, an assistant professor of human systems engineering in The Polytechnic School, one of the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering.

Chiou leads a project funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security measuring the trustworthiness of AI systems using nine criteria organized into a Multisource AI Scorecard Table.

Removing forever chemicals from drinking water

Researchers at the university have developed a new method that helps microorganisms destroy PFAS. The technology may prove to be more effective than other technologies.

Data compiled by the Environmental Working Group reveals that PFAS lurk in the drinking water of more than 200 million Americans, or more than 60% of the country’s population. The compounds may take hundreds or even thousands of years to break down. They also linger in the human body.

The first use of PFAS was as the nonstick agent in Teflon in 1938, and they’ve since been added to fast-food packaging and countless household items.

Products coated in PFAS resist sticking and staining because of their unique chemical composition, made by fusing carbon and fluorine atoms. Other molecules can’t break that bond. But this also means the chemicals are nearly indestructible.

“The carbon fluorine bond is the strongest known carbon bond in chemistry,” says Bruce Rittmann, Regents Professor in ASU’s School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment.

Rittmann is the director of the Biodesign Swette Center for Environmental Biotechnology. There, he and his research team have discovered an unorthodox way to break PFAS down – by introducing them to a team of microorganisms that act like PFAS assassins.
ASU LOCAL

ASU at Lake Havasu celebrates 10 years

Shortly after the onset of the Great Recession, a Lake Havasu middle school sat vacant, and the city needed revitalization. Its citizens saw opportunity in higher education. They raised $2 million, a generous donor matched their efforts and an ASU college location was born. City council members, business officials, local dignitaries, and ASU faculty and staff celebrated the 10th anniversary last February.

ASU at Lake Havasu offers high-demand degree programs and more than a dozen full-time faculty. It also announced ASU Local at Lake Havasu, a hybrid college program that pairs in-person coaching and mentorship with those looking to earn a bachelor’s degree.

Director Carla Harcleroad, center, and Sparky are joined by faculty, staff and community leaders at Lake Havasu’s celebration.
Effects of choline deficiency on health

Choline, an essential nutrient produced in small amounts in the liver and found in foods including eggs, broccoli, beans, meat and poultry, is a vital ingredient for human health. A new ASU-led study explores how deficiency in dietary choline adversely affects the body and may be a missing piece in the puzzle of Alzheimer’s disease.

It’s estimated that more than 90% of Americans are not meeting the recommended daily intake of choline. The current research suggests that dietary choline deficiency can have profound negative effects on the heart, liver and other organs, and is also linked with Alzheimer’s disease.

Learn more at biodesign.asu.edu.

Downtown residential hall renamed for former Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon

The university renamed its residence hall on the Downtown Phoenix campus from Taylor Place to Gordon Commons in honor of former Mayor Phil Gordon, a driving force behind the creation of the campus 20 years ago.

“I’m grateful that you took a risk on an idea that downtown could be revitalized by welcoming ASU into the neighborhood. Or that downtown could be the heart of the city – the government, economic, cultural, business, entertainment and residential heart of the city,” says Gordon, who was mayor of Phoenix from 2004 to 2012. He earned a law degree from ASU in 1978.

When Gordon and Crow hatched the plan for the campus, they envisioned a complete reimagining of the city’s core, with an ASU hub attracting creative people who would build a knowledge and technology industry.

Crow says he and Gordon were focused on one thing: “Could Phoenix, as an emerging city in this unbelievable democracy of the United States – could it be this shining place? Could it be a city where everyone was equal? Could it be a city where economic progress was for everyone? Could it be a place where anyone could have access to a great public university?”

Gordon had pushed the idea of a downtown campus during his campaign, and after he took office in 2004, he and Crow wanted to move at light speed – welcoming students by fall 2006.
No days off.

The average university stadium is massive and expensive but only sees use a few times a year. Arizona State University is flipping that fact on its head.

ASU 365 Community Union transforms Sun Devil Stadium into a public space for programming as vibrant as the community it serves. With comedy shows, watch parties, yoga sessions and more, there’s something for you and your family.

For information about upcoming events or venue rental, visit asu365communityunion.com.

365 Community Union
Arizona State University
Advance your career

FUTURE FOCUSED

Being the change

With a dual major in mechanical engineering and global health, Katie Sue Pascavis graduated in May 2023 with honors from Barrett, The Honors College. She had near-perfect grades and won a Goldwater Scholarship, a Udall Scholarship, and a Marshall Scholarship, one of only 40 students nationwide; it has an acceptance rate of 4%. She also secured two U.S. utility patents. Here's her advice on finding your mission and managing a busy schedule.

1. For balance, “Knowing when to step back and understand that maybe you put too much on your plate. Prioritize.”

2. For finding your mission, “We’ve been given so much, so I think that finding ways to make a difference and give back is good advice for finding your purpose.”

3. Remember, no matter your age, you can make a difference. “Some of the best advice I’ve received is, ‘You’re not too young.’”

Give your savings a boost
5 tips to keep in mind post-college.

How to stop longing for the path not taken
Research-based strategies.
IT MIGHT SEEM daunting after college to start saving money, but doing so will help you build wealth, thanks to the power of compound interest, and allow you to better forecast your future. Here are five easy-to-follow money-saving tips to help you get to financial security.

1. Create a budget

To create a budget, first, find out what your actual income is after taxes. Search for an online calculator to help you.

Then, subtract your total living expenses from your true income. The typical percentage-based budget recommendation is 50/30/20 for needs, wants and savings, but with rising housing costs, consider other budgets like 70/20/10 and 80/20.

With every paycheck you receive, pay your savings first. The easiest way to do this is via direct deposit or automatic savings.

Every month, take a moment to track and categorize your expenses. You can use a budgeting app or download a template to help you track costs all in one place and identify spending patterns.

2. Cut unnecessary expenses

If you are looking for more ways to save, examine your spending patterns to see where you can reduce. If you eat out a lot, try cooking at home more. If you have multiple recurring subscriptions, eliminate those least used.

Lastly, ask yourself these questions before taking the plunge and making a purchase:

- How often will I use this in the next six months to a year?
- Do I want this item, or do I need it?

Making changes to your spending can...
add up and help you save for your future.

3. Save for emergencies
Situations like a car repair or a medical bill can wreak havoc on your finances. Set aside monthly money into an emergency fund to avoid debt if an expense pops up.

Depending on your situation, three to six months of living expenses are ideal, but at minimum, aim to save at least $1,000 for an emergency in a high-yield savings account. Putting money aside for emergencies can provide you peace of mind and reduce financial stress.

4. Manage debt
You might have heard of “good” and “bad” debt. Try to avoid high-interest debt by paying off your credit cards in full each month by the due date.

If you have existing debt, identify areas where you can reduce spending to allocate more money toward paying off the debt. A popular strategy like the snowball — paying off the smallest loans first quickly — is also used to pay down debt.

If you have multiple high-interest debts, consider consolidating for a better interest rate. Debt can be overwhelming and complicated, but do not worry. Ask to speak to someone at your financial institution to get started.

5. Invest in your future
Different ways exist to begin investing, from real estate to individual stocks to bonds. If you are just starting your career, prioritize your 401(k) or IRA to start taking advantage of compound interest.

In simple terms, compound interest means that you earn interest not only on your initial investment but also on the interest your investment earns over time. Because of this, putting even a tiny amount of money away every month as early as possible in your career can make a big difference in your bottom line. Additionally, find out if your organization participates in 401(k) matching to help boost your retirement savings. It's free money!

Before you start investing, research or consult with a financial advisor to ensure you’re making smart investment decisions.

You can use many strategies to save money and build your savings over time. By following these tips, you’re setting yourself up for financial success. Remember, saving money is a journey; small steps can create significant results.

Learn to manage your money effectively
Visit Desert Financial Credit Union online for educational content to increase financial wellness at desertfinancial.com/news-and-knowledge.

Liz Stephens
The content strategist at Desert Financial Credit Union oversees the development of all external content to help people understand complex financial concepts. She is passionate about the community, empowering people of all ages to make informed decisions and increase their financial literacy and wellness.
How to stop longing for the path not taken

Research-based strategies for moving forward when you’re dwelling on what might have been

CAREERS CONSIST OF many choices. Sometimes, you may find yourself longing for the life you might have had if you had made a different choice — the forgone career role.

In my research, my colleagues Jason A. Colquitt, the Franklin D. Schurz Professor in the Department of Management & Organization at the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business, and Erin C. Long, the assistant professor of management at the University of Georgia Terry College of Business, and I focused on how dwelling on the notion of “what could have been” can affect employees. We focused on what employees, managers and organizations can do to minimize the negative consequences of that reflection.

For the paper, published in the Academy of Management Journal in February 2022, we surveyed more than 300 U.S. employees to try to understand how they experience and react to forgone identity dwelling, or ruminating on what could have been. We focused on their emotions and the resulting behaviors they engaged in at work. Our results represented a wide variety of current and forgone identities — social workers who could have been veterinarians, architects who could have been painters, and teachers who could have been attorneys.

In response to forgone identity dwelling, participants longed for the life they might have had. For example, one participant recounted trading a future as a scientist for a career in finance. While happy in his financial career, he said he often thinks about the possible fulfillment he might have found in this forgone identity.

That longing led to withdrawal in the participants and reduced the amount of help they offered their co-workers. While many respondents said they were happy with how their lives turned out, the longing for what could have been kept them from being fully invested and effective in their current jobs. As these findings indicate, forgone identity dwelling is detrimental not only for individual employees but for the workplace as well.

So, what can you do if you feel this way? What can managers do?

1. Craft your job to make it more fulfilling.
First, our research showed that people who respond to longing for the road not taken with job crafting, or shaping current work roles to make them more fulfilling, were less withdrawn and more likely to help their co-workers. And it boosted their productivity and job satisfaction.

Although some careers are better suited for job crafting than others, it’s almost always possible to find a way to incorporate your passion into your work role.

For instance, the social worker who thought about becoming a
veterinarian could use service animals to help clients dealing with trauma, allowing her to use her love of animals at work. Likewise, a salesperson who gave up a career as a travel writer could work with international clientele, allowing opportunities to travel while still in a stable, high-paying profession.

In addition to your own proactive approach, managers play a role. Managers can identify their employees’ interests and passions and look for ways they can incorporate them into employees’ work roles. For instance, managers can make an effort to tailor roles or assign projects based on the kinds of work employees find most fulfilling.

Naturally, not all jobs can be tailored to a specific individual, but even small changes can help increase job satisfaction and productivity.

2. Cultivate the belief that what happens is because of your own actions.
Second, try to cultivate an internal locus of control, or the tendency to believe that what happens in life is due to your own actions, as opposed to luck or chance. Our findings showed that people with an internal locus of control respond less negatively to forgone identity dwelling.

To create a sense that you control your destiny, try taking ownership of your past career choices. Focus more on why you made those decisions rather than where you could be today. Reflect on the parts of your life you are grateful for. Research has shown that gratitude improves mental and physical health and resilience to adversity.

It’s natural to wonder what might have been. But to stay productive and fulfilled, move past the longing for that alternative life and learn to embrace the life you have.

This article has been adapted from a Harvard Business Review feature.

Learn more
Link to the full article and other business news and insights at news.wpcarey.asu.edu.
Sheilah Utley, ’22 BA in theater and a minor in music theater, and Tanner J. Conley, ’22 BA in theater, celebrate their graduation in December at Sun Devil Stadium.

FORKS UP

Let the celebration begin! It’s time to celebrate your amazing achievements: your projects, your relationships and a degree — all earned with your creativity, determination and possibly a fair amount of caffeine.
Commence on your journey

2019–23 time capsule
We recap what you loved, watched, laughed at and listened to.
24

Scholars around the world
ASU students who earned top scholastic honors.
30
2019–23 time capsule

It has been a wild four years, graduates! Here's a look back at some defining college moments, pop culture and historical happenings from your ASU journey.

BY RENAE HINTZE, ’17 BA; OMAR MOTA, ’19 BSD; KAITLYN MATTHEWS, ’21 BA JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION; JORDAN MOFFAT, ’21 BA SPORTS JOURNALISM; RAINI-SKYE ROGERS, GRADUATING SENIOR IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

2019

The King in the North

Long-running HBO series “Game of Thrones” ends with its eighth season, with ... mixed reviews about the finale. Might be hard to remember now, but people were ... displeased.

Throw it back with the 10-Year Challenge

The #10YearChallenge, inviting people to look back at themselves and see the “glow up,” goes viral — even gets a shoutout from Cardi B in the “Thotiana” remix.

PBS NewsHour West launches

It broadcasts from the ASU California Center in Los Angeles for the first time. It’s still going strong. pbs.org/newshour/about/newshour-west

Miss Latin America is a doctoral Sun Devil

Nancy Gómez, ‘18 MA in Spanish, wins the Miss Latin America of the World crown in 2019 — all while pursuing a PhD in Spanish.

Greta’s big speech

Greta Thunberg turns heads at the Climate Action Summit, furthering her environmental activism credibility. It helps lead to her becoming 2019’s Time Person of the Year.

World’s largest canine cancer vaccine trial

Meet Trilly, a 9-year-old Gordon Setter who receives a shot that may contain the first vaccine intended to prevent cancer. Trilly is one of 800 dogs participating in Professor Stephen Albert Johnston’s study.

24 SUMMER 2023
‘Parasite’ wins big at the Oscars

In an upset over frontrunner “1917,” the movie takes Best Picture, making it the first foreign language film to land the biggest prize in all of the Oscars’ 92 years.

2020

We love Hayden Library

It’s back! Open and renovated, the library, originally built in 1966, shows off its $90 million upgrades on Jan. 13.

Hollywood VR storytelling comes to ASU

Leading virtual reality company Dreamscape Immersive and ASU team up, merging movie-style storytelling with virtual reality to deliver fully immersive VR learning systems.

Send-off

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Civil Rights icon Sen. John Lewis, Black Panther star Chadwick Boseman, and Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gigi all pass away.

ASU goes remote

To stop the spread of the virus and keep one another safe, students, faculty and staff officially begin the at-home work and study life. Graduation is virtual, but grads find ways to celebrate together.

Medical community volunteers help distribute free saliva-based tests. In addition to on-campus COVID-19 testing, 71 public testing sites pop up around Arizona designed by ASU and administered by the Arizona Department of Health Services.

‘A’ goes blue

To thank and honor front-line workers, medical professionals and first responders, students and faculty paint the “A” blue.

On everyone’s watchlist

“Tiger King,” “Love is Blind,” “The Queen’s Gambit,” “The Mandalorian.”
2021

The Bernie Sanders mitten meme
Former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders sparks a meme frenzy after sporting his mittens at the presidential inauguration.

A devil of a life
Nov. 20 marks 75 years since Sparky the Sun Devil was born at ASU. Forks up!

Bones or no-bones day?
Noodle the pug forecasts the mood of the day by hopping up in bed or flopping over.

California love
ASU welcomes fall 2021 students to its first-ever event in the historic Herald Examiner Building in downtown Los Angeles – the site of ASU's California Center. The site integrates higher education and job opportunities in the local LA community.

James Webb Space Telescope launches
It's the largest, most powerful and complex space telescope ever built. Celebrating ASU’s involvement, the university hosts a live launch event on Zoom with Regents Professor Rogier Windhorst and a team of ASU postdoctoral scholars, and undergraduate and graduate students. Today, stunning images from galaxies 320,000 light-years away and beyond captivate us all.

Sticking it to COVID-19
Finally, there's a light at the end of the tunnel: a vaccine for the virus. Sun Devils join millions of people across the U.S. in rolling up their sleeves to fight the pandemic at pop-up vaccination sites on all four metro Phoenix campuses.

NFTs — we’re all confused
Described as “the Mona Lisa of baseball cards,” by outlets like by Stadium Talk, the sale of million-dollar non-fungible tokens (that's what NFT stands for, by the way) dominates headlines as a new form of fine art collecting. And later, it will crash in value.

Film school renamed after an icon
ASU renames its film school after legendary actor and filmmaker Sidney Poitier, a national hero and the first Black man to win the Academy Award for best actor.

Fast football start
In the first game of the 2021 football season, ASU intercepts the ball off on Southern Utah’s first drive. Then the team drives it into the end zone on the first offensive play of the season. Touchdown!
Air filters for Valley schools

Using donated materials, Sun Devil volunteers help construct Corsi-Rosenthal boxes to treat the air in K-12 classrooms and protect local schools against the spread of COVID-19. Inexpensive but effective, the boxes are built from supplies available at most home and improvement stores. Students assemble them during “box-a-thons” on ASU’s Tempe campus.

**Hubble is starry-eyed**

NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope establishes a new benchmark: detecting the light of a star that existed within the first billion years after the Big Bang. ASU’s Rogier Windhorst and Francis Timmes co-author the finding in a scientific paper.

**‘The Great Resignation’**

Two-plus years into the pandemic, we “just can’t” with work anymore. More than 4 million Americans quit their jobs. Also dubbed “the Big Quit,” this mass exodus is thought to be a result of the pandemic causing people to rethink their careers, work conditions and long-term goals.

**Free at-home rapid tests**

The Biden administration announces Americans can begin ordering free at-home COVID-19 rapid tests. Orders are taken online and over the phone for the tests.

**President Crow’s 20th year**

When Michael M. Crow came to ASU, he came in with a whirlwind of ideas about how to revolutionize higher ed to make it more inclusive and more responsive to the world’s challenges — and started executing on them immediately. Summarizing how he changed the university in 20 years? No easy feat. But The State Press gives it a go in “The Crow Issue.”

**ASU at the Arizona Capitol**

Local lawmakers get a firsthand glimpse into ASU’s work impacting the future of Arizona and the world. ASU faculty and students display their advances in medicine, engineering and space exploration, using dog DNA to solve crimes, reviving civic studies in K-12 classrooms, Arizona’s Water Blueprint and more.

**Wordle mania**

A word game created by British software engineer Josh Wardle gets everyone using desktops to game again. The New York Times buys this latest craze for upward of $1 million — and we still play it to this day.
In a fun and cost-effective partnership, ASU and the Green brothers join forces to offer some intro classes on YouTube that can be transferred into any college that accepts accredited credits. Darn, we wish we would have, could have. Well, we’ll tell our younger siblings all about it.

Forks up and caps in the air. We made it. Commencement. And almost 20,000 grads walked across stages to accept diplomas, ready to continue making the world better in our own unique ways.
We connect investors to ASU startups

Invest with us and enjoy exclusive benefits.

- Robust, proprietary deal flow from the university ranked #1 in innovation
- Detailed investment reports driven by MBA-student research
- An online platform to review deals and manage investments
- Opportunities to mentor the next generation of investors and founders

Join us at InvestU.org

You make it happen.

When you give to Arizona State University, you change lives here at home and around the world.

Your generosity helps attract ambitious students, retain leading faculty, create robust programs and power transformative initiatives. Your support builds ASU and drives its work to make education accessible for all, advance research for the public good and serve our community.

Thank you.
This year, ASU is among only nine other doctoral-level institutions that were recognized as top performers in the number of both Fulbright students and scholars. The university was named along with Harvard University, Penn State and others in this distinction, and is the only Arizona university to be named a top producer of both scholars and students.

In addition to Fulbright winners, ASU has been raising its profile with other elite awards. In the 2023 award cycle, seniors Nathaniel Ross and Katie Sue Pascavis were awarded the Rhodes Scholarship and Marshall Scholarship, respectively, making ASU one of only three public universities to produce winners of both prestigious awards. Here are ASU students who recently earned the world’s top scholastic honors.

**Argentina**
- Yoko Chavez
  Fulbright U.S. Student Program

**Australia**
- Lily G. Deakin
  Gilman Scholarship

**Brazil**
- Miriam Carpenter-Cosand
  Critical Languages Scholarship
- Madeleine Ryan
  Boren Scholarship
- Celeste Zuniga
  Fulbright U.S. Student Program

**Canada**
- Benjamin Ambrose
  Killam Fellowship
- Jordyn Hitzeman
  Killam Fellowship
- Maria Cornejo-Terry
  Killam Fellowship

**Czech Republic**
- Scott Devereux
  Gilman Scholarship

**Costa Rica**
- Kallee Schwann
  Barrett Global Explorers Grant, also studying in the Dominican Republic

**Denmark**
- Paul-Gabriel Pagay
  Also France, U.K. Gilman Scholarship

**Finland**
- Claire Agee
  Fulbright U.S. Student Program

**France**
- Ebani Acedo
  Gilman Scholarship
- Blanca V. Aguiar
  Gilman Scholarship
- Anastasiya Andreyeva
  Gilman Scholarship
- Francesca Marie R. Magalang
  Gilman Scholarship
- Jalen McClellan
  Gilman Scholarship
- Angelica Pentland
  Gilman Scholarship

**Georgia**
- Christian Shousha
  Critical Languages Scholarship

**Germany**
- Isabelle Abbas
  DAAD-Rise
- Christina Bell
  DAAD-Rise
- Teddi Burgess
  Gilman Scholarship
- Tianna Chemello
  DAAD-Rise

**Ghana**
- Talia Rodriquez
  Fulbright U.S. Student Program

**Iceland**
- Tasnia Hossain
  Gilman Scholarship

**Ireland**
- Esther Almazan
  Fulbright U.S. Student Program

**Japan**
- Iceland

**Kazakhstan**
- Italy

** Mexico**

**Norway**
- Paul-Gabriel Pagay
  Barrett Global Explorers Grant, also studying in the Dominican Republic

**Peru**
- Argentina

**Spain**
- Ireland

**Taiwan**
- Argentina

**Thailand**
- Finland

**United States**
- Canada

**United Kingdom**
- Ireland

**Vietnam**

**Ghana**
- Talia Rodriquez
  Fulbright U.S. Student Program

**Iceland**
- Tasnia Hossain
  Gilman Scholarship

**Ireland**
- Esther Almazan
  Fulbright U.S. Student Program
Fulbright U.S. Student Program supports independent study or research, teaching, graduate study or artistic practice abroad. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, it is the largest and most prestigious educational exchange fellowship program in the world.

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship provides full-cost scholarships to outstanding applicants from countries outside of the U.K. to pursue postgraduate degrees in any subject at the University of Cambridge. The award recognizes outstanding intellectual ability, leadership potential and a commitment to improving the lives of others.

The Marshall Scholarship enables intellectually distinguished young Americans, anticipated to be the country’s future leaders, to study in the U.K. so they may gain an understanding and appreciation of contemporary Britain and act as ambassadors.
LIVING THE DREAM

A performance to remember

Before she completed her undergraduate studies, Caelan Creaser, ’19 BMus in performance (musical theater), performed professionally in several acting roles, including “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” at the Hale Centre Theatre, for which she won 2017 AriZoni Best Actress.

After graduation, she began performing with the Disney Broadway “Frozen” North American tour as an understudy for Elsa and member of the ensemble. The production brought her to ASU Gammage for a two-week run this past February.

From August 2019 to March 2023, Creaser performed as Elsa about 60 out of 400 shows. As part of the ensemble, she sang and acted eight to 10 times a week. The demanding schedule requires resilience and strength, she says, and she credits the ASU music theater program, including the mentorship of several professors, for helping set her up for success. Another key, Creaser says, were opportunities at the ASU Music Theater New York City Showcase, where students audition for NYC agents.

“I don’t believe in good luck in this industry, but I do believe in opportunity meets preparedness, and I think that ASU prepared me to be the best version of myself that I could be at that time,” Creaser says.

Creaser says performing on stage for an audience is magical. “I was a little girl when I saw my first Broadway musical, and I just remember being in awe. I was overwhelmed in the best way possible.”

Learn more at caelancreaser.com.
Your one-stop shop for personal insurance

As ASU's preferred broker, VIU by HUB is here to help the Sun Devil community find personalized auto, homeowners, renters, condo, life and pet insurance options. With expert advice and fast, free quotes that match your needs, insurance has never been this easy.

Get insurance quotes
To keep water flowing in the desert, ASU researchers are collaborating with industry and government partners to develop new ways to monitor and forecast the water supply in the Phoenix metro area.

**BUILT FOR IMPACT**

**Engineering water solutions**

To keep water flowing in the desert and all regions experiencing climate change, decision-makers need the right information. They rely in part on experts in hydrology, the study of water and its movement and relationship with the environment on and below the Earth’s surface.

That’s where ASU’s Center for Hydrologic Innovations comes in, one way ASU is bringing together researchers, utilities, government agencies and industry. Together, they are developing new software tools, algorithms and visualization approaches for improved monitoring and forecasting water supply.

“Through applied engineering projects, the folks we’re working with and working for have a say in the development of products that they can immediately use,” says Enrique Vivoni, the center’s director and a senior global futures scientist with the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory and a professor of hydrosystems engineering in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering.

Each project uses a collaborative solution space, where all partners involved work together to develop a tool that is immediately applicable to a real-world issue.

“It’s a fairly new way of doing work in engineering,” Vivoni says.

Learn more about ASU’s contributions to water research and solutions at chi.asu.edu.

To keep water flowing in the desert, ASU researchers are collaborating with industry and government partners to develop new ways to monitor and forecast the water supply in the Phoenix metro area.
“While our work is global in impact, we begin with local partners in Arizona and the Western U.S. where **water is a vital resource for society**.”

— ENRIQUE VIVONI, FULTON PROFESSOR OF HYDROSYSTEMS ENGINEERING
GREENER

Buy locally grown food when possible
Reuse and buy fewer things
Drive less
Tips to make your life more sustainable and meaningful

Story by ANNA V. SMITH
Photos by SABIRA MADADY

Bike and walk more
many basics when it comes to environmental-friendly tips: Use less water, recycle, turn off the lights. But you also know that those alone won’t solve the environmental problems we face, like a warming planet, drought and biodiversity loss.

How do you balance the recognition that we must help usher in systemic solutions while still making impactful changes?

In part, it’s about seeing the limits and possibilities of both. Personal habits collectively add up. Meanwhile, policies, organizations and governments only change when enough people do something about it.

“Sustainability is actually trying to address climate problems. It’s not just describing the problem, it’s figuring out what we should do,” says Diane Pataki, Foundation Professor and director of the School of Sustainability, a program within the College of Global Futures.

“You need to understand the science,” Pataki says, “but it’s now moving past describing the way the world is and figuring out: What should we do? What should the future look like?”

To begin, start with a list:

What are you doing in terms of sustainability in your own home, at work, in your community?

Then, consider the advice below from scientists in the School of Sustainability, and build from there.

**At home**

What makes a true difference is figuring out what you can do as a regular practice, and commit to it.

Try to walk or bike more and drive less. Buy locally grown food when possible. Avoid fast fashion and overall buy fewer things.

Consider making household changes, like an energy audit of your house that can be provided for free by your utility company, or updating old appliances with energy-efficient ones.

For water-saving tips, add aerators to your faucets and use low-flow showerheads.

These tips also help lower your bills, and while there’s a bigger upfront cost for some of them, federal and state tax credits for solar panels and heat pumps for your house can help.

These smaller actions across society matter and help create “sustainability,” as well as happiness and self-care, something Scott Cloutier, assistant professor in the School of Sustainability, says often gets overlooked.

**How happiness relates to sustainability**

Cloutier studies the connections between happiness and sustainability. Research has shown that buying more things does not lead to long-term happiness, instead leading to overconsumption.

**Connect to the ecosystem outside your household**

Izie Figueroa studies graphic design at the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts and makes time in her schedule to reconnect with nature as part of her self-care.
"The happiness angle is that you can find synergistic ways of living that actually do make you happy and actually regenerate the environment, rebuild soil health and reestablish community connections."

— SCOTT CLOUTIER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY

“For me, sustainability is an internal process of understanding how we relate to the world, how we see the world outside ourselves, and then asking ourselves how those relationships we develop contribute to an equitable, just, sustainable, regenerative future,” Cloutier says. “The happiness angle is that you can find synergistic ways of living that do make you happy and regenerate the environment, rebuild soil health and reestablish community connections.”

A good example of how to do that is a straightforward one: Grow a garden of any size, maybe in a community garden or in place of a water-thirsty lawn, Cloutier says. Gardening has been shown to boost mental health and overall well-being, along with the ecosystem benefits it provides to native insects, pollinators and birds. Added up around the world, backyard gardens provide 15% to 20% of the world’s food.
Cloutier’s research has also found gardening to be a meaningful way to connect to the community and ecosystem outside your household. “That is when you see the power of how growing food can move through and inspire community, in the way that it brings people together and reconnects us to nature,” Cloutier says.

Gardening also connects to composting, either at home or at the municipal level. When organic materials like food waste or yard trimmings get into landfills they emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas. In 2018, food waste accounted for 21% of municipal solid waste, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Worldwide, food waste accounts for 8% of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, which makes preventing food waste and diverting it from landfills a critical piece of addressing climate change.

At work
Another place to think about sustainability changes is at work, school, your HOA or while volunteering. Increasingly, organizations are establishing goals and programs toward sustainability like emissions reduction, net zero waste, or renewable energy that you could be a part of. Or, they may not have a program yet, but would be willing to support one, or have goals but no concrete plan with how to achieve them. Finding out more about your own workplace, school or HOA provides a first step to impact the sustainability footprint of something bigger than your own household.

While career pathways around sustainability used to be limited, people with sustainability skills are in high demand right now, Pataki says. Over the past five years in the energy sector alone, jobs growth has increased 237%. But you don’t have to work in a sustainability-focused job to make a difference or to help guide your community in taking science-based actions, Pataki adds.

In the community
To better understand your environment, start with learning about whose ancestral lands you’re living on and what tribal nations are connected to them. Follow that up by getting familiar with what issues nearby tribal nations face. ASU’s American Indian Policy Institute holds talks and events on these types of topics and welcomes all.

Understand the systems around sustainability and how they impact your community and others. Because while it’s simple to support renewable energy over coal, Lydia Jennings, who is Wixárika and Yoeme and a postdoctoral research scholar in the School of Sustainability, says it’s important to ask “sustainable for whom?”

As a soil microbiologist and environmental scientist, Jennings studies the impact of mining on soil and how mines like the Rosemont Mine in southern Arizona affect tribes. Renewable energy relies on extractive industries like mining for lithium and copper, which means one region’s ability to use wind or solar is reliant on the use of land and minerals from another. Understanding the trade-offs and who might be impacted is a key part of environmental justice that makes up sustainability, Jennings says.

Still, the science is clear that society must move to decarbonize. Learning about the nuances and how to make this equitable matters, and scientists across the university study climate-social justice. Public events like film screenings, sustainability walking tours and book talks offer opportunities to
meet other, like-minded people while you get informed.

You can then put that and other science-based learning about sustainability to use by becoming involved in local decision-making. Lots of questions around housing, transportation and environmental justice get decided locally, Pataki says.

“People often don’t recognize the power a small group of individuals can have in that process at the local level by just showing up,” she says. “Even showing up while still continuing to learn is critical.”

Start by figuring out what local issues matter to you, and what city council members and initiatives support them, and what politicians listen to and collaborate with scientists, Pataki says.

One evidence-based finding to come out of Pataki’s Urban Greening Lab is that reducing air pollution, “a matter of life or death,” Pataki says, requires more public transportation and electric vehicles, to start. This is the surest way to improve human health in cities: by eliminating pollution at its source.

Envision the future
Lastly, envision the future that you want, and then talk about it, Pataki says. Make space for conversations with family and friends, in community spaces or church groups, and get into the specifics: What does a sustainable society look like to you, as an individual, based on your values and your experience? How does that society work? What does it look like for your specific community?

Talking about the future is a hopeful act, since there is room to impact it through your decisions, big and small.

“Most people are overwhelmed by the fact that they feel we’re very far from sustainability, which is true, but we have to have a lot more conversation about the alternative,” Pataki says. “This is how humanity makes progress: We envision a future that’s different than what we have today.”

Global Futures alumni make an impact across sectors

3,341 total graduates including spring ’23.

$75K average salary for undergraduate degree holders

$110K average salary for graduate degree holders

All parts of the economy, from research and design to government and finance, are seeking to fill a gap in sustainability knowledge. College of Global Futures alumni are contributing at organizations including:


Learn more at collegeofglobalfutures.asu.edu/careers/career-paths.
Meet three graduating seniors who have taken what they've learned and applied it to solving problems

Story by MONIQUE CLEMENT, '09 BA AND KARINA FITZGERALD, '18 BA, '20 MA
Photos by ERIKA GRONEK, '97 BA, '03 BA
Some students say they chose ASU so they could work on real-world research with faculty who are top in their fields. Whether in engineering, sustainability, pre-med, veterinary science, physics, space or any number of fields, university students can get involved in solving problems early.

Here, three graduating seniors discuss their projects, from artificial intelligence in K-12 to more sustainable cement to a new circuit that uses less energy and computes faster, and why they matter and how these opportunities set them up for success on their next journeys.

Susanna Westersund, making concrete more sustainable

Graduating civil, environmental and sustainable engineering student Susanna Westersund worked on a project aimed to make concrete more sustainable while also reducing plastic pollution.

As Westersund points out, the environment faces the overaccumulation of plastics. Additionally, “concrete production is one of the leading causes of carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere, so replacing some of the cement with plastic particles is better for the environment,” she says.

Westersund’s project as part of the Fulton Undergraduate Research Initiative built on the work already done to alter and treat polyethylene plastic to add to cement mixtures.

“I chose this project because I am interested in the sustainable materials that can be used in civil engineering,” Westersund says.

“The biggest thing I have noticed since being in this program is that I now see applications of things I am learning in my classes.”

In addition, the project helped her gain experience collaborating with other team members in labs. “When I go into job interviews, I have the ability to talk about my project and how I have applied myself outside of class,” Westersund says.

Working with her faculty mentor, Christian Hoover, an assistant professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, proved invaluable, she says. In 2022, Hoover won the National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program Award, which comes with $600,000 in funding to pursue research. Westersund says she gained confidence in herself and her abilities as an engineer while conducting research under Hoover.

“One of the best pieces of advice I have gotten from my mentor Professor Hoover is to trust in my abilities,” Westersund says.

She encourages students to engage with research opportunities at ASU. “I have met many different faculty members and students who have given me connections, and I have learned more about other projects as well.”

— SUSANNA WESTERSUND

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Jose Gonzalez-Garduno, researching ways for AI to benefit K–12 education

Over the course of the fall 2022 semester, Jose Gonzalez-Garduno, a graduating senior in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering computer science program, developed a project to explore how AI technologies in K–12 classrooms can benefit both students and educators.

“AI isn’t just changing how STEM courses are being taught in school – it’s changing the whole education sector and how it operates,” Gonzalez-Garduno says.

He and other students accepted into one of ASU’s research opportunities, the Lincoln Center research program, shape their projects through close consultation with Erica O’Neil, center research program manager whose guidance Gonzalez-Garduno called “inspiring.”

Gonzalez-Garduno’s path started back when he began at community college in order to gather credits before transferring to ASU in fall 2019, where he became a student in Barrett, The Honors College. While maintaining high grades and carrying out real-world research, he also worked full time for five years in order to help support himself and his family.

A focus of his research so far has been how to use AI applications in K–12 classrooms so that technologies act like an interactive tool that enhances human capacities, Gonzalez-Garduno says.

“Research in intelligent tutoring systems investigates things like gamification, such as completing challenges to earn prizes or achievements. These different types of motivations can further students’ development and ultimately have a positive impact,” Gonzalez-Garduno explains.

“Unfortunately, it starts becoming a problem in regard to how privacy is handled.

“My current research is looking at these two components, and whether the positives outweigh negatives, and how these improvements can help further the education field and how students benefit from it.”

What’s next?

He plans to go on to a master’s program in computer science, and hopefully also to earn his PhD.

“It’s going to be a whole new journey for me as a first-generation college student,” Gonzalez-Garduno says. “I’m also looking forward to getting a job as a software developer and seeing the difference that I can make within these tech companies by seeing how we can create new technologies that positively impact society.”
Sritharini Radhakrishnan, testing a circuit component that retains memory without power
Graduating electrical engineering senior Sritharini Radhakrishnan has been working to improve neuromorphic computing, which tries to mimic the brain’s use of neurons and synapses. Conversely, traditional computing, sometimes called von Neumann computing, uses separate CPUs and memory units. Brain-inspired computing more closely mimics the structure of the human brain, in which memory and “processing” are combined. This structure can drive advances in machine learning and AI by building more energy-efficient, scalable and adaptive computer systems, Radhakrishnan says.

Her work tested a certain type of memristor, a new type of electric circuit component that retains memory even without power. It is part of ongoing research that seeks to find out if hexagonal boron nitride, a layered 2D material, proves promising for implementing brain-inspired circuits.

“Everyone in the field aims to advance neuromorphic computing to the point that any device using the current von Neumann computing architecture can be replaced with a neuromorphic one. To achieve such a goal, it is vital to show that the neuromorphic computing scheme is competitive with the von Neumann one by demonstrating that neuromorphic circuits can carry out complex operations faster and with greater efficiency,” Radhakrishnan says.

By investigating the performance of hexagonal boron nitride for memristor devices, Radhakrishnan hopes to make this next-generation computing architecture a reality for data-hungry applications that current systems struggle to do efficiently.

Radhakrishnan says she is excited to have worked on a “truly cutting-edge” field that will impact the computing systems humanity needs to solve complex problems.

“By working on this research as an undergrad, I was able to get a head start in gaining technical know-how and experience to significantly contribute to any engineering research in my career,” she says.

— SRITHARINI RADHAKRISHNAN

Get involved as a student
Find out about numerous research opportunities for students at provost.asu.edu/uresearch.

Learn more about the Fulton Undergraduate Research Initiative at furi.engineering.asu.edu.

Check out opportunities at Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics at lincolncenter.asu.edu.
New jobs, cooling inflation, stabilizing housing purchase and rental prices

**Story by CRAIG GUILLOT**

The Grand Canyon state continues to rebound from inflation and shows significant economic growth. Several Arizona cities lead the nation as the fastest-growing, while Arizona’s health care, manufacturing and science industries rank among the top in the country for job quality and gains, says Dennis Hoffman, director of the L. William Seidman Research Institute at the W. P. Carey School of Business and director of ASU’s Office of the University Economist.

With that in mind, here are three trends to watch in 2023.

Over the years, Arizona built a diverse economy. That’s still true, and today’s state unemployment rates hit near 40-year lows in 2022 with job growth of 3.8%.

What’s next? More new jobs from nearshoring, tech manufacturing and the semiconductor industry, Hoffman says.

“We are winning many battles on the business relocation front,” he says. “Manufacturing facilities are expanding, not just the high-tech ones but many in the automotive supply chain related to electric vehicles.”
Housing has become an issue in the Valley, says Rashad Shabazz, associate professor in the School of Social Transformation and the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning. And no wonder, as the median sale price for a Phoenix home rose from $325,000 in January 2021 to $404,300 by October 2021.

Some positive news, Hoffman says, is that rising mortgage rates have pushed down real estate prices. While Hoffman doesn’t project a downturn like 2007, he says, “Prices should fall about 25% off their peak. Rental rates will cool in line with housing prices, although the pace will be slower.”

Stay connected
Go to neweconomy.asu.edu to learn more about the changing Arizona economy.

ASU’s Project Humanities periodically hosts roundtable panels about housing and other topics affecting local communities. Learn more at projecthumanities.asu.edu.
“We are trying to expand the idea about who gets to dance and about who gets to be a scientist.”

— KEITH THOMPSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE DANCE PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

MOVEMENT

The chemistry of dance and science

It may seem unusual to pair science and dance, but that’s exactly what faculty member Keith Thompson is doing.

Thompson, assistant director of the dance program and associate professor at ASU, collaborated with the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams and Wharton Center for Performing Arts at Michigan State University to create an interactive multimedia project that educates the community on the intersection of art and science. The program involved graduate students, physicists, dancers and a cast of diverse youth.

Thompson says it’s important to emphasize diversity. He cited studies that show how girls and students of color often lose interest in science-related programs as early as eighth grade.

The event, called “Of Equal Place: Isotopes in Motion,” included performances, movement workshops and hands-on science experiences. It was inspired by ASU Herberger Institute Professor Liz Lerman’s work with the European Organization for Nuclear Research facility in Switzerland. Dance Exchange, the arts organization Lerman founded, also collaborated on the project by performing as well as developing study guides for students.

The event, which was years in development, pushed groups together who otherwise may not often collaborate and learn from each other — much like the facility itself crashing particles together and studying those interactions to learn and better understand the universe.

— BENJAMIN ADELBERG, JUNIOR MAJORING IN JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION
Cool places to work
Alumni share how they landed their dream jobs and provide tips.

Next level
From Montreal to Phoenix to New York, student lands opportunities in a fashion powerhouse.
Cool places to work

In her second year at ASU, Laurie Leshin (second from right) landed a summer internship at NASA in Houston. She now leads NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.
What makes a job great? It’s not the money or the prestige — though they don’t hurt.

It’s about a job fitting for your passions and personality. About being able to do more work you love than work you don’t.

These alums have positions that make people sit up and take notice. But more impressive than their roles is how well-suited they are to them. From a solar engineer to a NASA leader, these alumni explain how they reached their dream jobs — and share advice for your journey.

Alumni share how they landed their dream jobs and provide career tips

Story by SARA CLEMENCE

Laurie Leshin, NASA’s JPL
Laurie Leshin, '87 BS in chemistry, is director of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the world’s leading center for robotic space exploration. Its motto: “Dare mighty things together.”

“It’s pretty much hair on fire every single day,” Leshin says. “It’s sort of the highest highs and the lowest lows.”

For instance, last December, the Mars lander InSight wasn’t able to charge its battery because of dust on its solar arrays and went silent. (NASA sent out a heart-wrenching tweet of its last image.) And on the same day, the Perseverance Mars rover deposited its first sample tube on the planet’s surface for when humanity can muster a round-trip mission to the planet.

Leshin is the first woman to lead JPL, which has some 6,000 staffers and a 168-acre campus in Pasadena. It’s the latest step in her groundbreaking career in science, academia and government.

She has served as president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute and dean at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, advised President George W. Bush on space policy, and serves on the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum advisory board.

“I had always been interested in space,” says Leshin, who was a chemistry major at ASU.

Sophomore year at ASU, Leshin spotted a flyer for a summer internship at NASA in Houston. Knowing that most positions were aimed at college seniors, she reached out to Susan Wyckoff, one of the few female full professors in the physical sciences at that time.

“I cold-called her, basically, and she helped me,” Leshin says.

Working at NASA was a “lightning bolt,” Leshin says. She returned to ASU to graduate, received her PhD from Caltech for graduate school, then came back to ASU to teach before continuing on to NASA and other posts.

A responsibility she takes seriously: being the first woman in many of her positions.

“I feel like I’m holding the space for the people who come after me, to make sure that other people can see themselves in leadership roles,” Leshin says. “I just think it’s incredibly important.”

When you’re constantly pushing the boundaries of what’s possible, there are no boring days at the office.
Antony Aguilar does something new every day — new for him and new for the world.

He is head of tooling and design at Solestial, a startup that aims to make durable, cost-effective solar cells for use in space. Because the technology is so novel, the machinery for making it doesn’t exist.

On a given day, Aguilar, ’16 BS in electrical engineering and ’22 PhD in electrical engineering, and his team might be designing a tool in CAD, sourcing standard parts, making their parts or assembling machinery. They’ll be in laser processing rooms or conference rooms or donning booties and gowns to enter a clean room. Rarely is he sitting in his cubicle.

When there is a problem to solve, the team starts from scratch, Aguilar says.

“What we do is what I got into engineering for,” he says. “Designing something from the ground up, testing it, reprogramming or building certain aspects or redesigning the tool as a whole.”

Aguilar got there through a combination of persistence and luck. He moved around a lot for his undergraduate studies, taking electrical engineering classes at Scottsdale Community College, Mesa Community College, and Chandler-Gilbert Community College before landing at ASU.

A friend he met at Mesa had an internship at what was then ASU’s Solar Power Lab at MacroTechnology Works. Intrigued, Aguilar applied for a summer position and was accepted. He loved the work and continued there as an undergraduate.

“The longer I worked in the Solar Power Lab, the more and more it appealed to me,” he says.

He met Stan Herasimenka, ’13 PhD, at MTW. Herasimenka became a mentor and collaborator and went on to found Solestial.

Aguilar tries to end each day by designing something.

“I feel like that’s the ideal,” he says. “I want to be an engineer because I want to build.”
On his best days at work, Mario Liddell feels like a musician who has a chance to perform in front of a big crowd.

“It’s that chance to show off the hard work that you’ve done,” he says. “To share the insights you’ve gathered.”

Liddell, ’17 BS in business data analytics and ’22 MS in business analytics, is the bassist for ’90s tribute band Vanilla Spice. But the work he’s referring to is different: his job as a vice president in Bank of America’s customer experience organization. His team focuses on finding ways to improve customers’ digital experiences with the company — through an app, a website, a social media platform or other channels. In that role, he gets to apply his passion for data, researching and finding solutions. It requires a balance of technical knowledge and emotional intelligence.

A typical project involves meeting with business leaders to understand their questions and needs, then finding the data to examine the problem, then cleaning it up and building models for a solution. Finally, he and his team package it into a presentation.

“You can’t speak technical language in a business meeting. You have to listen for what the hidden context is, the question behind the question,” Liddell says.

Liddell earned his degrees at ASU while working full time and says he often refers back to his class notes and files. In his work, it’s not technical ability that matters most; it’s flexibility and a good attitude, he says.

Career resources
Go to career.asu.edu for videos, tips and networking opportunities.
This bottle is 100% recycled, thanks to you.

Because you recycle, you help make 100% recycled bottles.

*Excludes cap and label
From Montreal to Phoenix to New York, student lands opportunities in a fashion powerhouse

Photos by CAMILLE MISTY
Heidi Stierli knew from a young age that she wanted to create striking outfits that last, so she did her research on fashion programs around the country. She eventually chose to attend ASU.

Because of the reputation of the program, Stierli, ’23 BA fashion, from Montreal, Canada, selected the university over renowned schools in San Francisco.

“With fashion, my dream is to go into the vintage world, working with famous vintage collectors, putting on events showcasing these treasures,” she says. In addition, “I love painting pottery and canvases in my free time, and also upcycling clothing, thrift shopping and vintage clothing.”

Her biggest passion is ensuring that the clothing she makes lasts, that it can work from season to season and accentuate a wardrobe for years. And she says that ASU has helped her pave her career in this competitive field.

A component of the ASU fashion program and a key differentiator, Stierli says, is teaching students to work with Optitex, an end-to-end fashion design software including 2D CAD/CAM pattern design and 3D prototyping.

She was a student-worker in the fashion program from January 2022 until her graduation and credits her mentorship of students with helping her take her designs to an entirely new level.

“With fashion, my dream is to go into the vintage world, working with famous vintage collectors, putting on events showcasing these treasures.”

—HEIDI STIERLI, ’23 BA FASHION

“I work with students helping them solve the problems they encounter in their designs. ASU students are a bunch of amazing, creative, innovative artists,” she says.
One of her biggest opportunities came through an alumna of the program. Claire Cohan, ‘21 BA in fashion, helped Stierli land an internship in New York City at the American Dream Team Network International. The fashion powerhouse does licensing of designs, garment production and sends its imports around the world. Stierli says that this internship will open up numerous opportunities in her career.

And, she gets to live and work in New York City, an international fashion center.

“I don’t think I would have been ready for New York City without ASU’s fashion program,” she says. “It provided me with confidence and a robust skill set.”

She adds, “The fashion program at ASU is so strong because of the professors and faculty, such as Victoria Cook, a role model in pattern making for me, and Irina Tevzadze, who helped me learn what it will be like in the industry.”

Cook, the lead pattern maker, and instructor of Design I and II, has owned her own pattern making business for more than a decade. Tevzadze, a clinical assistant professor, created and internationally showcased numerous collections of womenswear, childrenswear and accessories, and designed collections for high-profile European fashion houses.

ASU FIDM will have more programs, students, employees in downtown Los Angeles

ASU announced that the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising will be part of the expansion of fashion education at the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts. ASU’s fashion program will now be named ASU FIDM, incorporating both the FIDM community and campus, and it will operate in both Los Angeles and Phoenix.

ASU FIDM will provide students with enhanced educational opportunities by embedding world-class fashion education within a public research university with global reach. The transition will provide students with access to a renowned faculty with extensive industry experience, and the school will offer career-focused programs and experiences that enable students to have a sustainable and creative impact on the world.

The program will now offer two great locations. Fusion on First in downtown Phoenix is an innovation hub that features a suite of industry-standard studio spaces and recording studios, digital media labs, performance spaces and an interdisciplinary makerspace with laser cutters, 3D printers, felting and industrial knitting machines, and more. The Los Angeles location, embedded in the heart of downtown LA and in close proximity to the fashion district, features study spaces designed to inspire creativity, the largest fashion library on the West Coast, state-of-the-industry classrooms and the renowned FIDM Museum.

Learn more at asufidm.asu.edu.
Sun Devils take top spots at Augusta as Jon Rahm wins Masters and Phil Mickelson ties for 2nd

Alum Jon Rahm carded 12-under par to earn his first Green Jacket in the 87th Masters Tournament in April. Rahm, ’16 BA in communication, won the tournament by four strokes. The win is his second major championship and returned him to World No. 1. He is the first Sun Devil since Phil Mickelson in 2010 — and just the second man in program history — to win the most prestigious tournament in golf. Meanwhile, Mickelson, ’92 BA in psychology, tied for second place, putting two Sun Devils in the top three.

Stay up to date on the Men’s Golf program at thesundevils.com/sports/mens-golf.

“When I hit that third shot on the green, and I could tell it was close by the crowd’s reaction, just the wave of emotion of so many things just overtook me.”

— JON RAHM AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER WINNING THE 2023 MASTERS TOURNAMENT AT AUGUSTA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB
Linn Grant’s dazzling LET rookie season

Former Sun Devil Linn Grant gave us one of the most memorable pro rookie seasons in recent history, establishing herself as one of the top up-and-coming female golfers in the world. Originally from Sweden, Grant came to ASU as a highly touted recruit and immediately lived up to the expectations.

Grant became the first female winner on the DP World Tour, one of the two most competitive pro golf competitions. She also won four times on the Ladies European Tour and topped the season-long Race to Costa Del Sol, becoming the LET champion and the first Sun Devil to win the title since 2012.

Stay up to date on the Women’s Golf program at [thesundevils.com/sports/womens-golf](thesundevils.com/sports/womens-golf).

Football schedule
Get ready for this fall’s games.
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Justin Robinson sets record
ASU sprinter leaps to No. 3 in the world.
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2023
Football Schedule

AUGUST

31 vs Southern Utah (Thu)
TEMPE, AZ • Frank Kush Field/Sun Devil Stadium

SEPTEMBER

9 vs Oklahoma State (Sat)
TEMPE, AZ • Frank Kush Field/Sun Devil Stadium

16 vs Fresno State (Sat)
TEMPE, AZ • Frank Kush Field/Sun Devil Stadium

23 vs USC (Sat)
TEMPE, AZ • Frank Kush Field/Sun Devil Stadium

30 at California (Sat)
BERKELEY, CA

OCTOBER

7 vs Colorado (Sat)
TEMPE, AZ • Frank Kush Field/Sun Devil Stadium

21 at Washington (Sat)
SEATTLE, WA

28 vs Washington State (Sat)
TEMPE, AZ • Frank Kush Field/Sun Devil Stadium

NOVEMBER

4 at Utah (Sat)
SALT LAKE CITY, UT

11 at UCLA (Sat)
PASADENA, CA

18 vs Oregon (Sat)
TEMPE, AZ • Frank Kush Field/Sun Devil Stadium

25 vs Arizona (Sat)
TEMPE, AZ • Frank Kush Field/Sun Devil Stadium

See all details of games and ticket options at thesundevils.com.

Sun Devil Men’s Swimming and Diving wins Pac-12 championship

For the first time in Men’s Swimming and Diving program history, the Sun Devils became Pac-12 champions, as they put the finishing touches on their magical week in early March. The Sun Devils beat California, Stanford, Arizona, USC and Utah. They won nine times, broke eight program records and never once let go of their clutch of first place after gaining the lead. Here are their six individual wins and three relay wins:

• Léon Marchand, 200 breast, 400 IM, 200 IM, 200 medley relay, 400 medley relay, 800 free relay.
• Zalan Sarkany, 1650 free.
• Grant House, 200 free, 800 free relay, 400 medley relay.
• Jack Dolan, 50 free, 200 medley relay, 400 medley relay.
• Max McCusker, 200 medley relay, 400 medley relay.
• Jonny Kulow, 200 medley relay.
• Patrick Sammon, 800 free relay.
• Julian Hill, 800 free relay.
Robinson crushes 400m record — twice

ASU sprinter Justin Robinson claimed gold and twice shattered the ASU men’s 400m indoor record at the United States Track and Field Indoor Championships in New Mexico in February. Robinson opened the meet with a 45.48 in prelims, besting Jason Barton’s 45.56 record from 2004. Robinson then ran a 45.40 in the 400m finals to break his own record, win the gold medal, and record the third-fastest 400m time among senior men that season. It is the second school record Robinson was a part of over the winter, as he helped ASU’s 4x400 relay squad run a program-best 3:03.09 on Feb. 11 at the Tyson Invitational in Arkansas.

— Logan Stanley, State Press senior reporter, a graduate student in the master of arts in sports journalism program

Tennis player Roi Ginat chose ASU over going pro

Freshman Roi Ginat is one of two new players on the ASU Men’s Tennis team. Starting young, Ginat picked the sport up quickly and became one of the best junior players in Israel and the world, ranking as high as 149th in the International Tennis Federation junior world rankings. After high school, Ginat looked forward to playing more tennis and wanted to go pro, but first, he had to join the Israeli military.

During his service, Ginat trained several hours a day and competed in tennis inside and outside the country. Then ASU Coach Matt Hill recruited him to ASU. Even though Ginat had a strong desire to directly go on the pro circuit, he eventually decided that ASU was his best option and that college tennis would help him grow more. The 21-year-old had little difficulty fitting in, despite having so much to adjust to in his new daily life.

“Getting to know myself better is what I want to do, and getting to know as many people as I can,” Ginat says. “I want to make new friends, be influential for as many people as I can watching me and enjoy the time and the moments because it’s not gonna be the same when I get older.”

— Vinny Deangelis, State Press reporter, junior at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication

Men’s and Women’s Cross Country teams earn All-Academic honors

Sun Devil Cross Country programs earned USTFCCCA All-Academic honors for both the men’s and women’s teams, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association announced. ASU’s men’s program recorded a 3.05 GPA, while the women earned a 3.73.

It’s the eighth time in the past decade that both teams collected the honor. In order to qualify for All-Academic distinction, teams must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Keep up with the Sun Devils’ latest news and events at thesundevils.com.
GO WEST
Committed to supporting the 15 communities that make up more than 50% of Maricopa County’s future growth, ASU’s West campus was built in 1984 – nearly 40 years ago. Today, ASU’s West campus is continuing to expand and blends a liberal arts education with 21st-century workforce preparation. Explore it at campus.asu.edu/west.
SOLVING THE UNSOLVABLE

We help more people find more solutions by combining data, technology, and expertise in bold new ways.

mayo Clinic.org/possible
New grads for a new economy

Accelerating innovation

By 2032, Arizona State University will be graduating 10,000 engineering students per year. Those graduates will be needed to fill the high-tech, high-wage jobs being created in Arizona through the New Economy Initiative. Building on ASU’s role as a catalyst for economic growth and resilience, the New Economy Initiative prioritizes accessible, high-quality education to create Arizona’s future workforce and innovative research that helps to attract, grow and retain high-tech companies.

neweconomy.asu.edu