**INSIDE INSIGHT**

**Howdy, partner**

ASU works with Central Arizona College

**College of Law**

New programs for students

**A lesson in civics**

AZ schools in need of civics education

**Football discount**

ASU Athletics is showing their appreciation for ASU faculty and staff by inviting them to attend a football game at a discounted rate. The Sun Devils take on Louisiana-Monroe at 7 p.m., Sept. 19, at Sun Devil Stadium. The ticket offer includes both lower- and upper-level tickets for more than 50 percent off. Tickets can be purchased online at thesundevils.com with the promo code FS09FB, or by presenting your Sun Card at the ticket office.

**Hunt for aliens**

Astronomers estimate there are 70 sextillion stars in the visible universe. That’s a 7 followed by 22 zeros. Searching for inconceivably vast expanse for what would be the most sensational and potentially disruptive discovery in the history of humankind is just another day at the office for Seth Shostak. Shostak, a senior astronomer at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, Calif., is author of “Confessions of an Alien Hunter: A Scientist’s Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.” The book was published earlier this year by National Geographic. The search for extraterrestrial intelligence, SETI, is an exploratory science that seeks evidence of life in the universe by looking for some signature of its technology. Shostak brings his personal account as an “alien hunter” to Arizona State University for this year’s “Science Fact Meets Science Fiction” lecture at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 29, at the Galvin Playhouse on ASU’s Tempe campus.

To read the full story, or learn more details about the event, visit the ASU News site: http://asunews.asu.edu/20090912_shostak

**Six outstanding ASU faculty named exemplars**

**By Sarah Auffret**

In recognition of their outstanding teaching and research, members have been named exemplars this year by ASU President Michael Crow. These individuals are “rising stars” whose talent and hard work make them leaders among the finest teachers ASU has to offer. They represent a broad array of expertise: an engineer, a poet, a psychiatrist, a psychologist, an evolutionary biologist and a public policy expert. One was promoted to professor, while the others earned tenure with promotion to associate professor status, from assistant professor.

Laura Tohe was named professor of English. Those promoted to associate professor include Heather Bimonte-Nelson in psychology, Andrei Belitsky in physics and Kevin McGraw in the School of Life Sciences. All are in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

(See UNIVERSITY on page 6)

**More than 1,600 Barack Obama Scholars enrolled**

**By Sarah Auffret**

More than 1,600 Arizona freshmen are attending ASU this fall under the Barack Obama Scholars program, an initiative launched by the university in May to dramatically increase access to a college degree.

Two-thirds of these freshmen are first-generation college students, bringing the hopes and dreams of families who had little previous exposure to college life. They are students who excelled in high school, with an average high school grade point average of 3.3. About 30 percent received merit scholarships from ASU, including National Merit, President, Provost and University scholarships. Obama Scholars have annual family incomes of $60,000 or less, as demonstrated on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Through a combination of federal, state, institutional and private resources, ASU covers their estimated direct cost of attendance for eight consecutive semesters.

Covered costs – minus expected family contributions – include tuition, fees, books and room and board. Obama Scholars also are expected to have a work-study campus job as part of their financial aid package. Anyernal work-study on campus has been shown to enhance student success.

To further increase their chances of success at ASU, each student in the program is paired with an ASU mentor. About 600 staff and faculty members and 600 upperclassmen have volunteered and received training to be mentors.

Obama Scholars are enrolled in all ASU colleges, across all campuses. The students and their mentors will be honored at an outdoor tailgate reception Sept. 19 prior to the ASU football game.

(See ASU on page 7)

**$2.5M grant to support health disparities research**

**By Terry Olbrysh**

The National Center of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), a center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has awarded a $2.5 million grant for research of asthma disparities among Latino children to the College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University. The grant, titled “Asthma Disparities in Latino Children: Acculturation, Illness Representation & Contemporary Alternative Medicine” (CAM) is the largest in the history of the college.

Racial and ethnic disparities in asthma health outcomes have been increasing in the United States, resulting in researchers and public health officials calling for studies to determine the causes. Compared with majority-population children, minority children use controller medication less often, have less continuity of care, and visit emergency departments more frequently.

Especially noteworthy has been the increasing prevalence of asthma among Latinos, primarily Puerto Rican, children. Individual successes of Mexican and Puerto Rican origin constitute 73 percent of the Latino population in the United States. Although these two groups share similar historical origins and cultural values, significant differences exist. Puerto Rican children exhibit the highest rates of asthma prevalence and mortality among all ethnic groups while Mexican children have the lowest rates. Asthma disproportionately affects Puerto Rican children with a 2.33 adjusted odds ratio for lifetime diagnosis compared to non-Latino white children.

(See GRANT on page 7)
New partnership underlines student success

By Marshall Terrill

Arizona State University and Central Arizona College have entered into a partnership to increase the number of students who complete a community college degree and attend and graduate from ASU. The goal is to significantly increase the number of students transferring to ASU from Central Arizona College – and to increase their success at the university.

Recognizing that academic preparation is the single most important determinant of transfer-student success, the two institutions have established the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program. TAG is an articulated transfer program that will provide guaranteed admission into an ASU undergraduate degree program for Central Arizona College (CAC) students who complete the specific TAG requirements. Under the program, CAC students will complete their associate’s degree at the community college and their bachelor’s degree at the university.

CAC students participating in the TAG program become eligible for the Tuition Commitment Program at ASU. The initiative is designed to help Arizona resident students and their families plan their education by ensuring financial aid will be available to cover the tuition increase that will occur during completion of a bachelor’s degree. Dennis Jenkins, Central Arizona College’s president and chief executive officer, and ASU President Michael Crow participated in a signing ceremony for the TAG program at Central Arizona College’s Signal Peak Campus Sept. 4.

“Links between the community college and the university are essential to the future of our educational enterprise in Arizona,” Crow says. “The TAG program further strengthens our relationship through this new program and thus we are enhancing opportunities for student success.”

CAC and ASU have a strong history of collaborative agreements and partnerships to support transfer-student success. As the need for educated workers in the state increases, they are ramping up their efforts.

The view among ranking CAC students to earn an associate’s degree before transferring, making students aware of financial aid opportunities and requirements, and increasing collection and sharing of data.

W. P. Carey School of Business

Report: Phoenix housing market still flooded with foreclosures

By Debbie Freeman

More homes are being sold in the Phoenix area now than last year, according to the latest real estate study report from the W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. The report shows one foreclosure happening for every two regular home resales in the Valley last month.

A “resale” is a home that has been sold with the exact same tax identification number for at least one year, established until foreclosure activity drops to historical levels, which would be about one foreclosure for every two regular home resales, according to Jay Butler, an associate professor of real estate and Paradise Valley Community College an adjunct professor of real estate.

“Owner-occupants will have to become the primary driving force again. Right now, the market is driven by investors looking for a deal and the potential for great appreciation.”

About 6,000 Valley homes were resold, and about 5,100 were foreclosed on in August of this year. That’s actually down from the volume of 7,300 resales and 4,200 foreclosures recorded in July. However, it’s way up from just over 4,200 resales in the Phoenix area in August of 2008. Foreclosures were at a similar level for that month at about 3,300.

“Historically, August usually represents the end of the resale home season, when sales and median prices tend to increase,” Butler says. “This year is still flush with foreclosures, but driven by the foreclosure-related market, or start to move down, which is traditional for the end of the year. If the latter occurs, it could represent a preliminary signal that the market is beginning a return to normalcy.”

Still, Butler says he believes that right underwriting standards, a weak economy, and a job market could create severe obstacles before the market’s potential. He expects that many eliminated from work are not going to come back, and more people’s unemployment benefits will start to run out, prompting them to go into foreclosure on their homes.

His report says resale prices in the Phoenix area in August was $139,000, down 29 percent from the year. That’s actually down from the year, but the market is still flooded with foreclosures. The report goes on to say that the median price of homes resold in the Phoenix area in August was $139,000, down 29 percent from the year.

By Joe Casper Meyer AZBio (Arizona Biotechnology Association) announced the finalists for each of the association’s annual awards, which will be presented at the 2009 AZBio Awards Dinner. Bruce Rittmann, the director of the Biodesign Institute’s Center for Environmental Biotechnology, is among the finalists for the Award for Research Excellence. Rittmann was selected for his significant contributions to using microbial systems to provide clean water and new renewable sources of energy.

Rittmann was honored this past year with the Simon W. Freese Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Environmental Water and Resource Institute, for his innovative work on using microorganisms to improve water quality. Especially noteworthy is the membrane biofilm reactor technology. Rittmann is now being commercialized to destroy a wide range of pollutants found in water and wastewater. Examples of special importance in the Southwest are perchlorate, nitrate and trichloroethylene.

Rittmann is part of an ASU research team using two innovative approaches to renewable bioenergy: using anaerobic microbes to convert biomass to useful energy forms, such as methane, biogas, hydrogen and electricity, and using photosynthetic bacteria, or algae, that can capture sunlight and be turned into liquid or gaseous fuels as well.

In addition, Alan Nelson, Biodesign’s executive director, will be among the featured speakers at the dinner along with Sharon Hesterlee, the senior vice president and executive director of MDA Venture Philanthropy in Tucson. Nelson will provide an update on the new Biodesign Impact Accelerator, a venture capital fund for foster and other university spin-out companies.

This largest annual gathering of scientific excellence will take place Sept. 24th at the Arizona Grand Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Scottsdale. Casper Meyer, with the Biodesign Institute, can be reached at (480) 727-4569 or joseph.caspersmeyer@asu.edu.
ASU Insight

3

THE NEWS

ASU experts frequently rely upon the local and national news media to provide information about these plans and issues in public interest.

following are excerpts of recent news articles featuring ASU representatives.

The wildlands of the American West – particularly parts of Southern California where the drought is the worst in more than a century – face a future in which the climate change, the new research suggests, will be far more severe and much worse than the local extreme weather conditions that the local weather forecasters are predicting, the researchers say.

In the new era of personalized medicine, patients who seek earlier diagnoses and treatment options may find that the latest technologies are not only new and innovative, but also more effective and less invasive.

Networkers from around the world who want to study the intersection of science with law and policy.

For more information, contact the ASU News site: www.asu.edu/news/.
Lectures

Friday, Sept. 18

“*I'm Keeping an Eye on You.*” 11 a.m., ASU Art Museum. Curator John Spak discusses the museum’s exhibition by the same name (Sept. 19-Dec. 12). Information: (480) 965-2787.


“Fungal Endophytes From the Tropics to the Tundra: Clues to the Evolution of Mycorrhizal Photobiont Symbiosis.” 2-3 p.m., Biodesign Institute room B105. Information: (480) 965-2787.


“DNA Sequencing.” 3:30 p.m., Biodesign Institute room B105. Information: (480) 965-2787.

Saturday, Sept. 19

“Architecture of the Deer Valley Rock Art Center.” 1-2 p.m., Deer Valley Rock Art Center, 3771 W. Deer Valley Road, Phoenix. Bruder describes the visitor’s center, which is a Phoenix Point of Pride. Information: (623) 582-8007.

“Local News: The Primetime Anchors.” 7-8 p.m., Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Information: (480) 965-4073.

“Confessions of an Alien Hunter.” 7:30 p.m., Tempe Center for the Arts. Information: (480) 965-7682.

“Kids Without Healthcare: A Problem We Can Solve.” 7:30 p.m., Appleton Auditorium, School of Life Sciences (BA) room 341. Information: (480) 965-2093.


Friday, Sept. 25


“High Performance Computing at ASU.” 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Biodesign Institute Auditorium. Information: (480) 965-9063.

“Towards 'True' Lab on Chip.” 3:30-5:30 p.m., PS H-150. Information: (480) 965-9063.

Saturday, Sept. 26

“LEGAM: Learning and Evaluating Geographic Information Applications.” 4:45-5:45 p.m., W. P. Carey School of Business, Tempe campus. Information: (480) 965-2705.

“New Approaches to the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.” 4:10-5:10 p.m, PS F-173. Information: Seth Shostak, Search for the Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). Sponsored by the School of Earth and Space Exploration. Refreshments served at 4 p.m. Information: (480) 965-2350.

“Language in a Digital Age.” 4:30 p.m., Business Administration Building (BA) room 341. Speaker: James Gee, the Tauba Moringa Chair in Reading in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Wisconsin at Madison. Sponsored by the Rhetoric Society of America at ASU. Information: jrosehalb@asu.edu.

“Kuroshio Power Plant Project of Taiwan.” 4:40-5:30 p.m., Global Institute of Sustainability (GIS) room 481. Speaker: Fanlin Chen, Institute of Applied Mechanics, Energy Research Center, national Taiwan University. The Engineering Systems seminar series is co-sponsored by the ASU Center for Environmental Fluid Dynamics and the Global Institute of Sustainability. Information: http://gis.asu.edu/events/arrhenius or kuroshio@asu.edu.

Film/discussion: “Flow: For the Love of Water.” 5:30-9:30 p.m., BA C-218. A critically acclaimed documentary that examines the issues of corporate ownership of global water supplies and access to clean water as a fundamental human right. Part of the Environmental Justice Film and Discussion Series. Sponsored by Department of English and Interdisciplinary Humanities and Communications. Information: (480) 965-7611.

Friday, Oct. 2

“The Hawaiian Coffee for Southern African Community-Based Wildlife Management: CAMPFIRE in Zimbabwe and Conservancies in Namibia.” 2-3 p.m., ES L-104. Information: viktoria.turner@asu.edu or (508) 826-3127.

“Towards ‘True’ Lab on Chip.” 3:30-5:30 p.m., PS H-150. Information: (480) 965-2705.

“Kids Without Healthcare: A Problem We Can Solve.” 7:30 p.m., Appleton Auditorium, School of Life Sciences (BA) room 341. Information: (480) 965-2093.

Saturday, Oct. 3

“‘Legally Blonde’ the musical makes stop at Gammage.” 7:30 p.m. Information:票务信息（亚利桑那州立大学艺术博物馆）（480）965-2787.

Sunday, Oct. 4

“Towards ‘True’ Lab on Chip.” 3:30-5:30 p.m., PS H-150. Information: (480) 965-2705.

“Kids Without Healthcare: A Problem We Can Solve.” 7:30 p.m., Appleton Auditorium, School of Life Sciences (BA) room 341. Information: (480) 965-2093.

“Installing the Exhibition ‘CLUES TO THE EVOLUTION OF MYCOBIONT-PHOTOBIONT SYMBIOSIS.’” 7:30-8:30 p.m., Gammage Auditorium, on the ASU campus. Information: (480) 965-2093.

“Towards ‘True’ Lab on Chip.” 3:30-5:30 p.m., PS H-150. Information: (480) 965-2705.

“Kids Without Healthcare: A Problem We Can Solve.” 7:30 p.m., Appleton Auditorium, School of Life Sciences (BA) room 341. Information: (480) 965-2093.

Wednesday, Oct. 7

“‘Legally Blonde’ the musical makes stop at Gammage.” 7:30 p.m. Information:票务信息（亚利桑那州立大学艺术博物馆）（480）965-2787.

Sunday, Oct. 11

“Towards ‘True’ Lab on Chip.” 3:30-5:30 p.m., PS H-150. Information: (480) 965-2705.

Resuming Writing: Selling Your Professional Skills,.mongodb.org/...
Artist Mel Chin is known for a broad range of approaches in his art including works that require multidisciplinary, collaborative teamwork and works that conjure cross-cultural aesthetics with complex ideas. His work often involves art into unlikely places, including destroyed homes, toxic landfill sites and even popular television, as he investigates how art can provoke greater social awareness and responsibility. These projects are consistent with a conceptual philosophy which emphasizes the practice of art to include sculpting and bridging natural and social ecologies.

Chin will be presenting his work at ASU in an upcoming lecture on Sept. 24. His current project, “Fundraiser Dollar Bill/Operation Paydirt,” is an attempt to make pass-Katrina New Orleans a lead-free city. To be part of this workshop, or to learn more information about the lecture, visit the Web site Fundraiser.org.

The lecture will take place at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 24, in Neub Hall. For more information on the lecture, visit the ASU Art Museum Web site http://asumuseum.asu.edu or call (480) 965-2787.
University recognizes leaders in research, teaching and outreach

(Continued from page 1)

Thomas Carlaw was named associate professor of public affairs in the College of Public Programs. Yu (Kevin) Cao was promoted to associate professor of electrical engineering in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering.

These exemplary faculty have received an extra salary increase in addition to a hardship payment, and a $10,000 per year award for five years to assist them in advancing their scholarly and creative endeavors.

Tohe, an internationally recognized poet and writer of creative nonfiction, is an important voice for Native peoples and culture. He has written 15 books and two song texts. Her book “Tiey, Deep in the Rock” was a Gwyn Award for best poetry and won Best Book by the Arizona Book Association. It was also selected as the Southwest Book of the Year. “Sister Nations,” an anthology of poetry and short stories by Native American women, is widely read in high schools and college courses in English and American literature.

Last year Tohe was commissioned to write a libretto for the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, “Enemy Slayer: A Navajo Opera,” which was performed to critical acclaim. She also is invited to speak before groups throughout the country.

“In her research and creative work, Professor Tohe successfully integrates meaningful discourses of difference, in a way that profoundly impacts audiences in her classrooms and far beyond,” says Maureen Daly Goggin, the interim chair of the Department of English. “Her award-winning books, counternarratives, poems, myriad invited essays, chapters and lectures, collaboratively conceived presentations and new and emerging venues to diversify communities align her with the best offered by ASU.”

Bimonte-Nelson is an exceptional talent with unbridled enthusiasm, a prolific writer who is engaged with the work of discovery, an exquisitely creative scientist and a colleague with a genuine regard for inclusion and collaboration,” says Christian ljungberg, the department of psychology’s chair. “Her work is a marvelous classroom instructor and research mentor. She represents the very best of the discipline,” says Robert Nemanich, the dean of Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering.

To help develop a world-class particle physics and astrophysics program, the world-renowned physicist and member of the American Physical Society, a high-profile research program with national and international recognition. He has been successful in recruiting graduate students and has been able to secure increased grant funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for his research in hadronic and nuclear physics, despite cutbacks in federal funding for the NSF.

“Professor Bimonte-Nelson has helped define new directions for his collaborators and other researchers,” says Robert Nemani, the chair of the Department of Physics. “He has generated excitement in the department and has been tremendously involved in bringing together other faculty and researchers to address some of the most significant problems in the field. Andrei has had a remarkable impact on the field of particle and nuclear physics.”

McGraw, an evolutionary biologist whose work has focused on coloration and pigments in birds, has been heavily involved in research and outreach since coming to ASU five years ago. He has received two Outstanding Young Investigator awards from the American Ornithologists’ Union and, he co-edited two landmark volumes on bird coloration, published more than 100 journal articles and has been an associate editor for two journals in his field.

His work has received such wide attention that he has been invited to give seminars at several prestigious American universities and international research institutions. He also serves as the interna- tional co-principal investigator of the American Ornithologists’ Union没人 belief in the mission to bring more native and international students into STEM fields. His work has been widely recognized in the field of electronic design automation, semiconductor technology modeling and design tools behind nanowire circuit design and imple- mentation. How can we better understand our differences and communicate across them? Bimonte-Nelson believes that difference rather than sameness, as suggested by integrating nanoscale circuit design, an interdisciplinary approach to practice at the Center for Community Development and Civil Rights at ASU, with whom she has also pursued new projects with the board of the Arizona Latino Research Enterprise.

To sign up to compete in A Night of Dance, contact Berchini at lucy.berchini@asu.edu or (480) 965-6991.

Other attendees will have the opportunity to learn and practice their own cultural steps.

“Hispanic Heritage Month events, con- tact Berchini at lucy.berchini@asu.edu or (480) 965-6991.

By Matt Crum

A Boy Named Charlie Brown

“Now is the time to come in and apply to avoid the rush,” says University Center Building’s La Sala ballroom.

Events are scheduled through Oct. 16.

An evening with Raul Yzaguirre starts at 6:30 p.m. in the La Sala ballroom, in the University Center Ballroom.

Other attendees will have the opportunity to learn and practice their own cultural steps.

This event features a dance contest in which couples will be judged on their performance of traditional dancing and cumbia dances.

At least one member of each couple in the competition must be an ASU student, faculty member or staff member.

Hispanic Heritage Month events honor Hispanic heritage

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A Boy Named Charlie Brown

“A Boy Named Charlie Brown” kicked off with an evening of dance and cumbia steps.

A Boy Named Charlie Brown

“The play focuses on a 10-year-old boy in Yuma, Ariz., who would grow up to become one of the nation’s great civil-rights leaders. ASU faculty member James Garcia was a member of the cast, and he will reprise his role in the upcoming performances.”

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Grants to advance research on asthma disparities

(Continued from page 1)

Perhaps of critical importance, but not extensively researched, is the role that culture, acculturation and illness representations – such as the way the parent interprets asthma – may play in parents' asthma treatment decisions.

The factors leading to asthma health disparities among Mexican and Puerto Rican children are complex, yet little research has been conducted that integrates, in one explanatory model, the multitude of factors that can lead to these disparities, among Latino children. Illness representations and the associated treatment decisions (CAM and controlled medication use) are two factors that need additional study.

Kimberly Sidor-Arcoleo, an assistant professor in the Center for Children, Teens & Families at the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, can be reached at (602) 496-0877 or olbrysh@asu.edu.

By Marshall Terrill

A state civics coalition has concluded that Arizona schools need for resuscitation. At the expense of teaching foundational principles of American democracy, Arizona public schools instead have focused their energy and resources on preparing students for high-stakes standardized testing.

“The Arizona Civic Education Study,” written by the Arizona Civics Campaign and The Center for Civic Education and Leadership, states that current civics testing is falling away from civics education because it is not a tested topic. The subject is being taught without relevance to students’ lives, and teachers are overstretched and overstressed by existing mandates for reading, writing and mathematics.

“We live in an era where everybody is constantly Gatekeeper: so wonderful, but what about the sustain- sustainability of democracy?” says Sher- Maren Ellert, the director of the Center for Civic Education and Leadership. “The foundation of democracy starts in our public schools. If Arizona’s students understand that Arizona has pushed civics education to the back burner. We need to teach our children how to participate fully and responsibly as citizens.”

The study was released a day before Constitution Day, a combined event that com- memorates the formation and signing of the Constitution of the United States on Sept. 17, 1787. It also re- cognizes all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become U.S. citizens, which is celebrated nationally on Sept. 17.

Elliott said the Arizona Civic Educa- tion Study was administered in 2006 for the purposes of evaluating the perception of civics education within the Arizona public school curriculum among high school seniors and the civics needs of Arizona schools and districts. To achieve this goal, a working group of 10 Arizona educators, in partnership with ASU, compiled a comprehensive measure of civic en- gagement, civics education in Arizona’s public schools. The study was supported by grants from the national Civics Education Trust and the Arizona Civic Education Foundation.

Key study recommendations include integration of civics education in read- ing and writing curricula; creation of a standards-based social studies test or the addition of a category for AIMS; provision of opportunities for student volunteerism, service learning and civic participation in schools; encourage- ment of community and civic actively in their communities; and the engagement of students in innovative and meaningful curriculum with active learning strategies that stimu- late civic engagement.

Different states have their own or interested in establishing high standards for sci- ence. She is also a professor of the Arizona Civic Coalition, in- volved in civic education in Arizona schools and districts.

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, a combined event that com- memorates the formation and signing of the Constitution of the United States on Sept. 17, 1787. It also re- cognizes all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become U.S. citizens, which is celebrated nationally on Sept. 17.

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Key study recommendations include integration of civics education in read- ing and writing curricula; creation of a standards-based social studies test or the addition of a category for AIMS; provision of opportunities for student volunteerism, service learning and civic participation in schools; encourage- ment of community and civic actively in their communities; and the engagement of students in innovative and meaningful curriculum with active learning strategies that stimu- late civic engagement.

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Initiates introduces budding scientists to alternative solutions

By Carol Stowers

Rivals of the Earth will click down the nose of Kazee Olson as she guided an infrared gun along the inside of a solar oven she and her friends had designed. She then used a food- thermometer to take the internal temperature of a hot dog cooking on a hand-turned spit inside the oven.

“Our initial design was a box lined with aluminum foil,” Olson said. “We were thinking then to line it with tin and glued black paper discs to absorb more heat, the hot dog’s internal temperature steadied at 160 degrees. We knew that designing a project is an important step in the engineering design process.

The engineering design process was explored by 46 students from Mesa Unified School District’s Mesa, Mesa West, and Red Mountain high schools participating in the SRP Renewable Energy Summer Internship program. The internship is an award-winning two-year old partnership between ASU and the Salt River Project, designed to teach students about renewable energy and inspire them to consider STEM careers.

“Earlier this year, the innovative internship won the 2009 Arizona STEM Education and Water Conservation Program (AzSTEM) $10,000 prize, sponsored by The Salt River Project. The internship has been sponsored by SunEdison, Arizona Public Service, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, and the Arizona Commerce Authority.”

Students from various middle schools in the Mesa Unified School District explored an array of engineering design processes, including the construction of an operational solar cooker, as part of the SRP Renewable Energy Summer Internship offered by ASU’s Learning through Engineering Design and Practice project.

“Students completed the field trip by visiting the Learning through Engineering Design and Practice site, participating in a 10-month program that consists of full-time paid apprenticeships in nonprofit organizations, leadership trainings and team-service projects.”

Since the program’s inception three years ago, the ASU Lodestar Center has been training and mentoring talented young adults from diverse backgrounds, and advancing their leadership skills through participation in a 10-month program that consists of full-time paid apprenticeships in nonprofit organizations, leadership trainings and team-service projects.

Based on the strengths of the program, and the national expansion of the AmeriCorps programs, the ASU Lodestar Center’s Public Allies program was increased an increase from 25 slots to 48 slots for the 2009-2010 year.

This includes 12 “Second-Year Fellows” who are completing a second term of AmeriCorps service and participating in an advanced leadership development program.

Recovery Act dollars contributed to the ASU Lode- star Center’s grant of $445,000 this year from the Corporation for National and Community Service. A total of $1,513,399 in external grant dollars have been awarded to the ASU Lodestar Center in support of Public Allies in Arizona since the program launched in 2006.

When accounting for in-kind support as well as the funds contributed by the nonprofits to have an ally placed within their agencies, the total value of the program and impact to the community is more than $3.2 million this year and more than $1.8 million over the past three years.

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“The candidates this year were amazing, and we were almost exhorted to decide who would be glad for our best fit with our organization, since so many of them met (and exceeded) our criteria,” said Elizabeth Reich, the executive director of Visist “We finally chose two Public Allies and are looking forward to a successful year with both of them.”

“The Public Allies model of leadership development and capacity-building effort that works,” says Robert F. Ashcraft, the executive director of the ASU Lodestar Center and a professor of nonprofit studies in the School of Community Resources and Development.

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