Making the grade
A year’s worth of improvements at ASU work to enhance the student experience.

Student voices
ASU students weigh in on how the university has helped them navigate their college education.

Record-breaking academic year strengthens student experience
Universitewide advancements drive Arizona State University’s national standing, propel mission of impact

The 2007-2008 school year was a remarkable time to be a student at Arizona State University. Being a Sun Devil meant attending a university that was on the international radar, along with a multitude of national “best universities” lists. It meant being a leader in research and university sustainability, and an innovator in 21st century academics. It meant being a supporter of the right to higher education and the goal to make an impact with that education. Being a Sun Devil meant being part of an institution that is as robust as it is accessible, that is as engaging as it is receptive. As the number of ASU students continued to grow last year, so did the university’s national rankings, further demonstrating Arizona State University’s ability to grow both in size and quality.

ASU was ranked fourth best in “Up and Coming Schools” in the 2009 edition of “America’s Best Colleges” by U.S. News & World Report. The new ranking highlighted 70 “schools to watch” in terms of promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus life, diversity and facilities. Additionally, U.S. News & World Report placed ASU in the top tier for the second year in a row as one of the “Best National Universities” and positioned several of the university’s graduate programs among the top 25 in the nation. In the same school year, ASU was included as a leading school for Hispanic students on several lists, including The Princeton Review “The Condition of Latinos in Education: Fact Book 2008.”

Student voices: one student’s take on the changes implemented in the last year at ASU’s Polytechnic campus. Some improvements to services include the hiring of a disabilities resource director, as well as increasing the number of academic advisers and offerings in the library and Student Success Center. Since Garett Westlake’s arrival as the disability resource director, the number of students with disabilities being served on the Polytechnic campus has doubled. Upgrades to building access and other assistance have some students grateful for his support. “Garett has been very helpful to me with all my classes,” says Daniel Ligiaro, a sophomore in University College. “His guidance and assistance helped me earn a 3.17 grade point average.” With his help, I reached my goal of being accepted to the Cronkite School for fall 2009.

Other areas that students have noticed are in the library and Student Success Center on campus. The library increased staff training for both student and permanent staff members, which enables the help desk associates to answer more complex questions and get people started with their research. Additionally, more seats and study carrels have been added to provide a better learning environment. The library also installed messaging monitors throughout the Academic Center building to provide information on services and other activities in the library and throughout campus. “Open 95 hours each week and until midnight Sunday through Thursday, the library is often filled with people and has become a very popular place on campus,” says Brian Doherty, director of the Polytechnic Library.

And the Student Success Center has implemented new initiatives, including a Supplemental Instruction (SI) program for a chemistry course, as well as added a Morrison Writing Fellows through the writing center to tutor Morrison School of Management and Agribusiness students in business and technical writing. Additionally, a new collaboration with the environmental management technology program provides tutoring help to students.

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Arizona State University added 23 advisers; enhanced the eAdvising offerings in the library and Student Success Center. The university’s entering freshmen class includedCondition of Latinos in Education: Fact Book 2008.” His guidance and assistance have some students grateful for his support. “Garett has been very helpful to me with all my classes,” says Daniel Ligiaro, a sophomore in University College. “His guidance and assistance helped me earn a 3.17 grade point average.” With his help, I reached my goal of being accepted to the Cronkite School for fall 2009.

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Students succeed with added academic support, advising
By Christine Lambroks
Students grow a culture up to all the changes implemented in the last year at ASU’s Polytechnic campus. Some improvements to services include the hiring of a disabilities resource director, as well as increasing the number of academic advisers and offerings in the library and Student Success Center. Since Garett Westlake’s arrival as the disability resource director, the number of students with disabilities being served on the Polytechnic campus has doubled. Upgrades to building access and other assistance have some students grateful for his support. “Garett has been very helpful to me with all my classes,” says Daniel Ligiaro, a sophomore in University College. “His guidance and assistance helped me earn a 3.17 grade point average.” With his help, I reached my goal of being accepted to the Cronkite School for fall 2009.

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Students are at the heart of Arizona State University’s mission of access, excellence and impact. In the 2007-2008 academic year, ASU made many advancements in helping students get the most out of their educational investment.

From facility upgrades to implementing new curricula to enhancing student services, ASU aims to accommodate its students so they are able to get the most out of their educational experience.

Financial Aid

The Tempe campus’ Memorial Union underwent a major renovation and now offers a more contemporary environment.

ASU implemented a new green policy: ASU PUR 210. It states that all companies that want to do business with the university must pass a stringent test of their environmental practices: toxics and pollutants, bio-based products, toxic contamination, leaching, packaging, greening, etc.

For more information on the Tempe campus waterfront projects, please see the ASU Foundation profile.

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Focus on the Student: Students weigh in on university experience

By Natasha Karaczan

Samuel Moya
Freshman
Secondary Education
West campus

Samuel Moya, a secondary education major, has always known he would become a Sun Devil. Being involved in programs such as the Rodel Community Scholars, Young Life and Residential Life has helped him find out what interests him and what he might like to pursue in the future. “ASU has done more than guide me to a major and a career — it has shown me many different paths to take,” says Moya.

With the help of financial aid and academic scholarships, Moya has been able to finance his education. ASU has provided him with a wide variety of courses and opportunities to help achieve his education degree and life goals.

He describes his time spent at ASU to be “an engaging adventure” and says he has learned valuable lessons on how to balance his priorities. “I’m having the time of my life and learning something new every day. I am looking forward to future years here at ASU.”

Megan McGuire
Junior
Marketing / Certificate in Business
Tempe campus

For Megan McGuire, a junior studying marketing, it was the faculty and staff at ASU W. P. Carey School of Business that were her deciding factor to attend Arizona State University. Their dedication and willingness to help her succeed made the college stand out from many other universities she had researched. “I do have been not just a number. I was an individual with unique needs, ideas and dreams for the future,” says McGuire. She also found that despite ASU’s student enrollment.size, academic scholarships, financial aid from ASU has definitely helped smooth the transition into campus life. Without it, college would not have been a reality for me.

One of the resources I have found most helpful is a little reading by the reflecting pool. It is close to home and offered the most scholarship money and the most choices for degree programs. I became a Literature, Writing and Film major with the encouragement and support of my writing professors and my boss at the Student Success Center.

Working as a Student Success Center employee has molded my education, my desires, and has also opened up the opportunities of writing to me as a career. I think that working at the Student Success Center has made me more aware of the learning process and has allowed me to make the most of my education.

The new humanities program on the Polytechnic campus directly benefited me because it allowed me to stay on the campus that I love, enjoy the atmosphere that is Poly and continue my education. The Literature, Writing & Film degree program is my niche.

After college I plan to work and then return to higher education for my masters and then doctorate. Because of my personality, I will always enjoy being a student and lifelong learner.

Luz Osuna
Junior
Industrial Engineering
Tempe campus

Osuna is the president of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) at ASU.

I have had an awesome experience during the time I have been at ASU. During the summer before my senior year in high school, I participated in the Math-Science Honors Program at ASU. I was able to take a calculus class and live in the dorms. The whole experience opened up my world to so many different things and new people that I decided ASU was the place for me to go to college.

Also, the Industrial Engineering Department at ASU is one of the top 20 in the country, so this made my decision easier. I have received many scholarships from ASU. Most notably, I received the President’s Scholarship and the Armstrong Family Foundation Scholarship.

The Armstrong Family Foundation Scholarship opportunity to give back to the community through semi-annual trips to Mexico where the scholars build houses for people and conduct a food drive for a whole neighborhood.

Financial aid from ASU has definitely made a significant impact in my life. Without it, college would not have been a reality for me.

One of the resources I have found most useful as a student at ASU is the tutoring center at the Hassayampa dorms. The tutors were very knowledgeable and dependable, and thanks to them I was able to successfully complete a course that was particularly difficult for me.

In addition, my advisor is amazing. She always tries to help me with whatever she can, and her advice is always helpful. She is accessible, and she has written letters of recommendation for me.

After college, I hope to start my career in a company here in the Valley while continuing to be involved with SHPE.

Universitywide advancements propel ASU’s mission of impact

(Continued from page 1)

ASU received national merit for its sustainability-focused research, initiatives and programs. Sierra Magazine named ASU in its top 10 list of “coolest” schools.

Universitywide improvements further enhanced campus facilities. The school year brought with it a major renovation to the Tempe campus’ Memorial Union, which now offers students a more contemporary setting, as well as more variety in dining options. New luxury residence halls, such as downtown’s Taylor Place and Tempe’s Vista del Sol, provided students with greater housing options and state-of-the-art academic space opened up for students at the Polytechnic campus, as well as the Downtown Phoenix campus.

ASU ramped up its services to students with an expanded and enhanced university emergency text-message alert system that notifies students of university crises and directs them accordingly.

The university’s all-time high freshman retention rate might be attributed to the improvements made to the First Year Residential Experience program that helps students make a successful transition from high school to college.

And the university’s link to the job force became streamlined as more employers recruited on campus last year, and ASU Career Services reported a 15 percent increase in online job postings.

Additionally, the Sun Devil Entrepreneurship Network (SDEN), housed in ASU’s Department of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at SkySong, worked to connect the state’s vibrant startup community with the energy of entrepreneurial students. Available to students on all four campuses, SDEN placed 58 students with local businesses in its inaugural year, and is aiming for 150 by July 2009. The entrepreneurship-focused internship gives students a real-world experience and offers companies the advantage of young, fresh talent.

Teaching for young talent, Teach for America selected Phoenix as the site for the sixth Teach for America Institute in the United States. ASU will play a major role in hosting new corps members and staff.

With a year’s worth of improvements and additions, Arizona State University is further driving its mission of access, excellence and impact. The university’s growing student body not only is well positioned to earn a college degree from a top-ranked school, but to gain the vital experience needed to adapt to a rapidly changing 21st-century work force.