

## From the Executive Editor

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Social Sciences at ASU newsletter, which replaces the CLAS News magazine we previously sent you twice a year.

Through an alumni survey we conducted last year, we learned two

things that influenced our creation of this publication: 1. like everyone else, you're pressed for time; 2. you're more

interested in reading news about your academic area than about the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as a whole.

We hope this streamlined publication focused on the social sciences makes it easier for you to keep updated on and stay connected with your alma mater. The newsletter's content reflects ASU's vision of being a New American University, promoting *excellence*, increasing *access* and having a positive *impact* on the community, whether locally or globally.

Please let us know what you think. To register your opinion, complete a quick survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/socialsciences](http://www.surveymonkey.com/socialsciences) or e-mail me directly at [barby.grant@asu.edu](mailto:barby.grant@asu.edu).

I look forward to hearing from you.



Barby Grant  
Director of Communication  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

## ASU researcher discovers evidence of earliest modern humans

Academic researchers are not often in the limelight. But last fall ASU paleoanthropologist Curtis Marean got a taste of celebrity, fielding more than 25 media interviews and garnering coverage in more than 300 news outlets worldwide in the space of a few days. The flurry of interest followed the announcement that he had discovered what some consider the earliest evidence of modern human behavior seen to date.

A faculty member of the ASU Institute of Human Origins, Marean led an international team of researchers who discovered hearths, tiny stone blades (bladelets), shellfish remains and red ochre pigments in a seaside cave overlooking the Indian Ocean on the southern coast of South Africa. The artifacts, dating to

164,000 years ago, show that humans were using tools and possibly symbols much earlier than previously thought. Before these findings, the earliest bladelet technology was dated at 70,000 years ago.

The remains of shellfish found in the cave provide the first evidence of humans focusing their lives at the coast and expansion of the diet to include marine resources. This move to oceanside living may have been crucial to early human evolution and survival.

"Generally speaking, coastal areas were of no use to early humans—unless they knew how to use the sea as a food source," says Marean, who also is a professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change. "For millions of years, our earliest hunter-gatherer relatives only ate terrestrial plants and animals. Shellfish was one of the last additions to the human diet before domesticated plants and animals were introduced."

Previously the earliest evidence for use of marine resources was dated at about 125,000 years ago. The new findings push that date back by about 40,000 years.

"This very well could have been a response to the extreme environmental conditions they were experiencing," Marean says. "The world was in a glacial stage 125,000 to 195,000 years ago, and much of Africa was dry to mostly desert. In many areas food would have been difficult to acquire."

Evidence of modern behavior is important to geneticists and physical anthropologists hoping to

identify the progenitor population for modern humans. Recent analyses of the human genome suggest that all modern humans are descended from a very small (~600 individuals) group of Africans that lived between 200,000 and 100,000 years ago. The fossil evidence is consistent in showing that modern humans arose at this time in Africa. It is possible that this small group of people who struggled through the glacial period along the coast of South Africa could be ancestors to us all.

The discovery of early coastal living has additional significance. It provides new clues for scientists interested in the migration of humans out of Africa.

"Coastlines generally make great migration routes," Marean says. "Knowing how to exploit the sea for food meant these early humans could now use coastlines as

productive home ranges and move long distances."

Scientists also are unsure when modern behaviors such as symbolic thinking and use of technology emerged. The red ochre pigments that Marean's team found are the earliest securely dated and published evidence of pigment use so far. The researchers speculate that the pigments were used for body painting and perhaps coloring of other organic surfaces. Such symbolic behavior is viewed as one of the clues that modern language may have been present in a society.

Marean and his team, which included three ASU graduate students, published their findings in the journal *Nature* last October. This fall, Marean will be one of six presenters at the prestigious Nobel Conference in Minnesota. The annual conference typically attracts about 6,000 scholars and students to hear presentations by the world's foremost scientists. Marean and his fellow presenters from the University of Oxford, Stanford University, Princeton Theological Seminary, the Smithsonian Institution and the Max Planck Institute in Germany will address the question "Who Were the First Humans?"

Meanwhile, Marean continues exploring in South Africa to uncover further answers to that question. His research is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Download a video showing a 3D model of the cave findings at <http://sacp4.asu.edu/media.shtml>.



Curtis Marean examines an area of a cave in South Africa where he found artifacts dating to 164,000 years ago. The findings include ochre specimens with scrape marks (left).



Photo courtesy of Don Johnson; photo at left courtesy of The Mossel Bay Archaeology Project

## New graduate programs focus on families in need

According to recent data, Arizona's children and families are at greater risk for a variety of psychological, behavioral and emotional problems than those in the U.S. as a whole. Two new graduate programs in the School of Social and Family Dynamics will prepare professionals to help prevent those problems and support families in need.

The new **MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDY IN INFANT AND FAMILY PRACTICE** will train professionals to work in prevention and intervention programs serving families with infants, toddlers and preschool-age children. The self-contained 12-month program, which begins this fall, requires 30 semester hours of coursework and supervised internships.

The aim is to develop mental health professionals who practice in ways that are developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs of young children and their families. The program places special emphasis on early-childhood mental health and well-being.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to earn the newly established professional endorsement of the Infant/Toddler Mental Health Coalition of Arizona. The group has reciprocity agreements with a number of other states.

The new **MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDY IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY** will help meet the expanding need for licensed marriage and family therapists in Arizona and nationwide. It, too, is a self-contained accelerated program of high-quality coursework and supervised internship experiences.

The 39-credit hour, 18-month program trains professionals for licensure in Arizona to practice marriage and family therapy. The license is recognized across the country.

Marriage and family therapists are mental health professionals trained and licensed to diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders within the context of marriage, couples and families. Currently, there are few programs in Arizona and the surrounding region to train MFTs.

"Leaders of human-service organizations and related state agencies agree on the need for more professionals who are trained to support at-risk children and families," says Richard Fabes, director of the School of Social and Family Dynamics. "We expect there to be considerable competition for the limited slots in both of our new professional master's degree programs."

## Center to study institutional diversity

Competition for land, water and other limited resources is intensifying as societies grow, change and become ever more independent. The institutions—or sets of rules—that govern our use of resources must weigh many, and often conflicting, needs.

A new research center at ASU aims to help decision-makers and those in policy development better understand how different types of institutions perform within different social-ecological systems. Formally approved last summer and officially launched in January, the Center for the Study of Institutional Diversity explores some of society's most challenging questions. These include: How do we balance conservation with development? What sustainability policies are most effective? How do we assess the impact of our resource use?

Situated in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, the center brings together mathematicians, political scientists, anthropologists, economists and others. Laboratory research, field work, archival activities and mathematical and agent-based modeling will meld in ways that are meant to inform sustainable development decisions.

Elinor Ostrom, a research professor at ASU and a political economist, is the center's founding director. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Ostrom joined the ASU faculty last year on a part-time basis.

"Resource management needs to be approached differently in different situations," says Ostrom. "This center's work will provide insights that will help communities choose effective, sustainable resource-management strategies based on their specific ecology, needs and culture."

In addition to its research objectives, the center will focus on teaching and curriculum development. Among its aims is to develop teaching materials for high school through graduate-level education.

## Advancing the college

### New hires aim to engage alumni, donors

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Advancement Office is under new leadership. **BRAD SHAFER** joined the college as assistant dean for advancement and director of development in August and is working to strengthen relationships with alumni and friends who wish to invest in the college.

Shafer has hired **JENNIFER MARSTEEN** as a development officer and **JOSEPH BEHRENS** as assistant development officer for alumni relations and annual giving. Marsteen's focus is in fundraising, while Behrens' role is to bolster and broaden the college's alumni and donor-relations programs and increase social and networking opportunities for alumni.



## For Luc Anselin, top location for geography is ASU

Location, location, location. Everyone has heard that old real estate mantra. But it isn't just real estate where location matters. According to Luc Anselin, the new director of the School of Geographical Sciences, *everything* pertains to location.

Anselin joined ASU last fall. This spring he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors that can be accorded a scientist. Anselin is one of the principal developers of the emerging field of spatial econometrics, which he defines as the application of mathematics and statistics to economic questions and economic models in which spatial aspects are important.

He has made significant contributions to the methodologies that further understanding of how space is structured. The insights gained can be useful in developing policies that deal with location and spatial discrepancies. Where do people shop? Who has access to health care? Where are crime hot spots?

"My whole career has been almost like missionary work—telling people why space is important and how it affects significant world issues," notes Anselin, who also is a Foundation Professor of geographical sciences. "Researchers can bring new insights to the table that you don't get when you ignore location. It also provides the glue between the social and physical sciences."

Anselin's plans for the school include developing an interdisciplinary, research-driven culture. He will do so by expanding the former geography department's strengths, building the graduate program and recruiting outstanding and diverse faculty with an interest in spatial phenomena.

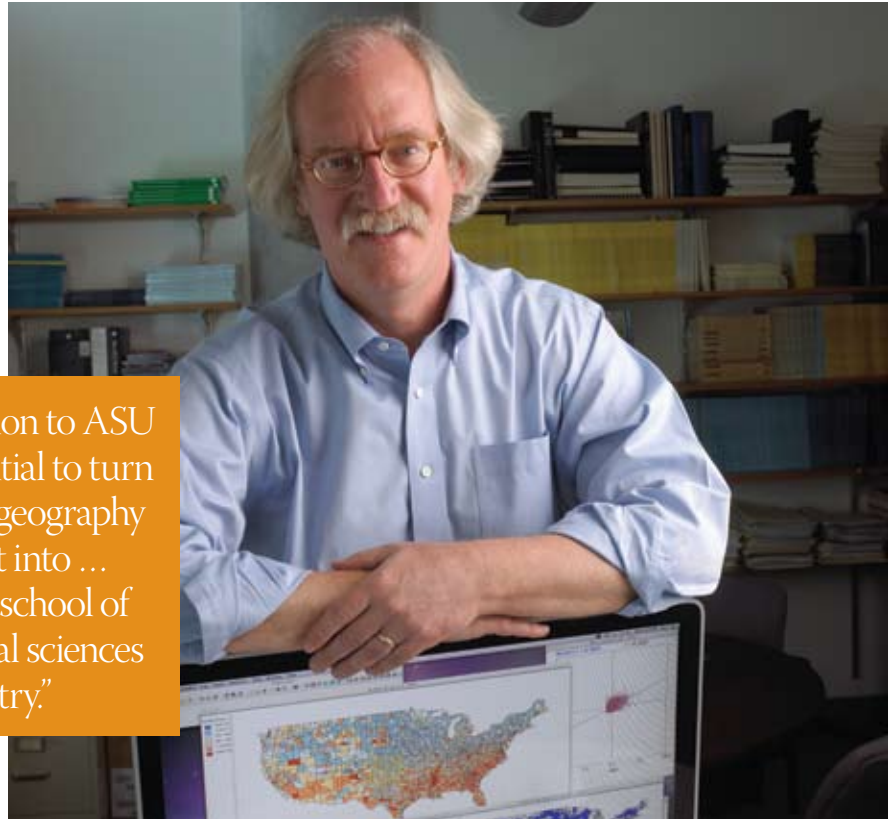
"The attraction to ASU is the potential to turn the former geography department into a school that is something special—eventually the leading school of geographical sciences in the country," notes Anselin.

The school moved closer to that goal with the recent hiring of Billie Lee Turner II, a national leader in sustainability science and a fellow member of the National Academy of Sciences. With his hiring and Anselin's recent election to NAS, ASU will boast one of the few U.S. geography programs with two National Academy of Sciences members on its faculty.

Other recent notable hires include experts in location modeling and spatial analysis, geocomputation and new urbanism. A landscape ecology and biophysical remote sensing expert will join ASU in fall 2009.

In addition to hiring new faculty and leading the school, Anselin started and directs the GeoDa Center for Geospatial Analysis and Computation. He also is the developer of the SpaceStat and GeoDa software

"The attraction to ASU is the potential to turn the former geography department into ... the leading school of geographical sciences in the country."



packages for spatial data analysis. Prior to joining ASU, he directed the Spatial Analysis Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and was a senior research scientist at the National Center of Supercomputing Applications.

"This is a naturally interdisciplinary field to begin with, and it can contribute to much more than just geography," states Anselin. "The way I look at it, the school will contribute to such disciplines as social sciences, environmental sciences, planning and sustainability by bringing the spatial components front and center."

## IN MEMORIAM

*The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences mourns the loss of the following emeritus faculty member from the social sciences division:*

**MORRIS AXELROD**, professor emeritus of sociology, died July 10, 2007, from advanced arteriosclerosis. He was 90.

Axelrod joined ASU in 1972 as professor of sociology and director of the Survey Research Laboratory. He retired from the university on Jan. 1, 1987.

Memorial donations may be made to the Hillel Jewish Student Center at ASU to support the "Tuesday Lunch Fund," 1012 S. Mill Ave., Tempe, AZ 85281.





Winning ASU's Academic Bowl last fall against 16 teams from across the university was only the beginning of the triumphs for a group of super-smart students from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. They went on to win the College Bowl Regional Championship Tournament in February, where they took nine out of 10 matches against teams from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. In April, the team competed against the top 15 teams from around the country at the national College Bowl competition, where they placed 7th. ASU team captain Carlos Ross (with trophy), a senior majoring in Japanese, was named a national tournament All-Star. Erin Hutchinson (far right), a senior majoring in history and global studies; Kenneth Lan (far left), a freshman majoring in biology and bioengineering; and Eli Bliss (in cap), a graduate student who received a bachelor's degree in mathematics in December, joined Ross on the ASU team.

## Two Social and Family Dynamics faculty named 2007 exemplars

Two "rising stars" from the School of Social and Family Dynamics were among the seven newly tenured faculty members named by ASU President Michael Crow as faculty exemplars last fall. The honor recognizes them as exemplars of the finest teacher-scholars the university has to offer.

**TRACY SPINRAD's** father is an astronomy professor, so she had lots of exposure to "nerdy scientists" in her youth. It wasn't until college that she discovered a different model of teacher.

"On my first day of college I attended a human development class and was surprised to find that the professor was nothing like the nerdy, quirky scientist I had been exposed to growing up," says Spinrad. "She was a fantastic and fascinating teacher, scholar and researcher. I became hooked on research with children."

Now Spinrad, whose research focuses on young children's social and emotional development, is herself establishing a reputation as an excellent teacher. She is in demand as a student adviser and mentor, and she regularly involves students in her research, training them in data collection and including them in her publications.

"My objective has been to expose students to the difficulties and rewards inherent in scientific research," she notes.

Since joining ASU in 2000, Spinrad has published extensively, including co-authoring a chapter in the new edition of the Handbook of Child Psychology. The book is considered the definitive reference on core child-psychology topics, and her participation as a junior faculty member is atypical.

Spinrad is quick to acknowledge those who have mentored her over the years. And, in turn, she hopes to be a good mentor to other young faculty and students.

"I am very grateful for the mentorship I have received," she says. "I owe much of my success to my mentors and collaborators here, and I hope I can do the same for others."

**ADRIANA UMAÑA-TAYLOR** is a pioneer in the study of Latino families and youth. Her cutting-edge research has generated deeper interest in the study of ethnic identity among different ethnic communities in the U.S., not just Latino populations.

Her work has appeared in top journals focused on family studies, adolescent development and cultural psychology in addition to niche journals. Her research centers on Latino adolescents' ethnic identity formation, the role family members play in the developmental process and the ways in which their ethnic identity influences their lives.

Umaña-Taylor was recruited to ASU in 2004 as part of the Southwest Borderlands Initiative. Her hiring is one example of the bold innovation in faculty recruitment that the initiative, a long-term faculty appointment plan, seeks to make as it builds upon the university's existing strengths in borderlands research.

Umaña-Taylor's teaching emphasizes "active learning," with students participating in lively class discussions, as well as reflective writing activities and supervised research. She often mentors students by co-publishing and co-presenting with them.

"I want to provide my students with solid training in conducting research with Latinos so they are equipped to become the future leaders in the field," she says. "I work closely with my students to identify their strengths and provide suggestions for improving the areas in which they are less skilled. I view my contributions to my students' careers among my greatest achievements."



## Student, professor earn multiple honors

ASU students and faculty regularly earn prestigious awards and honors too numerous to list. One student and one professor in the social sciences enjoyed such an outstanding year, however, that they deserve special mention.

The student, **MEGAN MCGINNITY**, is a super-achiever extraordinaire. Before graduating in May with degrees in political science and economics, she won a host of illustrious awards. In her senior year alone, she received a Marshall Scholarship, was named to USA Today's All-USA College Academic First Team and won a William E. Simon Fellowship for Noble Purpose. She is the first ASU student ever to win the latter award.

McGinnity plans to study in London this fall. As an undergraduate, she traveled around the world investigating child slavery and human trafficking.

The faculty member, **JANE BUIKSTRA**, earns distinction for winning not one but two lifetime achievement awards this year. A professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Buikstra received the prestigious Charles Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award in April from the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. That honor followed her receipt in February of a similar honor from the American Academy of Forensic Science, the T. Dale Stewart Award.

Buiksta is one of the founders of modern bioarchaeology. She also is one of 11 National Academy of Sciences members at ASU.

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## First-Generation Scholar sees world of opportunities

When Briana Jones says the world is ripe with opportunity, the axiom takes on fresh meaning. The 22-year-old has taken advantage of numerous opportunities many people only dream of: spending a year in Mexico as a teenager, then returning three times, and visiting Europe five times.

Jones was just 15 when her Spanish teacher at Lake Havasu (Ariz.) High School asked the class who might like to spend a year abroad as a foreign exchange student. Jones' hand was the first in the air.

She went to Mexico and became fluent in Spanish in a language immersion program. But the role she relished most was that of working with children; she taught English to local kids while attending her own classes. The experience would drive her educational and career aspirations from then on.

Jones' next opportunity was of her own making. Upon her return from Mexico, she immediately began saving to travel again. Despite many hours spent working at Burger King and K-Mart, she excelled in high school and graduated a semester early. At 17, she used her hard-earned dollars to backpack through Europe.

Then Jones enrolled at ASU, becoming the first in her family to attend college. Along with other scholarship aid, she received a First-Generation Scholarship, which helps students whose parents do not have a college education overcome the formidable financial obstacles they often face en route to their baccalaureate degree.

Jones' parents, a heavy machinery operator and a

former bartender, couldn't afford to send her to college. The First-Generation Scholarship she received, one of 20 funded by The Bidstrup Foundation, enabled her to cut back on her work hours while attending ASU. Jones had worked nearly full time since age 14.

"The scholarship made it easier for me to focus on my studies," says Jones. "I didn't have to worry about killing myself working."

Jones sees her ASU education as yet another opportunity—one that will enable her to see more of the world and do more to help the underprivileged, especially children. She chose a degree in the liberal arts and sciences because of her Mexico experience, knowing she wanted to work internationally.

In the fall of her sophomore year at ASU, Jones studied in Amsterdam. She learned Dutch and participated in a United Nations conference and a World

Bank Seminar Series focused on global issues.

After completing an internship with the Arizona Supreme Court this spring, Jones graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science in May. She is confident her future holds untold opportunities.

In the fall, she will begin a graduate program in Amsterdam. Jones hopes one day to work in developing countries with an international charity or educational organization, or perhaps with a non-governmental organization.

"There are so many things I want to do," she states. "I was blessed to have the opportunity to obtain such a wonderful education. I wish every child in the world could be afforded the same luxury."



## Come back to campus ...

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 30, 2008**

**JONATHAN AND  
MAXINE MARSHALL  
DISTINGUISHED  
LECTURE**

**7 P.M.**

**ASU's Gammage  
Auditorium**

Speaker: **Calvin Trillin**,  
humorist and journalist

Topic: **"The Writing Game"**

More info: 480-965-1441



**SATURDAY, NOV. 15, 2008**

**ASU HOMECOMING 2008**

**3 - 4 P.M.**

**Homecoming Parade**

**4 - 7 P.M.**

**Block Party and Picnic**

Order picnic tickets in advance  
(\$10 each) at 480-965-1441.

**7 P.M.**

**Football Game:**

**ASU vs. Washington State**

More info: [http://clas.asu.edu/  
alumni/homecoming/](http://clas.asu.edu/alumni/homecoming/)



## ASU geographer's computer model predicts crowd behavior

*Groups of synthetic pedestrians interact with dynamic virtual environments. Calamity—or calm—ensues.*

Description of a popular new computer game? Or a scenario from the cutting-edge computer simulation work being done by geographer Paul Torrens?

It is, in fact, a description of Torrens' 3-D computational model for studying crowd behavior. Torrens uses the model to test theories, but his work may someday have application in fields as diverse as public safety, urban planning, homeland security and health care.

Torrens, an associate professor of geographical sciences, has developed a model of crowd behavior that is unlike previous models. His virtual crowds are not composed of identical entities. Instead, he has been able to endow the individuals in his crowds with human behavioral traits that make them process what is going on around them and react accordingly.

Using an approach he calls "agent-based methodology," Torrens makes his individual people, or agents, unique by incorporating into each such characteristics as age, size and health. The agents can take autonomous action, reacting individually to the emotions and

motions of the crowd around them. His life-like agents can choose to rush a solitary door during a fire, partici-

pate in a brewing riot or collaborate during the panic following a car bomb explosion.

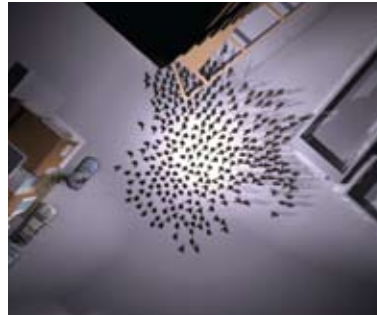
"My crowd modeling will serve as an experimental, but wholly realistic, environment for exploring 'what-if' and unforeseen scenarios of relevance to cities and their citizens," says Torrens.

Already, law enforcement officers and city officials who organize emergency-response efforts have expressed interest in the simulations. Urban planners, public health officials and event coordinators may find the model useful in the future.

Torrens' work, which is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, has received widespread attention from both the mainstream and technical media, including Discover Magazine, Forbes, The Futurist and Architect, among others. Popular Science will publish an article on his research in August.

"What has most excited me about the media attention is that I've made a lot of contacts—people who want to know more about the science behind the model and the relevance of space and place," says Torrens. "So many people don't 'get' geography. The societal relevance of this model has given me the opportunity to explain geography and talk about the value of social science."

Currently Torrens is working on a small-scale model of epidemiology, studying the factors that affect the health and illness of populations. He will arm his model's agents with flu and examine how the infectious disease can be passed through casual contact.



Paul Torrens (left) with still images from his interactive model of crowd evacuation dynamics in a dense urban setting, used to explore individual and collective behavior under emergency scenarios.

## Two social sciences alumni earn college honors

**JENNY NORTON** (B.S. in justice studies, 1993) was inducted into the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Hall of Fame last fall. Norton leads a social-justice ministry as an assistant pastor at a church in Chandler, Ariz., and is an auxiliary chaplain for the state Department of Corrections. Norton and her husband, Bob Ramsey, support underrepresented communities in Arizona through five ASU endowments.



"I love my school. It helped to create who I am and the path I have followed."



"I relish being a part of something that is purposefully growing and building."

**CHRISTINE DUFF MULDOON** (M.A. in communication, 1979) received the college's 2007 Distinguished Achievement Award. Muldoon is a communication coach and consultant whose clients include IBM, Intel and NASA. Muldoon will assume the presidency of the college's Dean's Advisory Council this fall, and she supports communication students through an endowment that funds scholarships and fellowships.

## 1965

**Martin Rosenberg** (B.A., anthropology) is president of Rosenberg Associates and lives in Santa Fe, N.M.

## 1968

**William A. Albright** (B.A., political science) is an assistant director at the Arizona Registrar of Contractors. He also holds a law degree from ASU.

**Nadia McConnell** (B.A., political science) is president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation in Washington, D.C. She received a state award from Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko last fall.

## 1971

**Ronald Vossler** (B.A., anthropology) is a member of the International Coordinating Committee of the Ukrainian World Congress. Last year, the Read North Dakota Project named his book "Dakota Kraut" as one of the top memoirs of the past century.

## 1975

**Marsha Cosentino** (B.A., political science) published her book, "Spelt Healthy! Quality Whole Food Cooking and Baking with Spelt," last fall.

## 1977

**Belva Barrick** (M.S., home economics) is manager of Scottsdale Viking Sewing Gallery, where she also is an elite trainer.

## 1984

**Mitchell L. Wein** (B.S., economics) is vice president for business affairs and treasurer at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa.

## 1987

**Stuart Stone** (B.A., communication) is an Emmy- and Clio Award-winning casting director in Los Angeles and founder of Stuart Stone Casting, now called STONE.

## 1988

**Stacy (Clawson) Bass** (B.A., communication) is utilities public information officer for the city of Mesa, Ariz. She married Rob Bass in January.

## 1989

**Sarah Colby** (B.S., home economics) is a center administrator for Planned Parenthood of Arizona.

**Vivian Yang** (M.A., communication) is a writer and journalist based in New York. She took third place in a 2007 essay contest sponsored by WNYC, New York Public Radio.

## 1990

**Robert Krizek** (M.A., communication; Ph.D. in communication, 1995) received the National Communication Association's 2007 Charles H. Woolbert Research Award for an article he co-authored in 1995. The award recognizes journal articles that have stood the test of time. Krizek is an associate professor at Saint Louis University.

**Justin Pederson** (B.S., political science) is a sales representative for K & L Distributors in Anchorage, Alaska.

## 1992

**Joseph Donalbain** (B.A., political science, history) is a major in the U.S. Army and chief analyst on North Korean Ground Forces.

**Andrew Supple** (B.A., sociology; M.S. in family resources and human development, 1996) is an associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

## 1993

**Dan Wheeler** (B.S., justice studies) is co-founder and president of Diversified Human Resources based in Phoenix.

## 1996

**Shannon L. (Willoughby) Overcash** (B.A., political science) is an attorney at Osborn Maledon in Phoenix.

## 2000

**Debi L. Johnson** (B.A., communication) is a doctoral student in education at ASU.

## 2001

**Thomas Salow** (B.S., justice studies) is a rules analyst at the Arizona Department of Health Services.

## 2002

**Jesse Anderson** (B.S., geography) is a firefighter for the city of Peoria, Ariz.

**Jay Whipple** (B.A., political science) is a certified orientation and mobility specialist for Mesa (Ariz.) Public Schools. He earned a master's degree from the University of Arizona in 2005.

## 2003

**Gelena "Gelie" Akhenblit** (B.A., communication) is the founder and chief executive officer of Professional Connections, which builds relationships for Phoenix businesses.

**Alexander Benezra** (B.S., political science) received his law degree from American University in 2007.

## What's new with you?

Please let us know where you are and what you are up to. Visit <https://clas.asu.edu/alumni/updateform> to submit a change of address or information for a class note. Or mail or fax your information to:

Social Sciences at ASU Newsletter Editor  
ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
PO Box 876405  
Tempe, AZ 85287-6405  
FAX 480-727-6900

**Gabriel Escontrías Jr.** (B.A., sociology) has been promoted to director of academic personnel in the ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and is pursuing a doctorate in education at ASU.

**Kate Maier** (B.A., communication) is an associate recruiter at the Chicago Tribune.

**Karen Rosales** (B.A., political science, Chicana/o studies) is a college coach for the GEAR UP Project at the University of Arizona.

## 2004

**Sarah K. Deutsch** (B.S., justice studies) graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School this spring. She had two journal articles published in 2007 based on her ASU senior honors thesis.

**Randy Filipic** (B.S., justice studies) is a senior programmer analyst for the ASU Foundation. He also holds a degree in computer information systems from DeVry University.

## 2005

**Pamela Sandvik** (Ph.D., communication) is an assistant professor at the University of New Mexico and won the National Communication Association's 2007 Article of the Year award in the applied communication division.

## 2006

**Jonathan D. Brooks** (B.A., political science, history) was married on July 7, 2007, to **Laura Chanley** (B.S., political science; B.A., history) at the All Saints Catholic Newman Center at ASU. Both are enrolled in law school in San Diego.

**Shawn E. Gorman** (B.S., political science; B.A., history) worked as a 2007 summer fellow in IBM Global Services' Center for the Business of Government, in Washington, D.C. She is a graduate student in public policy.

**Lorain Moorehead** (B.S., family and human development; B.A., psychology) is pursuing her master of social work degree at ASU. She works as a research assistant at the ASU Southwest Interdisciplinary Research

Center and as a behavior health technician at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

## 2007

**James Baldwin** (B.A., communication) is an associate producer at Wick Pilcher Insurance in Phoenix.

**Stephanie Turley Barrus** (B.S., family and human development) gave birth to a boy on June 24, 2007.

**Lindsey Bunch** (B.A., communication) works at Grubb & Ellis, a commercial real estate advisory firm. She lives in Scottsdale, Ariz.

**Zachary J. Dyer** (B.S., justice studies) works in marketing for Fox Sports West, a cable sports network. He lives in Burbank, Calif.

**Lauren Gilmore** (B.S., family and human development) is a family consultant at Jewish Family & Children's Service in Phoenix.

**Timea R. Hargesheimer** (B.S., justice studies) is pursuing a law degree at ASU.

**Lindsay Hughes** (B.A., political science, history) is attending Drake University Law School in Iowa.

**Emily Kieffer** (B.A., communication) is an administrative assistant for Harbor Lane Associates in Washington, D.C.

**Kendall Krajicek** (B.S., justice studies) is attending law school at the University of Alabama on a full-tuition scholarship.

**Jillian Smith** (B.S., family and human development) is pursuing graduate studies at ASU.

**Araxi A. Spencer** (B.A., sociology), an operations specialist at Bank of America, gave birth to her first child, Zayden Quincy Spencer, on May 14, 2007.

**Jessica Sutton** (B.S., family and human development) is a charter high school counselor/drop-out prevention specialist at Arizona Calla-Teen Youth Services in Phoenix.

**Matt Williams** (B.A., political science) is correspondence coordinator for the ASU Foundation.

## In Memoriam

### 1950s

**Hazel Osborn Bell** (B.S. sociology, 1958): March 23, 2008

**Nadine Carson** (B.A. home economics, 1953): Sept. 23, 2007

**Eugene Pierson** (B.A. social studies, 1950): March 8, 2008

**Arthur Poyner** (B.A. social studies, 1955): Dec. 30, 2007

### 1960s

**Von Jackson LaPrade** (B.S. sociology, 1967; M.S. criminal justice, 1975): Nov. 8, 2007

**Leslie Miller** (B.S. sociology, 1962): Dec. 15, 2007

### 1970s

**Mary E. (Fraser) Messer** (B.S. social work, 1973): Sept. 14, 2007

**Louis Rhodes** (B.A. political science, 1971): Oct. 14, 2007

**Thomas E. Weland** (B.S. political science, 1974): July 10, 2007

### 1980s

**Susan (Wos) Lashier-Mattheson** (B.S. sociology, 1989): Nov. 26, 2007

**Douglas F. Taylor** (B.S. criminal justice, 1980): Jan. 1, 2008

**Carl "Chip" Wortley III** (B.S. political science, 1988): July 13, 2007

### 1990s

**Harrison W. Daniels** (B.A. sociology, 1997): Jan. 16, 2008

**Stephen M. Dolan** (B.S. justice studies, 1993): Sept. 2, 2007

**John W. Graves** (B.S. political science, 1990): July 7, 2007

**Gina M. Liguori** (B.A. women's studies, 1998): March 16, 2008

**Amanda Arnold Phillips** (B.A. communication, 1996): March 23, 2008

**John B. Scholz** (B.A. communication, 1994): Dec. 16, 2007

### 2000s

**Richard T. Dalton** (B.A. communication, 2006): April 1, 2008

**Todd L. Passick** (B.A. anthropology, 2007): Sept. 24, 2007

## ASU political science alum Tina Jonas handles U.S. Defense checkbook

As the chief financial officer of the largest and most complex organization in the world, Tina Jonas never quite knows what any given workday will bring her way. What she does know is that her work matters.

Jonas, who holds a bachelor's degree in political science from ASU, as well as a master's degree from Georgetown, is the first woman in the 60-year history of the U.S. Department of Defense to hold the position of under secretary of Defense (comptroller). She is responsible for DoD's annual budget of more than \$600 billion as well as financial management issues involving \$3.6 trillion in assets and liabilities and three million employees, both military and civilian. In addition, Jonas serves as the principal adviser to the secretary and deputy secretary of Defense on fiscal matters.

"If the department were a country," Jonas says, "it would rank as the 17th largest economy, equal to that of the Netherlands. Improving the operations of such an enormous and widespread organization can be a daunting task."

Jonas draws her motivation, in part, from the fact that her office is only a few hundred feet from where American Airlines Flight 77 hit the Pentagon on 9/11. She also is fiercely committed to the men and women of the U.S. armed forces and strives to find ways to help them be more effective in what they do.

"It is an honor to support their mission by working with them and on their behalf," Jonas says. "The more efficient we are in managing taxpayer resources, the more effective the troops can be."

This is Jonas' second tour in the Department of Defense. During

a previous stint, as deputy under secretary from 2001 to 2002, she was honored with the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. From 2002 to July 2004, when she assumed her current position, Jonas served as assistant director and chief financial officer at the FBI.

She knew from her earliest days at ASU that she wanted a career in government. Political science was a natural area of study for the current-affairs-loving Jonas.

"People said to me, 'What do you do with that, when you major in political science?' Well, you go to Washington, don't you? So that's what I did."

After graduation, Jonas moved to the nation's capital with just an inkling of how she wanted to serve her country. The journey from college graduate to comptroller of a half-trillion-dollar budget has been an eventful and memorable one. It included positions with Congress, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the Office of Management and Budget in addition to the FBI and Defense.

"Looking back," she says, "it is a long way from the classrooms of Arizona State to the halls of the Pentagon. But the education I received at ASU helped to prepare me for a life of service to our nation."

Jonas loves the variety of experiences that each day brings—from congressional testimony, to developing contingencies for natural disasters, to meeting with the troops. But there is one aspect of her job that she finds especially tough: the extremely early start to her day.

"But it's really great to get up in the morning and know you will be able to do something good for someone else," she concedes.



Under Secretary of Defense Tina Jonas with U.S. Armed Forces personnel on the flight line at Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, September 2007

"It is a long way from the classrooms of Arizona State to the halls of the Pentagon. But the education I received at ASU helped to prepare me for a life of service to our nation."

— TINA JONAS (B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, 1982), UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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