

# January 2022

**ASU** Julie Ann Wrigley  
Global Futures Laboratory™  
Arizona State University

## Global Futures: **Now**



***"Time pours into us and then pours out again. In between the two pourings we live our destiny."***

**Louise Erdrich, from her novel "Four Souls"**

The new home for the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, ISTB7, is situated at a crossroads of history. It is the site of an Indigenous canal that dates to at least 1,500-years ago and continues to flow through its atrium, a 130-year-old rail line that carried products from the local dairy processor to the United Rail line, and the nation's first coast-to-coast roadway constructed 91 years ago. Whereas these innovations are no longer used for their intended purpose, the site now is the home of ISTB7, a building in

which discovery, learning, problem solving, networking and engagement take place with the goal of shaping tomorrow today through discovery and new innovation.

The goal of ISTB7, along with the work of the many students, faculty and staff who join me in calling the new space home, is to ensure that humankind makes the right choices for a future in which life can thrive on a healthy planet. Action for a sustainable future is needed with great urgency. Civilization is at a crossroads. In 2021, there were 20 [billion-dollar climate and weather disasters](#) in the United States alone. In 2020, [40.5 million people across the globe](#) lost their homes, some temporarily and others permanently, as a result of disasters and conflict that—as science shows—are made worse by the rapidly accelerating climate crisis. Science also reveals options for solutions to challenges such as those posed by climate change. But we have to act now—we face a decisive decade. We must bring the demands of humankind back into balance with the resources our planet has to offer. Our environmental and societal planetary boundaries are stretched and some of them are close to crossing the red line.

While human activities led to these crises, humans alone have the ability to alter their destiny to create a positive future for all. People have demonstrated through time that we can adapt, mitigate and make change in a way no other species on Earth can.

Our new building is a physical expression of the Global Futures Laboratory's purpose. This signature structure demonstrates that it is possible to develop functional, yet exciting structures with the lowest possible impact. The building incorporates both passive techniques and established technologies to minimize its environmental footprint.

However, the true value of our new home is its capacity to bring people together. It is designed to allow members of the academic community, policymakers, the private sector, and the public to engage on future-oriented outcomes. The building houses a satellite of the [Decision Theater](#) to provide knowledge to those making decisions with impact on the future state of our planet, frequently in situations where there is uncertainty. It will further integrate the Global Futures Laboratory Five Core Spaces – Discovery, Learning, Solutions, Networks and Engagement – by creating proximity for those with different backgrounds and varied areas of expertise.

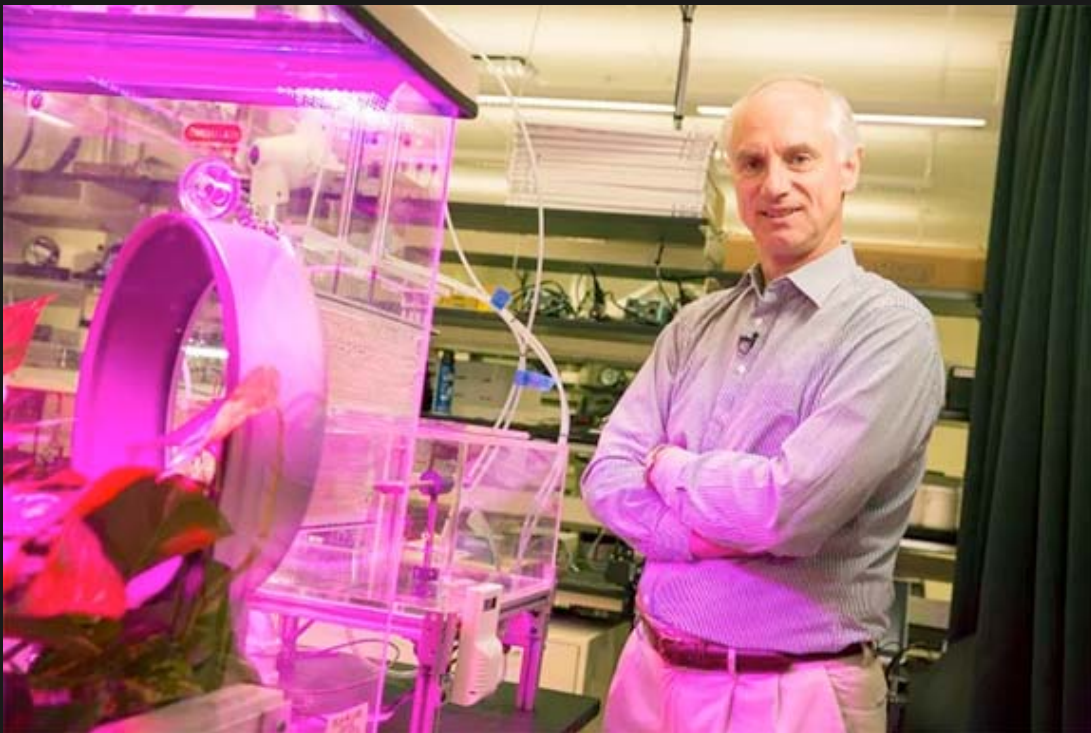
ISTB7 represents a new chapter in gathering experts, policymakers and thought leaders to engage in the world and anticipate how the world can and will look. As a species, we must seize this critical moment. Many solutions to the challenges we face exist or are in late stages of development. For example, in just a few weeks, we will install a prototype MechanicalTree™, in partnership with our collaborators at [Carbon Collect](#), that will remove carbon from the air in order to help mitigate global warming more rapidly than any other innovation before. The MechanicalTree™ will be located just to the south of

ISTB7 and its laboratory home that now sits on the ground floor of this new structure.

The activities taking place in ISTB7 reach across all of ASU and help us anticipate what challenges and opportunities lie ahead. They span a space of hope because humans can do extraordinary things. This new structure is simply the latest example.

*Pel*

## News



## Newsweek names Klaus Lackner as part of first America's Greatest Disruptors Hall of Fame

In a special edition published Dec. 15, Lackner was one of five initial innovators tapped

to receive this honor, each recognized by the publication as "Visionaries whose career-long actions have had far-reaching impact."

[Read more](#)

## **Sander van der Leeuw, UN Champion of the Earth and former dean of the School of Sustainability, retires**

In taking on the role as the first dean of the nation's first School of Sustainability, van der Leeuw says, "I was really fascinated by this possibility to combine the natural sciences and the life sciences with the social sciences — with anthropology and other fields."



[Read more](#)



## **Susan Goldberg, National Geographic editor in chief, joins ASU with co-appointment at Cronkite School of Journalism and School of Sustainability**

"I am excited to work with experts at the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory and its College of Global Futures to help tell stories around how we are addressing and shaping our collective future options," says Goldberg, who will be based in Washington, D.C. to lead new programs and strategic partnerships.

[Learn more](#)



## Cynthia Selin featured in USA Today article looking ahead at 2022

"What we do in the present is shaped by stories we tell about the future," says Selin, whose course on Futures Thinking and Strategies is highlighted as part of a larger article about what the next year may bring.



[Read more](#)



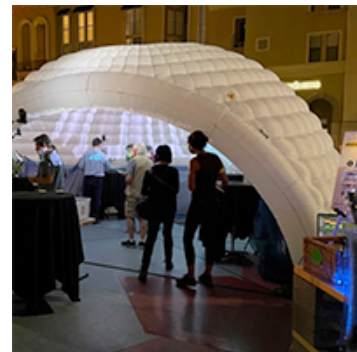
## Andrew Maynard enters the Metaverse with Arizona Horizon

"Think about everything we do in the real tangible hard world here, there are companies and people here who now believe that most of that is going to be shunted off into cyberspace," says Maynard as part of this extended segment on what the Metaverse is and where it could lead us.

[Watch](#)

## Canal Convergence places spotlight on intersection of three precious resources: water, light and art

Global Futures Scholar Christy Spackman joined other ASU faculty and students at the annual event in Scottsdale to offer a fully immersive experience encouraged participants to taste different waters, such as surface water, groundwater and purified water, and draw



conclusions about what the waters told them about their environments.

[Read more](#)



## **Kiki Jenkins named to AGU's first Leadership Academy and Network for Diversity and Inclusion in the Geosciences**

Jenkins, whose research centers on the human dimensions of marine sustainability solutions, including fisheries conservation technologies and marine renewable energy, joins the new LANDInG Academy to "help programs not only to remove institutional barriers but to also recognize and address the isolation, vulnerability and trauma of underrepresented and minority scientists."

[Read more](#)

## **Josh Abbott, Bryan Leonard co-author PNAS article on economic equity among fishery employees, owners**

Abbott and Leonard are joined by NOAA researcher Brian Garber-Yonts to provide a fishery-wide accounting of returns to these diverse stakeholder groups at the vessel level as well as present a model for collecting and analyzing data on distributional outcomes for other fisheries.



[Read more](#)



## Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory selected as a nominator for The Earthshot Prize

To find the most inspiring, inclusive and impactful solutions, [The Earthshot Prize](#) has established a diverse and experienced group of Nominators to seek out potential winners. Launched in 2021, The Earthshot Prize has looked to the Global Futures Laboratory now for a second straight year.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming events

### Anticipation 2022

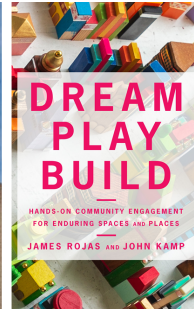
Anticipation 22 is a unique, radically interdisciplinary conference for exploring how ideas of the future inform action in the present. With an emphasis on just futures, we seek contributions that explore equity and fairness and question who imagines futures and with which impacts. We invite researchers, scholars and practitioners engaging with anticipation and anticipatory practices to come together to deepen their understanding and create productive new connections.

**November 16-18, 2022**

**Tempe, AZ**



[Learn more](#)



## Places for Human Beings: Replacing a Broken System

Philip Allsopp will discuss the prevailing supply chains and fragmented business processes typical of urban development/real-estate speculation projects, contrasting them with best practices from advanced product manufacturing development.

**Monday, Feb. 7**  
**Noon-1 p.m. MST**

[Register now](#)

## Dream Play Build: Hands-On Community Engagement for Enduring Spaces and Places

For 20 years, James Rojas and John Kamp have been looking to art, creative expression, and storytelling to shake up the classic community meeting. In this discussion, they will offer wisdom distilled from workshops held around the world and a deep dive into the transformational approach and results from a community in southern California.

**Tuesday, Feb. 8**  
**Noon-1 p.m. MST**

[Register now](#)