

May  
2024

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

## Global Futures: **Now**



When graduates of the College of Global Futures crossed the stage in their caps and gowns on May 6, they left with more than their diplomas. They

graduated with a lifelong commitment to themselves, to each other and to future generations to secure a thriving future for all. The road toward such a future poses challenges, but many of these graduates have already begun to face them head-on.

We face urgent challenges — in some cases crises — that place our world under stress and make us question if we will attain better outcomes for future generations. But humanity cannot move forward with a fatalist perspective.

There are opportunities to relieve these pressures, including many developed right here in the College of Global Futures and the Global Futures Laboratory that include the fingerprints of our students. Nothing assures me more that a thriving future is attainable than witnessing the launch of a new cohort of educated and inspired leaders.

Our graduates have dedicated their time, their resources, and their new and emerging perspectives to address our world's most complex challenges. They enter the workforce at a time when these skills and ideas are desperately needed. The opportunities are out there, and I trust their education at the College of Global Futures has trained them to lead the change.

This is a time of potentially remarkable transformation. The decisive decade is here.

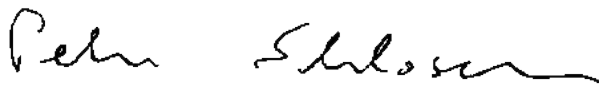
As people across the globe make different choices that will continually determine how our world will look like for the next decades, centuries and possibly millennia, these young professionals will be presented with incredible new opportunities in new or revitalized industries. Several trillion-dollar industries are waiting to be built, including new energy systems, the hydrogen economy, new food systems, new transportation systems, and climate solutions, among others.

Change is on the horizon, and youth have always been at the forefront of propelling societies forward. But they are not alone in this endeavor. Fortunately, we can build on the work of pioneers who have explored new ways of navigating our complex world for many decades.

Together, we must lead the charge of halting the deterioration of our planet's life-supporting systems and move toward new approaches for how we live, work and play alongside each other as an integral part of the Earth system.

We must learn from and give power to our youth because they are catalysts for change.

Congratulations, graduates.



Peter Schlosser

Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures

## Meet some of our graduates



While all graduates have their own story to tell, a sample of College of Global Futures graduate profiles can be found on ASU News.

- [Tanya Bilis](#) completes the inaugural complex adaptive systems science degree program
- From EMT to the School of Sustainability: [Kalyn Denton](#) is named an

“outstanding graduate”

- PhD grad [Elma Hajrić's](#) work integrates science, technology and society to promote just futures
- [Ava Steckel](#) aims to create public policy to “ensure that the future truly is for everyone”
- Sustainability grad [Katie Spreitzer](#) pursues environmental justice, youth education and community empowerment
- [Elizabeth Reilly](#) is working toward contributing to a more sustainable food system
- PhD sustainability graduate [Rebecca Shelton](#) is joining the energy justice movement
- [Isabel Haas](#) tackles global challenges through applied math



## Collaborative ASU–SRP study identifies additional advantages to forest restoration efforts

In a pilot program, ASU and Salt River Project are investigating whether forest thinning will increase water supplies, in addition to reducing wildfire risk and protecting important infrastructure. The project is focused on a 3,400-acre area in the Kaibab National Forest. Senior Global Futures Scientist [Enrique Vivoni](#), also the director of the [Center for Hydrologic Innovations at ASU](#), along with graduate students and postdoctoral scholars from the center, combined their results with other publicly available datasets to create a new model of a thinning project area.

[Read more](#)



## Knowledge Exchange for Resilience research leads to new law protecting mobile-home dwellers

The [Knowledge Exchange for Resilience](#) (KER) at ASU, an interdisciplinary center that works with communities to research and solve problems, worked for more than five years on the problem of extreme heat and mobile homes in the Valley. [Patricia Solís](#), executive director of KER and a Senior Global Futures Scientist, said the KER team worked closely with mobile-home owners to pinpoint why so many people who live in mobile homes are vulnerable to extreme heat. The data they collected led to a new law, which prevents landlords from denying tenants the right to install an air conditioner or other cooling measures. Governor Katie Hobbs signed it as an emergency action, and it went into effect on April 2.

[Read more](#)

## Caitlin Drummond Otten explores how bans, regulations on food technology affect consumer perceptions

In a recent study, Senior Global Futures Scientist



[Caitlin Drummond Otten](#) and her colleagues Angela Bearth at ETH Zürich and Alex Segrè Cohen at the University of Oregon examined how people living in the United States and Switzerland thought about the use of genome editing in agriculture produced for human consumption. The article, “Consumers' perceptions and acceptance of genome editing in agriculture: Insights from the United States of America and Switzerland,” was recently published in Food Research International. Read more:

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Research



## Heat studies pave the way for further extreme heat risk mitigation actions, future studies

A team, led by Senior Global Futures Scientist [Konrad Rykaczewski](#), along with Senior Global Futures Scientists [Jennifer Vanos](#) and [Ariane Middel](#), has pioneered better measurements of the heat's effect on the human body with a customized outdoor thermal manikin, called ANDI, coupled with a state-of-the-art mobile biometeorological station developed by Middel's team, called MaRTy. Two recently published studies, published in the journals International Journal of Biometeorology and Science of the

Total Environment, showcase their innovative approaches to understanding and combating the growing challenges of extreme heat.

[Read more](#)



## **Peter Schlosser talks rising ocean temperatures on Arizona PBS**

[Peter Schlosser](#), vice president and vice provost of Global Futures at ASU, discussed the significance of our ocean's rising temperatures. While the warm climate pattern El Niño in 2023 would naturally have some impact on ocean temperatures, Schlosser said the recent jump of almost one degree Celsius is more than what scientists would have expected. Cutting emissions and removing carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, he said, are known ways to offset these rising temperatures. The full segment on PBS's nightly public affairs show "Arizona Horizon" can be viewed online.

[Watch](#)

## **New research shows transdisciplinary approach is needed for successful locust**



## management

A new collaborative review led by team members in the [Global Locust Initiative](#) at the Global Futures Laboratory advocates for a transdisciplinary approach. The paper, published in the Journal of Orthoptera Research, brought together 38 co-authors from six continents and 34 unique organizations, representing much of the social-ecological-technological system related to grasshopper and locust management and research around the globe. Read more:

ASU News

Research



## In new paper, researchers call for universities to incentivize societally engaged conservation work

A team of researchers from the Global Futures Laboratory's [Center for Biodiversity Outcomes](#) argues that scientists shouldn't be forced to choose between socially engaged work and career-strengthening peer-reviewed journals. In their new paper published in the journal of Biological Conservation, the team calls upon universities to reward conservation scientists not only for their publications, but also for doing work



with societal outcomes. Read more:

[ASU News](#)

[Research](#)



## Hawaii reef restoration program celebrates official opening of state-of-the-art coral reef facility

On April 25, scientists and community members affiliated with the reef restoration program [‘Āko‘ako‘a](#) celebrated the launch of a new, state-of-the-art coral research and propagation facility in Kailua-Kona. A ribbon-cutting ceremony in April marked the opening of the new facility. [Greg Asner](#), director of ASU’s Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science and founder of ‘Āko‘ako‘a, said the new facility will serve as a kind of medical facility for corals, housing broken corals that require care to recover, grow and reproduce.

[Read more](#)

## College of Global Futures school directors talk career journeys, ambitions



The College of Global Futures empowers learners to shape their own futures. This commitment to future generations was further exemplified with the announcement of [Joshua Abbott](#) and [Eusebio Scornavacca](#) as directors of the School of Sustainability and the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, respectively. They discuss what led them to their roles in a Q&A for ASU News.

[Read more](#)



## Participants needed for study on everyday heat exposure, human behavior

In an upcoming global heat study funded by the National Science Foundation, PhD geography candidate Gisel Guzman and School of Sustainability Associate Professor Jennifer Vanos will use a smartwatch, weather sensors and participant surveys to measure heat exposure, cool-seeking behavior, perceptions and health risks as people go about their regular days. They are currently seeking participants for the study, which will be piloted in the Phoenix Metro area this summer.

[Read more](#)



## **School of Ocean Futures launches undergraduate, graduate degrees**

ASU launched four new ocean-focused degree programs within the College of Global Futures — a Bachelor of Science in ocean futures, a Bachelor of Science in ocean futures with a concentration in coastal and marine sciences, an online Master of Science in coastal and marine science and management, and a PhD in ocean futures. These programs, housed within the School of Ocean Futures, prepare students to become coastal and marine stewards, community leaders, innovators and researchers capable of shaping the future of the world’s oceans. Students are now eligible to enroll for a fall 2024 start.

[Read more](#)



## **ASU experts say simple solutions can make recycling less confusing, more effective**

Multiple experts from the Global Futures Laboratory weigh in on recycling solutions in an article for ASU News. Factors such as human behavior, inconsistent guidelines and general apathy have caused the United States to lag behind other countries in recycling rates, but sustainability experts believe there are pathways to success. A more simple recycling system, for

example, could greatly benefit recycling outcomes.

[Read more](#)



## **Moonshot Accelerator preps life-changing ASU projects for big funding**

A new Moonshot Accelerator initiative at ASU recently gave an inaugural cohort of eight ASU teams educational tools to strategically pitch their projects to philanthropic funders or corporate partners for large-scale gifts. [Project Cities](#), a university-partnership program, was one of the teams involved, in addition to [Margaret Hinrichs](#), associate director of decision science at the Knowledge Exchange for Resilience and an assistant research professor in the School of Complex Adaptive Systems.

[Read more](#)

## **ASU graduate student awarded NSF fellowship to study water insecurity along US–Mexico border communities**

[Dylan Diaz-Infante](#) is a sociocultural anthropology



graduate student at the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. He is passionate about water security and was recently awarded a prestigious NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program grant to help fund his research on water-sharing within communities called "colonias" along the U.S.–Mexico border. Diaz-Infante is also a researcher with the Arizona Water for All team, one of several pillars under the statewide [Arizona Water Innovation Initiative](#), led by the Global Futures Laboratory.

[Read more](#)



## Rizwan Virk explains simulation theory on Spotify's top podcast

[Rizwan Virk](#), a graduate student in the College of Global Futures, joined "The Joe Rogan Experience" podcast to discuss the simulation theory, a theory that reality as we know it is a computer simulation. Virk is the author of multiple books, including "The Simulation Hypothesis" and "The Simulated Multiverse." Virk is currently doing doctoral research at the Center for Science and the Imagination and teaching classes on the metaverse, innovation and simulation theory at the College of Global Futures and the Fulton Schools of Engineering.

[Watch](#)



## Darlene Cavalier honored with Pop Warner Inspiration to Youth Award

[Darlene Cavalier](#), professor of practice at the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, was awarded the Pop Warner Inspiration to Youth Award for her efforts in promoting STEM education for young women. This award recognizes leaders in sports who exemplify humanitarian principles. She combines scientific pursuits and athletic excellence through her nonprofit, Science Cheerleaders, which is comprised of over 300 current and former professional cheerleaders who also work in STEM careers.

[Read more](#)



## Futurecast

### Edition 6 | Spring 2024

Global Futures: Futurecast offers a look into our prospective futures through the eyes of the extensive Global Futures Scientists and Scholars Network. Explore what might come in the seconds, days, and years ahead. Our latest issue

talks about how we can draw inspiration from the patterns in nature to implement strategic decisions in our built world.

[Read now](#)

## Global Futures Viewbook

### **We must rediscover our planet and our relationship with it.**

What does this mean, exactly? For the faculty, students, researchers and global partners of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, it means a commitment to urgently exploring pathways to impactful solutions and decisions that address the challenges we have caused through resource extraction and thoughtless consumption as part of a relentless pursuit of “progress.”

We believe better is possible.

[Learn more](#)



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