



Global Futures: **Now**

October 2025

News spotlight



\$50M gift creates Global Institute for the Future of Energy

Created in collaboration with the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory and Thunderbird School of Global Management, the new institute will disrupt traditional academic approaches to addressing energy by putting accessible, pragmatic discourse at the heart of its work.

"Energy is the foundation of everything we do. My vision for this institute is to help develop a deeper understanding of energy among future generations of leaders and decisionmakers — where it comes from, why it matters and how to use it wisely," says Bob Zorich, the founding donor of the institute.

[Read about the institute](#)

Featured event



Wrigley Lecture series returns with a message of hope in October

Join us for **From Scars to Strength: The Unforgettable Journey of Kim Phuc** on Thursday, Oct. 30, 4-5 p.m. at the Rob and Melani Walton Center for Planetary Health.

Dr. Kim Phuc Phan Thi, known worldwide as the "napalm girl," shares her extraordinary story of survival, forgiveness and peace. From the horrors of war to her mission as a UNESCO goodwill ambassador and founder of The Kim Foundation, Kim's story inspires hope and healing.

The Wrigley Lecture series, hosted by the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, features speakers who are at the forefront of understanding the world we live in and imagine the worlds we are moving into. They inspire and stimulate reflection on timely topics.

The Wrigley lectures are open to the public. You can view previous lectures [here](#).

[Register](#)

Our impact



SolarSPELL Initiative named a TIME 'best invention'

The ASU SolarSPELL Initiative, which started as a student engineering assignment at ASU and grew into a global humanitarian project that provides solar-powered library devices, has been named one of TIME's best inventions.

[Read about SolarSPELL](#)



ASU researchers help fishing communities with output, conservation efforts

Jesse Senko is studying new ways to make fishing gear less harmful to sea turtles, sharks and other threatened species, while still ensuring those who fish for a living can sustain their livelihoods.

[Read about the Senko Lab](#)



Canopy for Kids initiative to bring shade trees to Phoenix schools

Canopy for Kids is an annual program dedicated to increasing shade tree coverage and providing environmental education. The initiative will bring heat resilience to nine partner schools through planting shade trees supported by water harvesting systems.

[Read about the initiative](#)

Impactful insights



Addressing water insecurity and building trust in rural Arizona

As part of the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative, ASU and its partners are engaging Yuma County homeowners without safe and affordable water to provide a variety of clean-water solutions.

[Read more on ASU News](#)



Scholarship opens doors for Bermudians to pursue their passions at ASU

[ASU Bermuda Tuition Scholarship](#) has awarded full-tuition scholarships to five students from Bermuda this semester. The scholarship opens doors to diverse coursework, global experiences and professional development opportunities that will help shape the future in Bermuda.

[Read more on ASU News](#)

Events and opportunities

Shaping food systems: the USDA's role and direction

Hosted by the Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems

Oct. 22 | hybrid | 4:30 p.m.

Walton Center for Planetary Health | Room 460 | Arizona State University

777 E. University Dr., Tempe, AZ 85281

[Register](#)



Groundwater Earth: the hidden frontline of climate change

Hosted by the ASU Water Institute

Oct. 23 | in-person | 2 p.m.

Biodesign Institute Building A | L1/10-14
(Lower Level) | Arizona State University

1001 S. McAllister Ave., Tempe AZ 85287

[Register](#)



Water power: Water politics and environmental histories from Arizona to Arabia

Co-sponsored by the ASU Water Institute
and supported by the Leonardo-ASU
Planetary Health Research Seed Grant

Oct. 24 | in-person | noon

Walton Center for Planetary Health |
Auditorium | Arizona State University

777 E. University Dr., Tempe, AZ 85281

[Register](#)



Fall Town Hall

Hosted by ASU Knowledge Enterprise

Oct. 29 | in-person | 10 a.m.

Memorial Union | Ventana A and B | Arizona
State University

301 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281

[Register](#)



Publications



Global Futures: Futurecast | Fall 2025

Our latest edition of Futurecast tackles the steps necessary for transformative action in a complex, rapidly changing world. Explore the future of ocean stability, understand what it takes to decode a genome, learn about the 10 latest insights in climate science and more.

[Read Futurecast Vol. 8](#)

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