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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



College of Social
& Behavioral Sciences

SBS SNAPSHOTS

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM
THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN
22

School Garden Workshop: School Gardeners' Almanac Release Party

Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson (MOCA), 4-7PM

FEB
10

The 2026 Jeffrey B. Plevan Memorial Program: Justice in the Public Eye: A Conversation with Israeli Supreme Court Justice Prof. Daphne Barak-Erez

Tucson Jewish Community Center, 6:30PM

FEB
15

Film Screening and Discussion: "The Return of Navajo Boy" (an official selection, Sundance Film Festival; PBS)

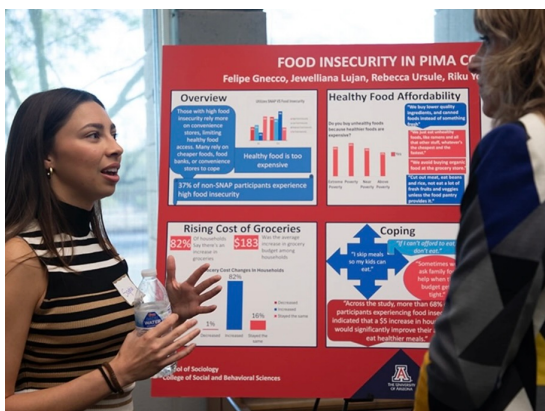
ENR2 Bldg., 1064 E. Lowell St, Tucson, 1PM



Fresh Support Sustains U of A Agrivoltaics Research After Funding Cut

Greg Barron-Gafford, professor in the School of Geography, Development & Environment, leads research on growing crops beneath solar panels to improve water efficiency and renewable energy production in arid regions. After federal funding was cut, support from the Thomas R. Brown Family Private Foundation helped sustain the project, keeping research, students, and demonstration sites moving forward.

SBS FEATURES



Wildcat Researchers Bridge Classroom and Community to Tackle Poverty

In the Poverty in Tucson Field Workshop, 37 students interviewed low-income residents across Tucson and Pima County on food, housing, transportation, and health-care challenges. They shared their

findings at a community forum with local leaders, nonprofits, and policymakers to support evidence-based responses to poverty.



See Easter Island's Moai Up Close: U of A Researcher Creates First 3D Quarry Model

Terry Hunt, professor in the School of Anthropology, helped build the first-ever digital 3D model of Rapa Nui's Rano Raraku quarry—home to nearly 1,000 iconic moai statues. The interactive model lets people everywhere explore how these massive works were carved and arranged, revealing that many independent clan workshops likely crafted the moai.



SBS Student Senator Turns Voices into Action

Selena Morales, a junior majoring in political science, is using her role as ASUA senator to amplify student voices and strengthen community on campus. Morales is leading initiatives like the SBS Club Fair and awareness campaigns while balancing academics and campus involvement.



Empowering Women Scholars: U of A Program Builds Leadership Across the Americas

A group of young Latin American women scholars gained leadership development through a federally funded program run by the U of A Center for Latin American Studies in the School of Global Studies. The program brings Indigenous and Afro-descendant students to the U.S. to explore institutions and build skills and professional networks and return home to make an impact.



U of A Researcher Shows Equitable Climate Action Strengthens Tucson

Adriana Zuniga-Teran, associate professor in the School of Geography, Development & Environment, led a study showing that climate and urban greening programs are most effective when they partner with vulnerable communities, creating balanced access and stronger citywide resilience.



The U of A Poetry Center has announced **three new endowed readings in its Reading and Lecture Series**, including events named for two College of SBS faculty, which will both begin in fall 2026. The Alison Hawthorne Deming Residency for Environmental Writers recognizes **Alison Hawthorne Deming**, professor emerita in the Department of English. The Ofelia Zepeda Reading for Indigenous Poets is named for **Ofelia Zepeda**, Regents Professor in the Department of Linguistics, and will annually feature Indigenous poets.

Through the **Peter and Pat Hirschman University-Community Research Partnership Fund**, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences supports cross-campus, community-based social justice projects with lasting impact in southern Arizona. Funded initiatives address food security, migrant mental health, housing innovation, and disability advocacy.

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) in the School of Global Studies has released the first episode of its new podcast, "**Morning Now Dawned: A Middle Eastern Kidlit**." In the **inaugural episode**, **Abby Limmer**, assistant director of outreach in CMES, speaks with Moujan Adl, author of *A Girl Named Mithra*, a picture book about the Persian holiday of Yalda.

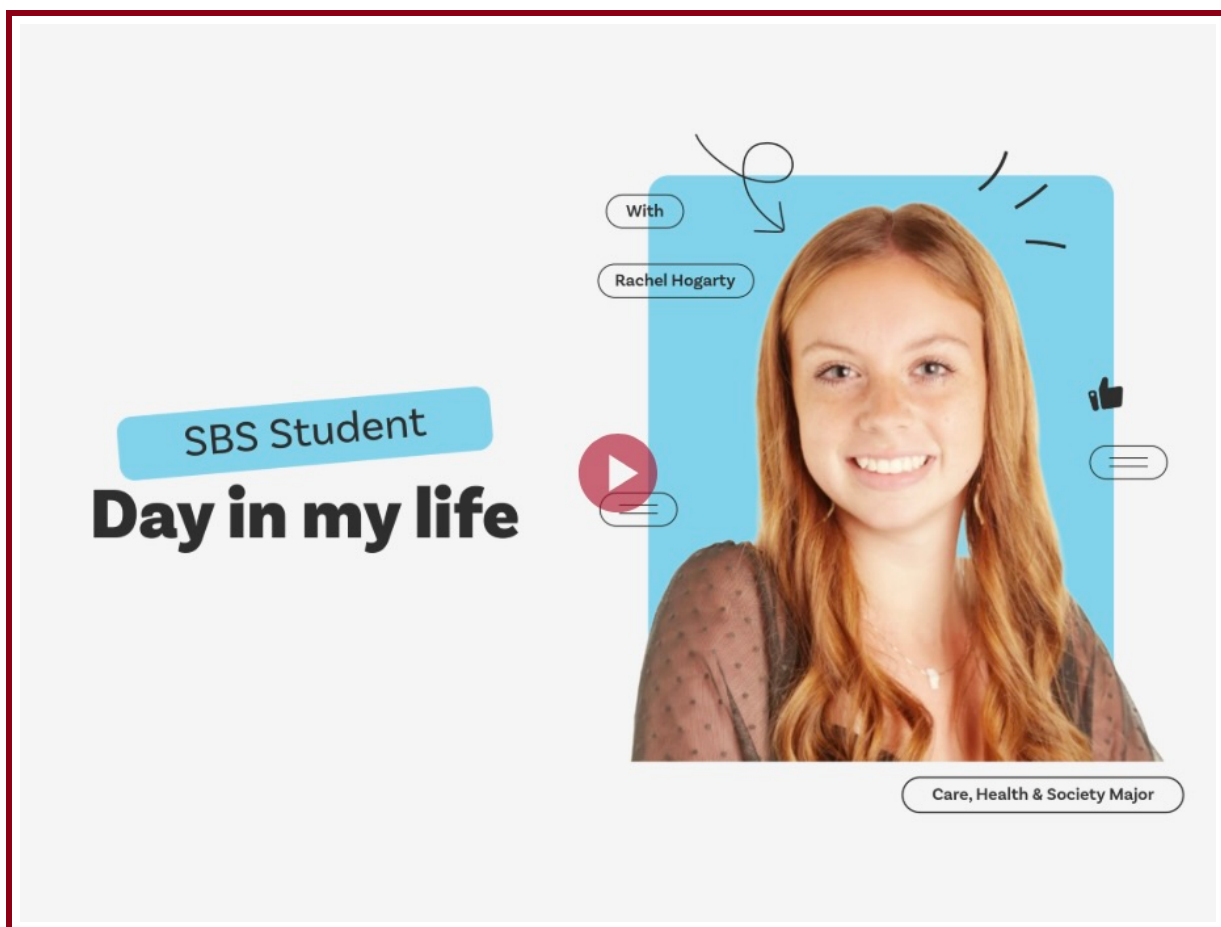
Hannah Meltzer, a dual major in sociology and leadership and learning innovation, participated in the fall 2025 **Tucson Poverty Project** and recently published an op-ed in the **Arizona Daily Star** reflecting on how her experience revealed invisible labels surrounding poverty.

Eithne Luibhéid, professor of Gender and Women's Studies in the School of Global Studies, discusses her recently published book, *Abolitionist Intimacies: Queer and Trans Migrants Against the Deportation State*, which examines how queer and trans migrants use relationships and care to challenge deportation systems, in [this Q&A](#) with Duke University Press.

Estevan Azcona, assistant research social scientist in the Southwest Center in the School of Global Studies, participated in Tucson Meet Yourself 2025, where he led a [discussion on Son Jarocho music and performed on guitar as part of the festival's programming](#).

Michael Burgoyne, assistant professor of practice in the International Security Studies Program in the School of Government and Public Policy, participated in the podcast ["Why Should We Care About the Indo-Pacific,"](#) to discuss the global impact of the U.S. raid in Venezuela. A regular contributor to the *Small Wars Journal*, his most recent opinion piece is titled ["Welcome to the Western Hemisphere."](#)

Zicheng Cheng and **Josh Anderson**, assistant professors in the School of Journalism, were featured guests on the student-powered UAZ podcast. Cheng discussed her research on how [social media influences political attitudes and views](#), while Anderson reflected on [navigating college as a first-generation student](#).



Spend a day on campus with SBS Student Ambassador Rachel Hogarty! A junior majoring in Care, Health, and Society, Rachel takes you through her daily routine—from classes and study time to work—plus shares advice for fellow students and potential plans after college. [Check out Rachel's Day in the Life Instagram reel!](#)

SBS IN THE NEWS

["Southern AZ mental health services unsettled after Trump admin revokes, reinstates grants,"](#) *Tucson Sentinel*, 1/16/26 (Jo Korchmaros, SIROW)

["U of A international politics experts see red flags in US actions in Venezuela,"](#) *Arizona Daily Star*, 1/11/26 (Susan Brewer-Osorio, Latin American Studies/Global Studies)

["The Tucson J International Film Festival returns for its 35th year,"](#) *Desert Times*, 1/9/26 (Hsain Ilahiane, Middle Eastern and North African Studies /Global Studies)

["Pro-colonialism talking points get a boost from top Trump aide Stephen Miller,"](#) *NBC News*, 1/7/26 (Allen Buchanan, Philosophy)

["'Neither Gaza nor Lebanon!' Iranian unrest is about more than the economy – protesters reject the Islamic Republic's whole rationale,"](#) *The Conversation*, 1/6/26 (Kamran Talattof, Middle Eastern and North African Studies/Global Studies)

["About 6 in 10 Americans say they feel politically connected by generation,"](#) *CNN*, 1/2/26 (Samara Klar, Government and Public Policy)

"Sidebar: I can haz seas-burger?" *404 Media* (Colombia), 12/27/25 (Martin Welker, Anthropology)

"I told my mom I wanted to get my tubes tied at age 20. Her response changed my life" *BuzzFeed*, 12/22/25 (Lydia Paar, English)

"When story loses the plot," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 12/20/25 (Hannah Kim, Philosophy)

"These human footprints are up to 22,400 years old, study claims," *Click Petróleo e Gás* (Brazil), 12/20/25 (Vance Holliday, Anthropology)

"Ancient Pompeii construction site reveals the process for creating Roman concrete," *CNN*, 12/19/25 (John Senseney, History)

"Journalism education will reflect student conviction," *Nieman Lab*, 12/18/25 (Jan Lauren Boyles, Journalism)

"U of A poverty project forum shares Tucson food insecurity, health-insurance data," *KVOA-TV*, 12/15/25 (Brian Mayer, Sociology)

"Tim Steller's column: Smugglers at Arizona-Mexico border escape missile strikes," *Arizona Daily Star*, 12/13/25 (Michael Burgoyne, Government and Public Policy)

"Tucson's globally distinct cuisine of heat and abundance," *Bon Appétit*, 12/11/25 (Gary Nabhan, Southwest Center/Global Studies)

"Mayan monument as large as a city is discovered, but it's not attached to a king," *Earth.com*, 11/29/25 (Takeshi Inomata, Anthropology)

" **Did the giant heads of Easter Island once walk?**" *The New York Times*, 11/26/25 (Terry Hunt, Anthropology)

" **3000-year-old map of the universe discovered at ancient Mayan site,**" *BBC Science Focus Magazine*, 11/20/25, (Anthropology)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Terry Hunt, professor in the School of Anthropology, is one of five recipients of the **Ted and Shirley Taubeneck Superior Teaching Award**, which honors faculty for teaching excellence and whose courses inspire and engage students.

Chris Lukinbeal, professor in the School of Geography, Development and Environment, was reappointed by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs to the **Arizona Geographic Information Council**.

The University and College Consortium for Human Rights Education has named **William Paul Simmons**, professor of Human Rights Practice and Gender and Women's Studies in the School of Global Studies, as the 2025 recipient of the **Human Rights in Higher Education Award**. The first international recognition in the field of human rights education—the award honors individuals, organizations, initiatives or publications that have made outstanding contributions to the discipline.

Connie Woodhouse, Regents Professor Emerita in the School of Geography, Development and Environment, is the recipient of the **2026 CSG Lifetime Achievement Award**. The honor recognizes Woodhouse for her substantial contributions to climatology and geography.

MORE EVENTS

JAN
21

Cinema Tucson: Vanilla

Fox Tucson Theatre, 7PM

JAN
22

Show & Tell: Re-envisioning Tucson's Mexican Heritage

Playground Bar and Lounge, 5PM

JAN
22

In the Americas with David Yetman: Season 12

Presentation

The Loft Cinema, 7PM

JAN
23

Spring 2026 Charlas con Café | Cipota, Poetry Reading & Discussion

Marshall Bldg., Room 280, 1PM

JAN
24

2026 Américas Award Global Reads Webinar with Nadine Pinede

Online, 12PM

JAN
30

Technology, Gender Respectability, and Music in Twentieth-Century Egypt

Marshall Bldg., Room 490, 3PM

FEB
3

SGPP Special Panel Discussion: The Impact of the Trump Administration Tariffs and National Security Strategy on the US Influence in Southeast Asia

Social Sciences Building, Room 311, 3:30PM

FEB
11

Tumamoc Author Series 2025-26: Ted Fleming

Tumamoc Hill Boathouse, 5:30PM

FEB
18

International Mother Language Day Events

College of Education, 1430 East Second Street, WOW Space (4th Floor), 2-4PM



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A Just World, Together

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Land Acknowledgment