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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



College of Social
& Behavioral Sciences

SBS SNAPSHOTS

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM
THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR
19-20

Culinary Mestizaje: Racial Mixing and Foodways across the United States

U of A Campus Store / Louis Market - 4PM/12PM

MAR
25

Celebrate America250! (Plus Museum of Democracy Exhibit on Pathway to the Presidency: Road to the White House)

U of A Student Union Campus Store, 5:30PM

MAR
27

39th Annual Town and Gown Lecture: Bridges, Columns, and Saints: Making Space Holy from Prague to Patagonia

Online, 11AM (MST)



SBS Sociologist Rethinks Sustainability in the Desert

Erin Heinz, an environmental sociologist and assistant professor of practice in the School of Sociology, studies the “paradoxes of sustainability” in desert cities. In her recent book, she uses Tucson as a lens to explore how communities in arid regions navigate growth, scarcity and competing visions of what sustainability really means.

SBS FEATURES



College of SBS Cadet Ysabel Dodson Shines as U of A Air Force ROTC Named Best in the Nation

U of A Air Force ROTC program was recently named the best in the nation, earning the Right of Line Award for overall excellence. Criminal justice major Ysabel Dodson is part of the program’s nationally

recognized corps, balancing her academic work with the leadership and service commitments of ROTC as she prepares to commission into the U.S. Air Force.



Angela Castellino Named SBS Alumna of the Year

1993 University of Arizona communication alumna, Angela Castellino, was named the 2026 SBS Alumna of the Year. Guided by her personal motto — “Participate. Elevate. Imagine the possibilities.”— she is a mother, tech executive, and mentor whose leadership spans both career and community.



From Research to Storytelling: Anusha Sharma’s Research Thesis Comes Alive

Anusha Sharma, an SBS Ambassador and a senior majoring in global studies with minors in psychology and South Asian Studies, explores how identity and culture shape belonging across generations. Her honors thesis research took an unexpected creative turn, demonstrating the possibilities of interdisciplinary study at the U of A.



U of A alum Alok Patel, MD, visited the SBS Development office last week! Dr. Patel is a 2007 SBS Journalism and Molecular & Cellular Biology graduate and a 2012 U of A College of Medicine grad. He is a well-known healthcare personality and medical journalist, contributing to ABC News with the segment "Patel It Like It Is." He is also the co-host of The Pitt Podcast, the official companion podcast for the HBO Max Series The Pitt. #WildcatforLife

Kudiret Anuar, a graduate student in the [Master of Public Administration program](#) in the School of Government and Public Policy, is channeling international experience into a bold vision for public service. From Kazakhstan to Arizona, he is expanding his leadership and justice expertise to better serve his community and strengthen public institutions. [Read about the former prosecutor's plans for the future.](#)

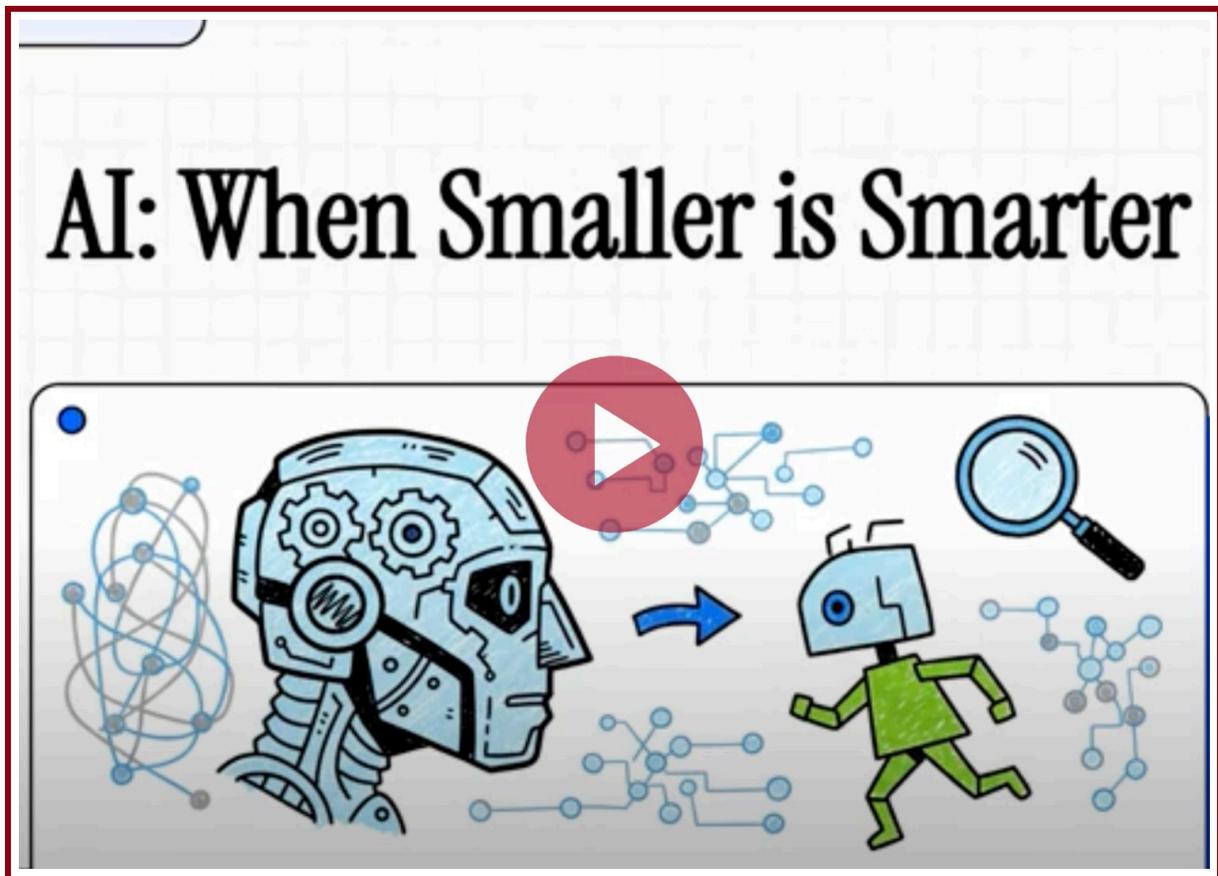
Maura Beste, a Ph.D. student in Gender and Women's Studies in the School of Global Studies, will represent the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the upcoming [Grad Slam 2026 Final Round](#) where graduate students present their research to a general audience in just three minutes. After a strong performance in the [preliminaries](#), she earned a place in the February 25 final to be held at the Stevie Eller Dance Theatre.

Chris Lukinbeal, professor in the School of Geography, Development & Environment and director of the GIST Program, has a new book out titled [Geography's Media Turn: Exploring the Digital, Affective, and Unseen](#)

(Springer, 2026). This edited volume examines how the arts and sciences have had to adapt, engage, confront, and even alter research, teaching, and community service because of modern media.

Alyssa G. Norris, a dual major in public health and sociology and a Poverty Research Fellow in the School of Sociology, participated in the fall 2025 Tucson Poverty Project and recently **published an op-ed in the *Arizona Daily Star***, reflecting on the structural and systemic factors that create the conditions for poverty to thrive in Pima County.

Rain Liu, assistant professor in the Department of Communication, and her research team conducted a **research project in Ghana examining social factors that influence anti-littering habits**. The study was co-authored with two of Liu's former graduate students — **Kwaku Danso** and **Taylor Foerster**.



How can AI make sense of political conflict? Javier Osorio, associate professor in the School of Government and Public Policy, shows why large language models trained for political science are superior to generic AI tools. **Check out his fun, easy-to-follow video** based on his **co-authored research** to see how specialized AI is changing the way we study politics.

SBS IN THE NEWS

"It's Been a Minute: Make life harder (and better): Learn another language," NPR, 2/16/26 (Sarah Phillips, Linguistics)

"Anderson Cooper 360: Friend and colleague of Nancy Guthrie on her effect on the community," CNN, 2/13/26 (Jacqueline Sharkey, Journalism)

"Two different kinds of borders: Tucson environmental advocate on his first book of poems" *AZ Luminaria*, 2/9/26 (Johanna Skibsrud, English)

"7 techniques used by indigenous peoples that science only managed to explain centuries later," *Click Petróleo e Gás* (Brazil), 2/7/26 (Richard Stoffle, Anthropology)

"Facing midterm wipeout, Arizona Republicans revive sharia law panic," *Salon*, 2/7/26 (Thomas Volgy, Government and Public Policy)

"University of Arizona students learn to spot misinformation during News Literacy Week," KGUN-9, 2/6/26 (Journalism)

"Cool Science Radio podcast: The moon's past, present and uncertain future," KPCW-Radio (Park City, Utah), 2/5/26 (Christopher Cokinos, English)

"U of A study urges equity first urban greening to boost climate resilience in Tucson," KGUN-TV, 2/3/26 (Adriana Zuniga Teran, Geography, Development & Environment)

"How can music blur differences and clump equality?" *Elle Indonesia*, 2/3/26 (Jake Harwood, Communication)

" **Governors leave DC with no deal on Colorado River, mixed messages,**"
Arizona Daily Star, 1/31/26 (Andrea Gerlak, Geography, Development & Environment)

"**Video: Discovery of fossilized human footprints in an ancient lakebed,**"
DailyMotion, 1/30/26 (Vance Holliday, Anthropology)

"**Gavin Newsom memoir describes difficult childhood, contrary to image,**" *The New York Times*, 2/1/26 (Kate Kenski, Communication)

" **MAGA is funding murals of a slain Ukrainian refugee. Are they weaponizing her memory?**" *The Guardian* (UK), 1/23/26 (Stefano Bloch, Geography, Development & Environment)

" **Making the moai,**" *The Past* (UK), 1/20/26 (Terry Hunt, Anthropology)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Megan Carney, associate professor in the School of Anthropology, is one of two recipients of the **2026 Center for Global Health Prize**, for her book, *Island of Hope: Migration and Solidarity in the Mediterranean*.

SIROW is involved with Tucson's Community Court, which won the 2025 Innovation Award for the Arizona Association of Drug Court Professionals. Resource Navigator, **Zachery Simmons**, leads SIROW's participation in disrupting the cycle of homelessness and incarceration by representing SIROW alongside community providers in a bimonthly court that seeks to connect folks exiting the criminal justice system with critical housing and behavioral health resources.

Jacob Negrey, assistant professor in the School of Anthropology, was awarded grant funding from the **Leakey Foundation**, for his research on how and why chimpanzee social interactions change with advanced age.

MORE EVENTS

FEB
20

International Mother Language Day Events: Celebrating Linguistic and Cultural Diversity Worldwide

University of Arizona Mall, 10AM-3PM

FEB
20

Spring 2026 Charlas con Café | Intervention in Venezuela & Regional Impact from Multiple Perspectives

Online, 1PM

FEB
20

2026 Miranda Joseph Endowed Lecture: Paulo Ramos

Online & ENR2 Bldg., 1064 East Lowell St., 6PM

FEB
20

Film | Huesera: The Bone Woman

Marroney Theatre, 5:30PM

FEB
21

Book Release and Film Screening: Paulo Ramos

Historic Y, 300 E. University Ave, 5:30PM

FEB
22

An Evening of Jewish Chamber Music: Mahler and Bloch

Fred Fox School of Music, 7PM

FEB
25

School of Government & Public Policy | Guest Speaker: Aeric Koerner

Social Sciences Building, Room 311, 12-1:30PM

FEB
25

History Lunch Lecture Symposium: Dr. Robert Varady

Cesar Chavez Building, 406A, 12:30PM

FEB
25

Cinema Tucson: Oca

Fox Tucson Theatre, 7PM

FEB
26

FC Talks | Bas Van der Vossen: Labor, Value, and Lockean Appropriation

Online & Social Sciences Bldg., 12:30PM

FEB
27

Spring 2026 Charlas con Café | Reimagining Tourism in the Colca Valley: Regenerative Aspirations in the Shadow of Mass Tourism

Marshall Bldg., Room 280, 1PM

MAR
4

School of Government & Public Policy | Guest Speaker: Jennifer Wolak : The Political Consequences of Loneliness

Social Sciences Building, Room 311, 1:30-3PM

MAR
11

Tumamoc Author Series 2025-26: Theresa M. Crimmins

Tumamoc Hill Boathouse, 6PM

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Land Acknowledgment