



Letter From the Editors

Today, as we relaunch our newspaper for the first time in six years, we honor not just the legacy of those who came before us, but also their pioneering spirit. This publication represents more than just the revival of a dormant platform; it symbolizes our commitment to amplifying the diverse voices that make Thunderbird a melting pot of global leadership and exploring uncharted territory. In an era where the boundaries between nations blur and the challenges we face grow increasingly complex, we need spaces for dialogue and discovery more than ever before. We hope you enjoy the student voices represented here and the determination, persistence, and creativity they poured into these pieces.

-Gwen Dalisay & Katherine Walsh, Co-Editors 2024

Opinion

The 2024 Election: A Case for Open Primaries

An in-depth look at how the primary system, or lack thereof, shaped one of the most controversial elections in U.S. history

By Andrew Domanskis

Like many Americans, I woke up on election day believing that Vice President Harris would likely be the next president of the United States. This sentiment would quickly change as the day progressed, with President-elect Donald Trump claiming victory by historic margins before midnight on the West Coast. He would carry all seven swing states and even secure the elusive popular vote, a feat Republicans had not achieved since George W. Bush was elected over John Kerry in 2004. Trump has spent the last decade shrouded in controversy, culminating in his recent conviction by a New York jury on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. With these seemingly favorable conditions for the Democratic Party to sweep the election, the disproportionate results have

left many pundits questioning whether certain decisions made by the Democrats, such as not hosting a proper primary, may have proved imprudent in hindsight. Similarly, despite emerging victorious in the general election, Trump's ascension to the Republican nomination was far from a model democratic process with him not participating in any primary debates, instead sticking to rally speeches and his typical combative press interviews. Thus, while both parties contend they held some form of an open primary, in practice, these so-called 'primaries' were far from competitive or transparent processes. Voters were offered limited choice, with little opportunity for thorough debate and proper evaluation of the candidates.

The Democratic primary officially kicked off or ended rather in April of 2023 when President Biden announced he would run for re-election to the presidency. With what appeared to be a strong State of the Union performance under his belt, he seemed poised to be a strong contender against Donald Trump. However, as the 2024 election neared closer, following a disastrous debate performance against President-elect Trump in June 2024, increasing concerns about Biden's age began to plague the Democratic Party. Eventually, an intraparty campaign led by key figures like former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi would call for Biden to step down as the nominee. Then, during a historic 10-day period in July of 2024, a gunman nearly assassinated Trump just two-

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Socials



Domestic Affairs

The ‘Primary’ Problem

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days before the Republican National Convention, where he would name former venture capitalist JD Vance as the vice presidential nominee. A few days later, Biden withdrew from the race and endorsed Vice President Harris, whose nomination was secured with the backing of key Democrats. This approach, while politically expedient, raises fundamental questions about the integrity of the nomination process in a party claiming to advance democratic values.

Unfortunately, Biden’s unprecedented withdrawal just before the Democratic National Convention made hosting a proper primary nearly impossible. Former Speaker Nancy Pelosi acknowledged this point in a recent interview with the New York Times, stating, “Had the president [Biden] gotten out sooner, there may have been other candidates in

the race.” Assuming Biden had withdrawn from the race sooner and a sort of rapid-fire primary was held, the Democratic Party could have conceivably chosen from a pool of qualified candidates. Voters may have chosen a nominee that was unburdened by a negative association with the incumbent administration, one troubled by economic issues largely stemming from the pandemic and the onset of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. With numerous strong candidates, such as Governor Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania or Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, it seems odd no additional consideration was given to the party’s choice of nominee. Take Dean Phillips, a congressman from Minnesota whose independent presidential campaign against Biden went largely unnoticed. Or the case of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who was ousted for seemingly untenable beliefs with the modern Democratic platform. He would eventually endorse Trump, highlighting a broader

strategy of Trump’s campaign—securing endorsements from key political figures, who have since been rewarded in the form of key cabinet positions post his election victory. These endorsements, combined with strong polling, effectively made Trump’s nomination a foregone conclusion. This lack of a robust primary shielded him from criticism within his own party and limited voters’ exposure to alternative Republican voices such as Nikki Haley, who seemed to be gathering support before eventually succumbing to Trump’s consuming hold on the Republican base.

Within a representative democracy such as the United States, the people vote on elected officials to make decisions on their behalf. In this system, the legitimacy of elected officials hinges on a transparent and participatory selection process. When this process is circumvented through strategic withdrawals or unchallenged dominance, the voter’s ability to make informed decisions is



undermined. By electing candidates through a proper primary, it can be ensured that the nominees truly reflect the will of the people rather than merely being the result of clever political maneuvering. Republicans and Democrats alike insist that a fair process was held to choose their respective candidates as their presidential nominees. However, it is undoubtedly true that a primary in which voters could have evaluated a broader range of candidates through a series of conventional debates would have been a definitionally more democratic process. As a country that outwardly champions democracy, one must imagine it difficult to find anyone who would disagree with the strengthening of our delicate democratic process through the hosting of more encompassing presidential primaries.

Fighting to Preserve Oak Flat

By Cristina Alcazar- Kinney

Just east of Phoenix, Arizona, lies Oak Flat, known to the Apache as Chích’íl Bìl Dagoteel, the birthplace of their tribe and a sacred cultural site. Over the centuries, various indigenous tribes have regarded Oak Flat as a vital meeting ground where ceremonies were held, goods were traded, and healing was found in the hot springs and desert valley that sprawls across the land.

Since 2015, the Apache Stronghold has held its annual Protect Oak Flat Prayer Run &

Protest to update supporters on their efforts to defend Oak Flat from Resolution Copper's destructive mining practices. Resolution Copper is backed by powerful international companies, including Rio Tinto and BHP, with the People’s Republic of China holding significant influence. The largest shareholder of Rio Tinto is the foreign entity Shining Prospect Private Limited, based in Singapore and owned by Chinalco, a state-owned company in China. Oak Flat is listed on the National Register of

Historic Places as the Chí’chil Bildagoteel Historic District. Despite this designation, it faces the threat of block cave mining, a practice that weakens underground rock, causing the ground to collapse into gaping sinkholes. This process redirects water from the Colorado River Basin toward waste rock, which contains heavy metals. When mixed with sulfide rock, acid drainage contaminates sacred rivers, threatening the environment and the ancestral lands that have sustained generations of Southwestern Indigenous peoples. The mining project will also deplete scarce water resources. Resolution Copper plans to pump at least 775,000 acre-feet of water (approximately 250 billion gallons) over the mine’s 40-year lifespan—enough to supply 140,000 homes annually for four decades.

Wendsler and his family shared stories of their generational connection to Oak Flat, and the following morning, we took part in the Prayer Run—a relay race across the reservation symbolizing the tribe’s struggle to break free from the restrictions imposed on them.

I strongly encourage supporters of this effort to protect natural resources and human rights to research the events leading up to the 2015 decision to transfer the sacred Oak Flat land to Resolution Copper. In our home state, the Sonoran Desert thrives with the flora and fauna that have long supported the people of Arizona, especially the indigenous tribes of the Superior Mountain Range, providing the resources necessary for survival in our communities. I encourage you all to remember Oak Flat when you encounter something in your own life that you deem as sacred to you.

In February 2022, I participated in the annual Protect Oak Flat protest at the base of the mine, joining the Apache Stronghold and others in prayer for the well-being of their leaders. Together, we set up our tents beneath the artificial, neon fuchsia glow of the mine, a stark symbol of the colonizing force at work. Chief



Domestic Affairs

Securities and Exchange Commission v Jarksey

By Aimee Hopkins

What began as ordinary charges filed by the Securities & Exchanges Commission (SEC) has culminated in a Supreme Court decision with broad implications for both federal agencies and billionaires alike. In 2013, the SEC charged Texas native George Jarksey with committing various security frauds. Jarksey was known by some as a conservative radio show host and a hedge fund manager. To a more dedicated crowd, he was known as the singer of “Bad Obama Blues.” The SEC alleged



that Jarksey and his selected investment advisor, Patriot28 LLC, had misled investors by “arbitrarily inflating the value of certain holdings from \$.30 per share to \$3.30 per share – so that they could charge higher management fees.” The SEC claimed that Jarksey had manipulated stock prices by hiring stock promoters to create artificial and unsustainable spikes in the price of the stocks in which the bulk of the investor’s funds were being invested. The charges against Jarksey were initially heard and decided by an SEC Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). ALJs serve as independent adjudicators in agency proceedings, who determine whether allegations against respondents are founded.

Much like a traditional judge, ALJs conduct hearings and rule on motions and on the admissibility of evidence. In Jarksey’s case, the ALJ found he had violated, aided, abetted, and caused violations of the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws. He was slapped with \$300,000 in fines and various other penalties. Jarksey, however, appealed to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. Instead of arguing the merits of the charges against him, his trial team questioned the constitutional validity of his trial before the ALJ. They argued that under the Seventh Amendment, Jarksey had a right to have his charges heard by a jury of his peers. The 5th Circuit found in favor of Jarksey and vacated the decision of the SEC ALJ. The SEC then filed a petition for the matter to be heard by the Supreme Court. In June of 2024, more than a decade after the initial charges were brought, the US Supreme Court handed down a 6-3 decision in Jarksey’s favor. The Court found that the types of charges brought by the SEC in the case against Jarksey - and the types of charges often utilized by federal agencies - replicate “common law”. Under the Seventh Amendment, civil litigants in common law matters have the right to a trial by jury. Therefore, the findings against Jarksey were unconstitutional, as they were decided by an SEC Administrative Law Judge instead of by a jury of his peers. So, what does this mean? This ruling carries broad implications. Critics warn that federal agencies focused on promoting health and safety (Department of Labor, the National Labor



Relations Board, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, etc.) rely on ALJs to expedite enforcement actions. With this ruling in place, these federal agencies may reassess their use of ALJs and may be hesitant to use them for any enforcement actions that resemble common law claims, allowing violators to slip through the cracks. Supporters of the ruling believe the decision will restore fairness. Many believe the SEC ALJs are biased towards the agency and defendants fare better with juries. This decision is viewed as a major victory for those who are often targeted by federal agencies, such as corporations, high-profile individuals, and industries subject to regulatory oversights. To demonstrate this more fully, Elon Musk and Mark Cuban paid a significant portion of Jarksey’s legal fees. To Musk, this was personal. In 2018, Musk was in Jarksey’s shoes – after a series of tweets went out by Musk broadcasting intentions to go private with Tesla (which never happened),



the SEC filed charges, claiming the tweets were misleading and were a violation of securities fraud. To settle the suit, Musk and Tesla both paid a hefty fine of \$20 million. As the dust settles around the decision in Jarksey v SEC, we are expecting a rebalance between individual constitutional rights and federal agency authority. In essence, any time a federal agency wants to impose civil penalties, it must consider the defendant’s Seventh Amendment right to a jury trial. While critics warn this shift could slow regulatory actions, proponents believe it offers a pathway for those subject to federal charges.

The Danger of Dismantling the Department of Education

By Emily Allan

Guest Writer -
ASU Graduate Student

President-elect Donald Trump’s pledge to abolish the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) is more than a symbolic victory for his broader “America First” agenda; it’s a risky promise that could dismantle decades of progress toward educational equity. While Trump frames this as a victory for states’ rights and a reduction of federal overreach, abolishing the DOE could very likely deepen existing disparities in education, leaving vulnerable students without crucial protections and

widening the gap between wealthy and disadvantaged districts. Established in 1979, the DOE administers vital programs like Title I and Pell Grants, which help support low-income students and make college more affordable while also safeguarding civil rights and promoting equity. While proponents of this view argue that local control could improve outcomes, it risks exacerbating disparities, with wealthier states thriving while poorer districts struggle to meet basic needs. Abolishing the DOE would remove crucial protections for students from marginalized

communities, which could lead to uneven access to services and misallocated funds, thereby deepening educational inequalities. Yet, this commitment to state’s rights overlooks the reality that education in the U.S. is already fragmented, with significant variation in quality, access, and opportunity across states. Federal involvement, however imperfect, ensures that there are basic standards in place to prevent the most egregious disparities. The suggestion that eliminating the DOE would somehow improve education by returning power to the states ignores a fundamental issue: the lack of consistency and equity across the nation. Abolishing the DOE could exacerbate these problems, leaving millions of students, especially those in underserved areas, at the mercy of local political forces.

Education is a fundamental right, and the federal government has a responsibility to step in when states or localities fail to meet the needs of their citizens. While Trump’s vision may appeal to those who want less government interference, it risks abandoning the very students who need federal support the most. Instead of eliminating the DOE, the focus should be on reforming it, improving its efficiency, and strengthening its role in safeguarding the rights and opportunities of all students. improve education by returning power to the states ignores a fundamental issue: the lack of consistency and equity across the nation. Abolishing the DOE could exacerbate these problems, leaving millions of students, especially those in underserved areas, at the mercy of local political forces.

Foreign Affairs

Why Trade Still Matters: Studying Globalization in a Changing World

By Jonas Gamso

Guest Writer- Thunderbird Associate Professor

In recent years, globalization – the very idea, central to Thunderbird’s mission and identity, that countries, economies, and people around the world are more connected than ever – has faced a series of setbacks, including trade wars, pandemic disruptions, and rising nationalism. Here in the US, policymakers across the political spectrum have eschewed the open economic order in favor of tariffs and protectionism, and a similar trend has been underway in Europe. Against this backdrop, some analysts warn that globalization is fading, while others have declared it all but dead. While these assessments might be overstated, globalization does appear to have plateaued, at least for now.

Thunderbird students may wonder: why study international trade if the world seems to be moving away from it? The truth is that globalization may be transforming, but it isn’t vanishing. In this emerging economic landscape, the sort of trade knowledge that Thunderbird specializes in is more critical than ever for understanding the world and navigating its opportunities and challenges.

Trade is Adapting

Even as the patterns of globalization change, trade itself isn’t going anywhere. Instead, it is adapting to a new reality where countries seek regional and local partnerships as much as global ones. The push for “near-shoring” and “friend-shoring” has made headlines, with countries increasingly sourcing goods closer to home

or from political allies. This has accelerated a trend that was already underway due to gridlock at the World Trade Organization and the proliferation of regional trade agreements between governments. The shift towards regionalism means that understanding trade today requires an appreciation for alliance structures, supply chain adaptations, and the diverse motivations of different nations.

Geopolitics and Trade are Intertwined

It has always been the case that trade knowledge goes hand-in-hand with an understanding of geopolitics, but this is now truer than ever. Political tensions, from strategic competition between the US and China to sanctions against Russia and Iran, have serious implications for global businesses. By the same token, governments looking to curry favor with one another may do so by offering preferential trade access. Within this context, analysts must have expertise in the economics and politics of trade to successfully advise private or public sector organizations.

Trade and Technology: Partners in Transformation

Just as trade is tied to geopolitics, it is closely connected to technology. Advances in digital trade, logistics, and financial technology are changing how we engage in commerce globally, often making trade more flexible and accessible. Indeed, e-commerce and digital trade clauses are increasingly common in trade agreements between nations. Yet the relationship between

trade and technology may not always be positive – one study found that 25% of global trade could be wiped out by 3D printing in the coming decades. For students, understanding trade now means engaging with the technological innovations that are reshaping it.

Addressing Global Challenges Requires Trade

From climate change to pandemic response, addressing global problems requires the movement of goods, services, and ideas across borders. Trade enables cooperation on these challenges, whether by allowing for the rapid distribution of medical supplies or by facilitating the diffusion of green technologies, innovations, and practices. In short, trade is a vital piece of the puzzle for addressing the challenges of our time.

While the world may look different today than it did in past decades, trade is still very much a part of our lives. For students interested in understanding and influencing the world around them, a grounding in trade remains critical – not in spite of these challenges, but because of them.



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Mbugua Wainana, Advisor

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AT THUNDERBIRD

Foreign Affairs

Bridging the Divide

By Allison Hale



At a recent meeting hosted by Thunderbird School of Global Management's Foreign Policy Initiative, students, business leaders, and academic professionals gathered to discuss the intricacies of US-China negotiations. Supported by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Arizona, the panel offered valuable insights into the often-unrecognized differences between Western and Chinese negotiation practices. Highlighting these cultural nuances is critical, as the panel repeatedly underscored, since a lack of understanding has led many US companies to struggle or even fail in their dealings with Chinese counterparts.

One of the most emphasized points during the discussion came from Doug Guthrie, a professor and experienced academic, who stressed the importance of understanding one's counterpart's history before entering negotiations.

Guthrie argued that history significantly impacts how businesses perceive foreign companies, often judging them based on their presence and approach within the market. For instance, foreign companies operating in China through joint ventures may be viewed more favorably than those with only a trading company or representative office. The business model chosen influences how a company is perceived, reinforcing the importance of adapting one's strategy and approach based on this historical context.

Another essential concept discussed was *guanxi*, the Chinese principle of social networking and trust-building. Relationships, or *guanxi*, are foundational in Chinese business, often preceding any discussion of contracts or deals. Unlike the US, where efficiency and practicality are prized, Chinese business culture often requires extensive relationship-

building activities such as dinners and informal meetings. Many US companies fail to recognize this, attempting to conclude negotiations within a brief timeframe. As several panelists noted, this approach overlooks the need for trust and rapport in Chinese business culture. By gaining an understanding of Chinese cultural expectations, US companies can approach negotiations with the insight necessary for establishing lasting partnerships. Such lessons highlight how navigating international business relationships often requires adapting to another country's historical and social fabric—a perspective that could make all the difference in successful cross-cultural collaboration. As Thunderbird students preparing to lead in the global business arena, we must cultivate a deep curiosity about relationship building, foreign policy, and navigating complex political landscapes. These skills will define our ability to adapt and succeed in diverse international environments. If you're eager to learn more about these critical topics and engage in meaningful discussions, stay connected with the Foreign Policy Initiative at Thunderbird. Join them as they continue to bridge cultures and foster a collaborative dialogue for future leaders ready to make a global impact.

Ukraine's Aid at Risk?

By Alec Toppenberg

As a new era of U.S. leadership dawns, Ukraine finds its current aid and funding facing an uncertain future. The ongoing conflict with Russia has already inflicted a devastating toll on Ukraine, with millions displaced and critical infrastructure destroyed. As both sides continue to fight on with no end in sight, Ukraine has found itself becoming increasingly reliant on international support, with the current administration having committed over \$175 billion in aid since the war began. However, with President-Elect Trump's return to power early next year, politicians and citizens alike have begun to question the future stability of that support.

By providing defense strategy and supplying advanced weaponry, intelligence, and diplomatic backing since the initial invasion of Kyiv in early 2022, the United States has found itself cemented as a cornerstone in Ukraine's war efforts. As the conflict continues to protract, American lawmakers and politicians have begun advocating for a reevaluation of foreign aid priorities, urging the government to focus on domestic issues over international engagements.

As a new administration prepares to step into the spotlight, President-Elect Trump's approach could significantly alter the course of the conflict, with potential reductions in U.S. aid and a push for European countries to take on a larger share of the support burden. This shift could leave Ukraine in a precarious position, struggling to defend itself against Russian aggression without the robust backing it has received from the Biden administration.

The coming months will be pivotal as the world waits with bated breath to see how the conflict will evolve under the upcoming Trump administration. The outcome will not only shape Ukraine's future but also signal the direction of U.S. foreign policy and how the nation will respond to future conflicts under the Trump administration.



“Borders Frequented by Trade Seldom Need Soldiers”





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School News

Regional Night: Middle East & North Africa

By Rachel Benoit

On October 4, the Thunderbird community came alive at the Global Headquarters to celebrate Middle East Northern Africa (MENA) Regional Night! The event, organized by Thunderbird Student Government, brought together students, faculty, and alumni for an evening of cultural celebration. "Regional Night is a social and cultural event where t-birds can come together and celebrate," explained Nora Khaled, TSG's President. "It is a fun event filled with amazing food and live performances."

As the sun set, the atmosphere buzzed with anticipation for a blend of entertainment, education, and culinary delights. The Global Sounds Club enchanted the audience with melodic tunes, while belly dancers showcased the art form's rich cultural roots. The festive spirit was further enhanced by an impressive array of delicious food, allowing attendees to sample a variety of MENA dishes. Despite long lines, each bite was well worth

the wait! A highlight of the night was the stunning fashion show hosted by the Thunderbird Fashion Club, which consisted of 22 contestants adorning the traditional attire of each MENA country. Among them was Mansoor Shari, representing Afghanistan, whose self-designed dress dazzled the audience. Shining light on the undergraduate Thunderbird community was Jamel Waye, who proudly represented Tunisian attire.

Beyond the entertainment, many clubs took the opportunity to engage by setting up tables. Among the organizations that participated was the Arab Cultural Club, who also assisted in planning the event, as well as the ACEL club, Campus Ambassadors, and many more! Each organization brought their own unique take to the night, with many of the clubs providing give-aways that allowed the attendees to bring home their own piece of MENA culture.

As the night concluded, it was clear that MENA Regional Night had left a lasting impression. According to Rahaf Nukaly, President of the Arab Cultural Club, "Regional Night was an incredible opportunity to celebrate our heritage, connect with others, and create a space where everyone could experience the beauty of our traditions and food. For me and the Arab Club...it was about fostering a sense of belonging within the community, building stronger relationships, and creating an inclusive environment where we all feel valued. It's moments like these that help expand our collective global perspective and strengthen the bonds that tie us together." Filled with laughter, learning, and celebration, the night truly reinforced Thunderbird's commitment to embracing diversity and celebrating cultural heritage.



Welcoming Dean Charla Griffy-Brown

By Victoria Minerva

Thunderbird School of Global Management recently welcomed Dr. Charla Griffy-Brown as its next Director General and Dean of Students. Dean Griffy-Brown boasts an impressive resume, having dedicated over 25 years to some of the world's most influential organizations, with significant contributions in both academia and industry. She was described by Arizona State University's Executive Vice President and University Provost at ASU, Nancy Gonzales, as, "...the right choice to lead the school into the future." From her extensive perspective living and working throughout the Asia-Pacific

region, Europe, and the United States, Dr. Griffy-Brown contributes a deep global perspective to her engagements and leverages her abilities in identifying and solving mission-critical problems and design strategies. Dr. Griffy-Brown herself sees an opportunity to harness Thunderbird's global



network to create a transformative impact on the world. "Together, we will build on Thunderbird's legacy, leveraging cutting-edge technology, interdisciplinary research, and a diverse and dynamic community to shape the next generation of global leaders," she said. "Our vision is to forge a network of innovative, resilient, and culturally astute leaders who are equipped to tackle global challenges in our digitally interconnected, complex, and dynamic world." This reflects her commitment to furthering the interdisciplinary development of Thunderbird's next generation of global digital leaders.

Upcoming Events

- 11/30 Football @ University of Arizona
- 12/03 Tucson T-Bird Christmas
- 12/03 Men's Basketball vs. San Diego
- 12/05 Last Pub Night
- 12/06 Last Day of Classes
- 12/09-12/14 Final Exams
- 12/13 Graduation Celebration
- 12/14 Men's Basketball vs. Florida
- 12/16 ASU Fall Graduate Commencement
- 12/17 Thunderbird Fall Convocation
- 12/25 Christmas
- 12/26 Hanukkah / Kwanzaa
- 1/04 Men's Basketball vs. Colorado
- 1/13 First day of Spring Semester

Sports Section

Interviewing Matt Thurmond ASU Golf Head Coach

By Alec Toppenberg

As the Arizona State University golf team swings into action this season, the excitement on and off the greens is undeniable. The team is currently ranked as the second best collegiate golf team in the country, holding a record of 48-7-1 in the NCAA Division I. I had the pleasure of sitting down with the team's esteemed head coach, Matt Thurmond, to discuss what lies ahead for the Sun Devils. In this exclusive interview for Das Tor, Coach Thurmond opens up about the rigorous preparations, standout players to watch, and the innovative strategies set to drive the team towards another successful season.



What kind of goals does such a high-level program have? What kind of goals do you have set for the year?

Coach Thurmond: We're aiming every year for winning a championship. For us, this is the seventh year in a row where, you know, most likely we'll finish the year ranked in the top five or six so we're always in the hunt. Doesn't mean it's easy, but we're always right there and the biggest goal is to win championships from a results perspective, but also to be good guys and represent the school at the highest level and connect with our community, those are all big things for us, and part of who we are. On and off the field.

How would you say the program has evolved during your tenure as head coach since you took the position in 2016? What would you say you are most proud of that you have accomplished with the team?

Coach Thurmond: Well, it's always been a great program here at ASU and I hopefully have done my part well. I'm proud of how many people in our community, including our alums and our donors that have got on board and have been willing to help us. We have such a huge recruiting footprint for the program here that continues to expand, and we are at the point now where we can pretty much sign top players from any corner of the world. Wherever you go, there's kids that are dying to come to ASU and be on the golf team, and that's pretty cool just from a brand perspective. With all of our players, we've been over a 3.5 GPA now for like four or five straight years, which is a point of pride for the program. I mean, our facility is widely known and is, I think one of the best in college golf and our Instagram following and our social media impact is by far the largest in college golf, these are all things I'm proud of.

What would you consider to be the best golf course in the world?

Coach Thurmond: Royal Dornoch in Scotland. The setting is absolutely stunning. You're surrounded by incredible coastal views and rugged landscapes that make every round feel special.

Who would you consider to be the greatest golfer of all time?

Coach Thurmond: I think Jack Nicklaus is the greatest golfer of all time.

I know it's very travel intensive to be on any sports team. So with such a travel intensive schedule, how do you ensure that players stay on top of their studies?

Coach Thurmond: We start by recruiting guys that are committed to school. It's kind of amazing, you know, because yes they travel a lot, but I found over the years that they actually perform even better when they're traveling. There's something about us as humans that the busier we are, the more structured and detailed we are. It's like when you have more time, you actually use it less well. And so I find that when we're traveling a lot, they're more likely to be exercising more, eating right, studying, getting their sleep. It's actually the opposite when we don't have tournaments and aren't traveling that they can fall into getting a little lazy. So we've always performed well when we travel. The teachers are understanding and I think our players have been good students, so they've earned that understanding from the teachers or the professors. But yeah, I'm really proud of the performance of these guys. We never have to worry about them.

Could you share any upcoming initiatives or events within the program that fans and ASU students should be excited for?

Coach Thurmond: Absolutely. Our home tournament is always in April. It's Master's weekend, so April 11-12 this year at Papago Golf Club. It's a free event, and it's always great to have students and fans out there watching it. Students can follow our Instagram account too, we always put a lot of live stuff on our story from the tournaments. It's always a great feeling to get support from the students.

The Return of ASU Football

By Alec Toppenberg

After a tough few years, the ASU football program is back and better than ever in the 2024 season, consistently crushing all preseason predictions for the program's entry into the Big 12 this year. Despite being predicted to finish dead last in the Big 12 Conference, ASU is currently sitting at a 8-2 record with notable wins over schools such as Utah and Kansas, both notorious for their consistently highly-ranked programs. Through a unified team effort under the leadership of the second-year head coach Kenny Dillingham, the ASU football program makes its resurgence as the conference underdog as it pursues a spot in a bowl game for the 2024 season.

While the recent success of the ASU football program is the result of a unified effort from many notable players both on and off the field, it is nearly impossible to talk about ASU football this season without mentioning senior running back Cam Skattebo, who has consistently been able to deliver for the team in crucial moments throughout the season thus far. In case there was any doubt on his significance to the program, after rushing for 186 yards and two touchdowns in a thrilling 35-31 victory over Kansas, Skattebo was lauded with national recognition and named the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week.

After a disappointing last few seasons, the ASU football program is back and better than ever. Their success is a culmination of the dedication and passion of the players, coaches, and fans. There's no better time to be a Sun Devil, and the ASU Football team is counting on your support and attendance as they near the end of the season and prepare for their first bowl game since 2021.



The Gate

Wherever we travel, whenever we pass from one country to another we must go through a gate. However Das Tor means more than simply the traversing of borders; it stands as a symbol and artery of communication through the barriers of superstition, ignorance, dogma, and racism and prejudice; traditional enemies which continue to be a detriment to progress and global peace.

Idealistic though it may sound, it has now become the responsibility of our generation, the future leaders of the international community, to make every effort to widen these gates and succeed where previous generations have failed. Das Tor must therefore be an open forum for debate, a clearing house of ideas that may further prepare us for the international community and further augment the reputation of this youthful institution.”

-Bob Morabito, Founding Editor, 1969

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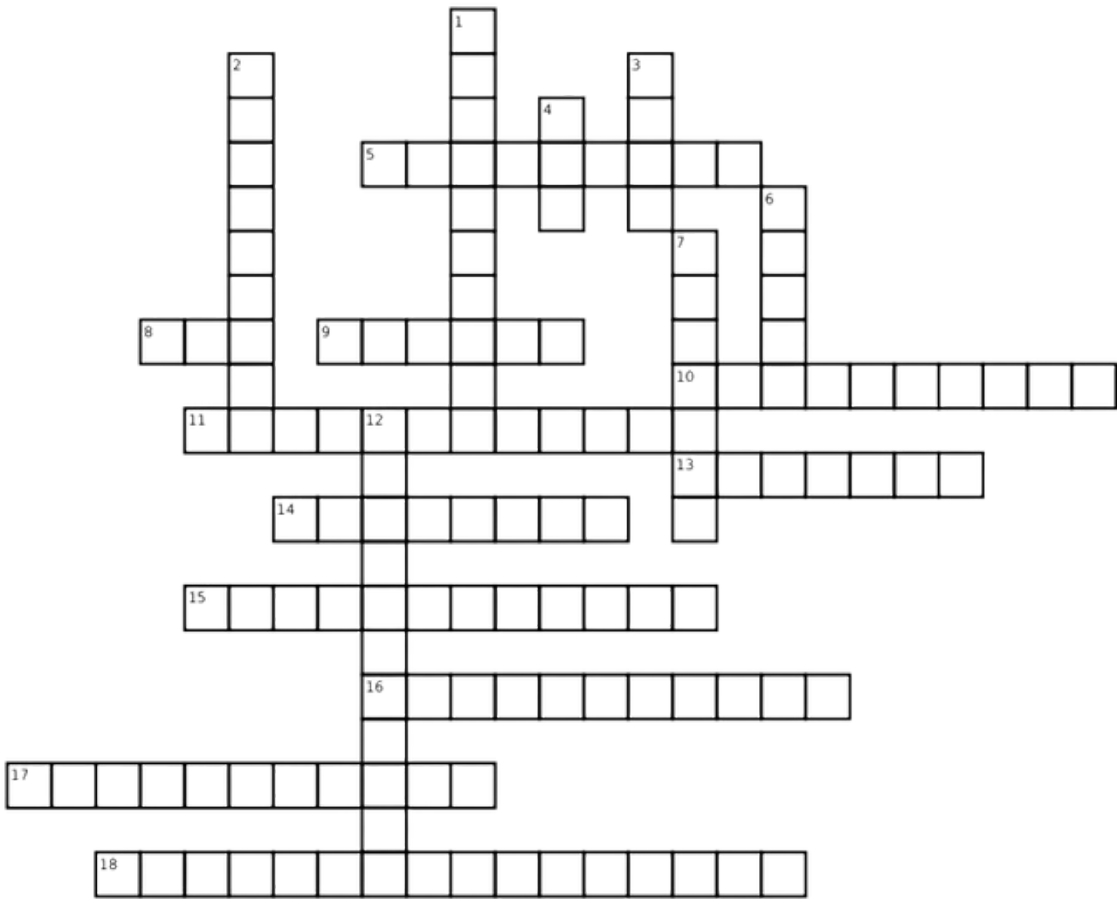
All letters to the editor, opinion, and commentary columns express the opinion of the writer and not necessarily those of Das Tor, the student body, the faculty as a whole, or the administration. Das Tor reserves the right to edit letters to the editor, opinions, and commentaries for length and clarity.

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Down:

- 1. Name of the coffee shop on the first floor of the Thunderbird Global Headquarters
- 2. A figure of this type of animal hangs in the pub
- 3. Acronym for the unified T-bird alumni community that promotes lifelong learning, student success, and strategy
- 4. Acronym or the student organization that represents the T-bird student body
- 6. T-bird alum that provided a generous scholarship donation or students hoping to study abroad on the Semester at Sea program
- 7. Professor that is also the Executive Director of Najai Global Mindset Institute
- 12. Name of the multi-day orientation event

Across:

- 5. Professor that recently received the honor of joining the list of the top 50 bestselling case authors
- 8. Acronym or the scientifically validated assessment that measures global intellectual capital, global psychological capital, and global social capital to help global business leaders strengthen their skills
- 9. The previous dean of Thunderbird that said “borders frequented by trade seldom need soldiers.”
- 10. ASU has been ranked #1 in this for 10 years
- 11. The game set up in the Thunderbird pub
- 13. Name of the T-bird Global Entrepreneurship and Family Business center that hosts the

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#1 in the world for international trade

ASU ahead of Harvard, Penn (Wharton) and IMD
— QS International Trade Rankings, 2024

#1 in the U.S. for innovation

ASU ahead of MIT and Stanford
— U.S. News & World Report, 9 years, 2016–24