



## Thunderbird News



### **US VP Harris announces Thunderbird at ASU, Department of State partnership in support of female entrepreneurs**

As recently announced by U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs are launching a

new [five-year, public-private partnership](#) in support of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs program.

As part of this partnership, Thunderbird is offering courses in its [Francis and Dionne Najafi 100 Million Learners Global Initiative](#) to all academy participants and alumni, at absolutely no cost to the learner.

The partnership helps Thunderbird move closer to its goal of reaching 100 million learners — 70% of who will be women and young women. It also supports the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Thunderbird's shared priorities of promoting gender equity, economic opportunity, entrepreneurship, and education.

"When you provide women entrepreneurs with the tools to start and grow small businesses and social enterprises, you invest not only in the woman, but also in her family, employees, community and country," said Dr. Sanjeev Khagram, Director General and Dean at Thunderbird.

[Read the article](#)

[Learn about 100ML](#)



## Thunderbird alumna Siobhan MacDermott '05 delivers keynote at spring 2023 convocation

Siobhan MacDermott, partner at The Consello Group and alumna, delivered the

keynote address at Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University's spring 2023 convocation.

With a career spanning over 25 years at the intersection of global business, banking, policy, intelligence, and technology, MacDermott advises CEOs and boards on finance, intelligence, cybersecurity, and global risk as part of her work at The Consello Group. She has worked in more than 10 countries and speaks five languages, exemplifying the true T-bird spirit.

"Throughout Siobhan's impressive career, she has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding and appreciation for working across borders and cultures. Her journey and expertise are a shining example of what it means to be a leader in today's interconnected world. We were thrilled to welcome her back at our spring 2023 convocation, where her insights and experiences inspired our students to pursue impactful careers and contribute to building a more sustainable and inclusive world," said Thunderbird Director General and Dean Dr. Sanjeev Khagram.

Thunderbird recognized over 280 graduates during the spring 2023 convocation ceremony that took place on Tuesday, May 9, at Phoenix Symphony Hall in downtown Phoenix. Read more about the ceremony and notable grads through the below link.

[Read more](#)



**Thunderbird, Phoenix bring immersive, technology experience to Super Bowl fans**

Thunderbird, in collaboration with the city of Phoenix, presented "Phoenix: The Global City of the Future," an immersive technology-driven experience held Feb. 9–11.

The series of events featured extended reality (XR) assets, blending history and technology as participants interacted with digital content overlaid with the physical world, placing Phoenix in a new dimension.

The Metaverse Lab at Thunderbird was also open, allowing attendees to turn themselves into digital avatars through [volumetric capture technology](#).

[Read more](#)



## Cheers to one year of the Pub at Thunderbird's new Global Headquarters

In April, Thunderbird celebrated the one-year anniversary of the grand opening of the [Pub at Thunderbird](#) during the Grand Opening and 75th Global Reunion.

In just a short time, the Pub at Thunderbird has once again solidified its place as the heart of Thunderbird. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, and members of the downtown Phoenix community flock to the Pub to enjoy its global menu, diverse diners, and beautiful views.

[View the photo library](#)



## Thunderbird welcomes all to Phoenix

*Excerpt from Metropolis Magazine*

In the heart of downtown Phoenix—the fastest growing city in the nation—a new 110,000-square-foot F. Francis and Dionne Najafi Thunderbird Global Headquarters for the Thunderbird School of Global Management offers a new model for uniting the global and the local in a high-tech incubator for business and leadership education. Co-designed by Phoenix-based Jones Studio and higher education veterans Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners, the new Thunderbird School prioritizes human connection alongside advanced technology across five floors of classrooms, digital learning spaces, and multi-use meeting areas.

“Our school was founded on the notion that borders frequented by trade and diplomacy seldom need soldiers. Ours is much more than a business school—it’s a vision about transforming the world towards peace and prosperity,” explains Dr. Sanjeev Khagram, Director General and Dean of Thunderbird.

In 2014, Thunderbird became associated with Arizona State University, and in 2018 the school relocated to ASU’s downtown Phoenix campus. “When we began designing our global headquarters, we knew Thunderbird 4.0 had to be the best physical space for global leadership management, but also be the most advanced digitally and technologically,” says Khagram.

[Read more](#)

**Scholarship Spotlight**



## Thunderbird alumni support student success with new scholarship funds

Student support is always a key focus for Thunderbird, and this year many alumni made incredible contributions to help foster the next generation of global leaders and managers. Below are four alumni who created impactful scholarship funds to help future T-birds soar.

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**Karen J. Simon '83** created the most generous scholarship in support of Thunderbird women to date: the **Karen J. Simon '83 Scholarship Fund in Support of Global Women Leaders**. She then generously created the Schools' first scholarship exclusively for Semester at Sea attendance with the **Karen J. Simon Undergraduate Semester at Sea Scholarship**. Ms. Simon's exemplary generosity is reflective of the T-bird community's passion, dedication to making meaningful change across the globe, and commitment to leading by example.

*"Global connectivity and cultural understanding is more important than ever, and technological innovations will continue to blur international boundaries such that strong global leaders are needed now more than ever. I am excited about the vision for our next generation."*

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**Thomas H. Persons '81** created the first scholarship in the School's history exclusively for Native American students while also expanding the impact of Thunderbird's **SHARE Fellowship** program. SHARE Fellows, who hail from countries in emerging markets, receive full scholarships, personalized mentoring, and much more. Mr. Persons has provided support for the addition of

a SHARE Fellow from a Native American tribe.

*“As a global School, we are focused on international cultures in nations across the globe, but my belief is we need to support our Sovereign Nation Brothers and Sisters, who for so long have been overlooked. Only through understanding can we affect change.”*

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**Dennis King '81** created the **Dennis and Anita King Thunderbird Summer Educational Opportunities Scholarship** to ensure Thunderbird students have the opportunity to gain meaningful experiences abroad that will enhance their global career. As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Mr. King is keenly aware of the impact of immersive cultural experiences, and generously funded this scholarship to provide those experiences to future generations.

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**Michael Nissman '70** created the **Ruth and Morris Nissman Memorial Scholarship** in memory of his late parents. Mr. Nissman’s goal in creating this scholarship was providing vital aid where it is needed most, ensuring struggling students have the support they need to flourish while studying to become future global managers.

*“When I can help somebody, that gives me the greatest joy. That’s what life is all about. We put our arms around one another, and we get through this thing together. And if somebody falls or trips, you don’t continue without helping that person. You stop, you pick them up, and then you continue.”*

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If you would like to join Karen, Thomas, Dennis, and Michael in their support of Thunderbird students, make a gift of support [today](#).

[Learn more](#)



## Help the next generation of T-birds soar with an end of fiscal year gift

Thunderbird's fiscal year end is fast approaching and wraps up at the end of June. Now is the perfect time to help us prepare for the next incoming class and another inspirational academic year by making your gift of support!

[Donate today](#)

## Alumni Spotlight



## T-bird alumnus speaks about startup, equity in space at White House roundtable

Spacebirds in the White House! Earlier this month, DJ Catlin '22 spoke about the the space economy and his startup, The Equity Space Alliance, during a White House roundtable of young small business owners, led by U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris.

Founded by Catlin and fellow grad of Thunderbird's Executive Master of Global Management with a concentration in Space Leadership, Business, and Policy Janeya Griffin, the Equity Space Alliance works to advocate, educate, and facilitate equitable ownership in the space industry.

"There is a critical need for economic stability in historically excluded communities. The space economy, projected to surpass one trillion dollars by 2030, can be the launchpad that changes the trajectory in these economically distressed communities."

Thank you, DJ, for representing the best Thunderbird has to offer – and for acknowledging our space program!

View the roundtable through the link below.

[Watch the video](#)



Gbemi Abudu '09

Clarisse Machanguana '22

## T-bird alumnae create impact in Africa

Two Thunderbird alumnae are taking flight as trailblazers in the African sports industry and using their respective platforms to cultivate positive change in their communities.

**Gbemi Abudu '09**, entrepreneur, business leader, luxury marketing expert and social activist, Thunderbird alumna, and Thunderbird Global Alumni Network Advisory Councilwoman, was named Vice President and Country Head for NBA Nigeria in 2021 where she is responsible for the league's basketball and business development initiatives—including grassroots programming for youth, elite player development, current and prospective marketing, media and merchandise partners and social responsibility efforts that improve the lives of youth and families across Nigeria. Recently, Abudu was named one of the 25 most influential Nigerian women in sports business.

**Clarisse Machanguana '22** is Mozambique's most successful professional basketball player whose achievements reach beyond her 22-year career, including the Women's National Basketball Association in the United States. For her dedication and social activism for the development and empowerment of the children and youth of Mozambique through sport, education, and health, she was appointed UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in 2016 as well as 13th Point of Light for Queen Elizabeth's Commonwealth countries. Machanguana is the Founder and President of the Clarisse Machanguana Foundation, a Maputo-based nonprofit organization focused on empowering Mozambican youth through its three primary pillars of health, education, and sport.

[Read more about Gbemi](#)

[Read more about Clarisse](#)



## Thunderbird alumna connects student with their passion for global marketing

*Julie Schuldt, '23 MGM*

Julie Schuldt is a true global citizen. Throughout her life, she has lived in different parts of the United States, as



## Thunderbird alumna credits Global Challenge Lab for career opportunity

*Kelly Molera, '22 MGM*

Kelly Molera, a graduate of the Master of Global Management program at Thunderbird School of Global

well as Asia, and has experienced a variety of cultures, traditions, and global perspectives. This international exposure, combined with her parents both having a Thunderbird education, inspired her to pursue a Master of Global Management (MGM) degree at Thunderbird.

Currently, Schuldt is a marketing intern at ATMA Global. Working closely with CEO and Founder Sanjyot Dunung, who is also a Thunderbird alum, Schuldt helps deliver effective business and learning solutions that integrate cultures, countries, global affairs, education, and technology.

[Read more](#)

Management at Arizona State University, has landed a full-time position at Aalto Capital, an investment banking and private equity firm. Molera, a Phoenix native, had her sights set on this industry even before completing her studies at Thunderbird.

Molera's Thunderbird Global Challenge Lab project played a crucial role in leading her to Aalto Capital. During the consulting project, she worked at the company's London office for three weeks, gaining valuable exposure to the analysts' day-to-day activities. Upon completing her project, she was thrilled to receive a full-time job offer.

[Read more](#)

## Student News



### 5th Annual Thunderbird Pitch Competition Recap

*Thunderbird alumni and students showcased why T-birds are on the cutting edge of global business.*

The annual [Thunderbird Pitch Competition](#) brings equal parts



### Thunderbird students participate in international case competition, faculty earn "Best Coaches" award

*Undergraduates from Thunderbird and Dublin City University took part*

excitement and nerves to the enterprising students presenting on their ventures. This year, the winners represent a diverse selection of companies:

- First Place: Greenloop, founded by Mijail Zegalo '23
- Second Place: Ecco Texx, founded by Pavel Zhurov '24
- Third Place: Xiga Money, founded by Gibson Jiri Sigauke '23

We thank our panel of alumni judges for their insightful questions, time, and talent:

- Anne Friberg '94
- Tanaha Hairston '13
- Howard Lindzon '90
- Seah Roh '99
- Ash Shah '91

[View album](#)

### *in the Schlesinger Global Family Enterprise Case Competition.*

As part of the Transatlantic Higher Education Partnership between Arizona State University and Dublin City University, undergraduate students from Thunderbird School of Global Management and DCU participated in the 10th Edition of the Schlesinger Global Family Enterprise Case Competition at the University of Vermont's Grossman School of Business.

This competition represents one of the academic initiatives that the faculty of Thunderbird's A. Masrin Center for Global Entrepreneurship and Family Business and the DCU National Centre for Family Business have collaborated on since 2021, providing real-world training for students.

[Read more](#)

## Lifelong Learning



## Najafi 100 Million Learners Global Initiative courses now available in 20 languages

The Francis and Dionne Najafi 100 Million Learners Global Initiative offers online, global education in now 20 different languages, at absolutely no cost to the learner.

In addition to English, languages include: Arabic, Bahasa, Farsi, French, Hausa, Hindi, Italian, Javanese, Mandarin Chinese (Simplified), Malay, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese, Yoruba, and Zulu.

Learners who enroll in the Global Entrepreneurship & Innovation Bootcamp can choose to have the course delivered in any of the current 20 languages. Future plans will include up to 40 languages or more and will be announced at a later date. Learn more at the link below and sign up at no cost today!

[Learn more](#)



## Doctor of Professional Practice in Global Leadership and Management

The world needs a new brand of leaders and managers who can navigate the complex systemic and cross-sectoral dynamics of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Thunderbird has developed a unique and first-of-its-kind program, the Doctor of Professional Practice (DPP) in Global Leadership and Management.

Designed to prepare leaders from across industries and sectors with a digital global mindset, this program is high touch and high tech, delivered

synchronously online in dynamic and interactive ways.

[Learn more](#)



## Smart Cities and Global Innovation

Thunderbird is excited to launch a series of virtual events for alumni on the topic of smart cities. For those unfamiliar with the term, "smart cities" are urban centers that use different types of electronics and sensors to gather data.

Last month, Thunderbird's regional Center of Excellence in London hosted the first event, "Our Global Features: Smart Cities and Urban Innovation." We had over 100 attendees join to hear about the advances being made on the smart cities frontier, and how Thunderbird is at the vanguard of those advances, from an expert panel. A post-event recording is available through the link below.

Stay tuned for the next event in this series!

[Watch the video](#)



A unit of the Arizona State University Enterprise

**Go Global  
with YPO**

## Thunderbird announces partnership with the Young President's Organization

Thunderbird is excited to announce a new partnership with the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO), offering YPO members access to the Thunderbird Executive Education Masterclass Series, starting with the YPO 'Going Global' Masterclass.

The 'Going Global' Masterclass is designed to help YPO members stay ahead of the curve, connect with one another from across the globe, and make a greater impact in their businesses and communities. Taught by Thunderbird's world-renowned faculty, the course will provide practical advice and a roadmap to navigate the complexities of taking your business global.

Masterclass sessions take place virtually on Wednesdays from May 31 to July 5 at 6 a.m. PDT.

[Learn more](#)

# Blitzscaling



If you're a business person looking for sources of new growth in your organization, whether it's a large organization or a new company, this course is for you."

Jeff Abbott '92  
Entrepreneur & Venture Capitalist



## Blitzscaling: Identifying and Managing New Hyper-Growth Initiatives

*October 9–11 (Phoenix, AZ)*

Since the book was released in 2018, Blitzscaling has taken the world of startups and innovation by storm. In it, co-authors Reid Hoffman and Chris Yeh lay out the company-building and scaling strategies developed by Reid over the course of his legendary career in Silicon Valley.

In the three-day course presented by Thunderbird Executive Education, participants will walk through the stages, techniques, and strategies that make blitzscaling work for both traditional or established companies and start-ups.

The program is taught by Thunderbird alumnus Jeff Abbott '92 and Blitzscaling co-author and serial entrepreneur Chris Yeh. Jeff's discusses his Thunderbird story, and his career that has followed, in the following [video](#).

Those who complete the course will learn how to apply the Blitzscaling framework and make use of a series of tools designed to evaluate the scalability of new and existing business models.

[Learn more](#)

## Stay Connected

[Update your contact information](#)

Be sure to update your preferred contact information on T-bird Connect to receive the latest communications from Thunderbird and your local alumni chapter. Need assistance with activating or accessing your T-bird Connect account? Contact the Thunderbird Office of Alumni Engagement by [email](#) or phone at +1 602-496-7125.

[Update here](#)

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## Download the T-bird Connect app

Download the T-bird Connect app and access a suite of alumni resources right from your mobile device including the ability to find a fellow T-bird, access the roster of alumni chapters and affinity groups, and participate in signature programs including the Thunderbird Mentorship Program.

Activate your T-bird Connect account today by clicking [here](#).

You can also watch our [step-by-step guide](#) for more details on signing up.

[Download for iOS](#)

[Download for Android](#)

## Request your Thunderbird alumni email address

All alumni have access to a Thunderbird alumni email account. If you haven't received one or need assistance logging in, please contact the Thunderbird IT department by email below. To log into your Thunderbird alumni email account, visit [mail.global.t-bird.edu](mailto:mail.global.t-bird.edu).

[Request an alumni email account](#)

## Estate Planning Resources: available to Thunderbird alumni at no cost

Are you ready to plan your will or trust? We would like to give you a free Estate Planning Guide. This information can help you successfully plan your estate and

avoid an accidental disinheritance. Click below to request a copy today.

Request Guide



Activate Your T-bird Connect Account

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