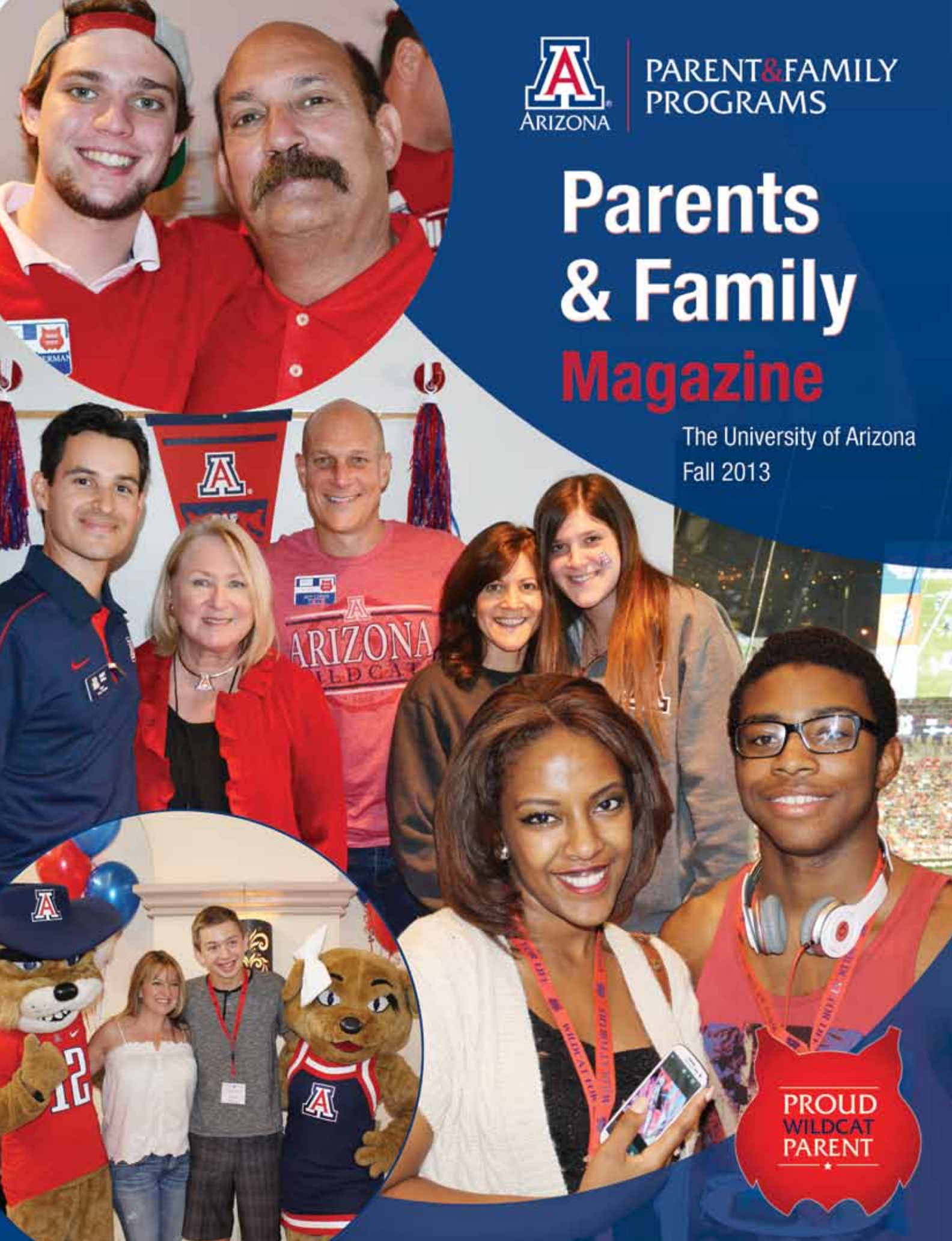




PARENT & FAMILY
PROGRAMS

Parents & Family Magazine

The University of Arizona
Fall 2013



PROUD
WILDCAT
PARENT

Student Property Boasts a “No Party” Policy and Lowest Rates



Of all the selling points to publicize, one student property advertises a “quiet environment” and a “No Party” Policy.

Sahara Apartments management knew before they opened that if you have a few hundred college

students packed into a student housing building, there is bound to be too much noise, too much partying, and not enough studying. That is why they have promoted their “No Party” Policy since they opened in 2005.

Owner and manager, Ted Mehr understands what parents and students are going through when they go to college. “The concept of Sahara was born out of my concern for my own daughter’s safety as she was preparing for college. I wanted her to be safe and comfortable no matter where she lived. I simply asked myself, ‘What kind of place would I want my daughter to live in for the times I could not be there to watch over her?’ Sahara Apartments was my answer.”

As a parent, it’s normal to be concerned about your child’s transition from your home to college living. It’s also normal to be wary of the many new costs associated with this transition. Yes, price matters but you still want your child to be safe, comfortable, and have the most modern amenities. Sahara Apartments offers this combination to the advantage of both students and parents. The property was designed to serve as a stepping stone to college living for the student and their parents, as well as upper classman and international students who are looking for those same qualities in a building.

The “No Party” Policy is intended to keep the property from becoming the proverbial “Animal House” as many student housing projects can. As an owner managed property, Sahara Apartments believes college kids should have fun but within the law and without taking away from other student’s ability to live in a safe, quiet, environment. To that end, Sahara has the distinction of being one of the very few, if not the only student housing property that has never received a “Red Tag” from the police department. Even the dorms can’t make that claim.



“We find that safety is the number one factor parents are concerned about when their child moves away from home,” says Ted Mehr, “and the ‘No Party’ Policy goes a long way to making that happen. Students realize pretty quickly that if they want to go to a party there are plenty to attend at the University, other student properties, the dorms, and friend’s houses. But no matter when they come home to Sahara, it is quiet, safe, convenient, easy place to study, sleep, and get your homework done.



Sahara Apartments raises the bar with state-of-the-art fire safety and security measures unmatched by any building in Tucson. The gated property includes an electronic key system with retrievable history of every entry into apartments and through each gate. The property is equipped with 80 security cameras that monitor all public areas on a 24/7 basis and a network of infrared beams over the perimeter walls. If you break the

beam an outdoor alarm sounds and the system calls the owner regardless of the time of day or night. “Some might consider this overly protective, but I would prefer to know of any breach immediately so we can best protect our residents rather than finding out what happened the next day.” explains Ted Mehr.

Lastly, Sahara Apartments has a long list of modern amenities that the students want, such as ALL utilities included in the rent, VERY high-speed Internet, kitchens and private bathrooms in each apartment, FREE shuttle service to and from campus, FREE bicycles for use to all residents, pool, spa, game room, workout room, and even a 23-seat mini movie theater.

If you agree with Sahara Apartment’s operating philosophy and are looking for the lowest rental rates without sacrificing quality and service for you student, check out Sahara’s Website for all the information at www.SaharaApartments.com or stop in and take a tour. The friendly staff at Sahara Apartments would be happy to show you around.

Sahara Apartments
919 N. Stone Ave.
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520-622-4102

Ted Mehr, Owner
Ted@saharaapartments.com



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Important Contacts

- ▶ **Advising Resource Center** Academic advising & advisor contact information (520) 626-8667 ▪ <http://advising.arizona.edu/>
- ▶ **BookStores** books, supplies, computer hardware & software purchases (520) 621-2426 ▪ <http://www.uofabookstores.com/>
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- ▶ **Dean of Students Office** Advocacy, academic integrity, code of conduct, complete withdrawals ▪ (520) 621-7057 <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu>
- ▶ **Graduate College** (520) 621-3471 <http://grad.arizona.edu>
- ▶ **Meal Plan Office** Purchasing and updating student meal plans ▪ (800) 374-7379 <http://www.union.arizona.edu/mealplans>
- ▶ **Office of Student Computing Resources:** Student computer labs (520) 621-OSCR ▪ <http://oscr.arizona.edu>
- ▶ **Police (University of Arizona)** Emergency response, crime prevention 911 or (520) 621-UAPD ▪ <http://www.uapd.arizona.edu/>
- ▶ **Registrar's Office** Verification of enrollment, change of schedule, grade replacement opportunity ▪ (520) 621-3113 <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/>
- ▶ **Residence Life** On-campus housing (520) 621-6501 ▪ <http://www.life.arizona.edu/>
- ▶ **Residency Classification** Determination of in-state or out-of-state residency for tuition purposes ▪ (520) 621-3636 ▪ <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/residency/residenc.htm>
- ▶ **24/7 IT Support Ctr.** Student computer support ▪ (520) 626-TECH <http://247.arizona.edu>
- ▶ **Tutoring at the Think Tank** Drop-in, by appointment, course reviews and more ▪ (520) 626-0530 ▪ <http://thinktank.arizona.edu>
- ▶ **UA Parents & Family Association** (520) 621-0884 ▪ <http://www.uafamily.arizona.edu/>

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Parents & Family Magazine

Issue 14

The University of Arizona Parents & Family Magazine is published twice a year by the Dean of Students Office and Arizona Student Media.

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The advertisements in this magazine are for information purposes and do not constitute endorsement of services by The University of Arizona.

Greetings Wildcat Parents & Families,

Welcome to our fourteenth issue of the Parents & Family Magazine! You're receiving this magazine because you have made a generous donation to support the goals of the UA Parents & Family Association. I thank you for your support! We are also sending copies of the Fall Edition to parents of current freshman because we received grant funding from the Freshman Fee Committee. I am also very pleased to welcome our new Corporate Partner, Don Francisco Coffee, to our Parent & Family Programs. We are thrilled to have their sponsorship and support!

Fall at the University of Arizona is such a fun filled time with lots of traditional activities and events. From Wildcat Welcome to Family Weekend and Homecoming there are lots of things students, parents and Alumni can participate in on campus. I want to thank all the parents and family members who came to campus for Family Weekend in October. It is always fun to see you here with your students and have a chance to talk to you in person. It was also fantastic to see the Cats defeat Utah!

Thanks also to all the parents who joined us in our 4th Annual Family Weekend Golf Tournament at The Hilton El Conquistador Country Club Golf Course. We had a great time and raised more than \$13,900 for the PFA Grant program (see page 7 for the winning team details)! For those of you wondering about the date for Family Weekend 2014 – we should have it set sometime in January. Once it is confirmed, it will be posted on the Parents & Family Association Website and on our Facebook Page and on Twitter so stay tuned.

In the Fall Edition of the Parents & Family Magazine we have a special feature on Dr. Andrew Comrie, who officially became the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of the University of Arizona last spring (see page 13). We would like to recognize the parents and family members who have contributed \$100 or more to the UA Parents & Family Association during the past year. On behalf of the PFA Board, our students, and the Parent & Family Programs staff – thank you to everyone who made a contribution! I hope that you will do so again this year - every bit counts and makes a difference in supporting UA students' success.

We want our parents to GET INVOLVED! We are looking for some good volunteers who have a little bit of time and talent to give! You don't have to live in Arizona to join us. For more information on our Committees and special events see the Fall Update on Page 5. Be sure to bookmark our website: www.uafamily.arizona.edu. It is an excellent source of information and support!

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful parent volunteers who have served the association over the past year – I really appreciate your dedication and support – and so do our students!

As always, don't hesitate to give the Parents & Family Association a call or send us an email if you have a question or concern. Lee O'Rourke, Cari Tusing and I are happy to be of assistance. We can be reached at (520) 621-0884 or via email at uafamily@email.arizona.edu. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/uafamily](https://www.facebook.com/uafamily), Twitter: [@uafamily](https://twitter.com/uafamily) and Instagram: [@uafamily](https://www.instagram.com/uafamily).

With Wildcat Pride,



Kathy Adams Riester, M.S. Ed
Associate Dean of Students
Director UA Parent & Family Programs



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PARENTS & FAMILY ASSOCIATION CO-CHAIRS

Welcome

By Bill and Polly Morehouse

Greetings from the Parents & Family Association! We are Bill and Polly Morehouse the new Co-Chairs of PFA and live in Darien, Ct. We have three Wildcats, one who is an Alumnus and two still attending the University of Arizona. We are extremely excited this year, to be working with a very diverse board from around the country. The Parent & Family Association Board is a group of parent volunteers who are involved in many different areas including: fundraising, recruiting new students, state higher education legislation and freshman summer send off events around the country. In addition, we have strong liaison relationships with Fraternity & Sorority Programs, S.A.L.T., and the Arizona Alumni Association.

The Parent & Family Association is an outreach organization that helps provide a voice for parents and students with the UA Administration. The Parent & Family Programs website: uafamily.arizona.edu has updated University activities and links to many useful resources and opportunities for both parents and students. The website also has links to social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We also publish a semi-annual magazine sent out to PFA donors and freshman parents with helpful information for the students. Our mission

PROUD
WILDCAT
PARENT



The Morehouses at the Parents & Family Tailgate

also includes philanthropic support for the students through grants over the past 30 years. We have been happy to raise almost two million dollars to enhance your student's educational experience at the University of Arizona

We encourage the members of the Parents & Family Association to participate in the various activities we have planned over the next year. Our annual Family Weekend Golf Tournament

is our major fundraiser and takes place annually on the Thursday before Family Weekend. This fundraising helps pay for our grants and outreach and communication with the parents. We have a new fundraising initiative this fall with the El Tour de Tucson. We are sponsoring a team of riders to represent and benefit the PFA. We have also engaged in community activities including our

Continued on page 7

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Family Weekend Golf Tournament Raises Money for PFA Grants

On behalf of the UA Parents & Family Association (PFA) we would like to thank the players and our sponsors for a successful 2013 PFA Family Weekend Golf Tournament. We raised almost \$14,000 for our PFA Grant Program! Sixty-one golfers joined us at the Hilton El Conquistador Country Club for a fabulous day of golf on a perfect, sunny Tucson day. Exceeding our goal of raising \$10,000 would not have been possible without the generosity of our players and sponsors.

This year's sponsors are:

- ▶ **Beverage Cart Sponsorship**
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- ▶ **Blue & Red Hole Sponsors**
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PFA golf tournament first place team

Alan & Janet Stein, Pinnacle Bank, Susie Noble, Noble Marketing with Northrop Grumman, Tailorbyrd, Dianne Grobstein with Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty.

We look forward to our 2014 tournament, if you would like to receive information about playing in the tournament or becoming a sponsor, please contact Lee O'Rourke, Coordinator Parent & Family Programs, at 520-621-0884 or lorourke@email.arizona.edu.

Co-Chair Welcome ...

Continued from page 5

regional coffee chats and have parents working with our out of state Admissions Staff across the country to recruit new Wildcats. Our Board members and parent representatives also participate in many freshmen Summer Send Offs to welcome new students and parents and to help ease everyone's transition into their experience as a Wildcat.

We welcome you to the Parents & Family Association and thank you for making a financial contribution to support our efforts. We hope that you also take the opportunity to get involved in our activities! If you are interested in joining one of our committees (Student Recruitment & Retention, Summer Send Offs, Campaign Committee) and/or attending events, please contact Parent & Family Programs at dos-uafamily@email.arizona.edu. We would appreciate your ideas and input to make our PFA the best Wildcat Family.



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Greater Phoenix Area Summer Send-Off

By Charlene Duff & Patti Teter,
2013 Chairs

The Greater Phoenix Area Summer Send-Off was held on August 4th at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort. We welcomed over 1200 incoming freshmen and their families from the greater Phoenix area and showed them the support they will have from not only the university; but from Phoenix, Tucson and the surrounding communities and businesses. The attendees were able to meet UA Athletic Director Greg Byrne, Alumni President Melinda Burke, Interim Dean of Students Kendal Washington White, ASUA President Morgan Abraham and many other UA dignitaries. Participants were able to interact with their fellow incoming freshmen, UA Alumni, and our amazing sponsors, all in a relaxed and fun-filled environment. Wild-cat red and blue dominated in maroon and gold territory!

Each attending student received a welcome bag filled with items donated by the generous businesses in support of the Send-Off. Students had the chance to

spin the prize wheel and play corn-hole toss to win fantastic prizes. Students were also entered into a free drawing for some of the larger donations that included a 32" LCD television, iPad mini, laptop and headphones. Parents were entered into

free drawings for hotel stays donated by our amazing sponsors. We also had a paid drawing that offered UA football and basketball tickets, a signed Diana Madaras canvas giclée of Fountain at Old Main,

Continued on page 11



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Smart Planner

Parents Can View Students' Academic Progress

*Shelley McGrath, Ph.D., M.B.A.,
Sr. Director, Academic Programs
& Transfer Coordination*

The University of Arizona's student information system now has a revolutionary new tool designed and built by a team of talented university Information Technology personnel: the Smart Planner. This tool is an electronic planning device that students and advisors use to help map out the courses that students are required to take over the course of four years. Rather than looking at an endless list of courses, students can see not only WHICH courses they need, but also WHEN they should typically take them. The requirements for their major are mapped out in a recommended sequence provided to the IT team by academic advisors. Students and advisors can also customize this sequence to meet students' unique needs; for example, if English 101 is recommended during the first semester by default, but your student completed that requirement via dual enrollment or advanced placement (AP), then the student would know which course to take in its place. This tool will empower students and advisors alike on the path towards the goal of successful and timely degree completion.

Another great feature is that now students and advisors can view academic progress in a simple one-page view called the Smart Planner Report. Rather than looking at an advisement report (which can be up to 20 pages in length and is quite confusing!) or simply looking at courses they've completed (without any indication of whether or not these are the correct courses, or how they fit in with their major), the Smart Planner Report provides a concise view of both academic progress (past courses completed and currently enrolled courses) and the remaining courses needed to graduate. The screen snapshot (above right) shows what this looks like for two of eight semesters. Shown is the outline of the recommended courses for the first and second semesters (a default sequence set up by advisors), and whether or not they are complete, in progress, planned, or still needed (under the "Status" column). Additionally, certain courses that are marked with a yellow star are "checkpoint"

Smart Planner Report

Wilma Wilcat

My Major (for multiple majors, the first row is primary)				
Program	Plan	Plan Req Term	Sub-Plan	Smart Planner
College of Ag & Life Sciences	Agribusiness Economics & Mgmt (Major / BS)	Fall 2011	Agricultural Management	Yes

Display Planned Courses Legend: ✔ Completed ♦ In Progress ● Planned ■ Needed ★ Checkpoint

Recommended Sequence for Agribusiness Economics & Mgmt (R6368)							
Semester	Requirement	Notes	Check Point	Status	Term	Course	Unit
1st Sem							
1st Sem	MATH 109C Applied College Algebra with Data Analysis or MATH 112 College Algebra Concepts and Applications			✔	Fall 2011	MATH 112 Grade: TB	3
1st Sem	ENGLISH 101 First Year Composition			✔	Fall 2011	ENGL 101 Grade: TA	3
1st Sem	MIS 111 Computers and Internetworked Society			✔	Fall 2011	MIS 111 Grade: TA	3
1st Sem	Tier I General Education			✔	Fall 2011	LING 150A1 Grade: B	3
1st Sem	AREC 197A Strategy and Planning for Academic Success			✔	Fall 2011	AREC 197A Grade: A	1
2nd Sem							
2nd Sem	MATH 115A Business Mathematics I (MIS 111 or ABE 120 is a pre-quisite for MATH 115A), OR 163 Basic Statistics, OR 263 Introduction to Statistics and Biostatistics, OR ISTA 116 Statistical Foundations for the Information Age			♦	Spring 2012	ISTA 116	3
2nd Sem	ENGLISH 102 First Year Composition			✔	Fall 2011	ENGL 102 Grade: TA	3
2nd Sem	ECON 200 Basic Economic Issues or ECON 201A Principles of Economics and ECON 201B Principles of Economics*		★	●	Fall 2012	ECON 200	3

courses—meaning that timely completion and success in these courses are critical to success in the major. Course grades also show as well as transfer credit if applicable.

In the interest of cultivating parental involvement and conversations about majors, academic plans, and courses, the Smart Planner Report is also featured in the Guest Center of UAccess. You may see your student's progress and ask him or her questions about why they may or not be following the recommended sequence and gain a better understanding of your

student's unique plan to graduate. Keep in mind that while there is a recommended or "default" sequence, students work closely with their academic advisors to customize their plan, so it is more often the case than not that your student will not follow the recommended sequence exactly. That said, we encourage you to review the report and talk to your student—the clear and concise visual presentation of your student's enrollment, progress, and grades will lend itself to meaningful conversations with your student.

Greater Phoenix Summer Sendoff...

Continued from page 9

and resort stays that raised \$1,060 for PFA programs.

Wilbur and Wilma were in attendance, as were members of the Cheerleaders, Twirlers, Pom, and The Pride of Arizona marching band. These participants are not only current UA students, but the BEST representatives of the incredible spirit that surrounds our fabulous university. The Pride of Arizona marching band built the excitement with their entertainment and

playing of songs. The crowd learned the UA fight song, and we are pretty sure that school in Tempe could hear us!

We hope you will be sure to visit all of our sponsors listed on page 9. We would appreciate you personally thanking them for their support; this wildly successful event would not happen without them! When you visit our sponsors, please tell them that the Summer Send-Off team sent you! Bear down and remember to take advantage of all the University has to offer!



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Chief Academic Affairs Officer & Proud Wildcat Parent **Serving a Dual Role**

By *Kathy Adams Riester*

Dr. Andrew Comrie has been serving the University of Arizona as the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost since August of 2012. When asked, what is the role of a Provost? Dr. Comrie responded, "The Provost is the chief academic officer of the institution, responsible for all academic affairs including degree programs and the faculty. The academic departments and the deans of their colleges report to the Provost, who reports directly to the President." Dr. Comrie began his academic career at the University of Arizona in 1992 as a professor and climatologist in the School of Geography and Development and he says that the role of professor is still his academic identity. This identity and an interest in working with graduate students is what ultimately led him to an opportunity to take a larger leadership role at UA. Prior to becoming Provost, Dr. Comrie worked as the Associate Vice President for Research and Dean

of the Graduate College for six years.

This fall, Dr. Comrie and his wife Lee have taken on a new identity at the University of Arizona: parents of a Wildcat. Their oldest daughter Alison is a freshman at UA majoring in neuroscience. With this in mind I asked what insights he had to share as an administrator and parent. Dr. Comrie responded, "College is an outstanding investment although it appears to cost a lot. The single most important way to keep the cost down is to create a plan to finish in four years and stick to it. To succeed, the student must also be interested and committed to his or her success as an independent person and not just there because mom and dad said so. Do suggest that students interact with their professors. Do encourage students to



Dr. Andrew Comrie

become involved in a few groups to make friends as soon as possible -- it eases the transition, helps students belong, and creates a support network. Resist the parental urge to be too involved -- provide support without being intrusive as our students spread their wings to fly on their own."

As a member of our teaching faculty, Dr. Comrie was asked what makes the University of Arizona special in regards to its student-professor relationship. He responded, "Our faculty are simply world-class, and we compete with the very best public and private universities to attract and retain them. Because of that, our students have a phenomenal opportunity for a top-notch experience. Students and professors both thrive off common interests, and I encourage all students to seek out opportunities

Continued on page 15

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Serving a Dual Role ...

Continued from page 13

to interact with our professors not only in class but also in labs, on trips, and for mentoring.” For advice on how students can best be prepared, Dr. Comrie advises that students should “study well, be engaged in class, get help from teaching assistants, friends, tutors, and the professor if you don’t understand something, show up for class and turn in assignments on time, and of course, choose your classes well with one or more advisors so that you are doing the right classes for your interests and major.”

In sharing his favorite UA traditions, Dr. Comrie had trouble choosing just one. The list included, hearing the Pride of Arizona Band play after a home football game in Alumni Plaza, wearing red, seeing Wilbur and Wilma. He also loves commencement, “especially the spectacular ceremony (in May 2013) in Arizona Stadium.” Dr. Comrie also enjoys living in Tucson and notes that he enjoys, “the mountains, scenery and sunsets, the marvelous mix of culture, the food, and the “hidden hipness” of this college town of a million people.”

In closing Dr. Comrie was asked what

message he would like to share with parents and families of our Wildcats. Dr. Comrie stated, “I am truly proud of the University of Arizona, the people who work here, the excellent education and research that we provide, and of the absolutely amazing achievements of our students and graduates. I like to promise incoming students that, together, we will change their lives. There are few roles more satisfying than helping those students change their own lives and sharing in the discovery of knowledge that enables them to do that. I am honored to be a part of something so important to all of us.”

Having had the opportunity to see Dr. Comrie in action, I would say that we are fortunate to have such a knowledgeable, compassionate and dedicated person serving as our chief academic affairs officer. As you can see he is an advocate for students and wants every Wildcat to have an extraordinary experience at the University of Arizona. I am also excited to report the Dr. Comrie and Lee Comrie have graciously agreed to officially put on their “parent hats” to serve as members of the Parents & Family Association Board.

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2. **Campus Programming** The Parents & Family Association provides volunteer and financial support to key campus programs such as New Student & Parent Orientation and student recruitment events.
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**Every care was taken to ensure the accuracy of this list. We would appreciate you sharing with us any omissions. Please contact Kathy Adams Riestler, Director of the UA Parents & Family Association at (520) 621-0884 or dos-uafamily@email.arizona.edu*

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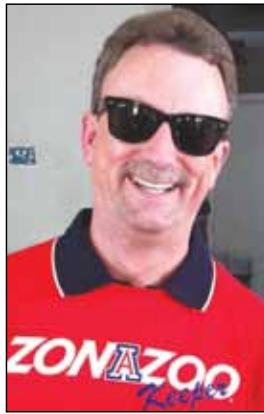
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Parents' Passion for UA Made Tangible

By Lauren Wisniewski

If you are headed to any of the University of Arizona Athletics games, you will most likely find yourself surrounded by a sea of distinct red shirts worn by cheering student Wildcats. These shirts, commonly known as the uniform of the ZonaZoo, embody the pride and spirit that students have for their university. Well, parents are equally dedicated to the University of Arizona and should also have designated shirts to show their spirit! At least that is how Margaret and Pat McGuckin felt during one visit to campus. Thus, the "Zona-Zoo Keeper" shirts were born.

This Wildcat passion and creativity are only two of the wonderful attributes of the McGuckin parents. First as students, Pat and Margaret committed themselves to their university experience and became immersed in their Wildcat community.



Pat McGuckin: ZonaZoo Keeper

Both were involved in Greek Life, Margaret as a member of Chi Omega and Pat as a member of Pi Kappa Phi. Pat was also a Bobcat, and Margaret was involved with the earliest years of Spring Fling. Margaret enjoys the Tucson campus as a "great blend of history and contemporary," where the traditions align with the innovative research and energy. As alumni, they passed along their University of Arizona spirit to their daughter, Kelly, who graduated in May 2013 and

currently holds a position in the executive development offices at Macy's.com in New York City. All Pat and Margaret's enthusiasm as students also carried over to their role as parents. "They were among my first experience recruiting for the Parent & Family Association Board, and they are such nice people. They have a lot of great ideas," Kathy Adams-Riester, Associate Dean of Students, remembers about Mr.

and Mrs. McGuckin. The McGuckins began serving on the Parent & Family Association Advisory Board during their daughter's freshman year. Through their involvement they shared their commitment to their daughter's college years, and their deep passion for the ever-improving University of Arizona campus.

The McGuckins embody giving back in the true sense of the notion in that they give back more than financial means and time. They give back their passion. They are invested in progress on campus and they understand the importance of playing an active role in such an important aspect of their student's life. They understand that once you find what you are passionate about you will create a community that will last forever. Those college years can really be a "zoo" of academic achievement, campus involvement, and life-changing experiences, and it takes some navigating, hard work, and guidance from the "Zoo Keepers" to capitalize on all that the higher education opportunity offers. We thank Pat and Margaret McGuckin for being endless supporters of the University of Arizona.



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ASUA Compost Cats

Students Convert Garbage into Gardens

By Chester F. Phillips

Few people realize that 40% of all food intended for people in the United States ends up in a landfill without ever reaching anyone's plate. What's more, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, 27% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. come from organic materials in landfills that could be composted instead. In southern Arizona, the problem is even more concerning as vast quantities of food cross the U.S.-Mexico border at Nogales every day. Every month, an average of 700,000 pounds of bi-national food scraps end up in the Rio Rico landfill before ever being a meal.

In spring 2011, UA students started ASUA Compost Cats to take on the challenge of keeping food scraps and landscape trimmings out of southern Arizona landfills. Compost Cats students work to reduce landfill greenhouse gas emissions and turn what was once considered waste into a community asset for soil fertility. The program provides green jobs to ten undergraduates and one graduate student supervisor, offering training and hands-on experience in a wide range of skills including research, marketing, public speaking, soil monitoring, and operation of agricultural equipment.

Six days a week, Compost Cats students drive a stake truck around the Tucson community, picking up food scraps from



Students compost organic waste at San Xavier. Photo by James Garland

over 30 Tucson businesses and several UA departments and take them to a 5-acre plot operated in partnership with the San Xavier Co-op Farm on the Tohono O'dham Reservation. Some of the compost goes to support crop production there. Another partner, the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, receives compost for its backyard gardening program for low-income families. Compost Cats is primarily funded through the student fee-supported UA Green Fund, but continues to expand its sales program in order to help support program operations. Starting in Spring 2014, UA Grounds

Services has agreed to purchase important quantities of compost for campus landscaping, and a similar agreement is in the works for City of Tucson parks.

To further the cause and educate the public about its work, Compost Cats has also joined forces with the Tucson Meet Yourself (TMY) food and folk life festival held in Tucson each October. This year, TMY received a large volume of approximately 120,000 visitors over an event-filled three day period, and festival organizers agreed to replace all waste stations with

Continued on page 23

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Student housing properties offer many choices depending on your budget. But few offer safety, comfort, modern amenities, quiet environment, AND a low price. Yes, our lower monthly rents include all utilities, satellite TV hookup, and high-speed Internet.

Compared to the dorms:

Sahara offers many advantages compared to the dorms but most significant is the absolutely lowest rental rate for double occupancy studios for students in Tucson (\$360 to \$375 per month). Our studio apartments are larger than the dorm rooms, include full kitchens and baths, roommate matching service, and we have onsite affordable hotel rooms available for family and friends. With all these advantages, consider checking us out before you write that dorm check.



Compared to other properties:

Sahara offers easy choices. Share a studio with full kitchen and bath or live in that same studio solo. Our single occupancy studios are some of the lowest priced in Tucson for students (\$550 to \$625 a month). Why take the chance of ending up with the "roommate(s) from hell" when you can have a studio apartment all to yourself for less? All students appreciate our 24/7 quiet environment, modern amenities, and added savings compared to other properties.



Sahara Apartments advantages to maximize housing dollars:

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Advantages include:

- Our famous "No Party" Policy creates a quiet environment 7 days a week. For more information please see the story about Sahara Apartments in this Housing Guide
- Sahara sponsors social events on-and-offsite, and has recreational facilities to encourage exercise, games, and fun
- Sahara studios: 2 to 2.5 times larger than a dorm room, all with full kitchen and bath
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The Oasis For Quiet Student Living



From Compost to Gardens ...

Continued from page 21

signed “green stations,” where festival visitors sorted recyclable and compostable materials from those bound for the landfill. Short skits were performed with school children from Tucson elementary schools and Girl Scout troops on the importance of composting and recycling.

In 2014, Compost Cats plans to divert at least 3,750 tons of food waste, avoiding the production of approximately 4,980 metric tons of greenhouse gases and instead

producing over 2,500 tons of high-quality compost for sale and donation. In its three short years of existence, Compost Cats has already gone a long way towards developing the vision, expertise, and working partnerships required to turn a serious local and national environmental problem into a sustainable community asset.

More information can be found at the Compost Cats website hosted by Students for Sustainability: <https://sites.google.com/a/uasfs.com/home/garden-in-the-desert>

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UA By the Numbers

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by *Angela Seidler*

Imagine instead of the florescent lights of the classroom, there's sunshine. Instead of sitting in a chair, you're standing on your feet and using your body. Instead of staring at a white board, your senses are immersed in the colors, smells, and textures of a garden. This is what weekly classes are like for students enrolled in the UA Community and School Garden Program (CSGP) directed by Professor Sallie Marston of the School of Geography and Development in collaboration with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (CFB).

The project matches UA student interns

"... UA students get to take the knowledge and skills they gain through classroom learning and put them to work in improving and supporting the Tucson community."

with local community or school gardens where they can utilize the garden as an education tool to teach as well as learn about gardening and sustainable practices. Greater themes from the classroom—social change, food security and sustainability—make their way from the academic realm into the garden setting, thus connecting people to their food and their food to the ecosystem.

"The beauty of the program is that UA students get to take the knowledge and

Continued on page 29



Planting Seeds of Change

Fall 2013 CSGP Interns training how to plant a garden at Borton Elementary School.

Photo by Morgan Apicella

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CSGP Student-Intern working with students at Manzo Elementary School.

Photo by Moses Thompson

Seeds of Change ...

Continued from page 27

skills they gain through classroom learning and put them to work in improving and supporting the Tucson community," Marston noted. "As interns, they become simultaneously both teachers and learners as they collaborate on supporting community and school gardens."

The project grew out of an independent study course with then undergraduate student Morgan Apicella under Marston's supervision in 2009. After Apicella's success, growing demand for more Community Food Bank involvement with school gardens prompted Marston to develop a formal course. She piloted it in spring 2010 with 5 interns working at two partner schools. The following semester, the number of interns doubled.

Since then, the CSGP has continued to grow each semester and in Fall 2013 boasts twelve schools, four community gardens, and 50 student-interns. The course is offered for both undergraduate and graduate students, and a total of 228 students have enrolled since the project's inception across ten colleges.

Some students find they enjoy and learn so much from the course that they continue on for 2, 3, even 4 semesters. Throughout the course, students are given a unique, hands-on experience in service-based learning, a principle that UA's President Hart intends to require of all UA students as part of her "100 percent student engagement" strategy.

Not only do UA students benefit from the project, but the project's partners also benefit. Gardens receive much needed help while student-interns serve as positive role models for children and youth by demonstrating their enthusiasm for the environment and learning.

"Although I brought with me...some prior knowledge, I still have learned a lot more about plants and gardening," reflected Mary M. Carroll, a current undergraduate student-intern majoring in Conservation Biology. "I think it is so wonderful that my community and its children are benefiting from the opportunities to learn with us through this program."

For more information, visit the CSGP website at <http://sgdschoolgardens.arizona.edu>



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Getting around campus is easier than ever with the Free CatTran Shuttle. Six routes serve the campus with over 45 stops. Three routes also serve six off-campus Park and Ride Lots. Shuttles operate M-F, 6:30 am to 6:30 pm. NightCat operates M-F, 6pm to 12:30 am. There's a shuttle sure to suit your needs.

Bike Valet Program:

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Bike Fix-it Stations:

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More Information:

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Modern Tucson Streetcar Prepares to Roll—Safely—Into Town

By Cari Tusing

The last Old Pueblo Trolley rumbled along down its route between the UA down, 4th Avenue and, looping downtown, rattled to a stop in October of 2011. While many were nostalgic to say goodbye to the retro-stylings of the old trolleys, anticipation was already building for the new, modern streetcar. Tucson began budgeting for transportation improvements in 2006 with a 20-year, half-cent sales tax, and the community will celebrate the grand opening of the Sun Link, the Modern Tucson Streetcar in the summer of 2014.

The streetcar is an ambitious project that recalls Tucson's very first electric streetcar system which operated from 1906 to 1930. Of course, the Sun Link has a completely modern twist. The sleek, blue cars have already begun their dry runs during the day and at night, delighting the Tucson community with visible results for a project that has snarled traffic



The modern streetcar on a test run, supervised by a safety official. Photo courtesy Tucson SunLink

and closed down areas of town over the past year while under construction. Both campus and the Tucson community are looking forward to all the positive benefits it will bring us.

The project promises to widen the

campus community. It's a safe, convenient way to get downtown to take advantage of museums, public libraries, top-notch restaurants, and cultural events. The streetcar will also broaden students' off

Continued on page 32

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Modern Streetcar ...

Continued from page 31

campus housing opportunities along its route as the streetcar adds a steady stream of passengers commuting along its line. Additionally, because the streetcar is part of the greater Tucson SunTran transportation system, along with the CatTran, students have access to malls, parks, and other recreational sites around the cities.

The City of Tucson with guidance from Parking and Transportation at the University of Arizona has worked to increase awareness with signage in track crossing areas and through information campaigns. As with any large-scale construction project, safety concerns come first, and it is important to incorporate safe procedures when riding the streetcar, driving behind it, or when biking, skate boarding, or walking across the tracks.

In particular, the UA's Parking & Transportation Services has carried out an information-based campaign, keeping in line with our bike-friendly campus. The Director of Parking & Transportation David Heineking notes: "We have been distributing a bicycle/streetcar safety

brochure developed by Pima County since the Fall of 2012. We distributed 6000 copies of this brochure on the Cat Tran, in the PTS lobby, the Rec Center, Wildcat Welcome, New Student Orientation, open houses, the Visitor Center and the Student Union." Heineking also observes that the University has taken active design measures to ensure your student's safety: "An example of a design change that we were able to implement is that we have created a contraflow bike lane on James Rogers way, allowing bikes to go the 'wrong' way on this one way street so that they have a path away from the tracks." Taking these safety measures, coupled with talking to your student to make sure they are aware of the current and upcoming changes in construction, traffic patterns, and road-sharing will greatly reduce the risks of accidents. As precautions become second nature, it is still important to keep up these safety habits. We are hoping that you can make sure that your student is aware of and using these safety tips. We also invite you to come and take a ride on the modern twist of an old classic, and tour Tucson in style!



Pedestrians

- ▶ Watch high heels and canes.
- ▶ Check behind you when crossing. The streetcar is very quiet, so it can sneak up on you!

Motorists

- ▶ Use caution when passing and driving next to the streetcar. Its large size can hide pedestrians.
- ▶ Passing is not permitted when the streetcar is at a designated stop.


Cyclists and other wheels!



- ▶ Always cross the tracks at a 60 to 90 degree angle!
- ▶ Maintain proper distance when riding along the tracks and shared lanes.

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