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Fall 2008



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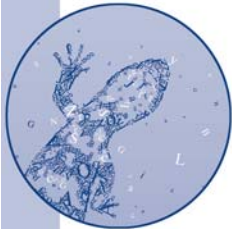
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Striking a pose in front of the now demolished "Greek theater" steps for the *Desert* yearbook is a 1929 UA dance group. Photo Courtesy © UA Special Collections

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Parents & Family Magazine

Issue 4

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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Welcome to the UA Wildcat Family!

Hello Wildcat Parents & Families,

Welcome to our fourth issue of Parents & Family Magazine! You're receiving this because you are one of our valued Parents Plus members or you have made a generous donation to support the goals of the UA Parents & Family Association.

The fall semester is always an exciting time in students lives whether they are just becoming a Wildcat or returning for another year. Fall also brings with it some great campus traditions including Wildcat Welcome, (our welcome week activities), Family Weekend and Homecoming. We have also had the wonderful opportunity to have front row seats to the NASA Mars Mission and are able to see regular reports on the amazing discoveries.

This is also an exciting time for me as I have been able to experience all these new traditions and events through a new lens – that of the Director of the Parents & Family Association. It was wonderful having an opportunity this summer and fall to meet many of you during Orientation, regional Summer Send-Offs, the Bon Voyage Brunch and at Family Weekend!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our many parent volunteers who help to make the Parents & Family Association a success and who are truly invested in making a difference in the lives of students at the University of Arizona. I greatly appreciate all your time and support! You will have an opportunity to meet two of these wonderful volunteers who also happen to be the new Co-Chairs of the Parents & Family Association Board. You will find an article introducing Claire and Earl Mendenhall on page 10.

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. Barbara Camp and I are always happy to be of assistance. We can be reached at (520) 621-0884 or via email at uafamily@email.arizona.edu.

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Kathy Adams Riester, M.S. Ed
Assistant Dean of Students
Director UA Parents & Family Association

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Fall Update

By **Kathy Adams Riester, M.S. Ed**
Assistant Dean of Students & Director,
UA Parents & Family Association

Fall is always a busy time for the Parents & Family Association (PFA) as we welcome new parents and students to our community and we welcome back our returning families. The PFA always holds one of its semi-annual Board and Committee Meetings on the Friday of Family Weekend. If you are interested in joining one of the great committees listed below please let me know! This fall, one new committee and three new members were added to the Parents & Family Association Board.

▶ **The new Ad-Hoc Phoenix Summer Send Off Committee** will focus on facilitating the planning of our largest Summer Send Off which will be held annually in Phoenix. The event was a huge success this August and we are very excited to have it become a formal committee of PFA so that it can continue to grow. The Co-Chairs of the Phoenix Summer Send Off Ad-Hoc Committee are Charlene Duff and Patti Teter. Both women were integral to the success of the event and we are very grateful that they have agreed to the Co-Chair positions.

▶ **The third new Board Member** for the Parents & Family Association is Allison Vailecourt who is the Vice President for Human Resources at the University of Arizona and is seeing UA through a new lens – that of a parent of a college student.

▶ **The Public Affairs Committee** chaired by Beatrice Perry from Phoenix is determined to keep UA parents informed on legislative issues in the state of Arizona. They are writing regular columns in Paw Prints and working on planning an event in Phoenix to reach out to the legislators who are supportive of Higher Education.

▶ **The Recruitment and Retention Committee** Co-Chaired by Albert and Jacque Siqueros from Tucson and Liz and Hunter Richardson from Fairfax, VA have decided to focus on recruit-



ment issues for the year. They have met with the UA Admissions staff and are selecting several projects to assist in the recruiting arena.

▶ **The Campaign Committee** has had a very busy fall as they held a Silent Auction during the Annual Parents Plus Faculty and Staff Luncheon during Family Weekend. The Silent Auction was very successful and raised over \$2300 to support the PFA Grant Program. This committee is Co-Chaired by Angelica Villarruel and Guillermo Uribe and Marcy Albert who are all from Tucson. In the spring they will be focusing on the PFA 2009-2010 grant process.

▶ **Grants:** This year with your assistance the Parents & Family Association was able to award just under \$130,000 to the following grants to UA programs and departments to help your students be successful:

- Women's Resource Center Safe Walk Program
- Center for Student Involvement & Leadership National Collegiate Leadership Conference
- Student Affairs – Connecting Faculty Fellow with Arizona Assurance students
- Honors College Common Read Program
- Social Justice Leadership Center Heritage Awareness Months
- UA Career Services Career Development Certificate Program
- Undergraduate Research – Connecting Undergraduates to research in Math and Science-
- Student Affairs – Connecting Student/Faculty Interaction Grants to Tier 1 Classes

As always, there were many more grants that the PFA was unable to fund, so we encourage you to continue to contribute to the Parents & Family Association both by continuing your membership and/or by making a direct donation.

Check out our new PFA Toolbar!



The Parents & Family Association is ready to launch a new way that we can generate funding without you having to make a donation. We are excited to introduce the Parents & Family Association Toolbar! This toolbar features a search engine powered by Yahoo!, a breaking news scrolling headline window, a direct link to the Parents & Family Association Home Page and links to many more helpful resources. Each time someone performs a search and clicks on one of the sponsors listed on the search results page (anything on the right side or in the shaded area) the Parents & Family Association receives a contribution of \$.10 per click on a sponsored link. You can download the Parents & Family Association Toolbar directly from the PFA website at www.uafamily.arizona.edu. There is no adware-spyware-pop ups, your privacy is protected and it can function alongside other tool bars. Now with the PFA Toolbar, it takes less than five minutes a day to help raise dollars doing something you already do. So, this is a win-win situation for everyone; you have a quick and easy connection to the Parents & Family Association and all that is going on at UA and you help support the Parents & Family Association without making a donation. I hope you will join us in supporting the Parents & Family Association in this new way!



2008 Family Weekend Wrap Up

The 2008 Family Weekend, held October 3-5, saw over 3500 students and their family members come together to explore the campus community and forge a strong connection to UA heritage. Family Weekend 2008 featured entertainment, tournaments, meet and greets with faculty, staff, a carnival, a UA football team victory over the University of Washington Huskies, fireworks, and much more.

Students from the Associated Students of The University of Arizona (ASUA) worked hundreds of hours since last spring to create programs that gave our families a true sense of what it means to be a Wildcat. They planned tours, meals, and special events that allowed families to see the full spectrum of what makes this campus great.

This opportunity not only created a great weekend for our families, it also engaged the student volunteers with large scale event planning experience, fiscal responsibility, community development, collaborative partnerships and developing meaningful interpersonal relationships.

Work has already begun to make sure that the 2009 event will be bigger and better! The tentative date for Family Weekend 2009 is October 16-18, 2009. This date will

be finalized in mid-spring once the fall 2009 Wildcat Football Season is set. So, please check back with us prior to making your travel plans!

Thank You for Your Donations!

The Parents & Family Association would like to thank the following individuals and business who's generous donations helped to make the Silent Auction at the Annual Parents Plus Faculty and Staff Luncheon a success – we were able to raise over \$2300 to for the PFA Grants program which helps to fund student programs and activities at UA.

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UA Host to First Annual Tucson Festival of Books

By Kate Jensen

Asst. Vice President for Marketing

Imagine a three-day festival celebrating reading and literacy, a chance to meet some famous and up-and-coming authors, to get advice on getting published, attend poetry readings, panel discussions, book signings and more. That's what you and your students will find on the UA campus March 13-15, 2009. It's the first annual Tucson Festival of Books sponsored by the Arizona Daily Star and the University. And it's all free.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for The University of Arizona," said UA President Robert Shelton. "We are proud to host this event on our campus and I am personally gratified to live and work in a community that partners around important issues such as literature and literacy."

More than 300 authors already have joined the event. Best-selling mystery writers Elmore Leonard ("Mr. Paradise," "Get Shorty") and J.A. Jance (the Joanna Brady mystery series and recent release "Long Time Gone") are among them.

Also appearing is Jacqueline Winspear, New York Times best-selling author of the "Maisie Dobbs" series and one of America's most prominent poets, Billy Collins, former Poet Laureate of the United States (2001-2003). For a preview of what to expect from Billy Collins, visit www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org to listen to him read his poem, "I Chop Some Parsley While Listening to Art Blakey's Version of 'Three Blind Mice.'"

The UA BookStore will be a premiere place on campus to meet our faculty authors and other great authors who are associated with The University of Arizona. World-class writers such as Richard Shelton, Alan Weisman, and Eric Toso (a current OneBookAZ 2008 nominee for his book "Zero at the Bone: Rewriting Life After a Snake Bite") all call the UA home.

Many exclusive book signings already are scheduled at the UA BookStore including: Garth Stein, the New York Times best-selling author of "The Art of Racing in the Rain," Delaune Michel author of "The Safety of Secrets," Stephanie Elizondo Griest, author of "Mexican Enough: My Life



Between the Border Lines," and Michael Gates Gill, author of the best-selling memoir "How Starbucks Saved My Life" which is being made into a major motion picture starring Tom Hanks.

Special programs are planned for children including a short story contest – details are on the Festival website. Many popular children's authors will participate in the Festival including Susan Stevens Crummel, Karen Cushman, Juanita Havill, Richard Peck and Gale Carson Levine. And in addition to all the incredibly literary events and the chance to meet famous authors, there also will be plenty of fun. You'll find interactive stage presentations, storytelling and arts and crafts for kids, food, festivities and of course, the chance to buy more books.

This community event is a project of the Arizona Daily Star and The University of Arizona; presented by University Medical Center, and supported by dozens of businesses including Tucson Medical Center, Barnes & Noble, Target, Bookman's, Beach Fleishman & Co., Starbucks, Madden Media and Pepper Viner. The event is free but funds raised through sponsorships will benefit literacy programs throughout Southern Arizona. For complete information about the event, visit www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org.



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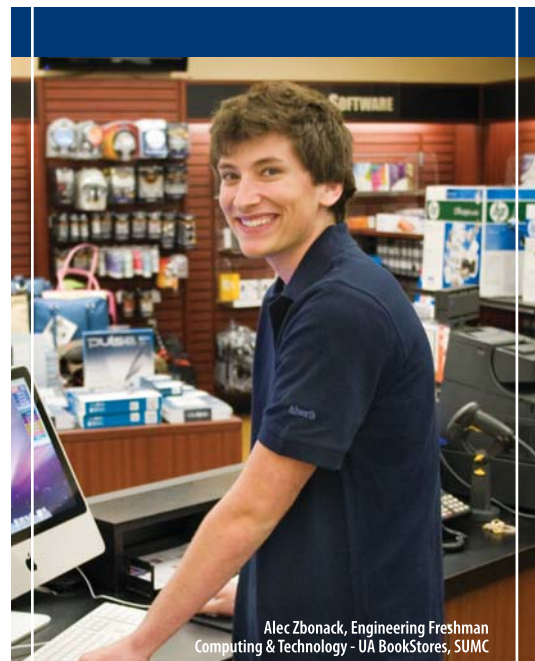
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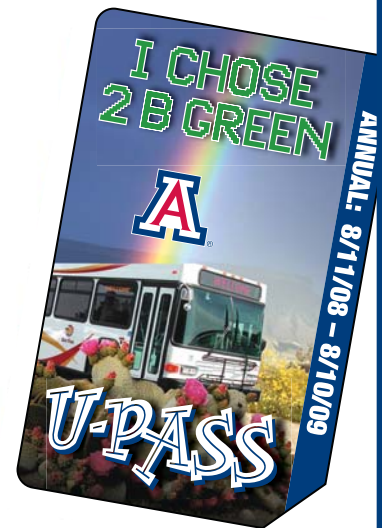


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UA's New Provost Taking an Active Day-to-Day Role

By Aaron Mackey
Arizona Daily Star

When Meredith Hay begins to talk about science, her brown eyes light up, and, for a moment, the UA's new provost and executive vice president is a student again.

The years slip away as Hay, 46, gushes about the first time she saw a nerve impulse while taking an undergraduate neurology class.

"I thought, 'Oh my gosh, you can measure brain activity, and actually measure thought,'" Hay said. "I was hooked on science."

In many ways, that synapse is still firing for the Houston native, sparking her enthusiasm for research as she serves as UA President Robert Shelton's lieutenant following a stint as vice president for research at the University of Iowa.

While still retaining the title of provost, Hay's position has been expanded, putting her in charge of budget oversight and UA's day-to-day operations.

The immense responsibility - and pressure - of the position is a natural fit for Hay, a physiologist known for her hard-work ethic and ability to bridge gaps between different academic disciplines. Her former colleagues say she also possesses a poised, passionate demeanor and a quick sense of humor.

"She has such a wonderful presence, and people really appreciate her input and her leadership," said Vicki Grassian, a chemistry professor at the University of Iowa. "People are really eager to work with her and learn from her."

Hay's title as provost and executive vice president means she has the authority to make final decisions on faculty and budget issues, the primary job of the provost - working with the faculty - should be easy for Hay, former colleague Jean Robillard said.

"She was a great healer when she was here," said Robillard, the vice president for medical affairs at the University of Iowa. "She really energized the university, creat-



Photo courtesy External Relations

Five things to know about Provost Meredith Hay

1. She's always hiking: "Every Sunday morning I go up Mount Lemmon and pick a trail. It's just wonderful."
2. She has six dogs: "Anybody who walks up the driveway, I adopt. I'm quite the softy."
3. She's still looking for a navigable river: "I brought my kayaks with me to Arizona, but I haven't found any water yet in Tucson."
4. She feels like she's on a permanent vacation: "I wake up in the morning and I feel like I'm living at a resort. It's absolutely beautiful here."
5. She loves being provost: "My job is to create an environment where the faculty and students can be the absolute best that they can be; to give them everything they need to achieve their dreams."

The Hay file

Age: 46

Title: Executive vice president and provost

Education: Bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Colorado-Denver; master's in neurobiology from the University of Texas-San Antonio; doctorate in cardiovascular pharmacology from University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio.

ing a new environment where people were able to develop ideas."

Serving as the vice president for research at Iowa, Hay oversaw the development of several new research centers, including the Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Institute.

The institute brings together faculty members from several diverse disciplines, said Grassian, who serves as the center's director.

Before Hay arrived at Iowa, such a research endeavor might not have been possible because many faculty members felt they weren't receiving proper credit for collaborating with others.

Hay worked with Grassian to develop a policy on shared credit for research that encouraged the type of work that eased those concerns, Grassian said.

"She really appreciates interdisciplinary research and understands that there are some barriers," Grassian said of Hay. "She tackled those problems and learned how to bring down those barriers."

At her core, Hay is still an enthusiastic researcher who continues to study how hormones affect the brain's regulation of blood flow.

Which is why even in the face of difficult decisions about the future of the UA, she's determined to make sure faculty, students and staff have the resources they need to continue to solve problems.

"The outcome of that for the state of Arizona and for the world is that these are the people who are curing diabetes. These are the people who are curing cancer, who are writing the next poem that makes you cry or music that makes you sing," she said. "If I'm able to enable these people to do what they can do, that can change the world. Who's not turned on by that?"

Aaron Mackey is a UA alum who works at the Arizona Daily Star.

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Meet Claire and Earl

New Parents and Family Association Co-Chairs

By Tricia Don

When the Parents & Family Association (PFA) considered who should next chair their association, Claire and Earl Mendenhall were deemed the perfect candidates. And to the association's great joy, they accepted.

Earl and Claire Mendenhall are the parents of two children, Connor, a junior at UA and Emma, a junior in high school. Connor, an International Studies and Economics student, is pleased with his decision to attend the University of Arizona. With many college options available to him, Connor chose the UA for reasons ranging from the scholarships awarded him to the quality of the UA faculty. His sister Emma is considering the same path. But don't think the Mendenhall's relationship with the university started with Connor, both Earl and Claire have a long history with the university.

Earl comes from a family of Wildcats. His grandparents attended the University of Arizona in the 1910's when JF "Pop" McKale was just beginning his coaching career and his mother graduated in the 1950's. This may have been one reason that in 1973, the Northridge, CA native decided to attend the UA. Claire, a Phoenix, Arizona resident, began at the University of Arizona the following year, and as the cliché goes, the rest is history.

School involvement was an important part of Earl and Claire's undergraduate years. While earning a degree in Business



Claire and Earl Mendenhall pose with Wilbur and Wilma at the Legacy Lunch

and Public Administration, Earl's activities culminated with his selection to the 13 member Bobcats Senior Class Honorary. Claire's campus involvement, while working toward an Early Childhood Education degree, centered around activities organized by her Chi Omega chapter. Fortunately for the university, the Mendenhall's support and involvement didn't stop at commencement. Along with their role as Co-Chairs of the Parents & Family Association, Claire and Earl are currently serving on the Honors College Advisory Board, and before these commitments, Earl served six years on the School of Music Advisory Board.

Joining the Parents & Family Association when Connor entered the UA, was an easy decision for the Mendenhalls. As stated in a popular ad campaign – Membership has its privileges – and Earl and Claire

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Mendenhall

found this to be true immediately. Along with the financial perks (campus, local and national discounts), the Mendenhalls have enjoyed other benefits their membership has provided including the opportunity to meet other UA parents and staff and the knowledge that their membership helps finance campus/student programs. With their new role as Co-Chairs, Earl and Claire look forward to being part of a group which will continue to provide campus support.

The Mendenhall's are thrilled with their new UA Parents & Family Association role. Asked why they accepted the position, several reasons emerged. With Connor being the fourth generation in their family to attend UA, Claire and Earl want the university to continue being the best it can be and want to be a part of making this happen. Claire also stated, "We've been involved in our kids' schools since they entered their first preschool; this was a way to stay involved with Connor's educational experience discretely without compromising his independence. It also provides a

chance to give back to the university with the gift of our time rather than just a donation."

What's on their agenda as Co-Chairs, plenty! With much thought and enthusiasm, Earl and Claire hope to fund more grants. According to Earl, "We're just now in the process of visiting with the Co-Chairs of the various Parent & Family Association committees to learn more about their goals and dreams. "We will try to be supportive of those first." They would also like to use the PFA grant process as a way to identify, publicize and find support for unmet needs on campus. In addition, they hope to develop the PFA's Board fundraising skills and explore using the Internet to match donors' interests with worthy needs on campus.

The Parents & Family Association is excited with the goals the Mendenhalls have set. With their commitment and drive, this year's programs, activities, and advancements in fundraising and campus support are sure to be successful. We look forward to this collaboration.



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The Parents & Family Association is proud to provide enhanced services to its members that match the quality of education your student experiences. As a premier international university, we need your support to maintain the quality programs and services that keep The University of Arizona among the leading public universities.

Show your Wildcat Pride—join today!



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[www.uafamily.
arizona.edu](http://www.uafamily.arizona.edu)
or fill out and send us the
membership form below**

How Does my Membership Make an Impact?

Your Membership helps The University of Arizona in the following ways:

1. **Student Support** – In the past five years the Parents & Family Association has given over \$1 million to campus programs and services that directly improve the quality of UA student life. We give where students and parents tell us it is important. Some of our support goes to Safe Ride, Career Services, student-faculty interaction, and the UA Library.
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.
3. **Family Weekend** – The University of Arizona has one of the largest and most unique Family Weekend programs in the country. Our Family Weekend is planned and implemented completely by students for you – our valued parents and families.
4. **Parent & Family Communications** – The Parents & Family Association provides a number of ongoing communications to parents and family members including two yearly print magazines, two special Parents Plus publications and our monthly newsletter, “The Paw Print.”

UA Parents & Family Association Membership Form

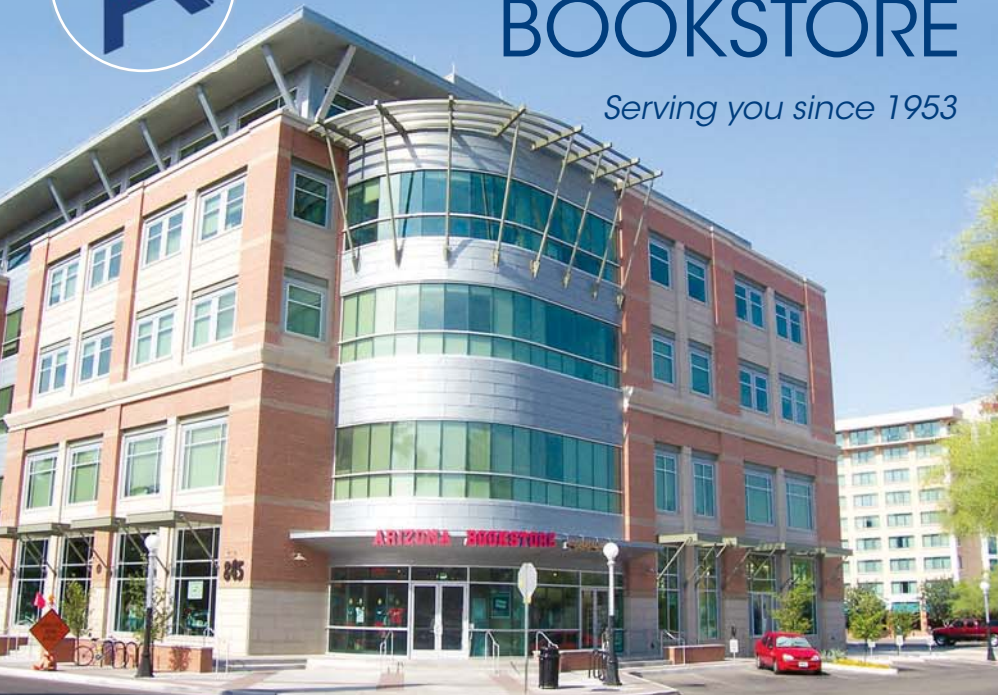
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 Credit Card # (MasterCard or Visa) _____
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or send checks payable to The University of Arizona with this form to:
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Animal Lovers Unite at UA

University of Arizona – Animal AdvoCATS

By Sarah Casares

It's no secret that students miss their friends, family, and especially their pets when they make the transition to college life. They long for the friend that loves them unconditionally and is always there for them, even on their worst day. An impulsive decision, in the midst of homesickness results in a choice that impacts many lives. Our mission is to educate students: Owning a pet is life-time commitment, not just a semester.

Students sometimes struggle to balance a pet-owner relationship with being a full-time student on a campus with infinite opportunities, activities, and events. A collaborative effort between the Center for Student Involvement & Leadership, The Dean of Students Office, Foundation for Animals In Risk, the Tucson Community, Faculty, Staff and Students introduced a task force focusing on this issue because it impacts not only the Tucson Community, but also the University Community. The group is charged with making a comprehensive plan to address the issues of responsible pet ownership and pet abandonment within the University of Arizona community.

In the past few weeks, students have shown an interest in starting a student organization and are moving forward to



Farrah, the FAIR spokesdog, greets a student at the informational tent during the first week of school

become an officially recognized student group on campus, called the University of Arizona – Animal AdvoCATS. The group is in the process of planning social and educational events for pet lovers and pet owners.

Not everyone can make a commitment to care for an animal for its lifetime. For student animal lovers who want the contact, but are not able to commit to ownership, these alternatives offer a unique experience:

- Volunteer at the local animal shelter. The student will get the affection benefits of owning a pet and help socialize animals to human contact, so they can be placed in a permanent home.
- Foster a pet in the student's home (only if they live off-campus, in a pet-friendly environment). The student will assist the community in helping to house animals when the shelter becomes too full. The animals also benefit from the attention,

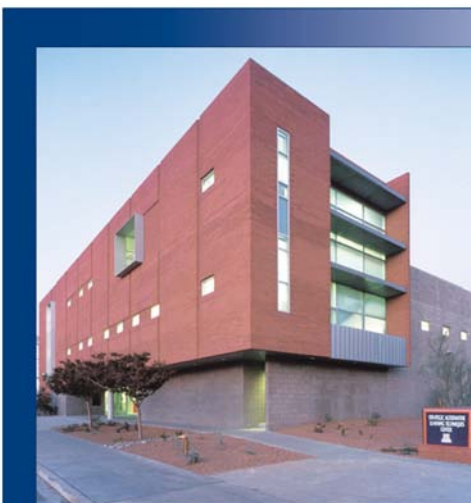
affection, and care.

- Volunteer to kitty/doggy-sit for a friend's pet for a few days. The student will fully understand the time commitment when an animal is solely in their care.

It is imperative that students understand the responsibilities of owning a pet before making that commitment. Parents and Families, we ask for your assistance in preparing students for this long-term commitment. Questions students should be asking themselves, when considering pet ownership:

- Am I mature and responsible enough to take care of a pet?
- Do I understand pets' needs, including food, shelter, affection, vaccinations, licensing and socialization?
- Do I have access to a Veterinarian? Can I afford to pay for veterinary services if they are needed?
- Will I commit myself to caring for my pet for its entire life, even if I might have to make sacrifices for it?
- Will I be able to place my pet with a foster home or take it home to Mom & Dad's house while I'm gone for summer and winter break?
- Can I look my pet in the eye and promise to never leave it, hurt it, or let it come to harm?
- How many hours a day am I out of the house? Will my pet be lonely?
- Does my housing facility permit pets? What kinds? Is there an extra cost or deposit for my pet from the landlord?

If your student may be interested in learning more about the Animal AdvoCATS organization, they can contact Tammy Fahrenreich, President, at tmf1@email.arizona.edu.



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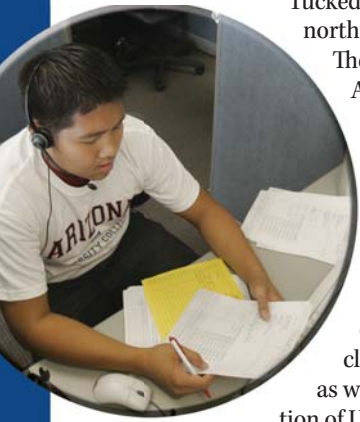
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UA Students Rise to the TOP

By S. Mitchell Harris, M.P.A.

Assistant Vice President, UA Foundation



Nam Ho, UA Student making calls for TOP

Tucked away in a north central part of The University of Arizona campus is a building where dozens of students unite daily in a worthwhile cause – to support the future of their world-class institution, as well as the education of UA students.

On any given evening, the second floor of the University's Vine Avenue Annex is buzzing with the

voices of up to 32 students making phone calls to parents, alumni and friends of the UA. Those student callers are a part of the Telephone Outreach Program (TOP), the most productive department within The University of Arizona Foundation's Office of Annual Giving.

More than Just a Job

Across the country, thousands of higher education institutions are utilizing student-staffed call centers like TOP to maintain contact with donors. As at many of those centers, TOP callers are responsible for a majority of the University's annual gifts.

Student callers' responsibilities don't stop there. Led by two full-time staff members and a team of six student supervisors, callers are challenged to develop and refine professional skills that will serve them well into the future. Skills honed include general communications, leadership, management, customer service, conflict resolution, data entry and overall knowledge of UA programs and centers.

Providing students with a work environment that requires them to develop professionally is a strong best practice that TOP is proud to be leading. TOP alumni boast of the advantages the program has given them in all areas of work and life. "I find myself using the communication and supervision skills that I was introduced to at TOP every day in the restaurant," said former caller Dustin, who is now in culinary school.

Making a Difference

When asked about their favorite types of calls to make, most TOP callers speak of those to parents of UA students. "They always brighten up when they hear that I am a UA student calling from campus," said Chris, a third-year student.

Callers provide parents with information on how to increase their involvement with the University, and even provide comfort to those concerned about their new students' well-being. "I talked to a parent who lives on the east coast," explained Tony, a UA freshman. "She was pleased to hear about the safety services that the Parents & Family Association supports. She

was spending a good deal of time worried and missing her daughter. I think she felt good having the chance to talk to me and hearing that I was not lonely or scared."

While reassuring parents of students' safety, callers also inquire about their interest in making a financial contribution to the University. Most parents opt to give, though those that don't often leave callers perplexed as to their reason of disinterest. Lisa, a fine arts student, expressed her desire for more clarification in those instances. "If they could tell me why [they are not giving], I could share that with staff," she said. "As we come across issues we can help to resolve, we can make everyone happy."

Impact of Giving

The goal at TOP is to ensure that as many stakeholders as possible have ongoing opportunities to stay connected, informed and in partnership with the UA, one of the leading public research universities in the country. That partnership has been promoted by the positive and forward-thinking students in the call center. TOP student callers have contributed to the collection of more than \$1 million in gifts from parents over the past five years.

In addition to raising funds for the University, student callers may gain a greater awareness and appreciation of the impact those gifts have on their student experience. TOP students are directly impacted by scholarship dollars, safety services and unrestricted dollars that allow the University to attract world-renowned faculty. The



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Telephone Outreach Program (TOP)

private annual support that they secure is critical for the immediate and long-term future of the institution.

Additionally, the University as a whole reaches out to alumni, parents of current and former students, friends and others to keep the UA mission moving forward. Just last year, that outreach played a part in the more than 81,000 individuals, foundations, corporations and others that gave philanthropically to the UA. Their contributions, totaling more than \$150 million, have significantly enhanced the quality of education students and faculty enjoy.

UA annual donors share responsibility for projects and programs including:

- Providing safety services for students going to and from campus
- Student retention programs
- Leadership and professional skills development programs
- Putting the Phoenix Lander on Mars
- National championships for women's and men's swim teams

Educational Enrichment in a Changing Economy

It is imperative that the UA continues to receive support from parents and families to maintain its reputation as a world-class institution. As speculation continues about recent economic trends, students and donors may question the effect the market will have on the upcoming year's annual giving. Despite an economy in flux, TOP students are determined to ensure that all stakeholders continue to have faith in the institution.

Continued private giving to support the University is especially critical in these difficult economic times, when students and programs may otherwise suffer. Thanks to the support encouraged by TOP student callers, UA programs will be enhanced, student engagement will increase and resources will be enriched. Whether allotted specifically for a scholarship, college or program, or more generally for the UA as a whole, students understand that these gifts can and will make a difference.

We'll Give You a Ring

The next time your phone rings, remember the dedicated TOP student callers in the UA's Vine Avenue Annex. Let them know what you think about their commitment to the University and their actions to secure the future of the institution. In return they will tell you about the great things happening on campus and opportunities for you to be an integral part of your student's education.

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Living off Campus Next Year: What to Consider

The chance that a student will live off-campus sometime in their college career is almost a guarantee. There are a few things to consider in helping find that perfect place to call home.

Start Early: Begin searching at least 2 months before your planned move-in date. If you are looking at a place for the spring, try to have a lease signed before winter break. Most properties will allow you to move in when you return in January.

Budget: What will your monthly expenses look like? Include rent, utilities, groceries, transportation, and entertainment expenses in your budget.

Roommates: Determine how many roommates you would like and who they will be. It is a great way to offset costs. Be careful of who you choose for roommates as you may not really know a person until you live with them.

Inspect the Condition: When you visit a complex, ask to see the unit you will be renting, not a model. Check areas such as appliances, doors, lights, faucets, storage spaces, and other areas. If you want the apartment only under the conditions that there are repairs, get a written agreement from your landlord that includes dates of completion.

Inspect for Security: Inspect the outside of the complex to check for adequate lighting in parking lots and other areas. Ask about security measures on the property and if any incidents have occurred recently. Also, inspect the unit to make sure all of the windows and doors lock properly and there is a peep hole in the front door.

Deposits: Be prepared to put down a deposit, as most properties require one. It is usually the first month's rent. Most utilities also require a deposit for new services.

Pets: If you own or want a pet, know the policies of the housing provider before signing a lease. Some places allow only certain types of pets while others do not even allow them.

Leases: Leases come in many different lengths. Some are month to month while others are for a specified amount of time (i.e. 12 month, 6 month). Make sure you understand everything in your lease.

Investigate these resources!

**The Center for Student Involvement & Leadership
Commuter and Off-Campus Housing Resources**

Phone: 520-621-5859

Email: housing@email.arizona.edu

Website: www.union.arizona.edu/offcampus/online

Housing Guide www.union.arizona.edu/cs/il/csa/housingguide/index.php

ASUA Legal Services: This is a free service to UofA students. The attorney can help to interpret your lease, advise you on landlord-tenant conflicts, and other legal issues. Call 520-621-ASUA to make an appointment.

Pima County: www.jp.pima.gov/

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Off-Campus Housing Hotline: 520-621-5859
E-mail Address: housing@email.arizona.edu

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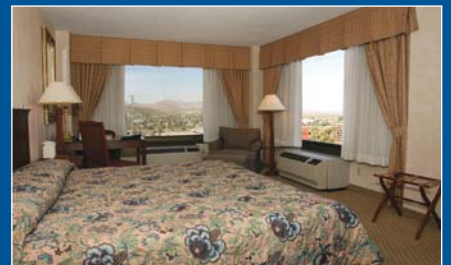
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Erin Nurss, A UA Student Makes a Difference

By Tricia Don

Speaking in front of a group of elementary school students, you witness the positive effect Erin Nurss, Miss Arizona 2008, has over her audience. Since beginning her role as Miss Arizona in June, Erin has appeared at over 60 events, promoting her platform "Healthy Habits: Promoting Health and Wellness in Youth," a subject she knows much about.

A Southern Arizona native, Erin grew up watching Wildcat football and basketball. This strong connection to the University of Arizona made any other college option seem out of the question. Erin tried out for the UA's pomline her senior year of high school and made the team – and as stated by Erin, "Lucky for me, UA has a great Nutrition department, so I was able to get my degree and dance at the same time!" With her undergraduate degree in Nutrition completed in 2007, Erin set her sights on earning a Master's



Erin Nurss, Miss Arizona

degree in Public Health. Erin also continued competing in pageants, with the hope of becoming Miss Arizona. Throughout her college years, she earned the titles of "Miss Sierra Vista," "Miss Southeast Arizona," "Miss Tucson Valley," and finally earning the title of Miss Arizona in 2008.

With her Miss Arizona role requiring a time commitment similar to a full time job, Erin is currently taking the 2008-2009 school year off. She plans on resuming her classes in the fall of 2009, and hopes to graduate in May 2010.

This next year will find Erin busy fulfilling her commitment as Miss Arizona. She is currently filming the reality show "Countdown to the Crown" that will air on the TLC network every Friday night in January, leading up to the live Miss America Pageant on January 24, 2009.

Erin is enjoying her reign as Miss Arizona and the options it is opening up for her. From providing a forum which

allows her to have an active community voice, to professional networking opportunities, the year is turning out better than Erin imagined.

"People often talk about the 'power of the crown' and when you first hear that you think, 'What's that? What kind of power?' Serving as Miss Arizona really helps get your foot in the door and enables



you to have a positive impact on those around you. Not only does it open doors for you to speak to people but it also has an incredibly positive affect on young people.

It really gives me a chance to be a positive role model and hopefully inspire and motivate those around me to make healthy lifestyle choices, and work toward achieving their goals."

And from those faces at the elementary schools, we know Erin's message is right on track!

Professor Supapan Seraphin cooks a healthy meal with students.
studentaffairs.arizona.edu/facultyfellows



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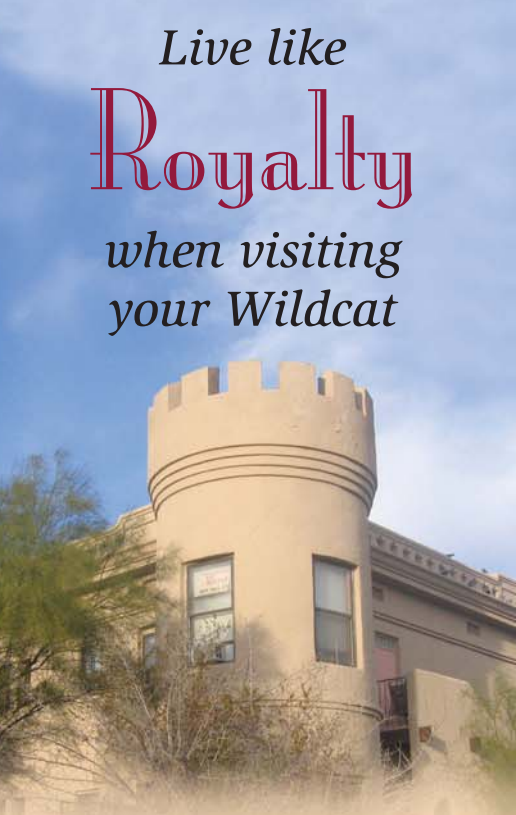
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UA Swimmers, Coach Make a Splash at Beijing Olympics

By Blake Grimsley



Natalie Coughlin, Kara Lynn Joyce, Lacey Nymeyer and Dara Torres, Olympic Silver Medal Winners in the 4x100 relay.

Photo courtesy Reuters

This past summer the University of Arizona sent a total of 30 athletes, coaches and support staff to represent the school and compete in the games of the XXIXth Olympiad in Beijing, China.

No sport felt the impact as much as swimming and diving, which saw a total of 14 current or former UA swimmers compete in Beijing. Such participation was a cap to a sensational 2008 season in which the program swept the men's and women's national championships, and Arizona swimming and diving certainly showed what it was capable of on the international scene.

Arizona head coach Frank Busch served as an assistant coach for the U.S. team in Beijing and was front and center for some exciting moments.

"It was a great experience," said Busch. "What an opportunity to represent your country as a coach. To get to experience something that will never be repeated, like what (Michael) Phelps accomplished. It was a privilege and honor to watch our 16 athletes with ties to Arizona swim on the biggest stage."

Tucson's own Lacey Nymeyer, coming off what arguably can be classified as the greatest Arizona swimming career ever,

competed in her first Olympic Games.

"Getting to Beijing, it's almost like a relief because you know the build up is closing and we're about to race," said Nymeyer. "But it also hits you that you're swimming in the Olympics in front of millions of people. It's hard, but that's also kind of the fun part as well."

Once she got past how unique of an experience swimming in the Olympics is, Nymeyer was her usual dominant self.

"I swam the very first day of prelims, so I think any nervousness was gone after day one," said Nymeyer. "Then I got to see a lot of the other races and grasp the Olympic spirit. After that, everything just became fun and I just went out and swam."

In the finals of the women's 4 x100 relay, the United States finished second to the Netherlands. The U.S. team included Nymeyer along with Natalie Coughlin, Kara Lynn Joyce and Dara Torres.

"During the race, I swam the second leg, so I was able to cheer on my teammates and watch as Dara (Torres) swam the anchor leg. We were disappointed we didn't win gold, but it was the first time we had beaten Australia and that was exciting. We also set an American record."

It was a heart-felt moment for Busch

seeing Nymeyer in the Olympics because she grew up in Tucson and trained in both his club and collegiate teams.

"To see Lacey do it was special because she's from Tucson, she came through our club program and then went onto what she accomplished collegiately."

The Olympic experience can provide an athlete with an extraordinary amount of joy in knowing you're the best at your respective sport as well as confidence in future events.

"Not only will the experience factor help the next time I compete internationally, but the Olympics really opened my eyes to the relationship you build with your relay-mates," said Nymeyer. "We'll always have the memories from Beijing to last us the rest of our lives. In a way that is bigger than the color of the medal."

Nymeyer, who was just named to the U.S. National Team, concluded her swimming eligibility at UA last season, and will compete professionally in 2008-2009.

"After the Olympics were over, I took some time to rest just from such a busy six months," said Nymeyer. "It was nice to get away from swimming for a little bit, but then it got boring. I'm so glad to be back to where I feel at home."

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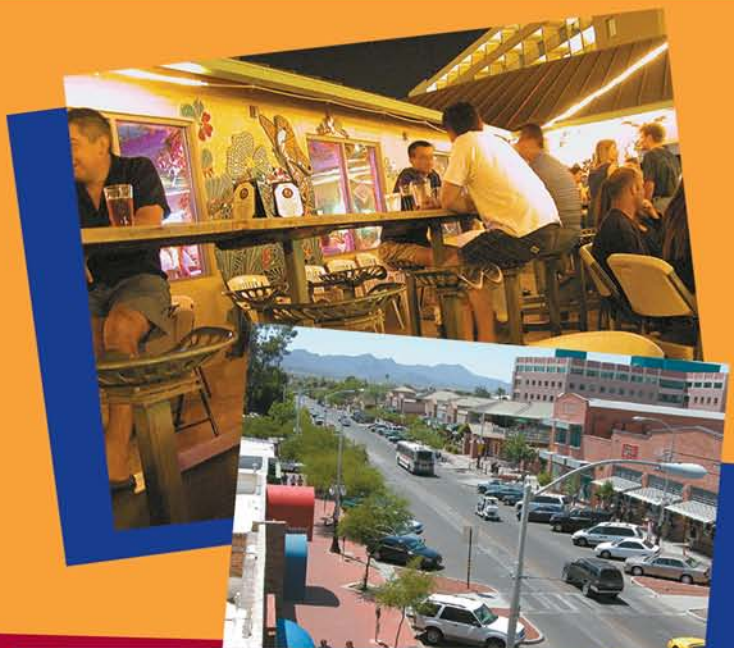
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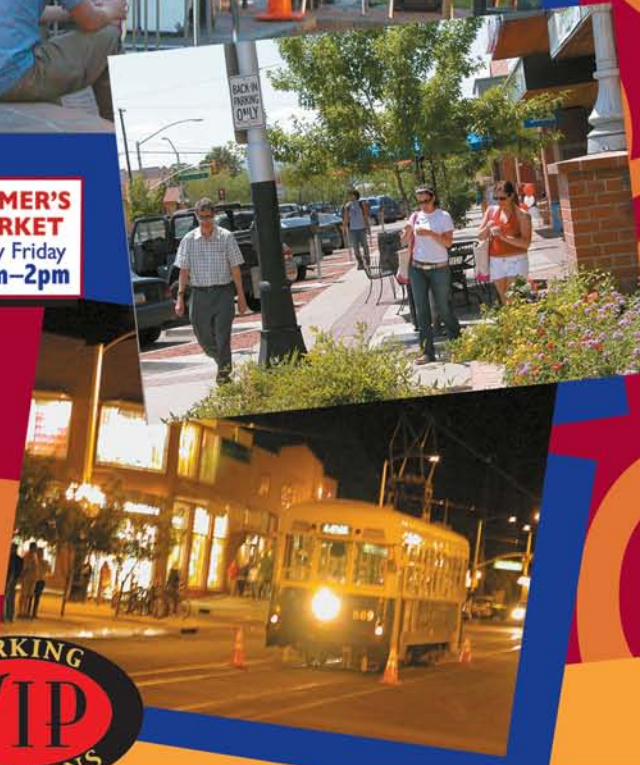
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