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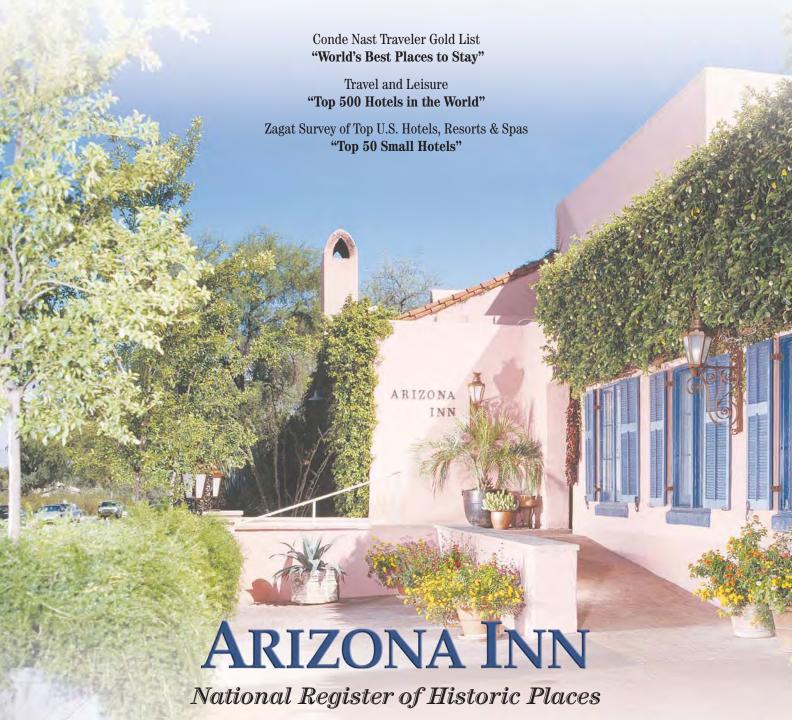
► *UA Facilitators* General information and referral services

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► UA Parents & Family Association

(520) 621-0884

http://www.uafamily.arizona.edu/





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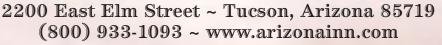
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Welcome to the UA Wildcat Family!

Greetings Wildcat Parents & Families,

Welcome to our fifth issue of Parents & Family Magazine! You're receiving this magazine 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. I thank you for your support! In addition, parents of new students are also receiving this issue as a complimentary welcome to the Wildcat Family!

Spring semester here at the University of Arizona is a time of exciting events and traditions like Wildcat Softball and Baseball games, spring awards ceremonies, and for our graduating seniors – Commencement! This spring one of our annual traditions, Spring Fling is celebrating its 35th Anniversary, you can read more about this wonderful student-run event on page 25.

In my role during the past year I have had an opportunity to meet and speak with many of you and I am continually impressed by your willingness to reach out and become involved to help all students succeed at The University of Arizona. Most recently many of you took the time to respond to PFA Board Co-Chairs Earl and Claire Mendenhall's Call to Action regarding the proposed budget cuts to UA. I have been told by our legislative liaisons that parent input made a difference in the degree of the budget cuts. The PFA Co-Chairs and Board are hopeful that the Parents & Family Association can continue to count on its parents to express their thoughts on important legislative issues!

I also want to thank the Board, Committee Chairs and Committee members who have lent their time, talents and skills to the Parents & Family Association. I greatly appreciate your support and efforts and so do our students. Thank you!! If you haven't yet gotten actively involved but would like to, please let me know. We can always use new committee members!

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 happy to be of assistance. We can be reached at (520) 621-0884 or via email at uafamily@email.arizona.edu.

With Wildcat Pride,



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

Parents & Family Magazine

Issue 5

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

The University of Arizona PO Box 210021 Tucson, AZ 85721

Editor

Kathy Adams Riester
Assistant Dean
of Students
Director UA Parents & Family
Association
kriester@u.arizona.edu
520-621-0884

Advertising Milani Hunt

Marketing Coordinator Arizona Student Media milanih@email.arizona.edu 520-626-8546

Design & Production
Cindy Callahan
Graphic Designer, Sr.
Arizona Student Media
cynthiac@u.arizona.edu
520-621-3377

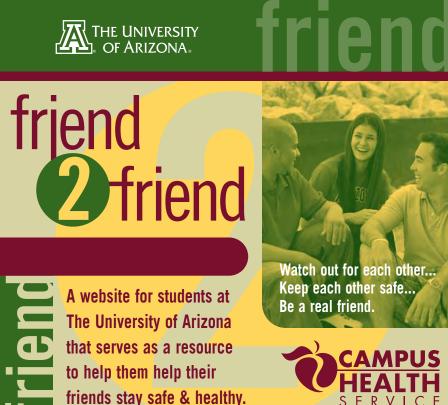
Circulation: 25,000

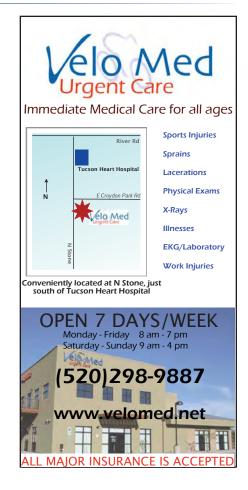
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Cover photos by Haskell Photography



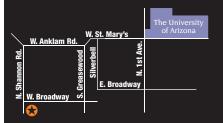








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PARENTS & FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Spring Update

By Kathy Adams Riester, M.S. Ed

Assistant Dean of Students & Director, UA Parents & Family Association

Spring is an exciting time for the UA Parents & Family Association! In

February, the PFA announced its annual call for grants for the 2009-2010 academic year. March and April are busy planning times for our regional Summer Send Offs and for New Student Orientation. We are also preparing for our semi-annual spring Board and Committee Meetings, which will be held on Friday, May 15.

roud

Committee Updates

► The Public Affairs Committee, Chaired by Beatrice Perry, has been very busy this spring! This committee co-hosted a "Meet Your Legislator Night" with the Maricopa County Legislators. This was a great opportunity for both parents and UA Alumni to cultivate relationships with some of our key legislators. In addition, the Public Affairs Committee joined approximately 2000 students from our three state universities at a budget protest held on the lawn of the state capital. They have also been busy communicating with and rallying parents to express their opinions on the proposed higher education budget cuts.

- ► The Recruitment and Retention
 Committee Co-Chaired by Liz and
 Hunter Richardson and Albert and
 Jacque Siquieros have been working
 closely with UA Admissions staff in
 planning several out of state recruiting events this spring. The Parents &
 Family Association will be assisting in
 two events, one in New York City and
 one in the Washington, DC area.
- ► The Ad-Hoc Phoenix Summer Send Off Committee, Co-Chaired by Patti Teter and Charlene Duff is well on its

way to planning another wonderful Send Off of our Phoenix Wildcats on August 2, 2009. They are currently seeking sponsorships and donations to help support this event. If you would like to participate please let me know!

The Campaign Committee Co-Chaired by Marcy Albert, Angelica
Villarruel and Guillermo Uribe is
excited to announce that the Parents
& Family Association will be holding
its 1st Annual Golf Tournament. It will
be held on Thursday, October 15 at the
Westin La Paloma. All levels of players
are invited and the cost will be \$200
per person. Proceeds will support our
Grants program. The Campaign Committee will be awarding grant monies
which help support various student
programs and services at UA during
our May Board Meeting.

If you would like to get involved in any of these committees please let me know at uafamily@email.arizona.edu or by calling 520-621-0884.

The Partnership of Parents – People Just Like You – Proud Parent Volunteers



The Parents & Family Association – Enhancing Student Opportunities

"We're involved with the Parents and Family Association because we know The University of Arizona is key in educating our youth, advancing science and technology, enriching the arts and our culture, and providing a strong framework for economic growth in Arizona and nationally. Because of our interest in the merits of public affairs, our collaboration with the Parents and Family Association creates an effective platform for communicating with our elected representatives. This is essential to advance important UA initiatives, while strengthening academic and economic opportunities for all of Arizona. We are proud of what we, as parents, can collectively make possible through the Parents and Family Association."

In 2008-2009, the collective partnership of the Parents & Family Association touched over 37,000 students' lives by enhancing student safety, leadership programs, career services and faculty interaction/mentoring programs.

For more information, call (520) 621-0884

Katherine and Allan Harmeyer, Parents of Andrew, UA Junior, majoring in Business Management, Phoenix, AZ Hosts of Maricopa County Legislative Social, January 2009







Dual Role for UA

By Sarah Beaudry

When Christopher J. Vlahos began his second year as president of the University of Arizona Alumni Association (UAAA) in the summer of 2008, his transition from Ohio State Buckeye to Arizona Wildcat was complete. His middle son, Kevin, became a freshman music major at the UA that fall, and now the Vlahos family will cheer for the 'Cats if ever they meet the Buckeyes in the Rose Bowl.

As a parent of a UA student, Chris gets an inside look at student life. The father and son duo attended UA Wildcat Welcome week activities, got a feel for the campus, and took a closer look at what student life is all about.

"Being a parent of a UA student gives me a unique perspective on the student experience — on everything from dorm life to academics to what is read in the Daily Wildcat," says Chris.

"At the UAAA, we encourage all UA students to think about the fact that they are a Wildcat for Life, so it helps me greatly to have some insight as to how students and alumni perceive the university



Alumni Association President



Jacob Chinn photo

Chris Vlahos and his son Kevin

and how they feel about their campus experience."

It didn't take Kevin long to adjust to the culture shift from the Midwest. "I love Arizona. I like waking up to sunny, 75-degree weather and walking around a beautiful campus." But, the transition from high school to college was more than just a culture shift for Kevin. "I like being close to my family, but the experience of living on campus has helped me grow a lot," says Kevin. "I like the flexibility of college — I get to plan my own schedule and I don't have classes all day, every day."

From time to time, Chris and Kevin run into each other on campus. "The thing is, he never knows when he's going to see me, and that keeps him on his toes," says Chris. Kevin responds by saying he thinks running into his dad is funny. "And from time to time he even lets me up to see his room in Coronado," Chris jokes.

Chris takes advantage of Kevin's proximity to home whenever he can. He even persuaded Kevin to wear a tux and play the piano at last year's Alumni Association holiday party held at the Vlahos' home. Kevin's music specialty is integrated studies and he is considering a career in composition.

Part of the UAAA's mission is keeping alumni connected to the UA and providing alumni services such as career connections and networking. Chris keeps his son in mind when considering the next generation of alumni. "Kevin is only a freshman, so I will be particularly interested in how he views the UA alumni network when it comes time for him to seek internships or to contact UA graduates to advance his career. After all, he too is a Wildcat for Life."

Attention



UA Parents

We know you care!

Stay informed and learn what small steps you can make now to help as the University deals with cuts proposed for the FY 2009-2010 budget.

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Contact us: 520.621.3268

uadrc@email.arizona.edu http://drc.arizona.edu



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Call the Ombuds Program Director in the President's Office, 626-5589, to match your situation to an Ombuds who can most readily assist you. You can also visit the Ombuds website at http://ombuds.arizona.edu to see a complete list of Ombuds, telephone numbers and their locations on campus.

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Arizona Cheerleaders and Mascots

Finalists for MTV's RAH!

with Paula Abdul

By Jenna Stevens Senior, UA Cheerleaders

After being contacted to apply for this new MTV show developed by Paula Abdul called RAH!, The University of Arizona Cheerleading and Mascot Squad were a little uncertain about the basis of the show and whether or not they should submit an application. After discussing the boundaries of the show and whether they wanted to go through with the process, the entire team voted and decided it would be a great experience and would promote the UA nationally!

The members of the squad worked hard and made a funny casting video that was submitted for the application process. After an intense elimination process, they were told that they were a Top-15 team, then a Top-10, and finally they received a call from Paula Abdul informing them they were one of the Top-5 teams chosen to go to New York.

Twenty members of the squad flew to

New York and were given a two-day itinerary of the events and the filming process for the show. Four other schools arrived at the same time: University of Hawaii, Miami University of Ohio, University of Montana. University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The members of the UA spirit program had

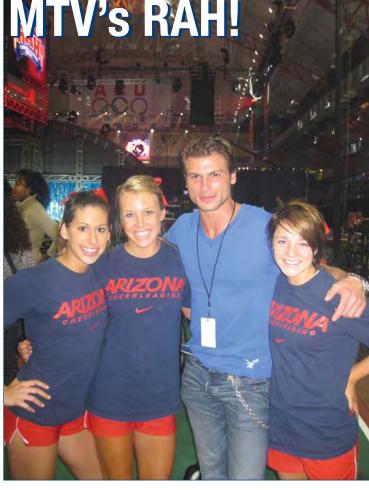
no idea what they were in for! First, they attended a "meet of the hotel where they were staying. That

and greet" with Paula Abdul in the lobby was the first time the Arizona Squad felt that reality was sinking in, they were going

Jennifer Goldman photo



to be on TV and compete in challenges with other Cheer programs. Arizona Cheerleader, Rosette Abud said "it was so exciting for us to be in New York with the other college squads. We were ready to



Gabby Villalanti, Jenna Stevens, **RAH Crew** Member. and Amanda Berg Jaclyn Weinstein

represent Arizona and have fun with MTV. When Paula walked in the room everyone got excited about RAH!"

The students had to be up at 6 a.m. and they participated in filming until 9:30 p.m. or later each night of filming. The actual filming of RAH! was very stressful and at the same time required a lot of patience to ensure the film crew got the footage they needed. After two days of going through every "elimination" the team was tired, but it was an excellent opportunity to see what it takes to film a TV show, as well as meet some cool celebs!

Even though The University of Arizona did not win the RAH! challenge, the cheerleaders and mascots had a great time. They learned about team work, were able to observe other cheer programs, and see what it takes to be in the film industry. They also had fun and represented the UA with Pride! The team was thankful for the opportunity, and it was pretty neat to see themselves on TV after it all!

Surviving the Transition

The Parents' Corner

By Cathy Clair, UA Parent

Can you believe it? Your child will soon graduate from high school and head to college next fall. Congratulations!! You're probably asking yourself, "Where did the years go?" If you're like most parents, you're experiencing a gamut of emotions—pride, joy, relief, sadness, anxiety and anticipation. You might feel overwhelmed by the challenges that lie ahead for both you and your child. Rest assured. Parents and students have blazed the trail and survived the transition; you will too!

Trust your instincts; trust knowing that you've taught your child well and prepared him/her to move forward in this new venture. They'll continue to learn; so will you. Don't stop nurturing your child simply because they're away at college. Your child still needs you to encourage, counsel and mentor them. Stay connected. Support your child through phone calls, e-mails, and with text messaging—it's a handy tool in the 21st century!—but let them initiate communicating with you (unless, of course, days/weeks go by and you haven't heard a word!). Before they leave for college, set clear boundaries and expectations for your child-in and out of the classroom and dorms—so there's no confusion or disappointments later.

Now is a great time for your student to start practicing some basic survival skills! Handling money, managing a checking account, and understanding reasonable spending limitations are all topics parents and college-bound students should discuss well before move-in day. Take the time to have these discussions sooner than later! A bank account that allows both student and parent access to the same account might make managing finances easier and more convenient.

Give your kids laundry instructions and insist they do their own before hitting campus. Update and personalize the 'stranger danger' talk with your child, and facilitate open and honest discussions concerning drugs, alcohol, and sexual matters. Attention, students: Get enough sleep! Your grades and your health will directly reflect the amount of sleep you

manage to fit into your schedule.

Insist that your student goes to classes—every class, every day! It's imperative to their success and promotes personal accountability. Resist the inclination to solve problems that may arise for your student. Instead, encourage your child

to use the resources that are available to them on campus. This will help strengthen their coping skills and foster independence. Student Affairs offers a plethora of resources for students, including academic tutoring, personal counseling, and guidance in numerous areas.

It's been said that children are like kites. You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them.... they crash.... you pick them up. You watch them and assure them that someday they'll fly. Finally, they're airborne [on



John and Cathy Clair from Glendale, AZ with college freshman twins Erin and Sean Clair.

their way to college.....] but they need more string. You keep letting string out, and with each twist of the ball of twine, there is sadness and joy as the kite becomes more distant; yet somehow you know it won't be long before that child of yours SOARS as he/she was meant to! Good luck!

Cathy Clair is a Parents Plus Member of the UA Parents & Family Association. She is from Glendale, AZ and is the proud parent of two Freshmen one of whom is attending the University of Arizona.

Save the Date: Oct. 16-18 Family Weekend 2009!

By Peter Pereira

Although October may seem far away, preparations for Family Weekend 2009 are underway. The dates for Family Weekend 2009 are October 16-18, 2009.

Last year more than 3,500 families participated in the campus-wide event, which is produced by student volunteers. From the Mystery Dinner Theater to the football game, the weekend was a fun-filled experience for both parents and students.

We look forward to continuing popular traditions as well as introducing new exciting activities. This year the Wildcats will be hosting Stanford for another exciting football game.

The Parents & Family Association will be hosting the First Annual Parents & Family

Association Family Weekend Golf Tournament. It will be held on Thursday, October 15 beginning at 1:00 pm at the beautiful Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa Golf Course. The entry fee will be \$200/person with proceeds to benefit the Parents & Family Association Grant Program which helps support UA students. You will be able to register for this event on the Family Weekend Website. All levels of players are welcome!

As we continue to shape Family Weekend 2009, we are eager to begin the registration process as soon as possible. We will have a table at the Orientation fair and expect to receive information in the mail late-summer, but until then, feel free to contact the Family Weekend Committee with any suggestions or ideas you may have at uabfamw@email.arizona.edu.

Math **Placement** and the New **Online Test**

By Tina Schuster

Each major at The University of Arizona has a specific math requirement. To register for a math course at the UA, students must satisfy the eligibility requirements for that course. High school curriculum and math SAT or ACT scores are not used to place students into UA math courses. All incoming freshmen must take the new ALEKS online placement test at least one week prior to orientation, to determine eligibility for a UA math course. There will no longer be a paper-based math placement test administered at orientation. Students with AP or other college level math credit should still take the online test, and then

Continued on page 13

Arizona Football Wins Bowl Game



Congratulations to the Arizona Football Team who beat #17 ranked Brigham Young 31-21 in the Las Vegas Bowl!



APPIZONA FOOTBALL

2009 Family Weekend

Arizona vs. Stanford Sat. Oct. 17 @ 4 pm

You are invited to join your son/daughter at the Arizona Football game for Family Weekend on Saturday, Oct. 17 vs. Stanford. Tickets for the game will go on sale August 8 at arizonaathletics.com and Aug. 10 by phone or in person at the McKale Ticket Office.

Please Note: Football tickets do not come with the Family Weekend package and must be purchased separately.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ORDER TICKETS

By Phone: 520-621-2287 800-452-2287

Go to the red menu bar and click on the "Tickets" tab. select "Buy Tickets Online," "2009 Individual Football Game

Tickets," and select the Stanford/Family Weekend Game. In Person: McKale Ticket Office (Mon. - Fri. 9 am to 5 pm)

Season tickets are on sale now!

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Arizona's First University.

Orientation Parents are Welcome Too!

By, Sabrena Heilman

Congratulations on your student's admission to The University of Arizona! And congratulations to you for the time, love and patience it has taken to get your student this far! You have done a great job. You and your student have already begun the important transition from being part of a high school community to that of a university community. Remember that transitioning is a process that does not happen overnight, although sometimes it might feel that way the closer to August you get. Some students might be eager to get to college and get started, while other students might need a little more encouragement that they are going to be fine while away at college. Either way, the New Student Orientation office is busy preparing to provide your son or daughter with an orientation session that will assist with this transition and provide the resources to be successful students while attending the UA.

Parents, do not think we have forgotten about you. The University offers a companion program to the New Student Orientation for parents. We encourage you to consider attending this program. The orientation program offers you insights into the transition your student will experience throughout the summer, information about important UA resources for you and your student, explanations of UA lingo and academic and university expectations required of your student. Register for one of these programs when your student registers for New Student Orientation, or if you would like to add yourself to your student's reservation, please go to admissions.arizona.edu/orientation, click on Forms, fill out and submit the Reservation Change Form.

We would like to ask your assistance with making sure that your student is following all of the instructions that the UA has been sending out to them and will continue to send to them in the coming months. There are some key items that will help to guide your student through their transition from high school to the university. They should be working on completing the items from their Transition Guide checklist located at admissions. arizona.edu/transition. All of these items

are just the beginning to your student's success while at the UA.

We understand your excitement and anxiety as you continue through this transition with your son or daughter. The UA has many resources for you and the Parent Program of New Student Orientation is just the beginning. If you have any questions with regard to New Student Orientation or The University of Arizona, please contact our office at (520) 621-5293, orient@arizona.edu or parentsask@arizona.edu. We look forward to seeing you this summer.

Math Placement and New Online Test

Continued from page 11

talk to a math advisor at orientation.

There is a free practice test available that students are encouraged to take prior to taking the UA Math Placement Test. Students will be given recommendations based on their practice test results. The UA Math Placement Test will be available beginning May 1, 2009 through July 31, 2009. Additional information will be available through the math placement website at math.arizona.edu/placement and the Online Academic Tour at www.em.arizona. edu/owa. There is no charge for the first test, if taken before July 31, 2009.

Your student will need to follow these steps to take the online UA Math Placement Test:

- 1. Determine which test to take. There are two placement tests: Preparation for Calculus and Preparation for College Algebra.
- 2. Take the free practice test (instructions posted at math.arizona.edu/placement) and review recommended options.
- 3. Students will take the UA Math Placement Test, a link to the test is available through the Explore Page in the Online Academic Tour, between May 1-July 31,



2009. Your student will need their UA NetID and password.

- 4. A list of eligible math courses based on your student's placement score will be available through their Student Link account, under Academic, and will be available within one week of completing
- 5. Math advising will be available to students at their orientation session, but not before then. Please refer your student to their college's website, the math placement website or to an advisor at orientation.

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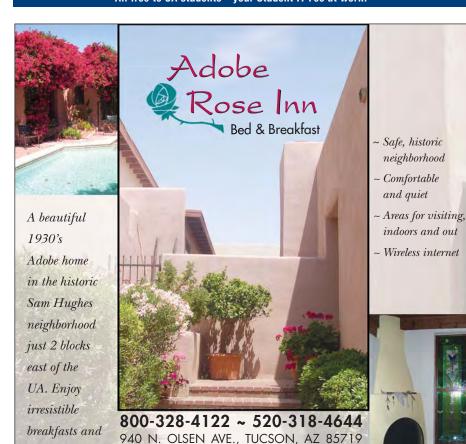


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Rodeo Champion Balances Competition, Circuit, Training and School

By Rebecca Ruiz-McGill

Horses and rodeo are a way of life for the Holgate family. For University of Arizona freshman Raynell "Nelly" Holgate and her horse Blueberry, it's become a path that has led to national recognition.

Holgate, a freshman pre-med student, is Navajo and grew up in Page, Arizona, where the love of rodeo was instilled by her father. Her father taught himself how to train horses for rodeos and competed until he found a greater love in teaching his children.

"We grew up with horses and by the time my two older brothers were four years old, my dad began training them to ride and compete. When I turned four I was ready to start training with them but because I was a girl my father thought I wasn't strong enough to handle a horse," Holgate said.

He challenged her to begin carrying five-pound weights 100 times up and down the stairs at home each day until she gained strength and convinced her dad to let her ride.

By the time she was nine years old, she had gone through four horses before finding Blueberry, the horse that would make her a world champion in barrel racing.

With Blueberry, Holgate has been named the 2007 and 2008 Navajo Nation Fair Champion, a 2008 top barrel racing competitor in Indian Rodeo and most recently the 2008 Indian National Finals Rodeo World Champion in barrel racing.

Holgate, who also has competed internationally, said, "I have scholarships and my parents help with tuition costs, but my winnings help pay for costs associated with meals and housing. Also, my winnings go toward entry fees and travel to rodeo competitions."

She competes in barrel racing and roping every two weeks working to balance rodeo competitions with school and credits the UA's First-Year Scholars



Raynell Holgate and Blueberry barrel race at the 2008 Bill Pickett/Jackson Showdown Rodeo in Albuquerque, NM

Program with her ability to compete and balance 15 units of classes. The program, a living-learning community on campus, is run by the Native American Student Affairs office and is tailored to freshmen students with the aim of increasing graduation rates in the American Indian community.

"I've only known these students since the end of August and they were kind enough to remember my birthday and bring me a cake and sing to me - that really meant a lot," Holgate said. "In the program, older students help us with classes they have taken and there are tutors and mentors to help us make it through the first year and beyond."

"I recognized Raynell's drive and determination from the beginning. She is already so accomplished at such a young age, and what I am most impressed by is her humility. It's such a joy to work with her in the First-Year Scholars Program," said Natalie R. Youngbull, First-Year Scholars Program manager.

Holgate is now a member of the Women's Professional Rodeo Association. She is avidly training with Blueberry, who was named the 2008 Horse of the Year by the All Indian Rodeo Cowboys Association, for the next level of elite competition.



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- 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 Walk, Career Services, student-faculty interaction, and leadership programs.
- 2. Campus Programming –
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Plus members below* the UA Parents & Family Association has been able to continue to support student life, and academic support services this year. OUR STUDENTS THANK YOU!

*Great care was taken to ensure the accuracy of this listing as of March 1, 2009, and we would appreciate you sharing with us any errors or omissions. Please direct inquiries to Kathy Adams Riester, Director of the UA Parents & Family Association at 520-621-0884 or uafamily@email.arizona.edu

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UA Theatre Arts Grad Lives Her Dream



Stefanie Brown as Hope Cladwell and Kyle Harris as Bobby Strong in a UA production of Urinetown.

by Tricia Don, Coordinator of Special Projects for Student Life

Almost every young girl dreams of being a princess, but for Stefanie Brown being a "good" witch is the next best thing. As the understudy for Glinda, the most famous good witch of all time, on the national touring company of the Broadway musical "Wicked," Stefanie, a

2008 UA graduate, is living a dream.

From her first impromptu performance on stage at the age of three, her family knew Stefanie was a performer. But after being cast as Dorothy in the Wizard of OZ at the age of eight, Stefanie found her passion for musical theatre and knew the career path she wanted to pursue. As with any career choice, hard work and dedication is

often required and with the strong support of her parents, Stefanie began this journey at a young age. "My parents have always been so supportive of me and my dream. They provided lessons, the opportunity to attend theatre camps, and the education needed to help me achieve my goal of being a professional in the entertainment business," stated Brown. "They could not be happier with my recent achievement of receiving my college degree in the Arts and with my current success on tour."

When considering where to continue her education after high school, Stefanie took the advice of a family friend attending the University of Arizona, and auditioned for the school's Theatre Department.

Following her audition, she visited the school and attended the Arizona Repertory Theatre's (the UA's School of Theatre Arts' professional training company) performance of "Little Shop of Horrors." She was blown away. Despite acceptance into several other universities, Stefanie felt the best choice and fit for her was the UA.

Stefanie credits the UA School of Theatre Arts for preparing her for her career in every which way. From honing her singing, acting and dancing abilities to preparing her for the business side of the industry, Stefanie states the UA "gave me the best education and training I could have asked for." That included help creating an audition book, guidelines on getting an agent, advice on how to present herself while interviewing with casting directors, to the incredible opportunities and experiences provided on the Arizona Repertory Theatre stage.

The UA stage granted Stefanie

numerous highlights during her undergraduate years, so choosing a favorite moment "is impossible," states Brown. But one performance that tops her list is, while playing Cunegonde in "Candide," singing "Glitter and Be Gay." Brown said, "That feeling of ending that song in the center of the stage on that pink pillow, breathing harder than I have ever breathed before, with the sound of the audience applause in the background, is an experience

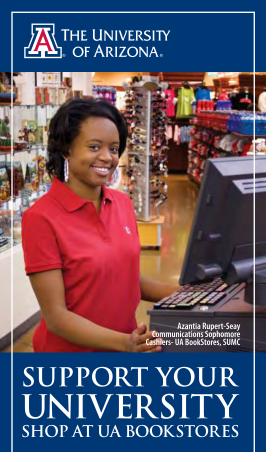
I will never forget." Stefanie also includes her performances in "Urinetown," "Romero and Juliet" and her junior and senior showcases at the top of her list of highlights.

Via the UA's unique auditions program, the Showcase of Talent, students have the opportunity to make connections with top of the line talent agencies and casting directors. Stefanie's participation in this program eventually led to her selection for "Wicked." With her goal to be in a Broadway national tour achieved so early in her career, Stefanie feels incredibly blessed. But this is only the beginning of what promises to be a successful career. Stefanie hopes to appear on TV and in major motion pictures, and then once the acting itch is fulfilled, have a family and continue working in the business as a casting director.

With graduation less than a year behind her, Stefanie's debut with the cast of Wicked began on February 11th in Appleton, WI. With performances scheduled in Portland, OR, Salt Lake City, San Diego, Seattle, Denver and Tempe – you may have the good fortune of attending one of her performances. If so, prepare to be overwhelmed by the talent of this "Wicked" young actress.



Stefanie Brown



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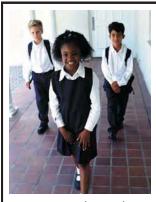
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Tejido Group Helps Towns Survive

By Rebecca Ruiz-McGill

University of Arizona associate professor of architecture and landscape architecture Mark Frederickson thinks big. Through the Tejido Group, his students are afforded the opportunity to do the same in an apprenticeship-style professional learning environment that puts them in the driver's seat and under pressure.

The Tejido Group is a hands-on research project that offers an interdisciplinary internship opportunity to faculty and students to help communities with urban developmental planning and design strategies. The group has tackled projects in Panama, British West Indies and projects as close as Summer Haven, Arizona.

This semester, the undergraduate and graduate students working in the Tejido Group are developing a design project for the 1,500 residents of Fronteras, Sonora, Mexico which sits 30 minutes south of Douglas/Agua Prieta.

The town looked headed for ghost town status after a maquiladora, a factory that assembles imported parts, closed.

Thanks largely to the efforts of two UA alumni – Alice Valenzuela, a local rancher and activist, and her husband Roberto – the town is fighting to survive even in the face of insurmountable odds.

The women ruffled the

political status quo

by securing rent-free

access to the closed

down maquiladora...

bringing in jobs

in electronics and

recycling and holding

the newly-elected

local government

accountable...

"The town is deteriorating. Every three years we have a new mayor and that means no long term vision – they only deal with the now," said Valenzuela. She said corruption and a lack of hope limit opportunity there.

The town's revitalization efforts began when Valenzuela committed her time to a local women's organization, sharing her life

experience and providing motivational talks. After a year of sharing and swapping stories with the town's women, Valenzuela decided it was time for action and helped the women form the Cooperativa Rural de Fronteras, a women's collaborative effort focusing on bringing jobs to the area.

The women ruffled the political status quo by securing rent-free access to the



Mark and the students from Tejido (from left to right): Matt Bossler, Wes Wood, Dan Bradshaw, Nicole Sweeney, Catalina Avila, Amy Wood, Anne Foye, Patricia Rojas, Olivia Alicea, Mark Frederickson.

closed down maquiladora despite being told it was not possible, bringing in jobs in electronics and recycling and holding the newly-elected local government accountable to honor the rent-free agreement.

The battle has earned them the name Las Chicas Bravas (the fierce gals) but neither the name nor the intimidation has

stopped the women from pursuing economic stability for their town.

With help from the Valenzuelas, the town has formed a non-profit organization, Patronato por el Futuro de Fronteras and pursues the goal of generating prosperity for the region and has enlisted the Tejido group for help.

"This little town is going through tough times. And Roberto and Alice have been revolutionary in their

approach. They, together with these ladies, they are socio-culturally shaking the trees," Frederickson said.

With the Tejido Group, Frederickson works to connect client need with the group's mission, committing to projects based on three criteria.

"Is the project good for students? Is it a cool, juicy project that is complex and will

help them develop into exceptional professionals? Is the project a good thing for the environment and the people living in it? And we look at client need – is the client need worth the commitment of faculty and student time – how greatly does the community need the resources the UA brings to the table?" Frederickson said.

He sifts through a dozen or more Tejido proposals from potential clients each month. Only three will make the cut for the year.

Projects will be assigned to students who are enrolled in the UA School of Landscape Architecture master's level, second-year design studio class or undergraduates who are taking the class as an elective during their final year of study.

Frederickson was intrigued by the needs of the Fronteras community outlined by Valenzuela in the original inquiry she sent out via e-mail to 10 architectural schools in the United States.

He considers the merit of ideas based on several levels of sustainability.

Functional: Is it safe, easily maintained and does it circulate well?

Environmental: Does it rehabilitate and preserve existing habitat?

Social: Does it encourage learning and meaningful social interaction?

Economic: Are the planning solutions

Continued on page 23



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Tejido Group...

Continued from page 21

economically sustainable?

Aesthetic: Are the design outcomes aesthetically appropriate and sensitive to the cultural and natural heritage of the region?

The master plan Valenzuela proposed for the community had all the elements Frederickson looks for and the students began their work with site visits and interviews in Mexico in January.

"You can drive straight through and not notice there is a town there, basic services are not there – for instance, there is no trash removal – they burn it on the side of the street. Our work is to create designs that are feasible but also culturally and environmentally appropriate," said Nicole Sweeney, an architecture senior working on the Fronteras Project for Tejido.

"The experience has been very humbling. I have never worked or designed in this type of setting – with clients, a budget and with the added component of trying to make a difference in a community with such tremendous need."

Landscape architecture graduate student Dan Bradshaw said one element the group is proposing is to develop a Web site with design schemes for the town to use as it pursues funding.

"The approach for this project is unique. Generally a design team works with a client who has funding and is looking for design plan to get started. In this case, we are creating the tools the town will need to obtain funding," Bradshaw said.

The students involved with the Tejido Group will commit 15 weeks to the project in addition to keeping up with their rigorous coursework. Much of their work involves research, such as finding case reviews on how similar projects were accomplished. And because their work is in Mexico, they must understand Mexico land laws and other environmental and sociopolitical elements specific to the area.

"We want everything to be connected – culture, customs – and we want a foundational document that will do more than improve the infrastructure, but also will have an interpretive vision for the town that will drive economic development," Valenzuela said.

"It has been great fun seeing things through the students' eyes. Having them here is making everyone dream a little bigger," Valenzuela said.

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Spring Fling Celebrates 35th Anniversary!

By Chase Sutton

Spring Fling Marketing Director

There's STILL nothing else like it! Associated Students of the University of Arizona's (ASUA) Spring Fling is back again for its 35th year! Starting back in 1974, Spring Fling has become an iconic event by providing carnival rides, games, food booths, and entertainment to both the University

of Arizona and Tucson communities. This year's Spring Fling carnival will be held April 2-5 at the Rillito Downs.

Spring Fling is the largest student-run carnival in the nation, which attracted over 25,000 people last year. Due to its tremendous growth over the past 35 years,

Spring Fling has been forced to move from several different locations; originally held at Bear Down Field, Spring Fling quickly moved to The McKale lawn on the UA Mall for several years until its tradition continues at our current location of Rillito Downs. Spring Fling provides over 25 rides and games to attendees, over 20 different food booths with a wide variety ranging from corn

dogs to crab puffs, and live entertainment all weekend long.

One of the best aspects and traditions of Spring Fling is that it is an event which is entirely planned by students and benefits UA student clubs and organizations. Spring Fling is coordinated by nine student directors and countless University of Arizona student volunteers to bring fun and excitement to the Tucson community, while raising money for their clubs and organizations. The clubs and organizations sometimes rely on participation in Spring Fling in order to



continue with their campus involvement and activities and without the help of these clubs and organizations Spring Fling would not be as successful as we are, creating a very dynamic relationship for both.

In the days prior to Spring Fling, a Mall

Kick Off occurs on the University of Arizona mall for students, teachers, staff, and visitors to get excited about what's to come during the weekend! There will be food, a giant slide, give-aways, entertainment and much more!

Spring Fling 2009 will once again be packed with attractions and activities for the whole family to enjoy! In order to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of Spring Fling, all nine directors

worked tirelessly for several months to provide even more fun for everyone. This year marks the First Annual Food Eating contest. During Spring Fling's Mall Kick Off preliminary rounds of the Food Eating contest will be held. Sunday, April 5th at Spring Fling, the final round will show who reigns champion!

We hope that you can join us some time in celebrating the great University of Arizona tradition of Spring Fling. Check out www.springfling.arizona.edu for hours, entertainment schedules, and promotions!



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Student Affairs Takes Pro-Active Stance During Budget Cuts

By, Melissa Vito, Ed.D. Vice President for Student Affairs

Like everywhere in our nation, the UA is feeling the pressure of the budget cuts. As a result, University officials have been contacted by worried parents. They are understandably concerned about how potentially larger class sizes, shrinking resources, and more limited support services will impact their students' college experience.

While there is no doubt that the budget will affect how our University operates, we are fortunate to have been involved in a pro-active process to address these questions. Over the last six months, the University has been engaged in a campus-wide Transformation. Led by UA President Robert Shelton and Provost Meredith Hay, the Transformation outcomes will ensure that the UA is able to deliver the standard of education that students and parents expect while achieving our vision of excellence as one of the premier land-grant universities in the nation.

"By merging and realigning units and streamlining our administrative costs, we will be able to invest more in those areas where we are world-class – or where we aspire to be," said Dr. Shelton in his State of the University address. The consolidation of several colleges into a larger college of Letters, Arts and Sciences was recently announced.

Student Affairs is no exception in the Transformation process. Over the last several months, teams of staff, students and faculty have been working to identify how we can leverage the Division's considerable strengths against the budget challenges we are all facing. This collaborative process gives us the opportunity to realign our focus, clarify our goals, and look to the future of what it means to be a world-class division.

Student Affairs will be downsizing, but we will also be focusing on those things that we know help students to be successful. We have conducted surveys with students and with parents to make sure that we are aware their priorities. The results of these surveys and the excellent work of our staff teams point the way to



Dr. Melissa Vito Vice President for Student Affairs

our areas of focus moving forward. These include strong learning support services, campus jobs, campus safety, affordable meals, and strong health and wellness programs, to name a few.

Student services and programs will continue. In some cases, we will realign departments so that they can work more efficiently and more transparently for students. Some units may go away, but their core functions will continue in other units. Student Affairs will also continue to be an important partner with Academic Affairs. The budget cuts at most public universities will mean larger classes, but larger classes are preferable to closing classes and impacting course availability leading to longer graduation times. Aligning support services like student preceptors, learning services and student/faculty interaction money can help mitigate the challenges of larger class size by creating comprehensive teaching teams.

Through the Transformation, President Shelton reminds us to focus on those things that ultimately define us. Much of what defines Student Affairs is our commitment to student learning in the classroom and beyond, our partnerships with students, faculty, parents, community and business, and our aspiration to being a world-class division. These are our greatest resources and will continue to sustain us even during turbulent times.



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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!

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

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

ASUA Legal Services: This is a free service to UofA students. The attorney can help to interpret you 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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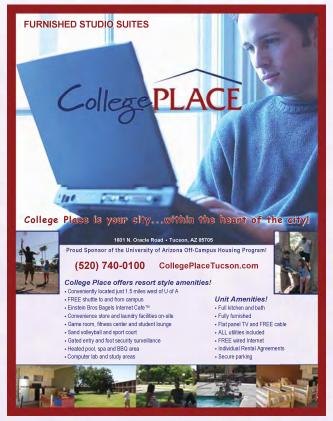














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Off-Campus Housing Hotline: **520-621-5859** E-mail Address: **housing@email.arizona.edu**

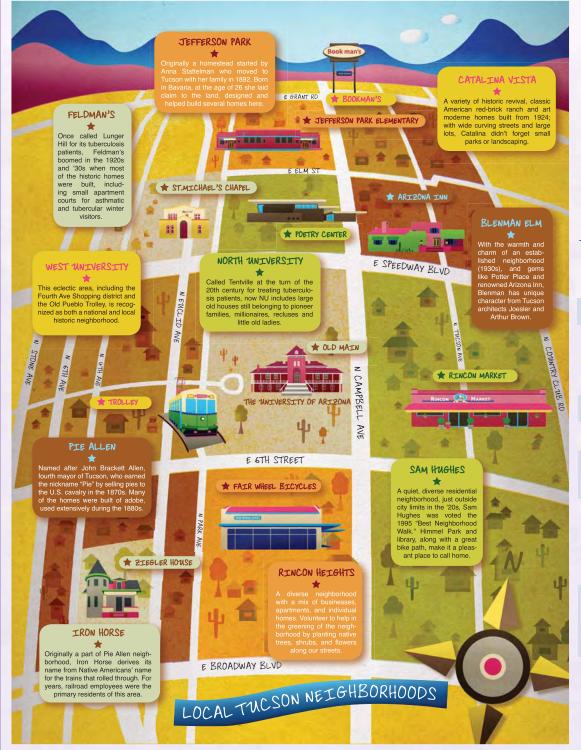
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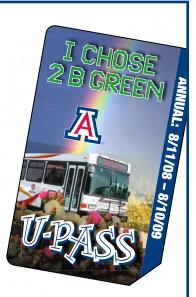




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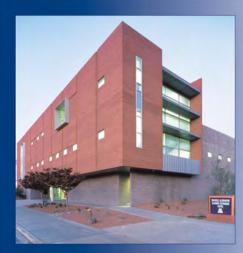
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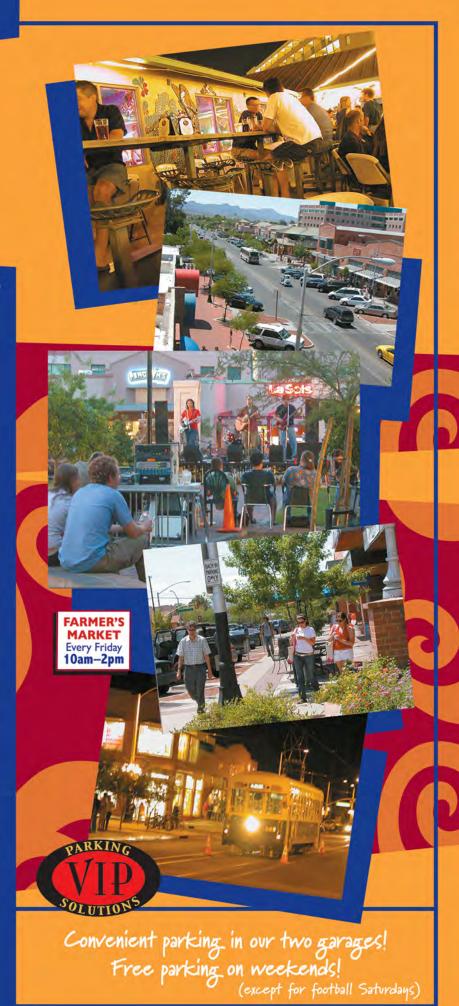
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