

## Russian, German merger uncertain

By Jeff Sklar  
SENIOR WRITER

As deans across campus work to submit detailed proposals for program changes under President Pete Likins' Focused Excellence plan, some of the people most directly affected by the proposed changes remain optimistic.

The heads of two departments considered for elimination or merging say their deans seem supportive of plans to keep those departments open.

George Gutsche, head of the Russian and Slavic studies department, which is slated for a possible merger, said Humanities College Dean Charles Tatum has supported leaving the department intact. Gutsche said that throughout the college, committees have found problems with the merger proposal.

That was welcome news to Gutsche, who has said he worries that a merger with the German studies department would create an impersonal environment for students accustomed to getting advising from the professor of their choice.

"We've invested a lot of time and effort in defending our program and marshalling

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## Next year's aid boosted to \$11.5M

By Keren G. Raz  
PROJECTS EDITOR

Meredith Larrabee excelled in high school. She was a National Merit Scholar, a regional science fair winner, a member of National Honor Society, and a leader of almost every science club on campus.

To ensure Larrabee, a chemistry freshman, attended the UA, administrators offered her over \$8,000 in scholarships.

In an attempt to be competitive for top students like Larrabee, administrators have to offer more money.

"If we didn't give them merit aid, then they wouldn't come," said Patti Ota, senior vice president and co-chair of the enrollment management policy group.

For that reason, administrators have decided to set aside \$4.2 million of next year's tuition revenue for merit aid.

There's a tough competition out there for top students like National Merit Scholars, said Randy Richardson, vice-president of undergraduate education. Now, as Focused Excellence guides UA's academic mission, UA is expanding its recruiting efforts.

This increase in merit aid is an essential part of Focused Excellence, Richardson said.

"Top students improve the whole university," he said.

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UA 89 • UCLA 96

## Out but not down



UCLA's T.J. Cummings, right, and Andre Patterson, middle, celebrate a basket in overtime as Rick Anderson of Arizona closes his eyes, in their first-round game at the Pacific-10 Conference tournament in Los Angeles, yesterday. UCLA won 96-89.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Poor outside shooting ruins UA's bid for Pac-10 repeat, keeps UCLA's season alive

By Brian Penso  
STAFF WRITER

LOS ANGELES — The Wildcats and Bruins both entered the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament playing possibly their best basketball of the season.

The only difference was what the teams were playing for.

No. 1 Arizona (25-3 overall, 17-1 Pac-10) has all but assured itself a top seed in the

NCAA tournament and played to repeat as champions of a tournament their head coach opposes.

UCLA (10-18, 6-12) was playing for its life.

It showed.

With UCLA head coach Steve Lavin possibly coaching his last game and the team with its back against the wall, the Bruins rallied for maybe the last time and came out and "shocked the world" by defeating the top ranked Wildcats 96-89 in overtime.

"Obviously we're disappointed," UA head coach Lute Olson said. "UCLA played a

great game and you have to give them credit. They played a flawless second half."

The Wildcats defeated the Bruins by a combined 71 points in the teams' first two meetings, but that didn't intimidate UCLA.

"I am so proud of our team," Lavin said. "I kept telling them to keep working and eventually they would have a chance to do something special. They kept playing hard and we have a chance to really do something special this weekend."

The win was the 10th time the Bruins

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## Generation gap can isolate older students

By Shelley Shelton  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For them, it is the opposite of peer pressure.

Several have families to support, while others are retired. Some feel invisible in their regular classes.

They are the older, non-traditional student population of UA, and like their younger counterparts, they seek ways to fit in, some more successfully than others.

"We are not part of the pack," said Lee Bishop, a 36-year-old psychology freshman. "Even in the best of situations, there is a large gap in basic behavior and understanding that makes it difficult to connect beyond brief chats about your mutual class or teacher. I

feel lost in a sea of people I cannot connect with because of my age."

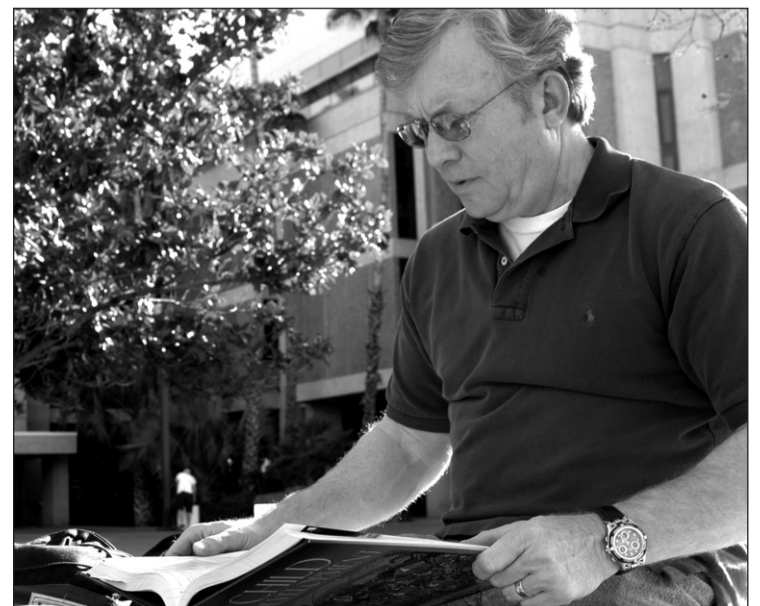
Approximately 5,000 non-traditional students attend UA, according to Commuter Student Affairs, which is also the home of the 25+ Cats, a student club for those students who are older than 25.

For these students, finding time to seek each other out amidst pressure and responsibilities from the world outside of school is difficult.

With increasing budget cuts, the older students' biggest untapped resource is themselves, said Danielle Roberts, 28, a married mother of two and former student senator who graduated in December.

"It can be hard because of

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Elementary education junior Mark Hannah studies outside the Main Library Wednesday. Hannah, 53, worked in retail before he decided to come to UA.

DEREKH FROUDE/Arizona Daily Wildcat