UA tied to war, defense funds

By Devin Simmons

The downturn of the U.S. economy in the wake of security threats and war, has affected the source of research dollars and, consequently, the way research is performed at UA.

Three of the top six private companies that sponsored research at the university in 2002 are members of the defense industry, according to a report by UA’s research department.

Lockheed-Martin, the number-one provider of research dollars, gave $8,976,007 to the university last year. That was a $8,446,737 increase from 2000, when

The biggest factor influencing this trend has been the economic downturn, said Richard Powell, vice president of Research and Graduate Studies.

“Just so happens that these are the companies with the most research money right now,” Powell said. “In the past, the telecom and IT companies were big funders, but the economic downturn has hurt their research budgets.”

Boeing Aerospace Company provided the UA with $887,326 last year, and is ranked sixth among private sponsors.

Rally-goers support affirmative action

By Keren G. Raz

As the debate over the role of race in college admissions’ processes heated up ahead of Supreme Court yesterday, about 20 activists rallied in support of affirmative action in front of the Administration building on the UA campus.

Members of the Black Political Forum, along with members of the Young Socialists Club and a handful of other students, formed a circle around the loudspeaker and called for administrators to take more steps to increase diversity on campus.

“Do we just want blacks who can run, or do we want our thinkers?” said Ransome Kennedy, a UA alum.

As Molly Oller tanned on the lawn, she listened to the speakers who stood just a few feet away.

While she said they made a good argument, she questioned their focus on race.

“Why not take every factor into consideration, and not just race?” she said.

In the fall of 2002, blacks accounted for about 2.7 percent of UA students.

Missig POW rescued by U.S.

WASHINGTON — American troops yesterday rescued Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch, who had been held as a prisoner of war in Iraq since the invasion of Iraq. Five other members of her unit were later shown on television answering questions from their Iraqi captors.

Lynch had been rescued but refused to return to a coalition-controlled area.

As a prisoner of war, she was not among the seven U.S. soldiers — including the five from the 507th shown on television — formally listed as prisoners of war.

The rescued soldier’s hometown erupted in celebration at the news.

They said it was going to be the biggest party this road had ever seen,” Lynch’s cousin Sherri McFee said as fire and police sirens blared in the background.

Everybody was really worried, but we all remained hopeful and knew she would be home,” McFee said.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks at Central Command headquarters in Qatar announced that a U.S. POW had been rescued but refused to provide any further details.

In a brief statement, Brooks said: “Coalition forces have conducted a successful rescue mission of a U.S. Army prisoner of war held captive in Iraq. The soldier has been returned to a coalition-controlled area.”

Central Command officials in Qatar, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Lynch was rescued from a hospital in Iraq.

Fifteen other Americans are formally listed as missing.

Entrepreneur program ranked in nation’s top 12

By Stephanie Schwartz

For nearly 20 years, participants in UA’s Berger Entrepreneurship Program in the Eller College of Business and Public Administration have regarded it as a leader among entrepreneur programs in the country.

Now they are not the only ones who think so. Entrepreneur Magazine’s April issue ranked the Berger Entrepreneurship Program in its first tier, as one of the top-12 academic programs in the nation for entrepreneurs.

“Appearing in the top tier is quite an achievement,” said Sherry Hodkins, associate director for the Berger Entrepreneurship Program.

“Each study that I have seen since the other, more traditional rankings.”

Entrepreneur Magazine researched more than 700 programs across the country and