

Training for life



TERRI WALTZ/Arizona Daily Wildcat

John Hand, head of the Bujinkan Dojo of Budo Taijutsu, reviews a jumping dodge technique with Eastern studies senior Silas Hodges. This type of martial arts is intended for use in real-life situations. Initially, it is taught by using big and slow movements, so that when one is in a real fight the natural tension and adrenaline from the situation will give the motions added speed and strength. The Dojo meets Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in front of McKale Center.

UA slips to 50th in latest ranking

U.S. News and World Report drops UA by 11 slots from last year

BY KEREN G. RAZ
Staff Writer

The UA barely made it into U.S. News and World Report's top 50 public doctoral universities this year, dropping 11 spots from last year's number 39.

The university has been named one of the top public doctoral institutions in the nation for the past three years. Its rank had increased from 48 in 1999 to 44 in 2000 to 39 in 2001, before it dropped down to the bottom of the list this year.

"I'm surprised," said Rick Kroc, director of assessment and enrollment research. "We're as good of a school as last year. I don't see any reason why we should have slipped," he said.

Randy Richardson, vice president for undergraduate education, was not as startled to hear about UA's performance in the rankings.

"In general, I try not to pay much attention to rankings," he said. "There are many different rankings that cater to different people. I think what's important is for the university is to provide a quality education."

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Employee held on cruelty charge

BY DEVIN SIMMONS
Staff Writer

A UA employee arrested two years ago on felony charges for shooting a neighbor's dog and putting its decapitated head in the neighbor's yard was arrested Monday for cruelty to animals after police said he beat his dog with his fists and a garden hoe.

Yanik Staley, 29, a mechanic in the Facilities Management Garage, 411 N. Fifth Ave., spent Monday night in

Pima County Jail.

Staley's neighbor told police that she observed Staley in his backyard striking his small white dog "Cooter" repeatedly with a garden hoe.

She said Staley took the dog by the hair and began to slam it into the ground, roll it on its back and punch it in the head.

The dog got away from Staley several times and ran to hide behind a

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Alumnus off to outer space

NASA schedules '83 graduate Donald Pettit for 4-month stay on international space station

BY JAMES KELLEY
Staff Writer

UA alumnus Donald Pettit is close to fulfilling a life-long dream: to become one of few humans who have visited space.

Pettit, who received his doctorate in chemical engineering from the UA in 1983, was named to join the Expedition 6 crew of the international space station in late July, after being slotted on the back-up crew.

Pettit replaced fellow astronaut Donald Thomas because of a medical issue that hampered Thomas' long-duration space flight tolerance.

The joy of being named to the crew and going into space earlier than he initially anticipated was bittersweet for Pettit, as he took the spot of a close colleague he had been training with.

"Of course you are excited, but also saddened because one of your close crew members will not be going," said Pettit, who

Critical languages teaches rare tongues

BY STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ
Staff writer

Two students sit around a table learning simple sentences from a tutor like "Mary and John are friends."

They're speaking in Swahili, and the tutor, Teles Machibya, is a native Swahili speaker.

Across campus, 175 students are learning 14 different languages, from Vietnamese to Polish, all as part of the critical languages program at the UA.

The program, which began 11 years ago, offers some of the traditionally less-popular languages for a U.S. university, like Hindi, Scots-Gaelic and Tagalog.

"We respond to students' needs," said Alexander Dunkel, director of the critical language program. "The need is growing for these classes."

But the critical languages department is thinking about targeting high schools to inform students of the program, Dunkel said.

The program began in 1988 with four students studying Hungarian. There are now 175 students, studying 14 languages.

In recent years, the program has also offered courses in Czech, Hindi-Urdu, Hungarian, Indonesian, Irish-Gaelic, Kazakh, Korean, Swahili, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian and Uzbek.

Tutors teach classes and prepare students for final exams given by an examiner. The classes are "audio lingual," or run with the help of cassette tapes to learn the language. CDs are also available with the language programs.

"We try to tell students about the programs," Dunkel said. "But the languages start not because we need them, but because students ask for the programs."

At least four students must be interested in a language to start a class. Students pay \$260 to enroll for a four-unit class.

The fee goes directly to the program, paying to bring an examiner to each class for final exams each semester and help pay the tutors who teach the classes, Dunkel said.

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Microbiology senior Tina Wu attends a critical language class on Swahili yesterday afternoon, taught by Teles Machibya. Critical language classes, offer traditionally less-popular languages that range from Dutch to Hindi to Uzbek. The program is currently very low on student enrollment. At least four students must be interested in one of the languages to start a class.

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