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'Brain drain' cost UA Nobel laureate

BY KEREN G. RAZ &
JENNY ROSE
Staff Writers

When Vernon Smith, the former UA professor who was named a Nobel Prize winner Wednesday, left the UA a year ago, administrators knew he was a likely candidate for the award.

But without the money, space or support he needed to keep his research here, the university was unable to keep him from accepting a more lucrative offer at George

Mason University.

The announcement of Smith's award came less than 18 months after the professor, who had worked at the UA for 25 years, packed up to move to the Virginia university.

With him went millions of dollars in potential grants and worldwide prestige, some administrators said.

Smith, known as the father of experimental economics, left for a



Vernon Smith
Nobel Prize winner

"We wanted to continue to grow and change and do new things, but we weren't given the opportunity

at GMU that paid nearly \$80,000 more than his UA salary.

But pay was not the deciding factor, Smith said.

"The idea that we left because of salaries is baloney," he said.

(at UA). We were given the opportunity (at GMU)."

At GMU, Smith is paid \$240,000, compared to the \$163,992 he made at UA.

Smith's colleagues make \$95,000 to \$150,000 at GMU, a \$50,000 to \$60,000 increase from what they made at UA.

Smith pointed to the Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science that he proposed six years ago at UA, which never materialized.

Since his June 2001 hire, Smith

has already set up the research center at GMU.

He also took with him six staff members, who he regarded as his personal protégés, said UA economics department head Mark Walker.

"This is a dramatic example of the brain drain," said Mark Zupan, dean of the college of business and public administration.

The brain drain phenomenon has cost the UA dozens of faculty

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Dashing in drag



JILL MARICICH/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Drag queen Miss Faith Michaels entertains the crowd from a stage on UA Mall at noon yesterday to celebrate National Coming Out Week. Over 100 people watched men dress as women in the one-hour show of gay pride. The week-long event has been observed at UA annually since 1993.

Survey: UA unaffordable

BY KAILA WYMAN
Staff Writer

College students at UA and across the state generally are unprepared for college courses and not well-equipped to foot the bill, according to a report card released by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

The report, "Measuring Up 2002," ranks states in five categories for grades 8 through college: preparation of students for higher education, student participation, affordability, completion and resulting benefits to the state.

Arizona got a D-minus in preparing students academically for college and a D-minus in affordability.

The center's goal is to compare the costs and resources colleges offer, academically and financially, to the needs and resources of the local college population.

Mikyung Ryu, a policy analyst with the National Center described the report card as a wake up call so that

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Gov. hopefuls favor letting colleges invest

BY RACHEL WILLIAMSON
Staff Writer

When Nasser Peyghambarian, chair of lasers and photonics for the optical sciences center started a company based on his invention in optical fiber amplifiers, he was willing to offer the university shares in his company.

Instead, he's paying the UA a \$50,000 a year licensing fee.

For Peyghambarian and other researchers, a clause in the Arizona State Constitution stands in their way.

And while Peyghambarian said he can afford the agreement, he would rather partner with the UA to help fund his company while strengthening its research arm. But that might change.

Gubernatorial candidates Janet Napolitano, Democrat, and Matt Salmon, Republican, favor an amendment that would allow Arizona universities to own shares of companies started by researchers like Peyghambarian. Whether such an amendment would generate significant revenue for UA is up for debate.

Currently, when researchers want to profit from their invention, they start a company that sells and markets the product, said Greg Fahey, associate vice president for government relations.

Since the university owns the research, it

sells the researcher a license to start a company that markets the patented invention.

Every year, about seven UA researchers form companies, said Dick Powell, vice president for research.

So far, only a couple of those companies have been successful, but never to the point that their success would return millions of dollars to the university under shared ownership, Powell said.

"I don't think people should have false expectations that this would make this university rich," he said.

Most of the companies' income goes toward operational payments, into the inventors' pockets and into an account set aside for the researchers' labs, Powell said.

And before the researchers' departments ever see this money, a company's income must be at least \$500,000 and above, according to the Interim Intellectual Property Policy.

If the company's income is between \$500,000 and \$1 million, 5 percent of the money is set aside for the researcher's department and 5 percent is for the college.

Peyghambarian's company, which was founded in 1998 and licensed with the UA in 2000, has generated about \$100,000.

Napolitano and Salmon agree that allow-

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'Madness' to explode in Arizona at midnight

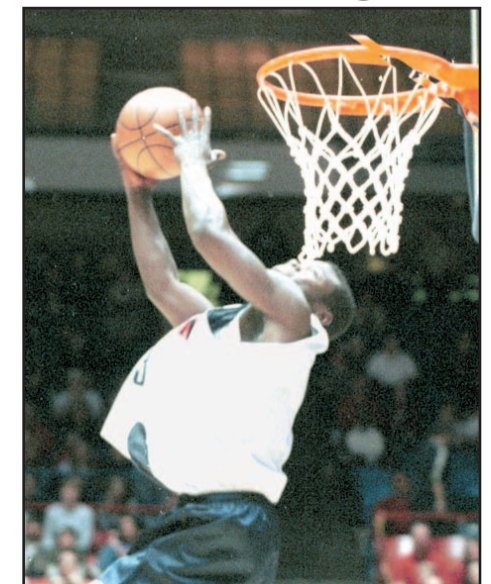
BY MAXX WOLFSON
Sports Editor

As the clock strikes midnight tonight, it will officially mark the opening of the first practice for the nation's No. 1 basketball team.

The Wildcat men's basketball team, ranked first in many pre-season polls, will share the moment with an expected 10,000 of their closest friends during "Midnight Madness." The women's team will also be a part of the night, but will not officially open practice until tomorrow.

Midnight Madness will include a slam-dunk contest, a three-point shooting competition and a 30-minute practice by the men's team.

"It's always fun to get practice started," said senior forward Luke Walton, who will be competing in the three-point contest with women's basketball player Shawntinice Polk and who declared himself to be the player to beat. "It's still a really fun event even with knowing that



RANDY METCALF/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Sophomore guard Will Bynum dunks his way to the slam dunk title at last year's Midnight Madness. The 5-foot-11 guard will defend his title tonight.

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