

# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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## Jobs will be few for Dec. grads

*May graduates are expected to land jobs easier than December graduates as economy recovers*

BY STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ  
Staff Writer

Students graduating in December will have a tougher time landing jobs than those who graduate in May, campus career experts and economists said.

Hiring has been weak this year.

Though between 1,500 and 2,000 students interviewed with prospective employers who visited campus this fall, the recruiters offered fewer positions than in past years, said Bill Ruggirello, assistant director of Career Services.

This semester, 110 companies sent recruiters to campus.

"We've been in a period for the past year in which the economy has not been creating a lot of jobs," said Marshall Vest, UA director of economic and business research. "In the Tucson and Phoenix markets, the job base has been declining."

Although Vest said the job market has not recovered from the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and 1990s over-investment in technology due to fear of technological problems associated with the year 2000, he expects to see a better economic picture for May graduates.

"By midyear, we will see hiring again," Vest said. "The job picture is going to brighten."

He said that by 2004, the job market will be healthy again but will not equal the levels it reached a few years ago when high-tech companies offered graduates jobs, signing bonuses and new cars.

This year, a growing number of UA stu-

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KRISTIN ELVES/Arizona Daily Wildcat

## Star light, star bright

Philosophy senior Nate Dobbs looks at the sun's gas eruptions and sunspots Friday afternoon in front of the Flandrau Science Center. Flandrau volunteers, Coronado Instruments and members of the UA's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory set up solar telescopes for the UA community to view the action on the sun for free as part of Flandrau's "Solar Day."

## NASA might send UA to Mars

*The Lunar and Planetary Laboratory may receive a \$284M grant from NASA to explore Mars in 2007*

BY JOSÉ CEJA  
Assistant News Editor

NASA officials said Friday that they are considering UA's proposal to explore Mars in 2007, among three other universities' proposals, in what would be the largest grant ever received by the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory.

The UA became one of four finalists for project, partly by bidding to do the project for \$284 million. The maximum cost for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's first "Mars Scout Mission" is \$325 million.

The UA proposal — dubbed the "Phoenix Mission" — has its roots in the crashed Mars Polar Lander mission of 1999.

After the crash, a 2001 mission to Mars was cancelled. UA scientists have incorporated the spacecraft and equipment that would have been used in the 2001 mission into their own proposal.

If the proposal is accepted, UA researchers will conduct a series of experiments on Mars' more habitable terrain for conditions that may be favorable to life. The team

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## Deck the halls, but skip the lights this holiday

The UA has asked faculty to use "creative" holiday trappings rather than lights, such as the ones that illuminate Cochise Hall.

DAVID HARDEN/  
Arizona Daily Wildcat



*Budget cuts prompt UA to ask faculty, staff to decorate work spaces without holiday lights*

BY REBEKAH JAMPOLE  
Staff Writer

The UA is asking faculty and staff to find creative and less expensive alternatives to holiday lights this year because of recent budget cuts.

Facilities Management and Risk Management and Safety have asked faculty and staff to eliminate lights from their holiday decorations and replace them with more "creative" ornaments.

The UA spends about \$1 million on electricity each month.

A string of 50 small colorful lights can cost \$6 every five hours they are plugged in, said Tucson Electric Power Co. communications specialist Kelly Hanson.

"On a campus as big as U of A, that can definitely add up," Hanson said.

Some faculty members who usually put

lights up in their offices said the money and energy that will be saved is worth the sacrifice.

"Of course, it's a little disappointing, but we'll have the same holiday spirit still," said Jane Hickey, administration and athletics administrative assistant.

Since the UA is one of the larger consumers of energy in Tucson, all energy conservation efforts will not only benefit the UA, but the community as well, said Terry Sweet, Facilities Management's senior staff technician.

"We set a standard for the community," Sweet said. "They are constantly looking to us for ways to conserve energy and preserve natural resources."

Facilities Management sent out a similar memo last year following the rolling power blackouts in California. This year, the recent announcement of an \$18 million reduction in state funding to the campus has prompted Facilities Management to stress the need to conserve energy on campus.

"(Energy conservation) has been

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