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End is here for winter grads

Some can't be home for holiday

BY JAMES KELLEY
Staff Writer

Students from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and China may not be able to go home over winter break, because they would not be able to receive visas to return to the United States for spring

semester.

Some students from countries the United States has recently dubbed "terrorist" states will also have to re-register to remain in the United States legally and avoid deportation.

Visas for students from these countries are only good for one U.S. visit, which arrive in visit the

United States — and getting new visas may take too long for some students to start class on time in the spring.

When overseas students are accepted to the UA, they receive immigration documents from the university. They use the documents to apply for a visa, said Dale LaFleur, assistant director of

international student programs and services.

"Some visas last for six months, some for the duration of their academic program," LaFleur said.

International students from the countries the United States is

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Surgeon General Richard Carmona will speak at Dec. 21 commencement ceremony for nearly 4,000 graduating students

BY REBEKAH JAMPOLE
Staff Writer

This December, the only thought racing through the minds of seniors is graduation and entering the place that four years ago seemed like an eternity away — the world beyond college.

On Dec. 21, during the 127th Commencement Ceremony, President Pete Likins will confer degrees upon almost 4,000 students (2,956 undergraduate, 498 masters, 198 doctoral, three specialist, one medical, 11 masters of law and nine juris doctor).

"It's so exciting. There's still so much to do," said Cheri Blauwet, who was chosen as a Centennial Award recipient as well as the outstanding senior in the College of Science.

Richard Carmona, the surgeon general of the United States, a former local trauma surgeon and UA alum, will speak at the ceremony.

Before Carmona speaks, Blauwet has some advice for graduating and future seniors.

"Don't let fear rule your decisions," he said. "Take risks if they need to be taken. It's worth it."

The ceremony will take place at 9:30 a.m. in McKale Memorial Center. A reception for graduates prior to the ceremony will be held at Crowder Hall from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

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JILL MARICICH/ Arizona Daily Wildcat
Terri West, administration associate for campus health, receives a free three-minute massage from massage therapist Julie Perkins at the Student Health Center.

Season of stress arrives

Holidays, finals make the end of the semester a trying time for many

BY NATE BUCHIK
Staff Writer

You have a biology exam on Monday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and two finals on Tuesday. You need to buy a birthday present for Granny, your significant other needs some space and your acne is starting up again.

Yes, finals week can make you freak out.

There are plenty of students stressing about studying — not to mention holiday shopping — during finals week, but there are several ways people can reduce or eliminate their stress.

"The first thing about finals is to be prepared," said Jill Grassman, a mental health clinician for Counseling and Psychological Services. "If a student hasn't been studying all semester and then here comes finals, then that's a huge stress. Studying throughout the semester to be prepared is number one."

For those who don't have the option to go back in time and study throughout the semester — and we all could think of better things to do if we could go back in time — there are ways to do heavy studying while maintaining a reasonable level of sanity.

Although it's finals time, don't change your routine of eating and sleeping regularly. Students still need food and sleep to function and to lift their books to eye level.

Stress is a natural part of life that all people deal with, but problems start when people don't know how to react to stress, Grassman said.

"Some people react to stress with irritability and anger. To those people I recommend get more exercise. Take deep breaths and think about your response before you respond. Other people isolate during stressful times. For those people, I suggest that they talk to a friend, teacher or family member," she said.

Grassman suggests reducing or completely eliminating alcohol intake as one of her keys to excel during finals.

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Levasseur's father says greed led to son's arrest

Says son Justin is 'book smart,' but a 'street idiot'

BY DEVIN SIMMONS
Staff Writer

The father of Justin Levasseur, the UA football player who was arrested in Illinois last Tuesday on suspicion of intent to deal the 87 pounds of marijuana found in his truck, said that the only thing his son is guilty of is a desire for money.

In a conversation with the

Wildcat on Tuesday, Michael Levasseur said that Justin — who had been in jail for a week as of yesterday — had often made comments about how other players on the team were living beyond their means, and that he wanted to get in on the action.

"I'm not making any specific claims," Michael Levasseur said. "But these guys don't have a conventional 'week-



Justin Levasseur
junior tight end

end at the lake" kind of life. Things can get very lean. He saw other players enjoying things beyond their means and he wanted something, too."

Michael Levasseur said that Justin demonstrated poor judgment, that he was given an opportunity to make some fast cash, and got caught for it.

"Justin has always been very

book smart, but he is a street idiot," Michael Levasseur said.

Michael Levasseur said he talks to his son three to four times daily and — though Justin hasn't been convicted of anything — Justin knows he did a stupid thing and is eager to make amends.

"Justin is in a roller-coaster of emotions right now," Levasseur said. "But he is hoping for forgiveness. He is eager to be given a second chance to make a right out of this wrong."

Justin was being held in lieu of \$300,000 bond at the Henry

County Jail in Illinois yesterday, according to the county court clerk.

Levasseur's father said the family is seeking a bail reduction and they are hoping to have him back to Tucson by Thursday or Friday. He also said it was Levasseur's intention to go directly to the university to address the situation with athletics director Jim Livengood.

"We have been very pleased with the university," Michael

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