Minutes after last year’s attacks, it was obvious that Sept. 11 would be no ordinary day for the professors, administrators, staff and students who were getting ready for morning classes, vacationing out of town and planning to sleep in late.

Instead of being greeted by a pop quiz when they arrived in classes, students were confronted with the news of a national tragedy.

But despite the unknown sense of safety and horrific images that followed throughout the day, President Peter Likins encouraged professors not to cancel their classes.

“I want mathematics professors to talk about this,” he said after a campus gathering that drew thousands.

In the days that followed, the campus community tried its best to go

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through the motions and focus on day-to-day activities.
And initially, many imagined that life would never be the same.
With the one-year anniversary of the attacks settling in and life back to normal, professors, students, staff and administrators are stopping and reflecting on a haunting day.}

Yesterday, hall poured down outside as Terry Wallace was working on his lab on the fifth floor of the Gould-Simpson building. But last year, on the same day — a bright sunny Sept. 10 — he was just returning from a trip to the Pentagon.

At 5 a.m. the next day, Wallace was setting into his office in the Gould-Simpson building.
“A conscious professor was scanning Web sites, preparing to get back to lecturing his geologic disasters class, when a call from a friend on the East Coast came in.

“Then after about five minutes of talking, the response was ‘ran like heck and find out if you know anyone.’”

Terry Wallace
Geosciences professor talking about his early morning Sept. 11 class.

Meanwhile, having missed her chance to go on a summer vacation, Janet Bingham and her husband had just checked into their hotel on Coronado Island, San Diego the day before.

The morning of Sept. 11, the couple was getting ready for their morning jog. But when the TV made way for graphic images of the World Trade Center being hit, plans changed.

After checking on the safety of family, Bingham, the vice president for advancement, made contact with people back in the administration building immediately.
“I knew that Pete Likins would act quickly because of the magnitude of this,” she said. And he did.

In Tucson, Likins, Provost George Davis, and a geology student in a class, when a call from a friend came in.

“Tribute to the UA alumni lost on Sept. 11
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BY RYA NJOHNSON

Gary E. Bird
1972 Graduate

Bird just had taken a top position for Marsh and McLennan, a risk management company, the day before and planned to work out of Phoenix.
But Bird spent the first two days in New York for meetings.
On Sept. 10, he would stop into his 6:15 a.m. three-hour meeting and never leave. He never really liked New York.
“I’m really claustrophobic here, because I can’t see the horizon,” he said to his wife in 1984, according to the New York Times.

 Husband of Donna Killogue Bird and father to Amanda and Andrew, he kept three-quarter horses. He had taken the summer off and trained a new filly named Dari. Just four days before Sept. 11, he rode her with a saddle for the first time.

Bird had worked for Phelps Dodge for 12 years and wrote The Wrap-Up Guide, a textbook on the installation and operation of controlled insurance programs.

“If there was a member of the risk management community who could serve as a role model for a Construction Risk Management Best Practices Award recipient, it was Gary Bird,” said Jack Gilson, ISMR President. “Gary always pushed the risk management horizon in search of new ways to manage the risks of large construction projects.”

After his death, the institute renamed the award the Gary E. Bird Horizon Award.

Karol Ann Keasler
1981 Graduate

More than anything, Karol Ann Keasler will be remembered for her infectious smile and love for life.

“Karol was always the one to have a smile on her face, the one to always help out anyone who needed it,” said friend Laurie Walker. “She was so full of life and she shared her love by laughing and smiling. There was no way you could see Karol without laughing or smiling yourself.”

In fact, her kindness may have led to her death in the second tower of the World Trade Center.

Employees of Keesl, Bruyette and Woods, where Karol, 42, worked as an event planner, say that someone came on the loudspeaker and told everyone to stay in their office.

“Being good girl who always took instruction, she stayed in her office,” said Denise Keasler, her mother.

Born in Arizona, she graduated from UA with a BA in sociology. She traveled the world, living in Africa for two years and visiting Cambodia, Sweden and Bosnia.

“What will I miss most about Karol? Everything,” Walker said. “A good friend and a fun-loving woman.”

“Terrorism may have killed Karol and a few thousand others, but she will never be forgotten.”

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Remember: A tribute to the UA alumni lost on Sept. 11
BY RYA NJOHNSON

On Sept. 11, Gary E. Bird, 51, was supposed to be out of New York and back home to Tempe to have dinner with his wife.

Bird had just taken a top position for Marsh and McLennan, a risk management company, the day before and planned to work out of Phoenix.

But Bird spent the first two days in New York for meetings.
On Sept. 10, he would stop into his 6:15 a.m. three-hour meeting and never leave. He never really liked New York.

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Fear pushed some away, most came back

BY JAMES KELLEY Staff Writer

I
n the days following last year’s attacks, fear and rumors ran rampant among the Arab and Muslim communities.

As a result, at least 133 students from other countries went home. One year later, most of them have returned.

While officials are not sure exactly how many students who fled the university after the Sept. 11 attacks returned, they agree most have come back. The exact number is still being calculated and will not be known until Sept. 16, when the UA will report its final enrollment to the Arizona Board of Regents.

Kirk Simmons, executive director of international affairs, said about 80 to 90 percent of students who left came back.

Those who didn’t return either transferred to another school, had parents who weren’t ready to let them go or stayed home or wanted to but could not get visas, said Joanne Laugnese-Long, director of international student programs and services.

Sharan Kha, spokeswoman for the university, said, quoting an October 2001 report, 65 students withdrew in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks. Twelve were U.S. citizens, and 11 of those students had military obligations.

Initially, it was feared that Tucson Muslims would be particularly targeted by hate crimes because one of the suspect-ed suicide bombers, Hanzi Hanjour, was a former UA student.

Also, bin Laden’s chief of logistics, Wa’el Hamza Jelaidan, is believed to have been a former UA student.

Shahin, who knew Osama bin Laden in 1981 or 1982 while he was studying in Medina, Saudi Arabia, said, “I think it could be worse but so far I think we are doing OK. They are a few crazy people — very, very few,” Shahin said. “The whole Muslim people have been suffering since Sept. 11. Those hijackers hijacked our freedom in America. We are not enjoying freedom and justice any-more because of what they have done.”

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Jeffrey W. Coombs
1982 Graduate

When Christie Coombs dropped off her husband, Jeff, at the train stop that would take him to the Boston Airport, she couldn’t wait for him to return.

“We were looking forward to spending our birthdays and our anniversary in New York. It would have been our first time without kids since our 8-year-old was born,” Coombs said.

But instead, those days became a period of mourning. Coombs got on American Airlines Flight 11, the same jet that was the first to strike as it flew into the North Tower at 8:45 a.m. Coombs, who was in Alpha Kappa Lambda and received a bachelor’s degree in finance from UA, was on a business trip as a securities analyst for Compaq, a Houston film.

It was a good trip for a good man, but unfortunately it was cut short.

“Terrorists hijacked our freedom in America. We are not enjoying freedom and justice anymore because of what they have done.”

Omar Shahin
Imam and director of the Islamic Center of Tucson

Frederick J. Cox
1997 Graduate

It was a statement too good for even a Hollywood film.

Mere days before his death, Frederick J. Cox, 27, told his mom how wonderful his life was.

“The last time Cox, an investment banker for Sandler, O’Neill & Partners, spoke with his mother was Saturday, Sept. 9. "He told me mom you know how much I love you and nothing will ever come between us. I said to him, ‘bye dar-lin’ I love you.’ He was always affectionate and we had a wonderful relationship. He wasn’t perfect, but I thought so,” said Ann Douglas, his mother.

He was working as an investment banker for Sandler O’Neill on the 104th floor of the second tower.

Born in Atlanta, Cox moved to Arizona when he was 14. He was working as an investment banker for Sandler O’Neill in the 104th floor of the second tower.

Both in Atlanta, Cox moved to Arizona where he was 14. After graduating from the UA with a degree in entrepreneurship in 1997, he moved to New York, the new generation of his family to do so.

For Cox, Maple Eaton, said he wanted the American dream.

“He had been working his butt off and was working toward success. He wanted to get married and have chil-dren,” she said.

Eaton said that he wanted to name his daughter Maple Madison after a Robert Frost poem.

After his death, his family moved everything from his apartment to their lake house. His sister remembers him going around New York City wearing his old, tattered fisherman’s hat with a pewter fish on the front. They hung the hat up and plan to give it to his nephew, Timothy Frederic, as a namesake.

Christopher Larabee
1998 Graduate

Larabee had been trying to put more focus into his life. Working as a trainee for Cantor Fitzgerald since March, he was beginning to climb the corporate ladder.

Tragically, however, he worked at the top of the first tower. A 1998 graduate with a bachelor’s degree in media arts, he was just 26 when he died.

His friends remember him as having a strong personality.

“He was always smiling and cheerful and very helpful. He was also very funny,” said friend Matt Haap. “Chris not only worked as a production assistant on our student videos and films, he acted. One time he was an extra, dress- ing up as a renegade cowboy in an Old West shootout. He improvised lines and really made the scene.”

His teachers remember him as calm and collected.

“I remember him as a friendly, laid back guy with a quick smile,” said Debra Lea Wright, a UA media arts instructor.

At 18, he underwent brain surgery after a series of painful seizures. He had been taking medications, but decided at the beginning of the year to quietly stop taking them, resulting in more seizures and hospitalizations.

He had ambitions of success at his job with the firm, which his father, an equity trader at their Los Angeles office, helped him find.

“He left a lot behind to follow this dream of his. He was scared and nervous to move so far away, but he was adjusting pretty well and getting into the scene,” his twin sister Paige told the New York Times.
Wall of Expression will be resurrected

Based on student suggestions, the wall panels are to be taken out of storage and displayed permanently as a memorial

BY REBEKAH JIMPOLE

A year ago today, UA gave its students the Wall of Expression, a chance for them to cope with the terrorist attacks and write what was on their minds. But where are the wall panels now? The panels will be pulled out of storage eventually, said Jeff Warburton, an associate director of theatre arts who was influential in getting walls put up near the arts complex last September.

"These walls are a part of history specific to the university, they have a significant meaning to those who saw them."

Carol Thompson
Senior associate dean of students on the importance of the Wall of Expression

Memorial Center or the Museum of Art.

No final decision has been made as to when or where the wall will appear again.

A new Wall of Remembrance has been constructed at the Flandrau Science Center. Students are encouraged to use the wall to reflect and express thoughts, a chance for them to say what is on their minds.

But where are the wall panels now?

The panels will be pulled out of storage eventually, said Jeff Warburton, an associate director of theatre arts who was influential in getting walls put up near the arts complex last September.

"These walls are a part of history specific to the university, they have a significant meaning to those who saw them," said Carol Thompson, senior associate dean of students.

The Wall of Expression, which eventually extended to other areas of campus, was erected on the UA Mall as a public diary for the UA community.

A month later, the wall was taken down, after concerns emerged that the board had turned to graffiti.

But the panels of the wall are not lost, nor are the thoughts written on them. For now, they are in storage, while the UA administration and students decide on the wall’s final resting place.

"It’s one of those things you don’t want to lose," Warburton said. But despite the fact that the wall has been absent for nearly a year, students have not forgotten it.

"I thought they should take parts of (the wall), with a really special drawing or quote, and display them," said Teresa Benvin, a secondary education senior.

Suggestions as to the fate of the wall have poured in from students and the community, all hoping to see the wall and the messages it carries again.

"We are taking in suggestions concerning the walls of expression," Thompson said.

So far, Proposals have included a memorial display of parts of the wall in the Student Union Memorial Center or the Museum of Art.

No final decision has been made as to when or where the wall will appear again.

A new Wall of Remembrance has been constructed at the Flandrau Science Center. Students are encouraged to use the wall to reflect and express thoughts, a year after the events of Sept. 11. The wall will remain on display for the next three weeks.

Students with suggestions about what to do with the Walls of Expressions can contact the Dean of Students Office.

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