

Deans not convinced of Focused Excellence

By Andrea Kelly & Jeff Sklar
STAFF WRITER & SENIOR WRITER

About 18 months after President Peter Likins announced plans to reshape the university, many of the people responsible for actually implementing that new mission say it has been slow to catch on.

And even the university's top two officials acknowledge they still have work to do persuading the administrators most directly responsible for carrying out the mission to embrace the new priorities.

In interviews, several deans and department heads still spoke of the new mission, Focused Excellence, largely in terms of issues like program cuts and long-term plans to reconstruct certain academic areas.

"To me, Focused Excellence is not a unified program, but a bundle of related projects," said Larry Evers, head of the English department. "At this point, Focused Excellence has not had a major impact on our department."

That's a narrower attitude than Likins and Provost George Davis are trying to convince the campus to embrace.

Ask them to explain the mission of Focused Excellence, and they'll say it involves a university-wide mindset shift that requires everybody to direct resources at top priorities while acknowledging that the UA can't do everything.

"We hope that every dean and every department head and every vice president thinks the same way," Likins said.

But even Likins and Davis say not all those people do. Likins speaks often of the UA's need to get better without getting bigger. But that represents a fundamental difference from typical departmental philosophies, which equate size with quality, Davis said.

"If a couple people retire, our knee-jerk

See EXCELLENCE/10

UA's first Relay for Life raises \$32K

By Aaron Mackey
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Rain and wind couldn't stop the UA's first Relay For Life Friday.

Nearly 500 students, faculty, alumni and cancer survivors walked or ran for 15 hours to raise \$32,000 for the American Cancer Society.

The relay began at 6 p.m. on Friday and lasted until 9 a.m. Saturday, with 36 teams participating.

Tents lined the soggy infield of the Drachman Stadium as students tossed footballs and laughed despite the rain and wind that swept through Tucson Friday, bringing temperatures down to 43 degrees.

Breanna Weeks, a communication junior and event co-chair, said she was ecstatic about

See RELAY/9

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Cats share Pac-10 title

Win over Washington makes UA co-champs

By Shane Dale
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Joan Bonvicini struggled to keep a straight face in the final moments of Arizona's win over Washington on Saturday.

But when the game ended with her team celebrating in the middle of the Huskies' home court, the UA women's head coach

couldn't fight it any longer.

Bonvicini flashed a big smile. For the first time in school history, her Wildcats were Pacific 10 Conference champs.

Sophomore center Shawntinice Polk notched 22 points and 14 rebounds, and the Wildcats limited the Huskies to 29 percent shooting from the field in a 71-54 rout in front of a national audience on Fox Sports Net.

Arizona (22-7, 14-4 Pac-10) came just short of winning the conference title outright. Oregon State blew a 15-point second-half lead in Stanford's 67-66 win over the Beavers Saturday night, allowing the

Cardinal to earn a share of the regular season title.

But Bonvicini didn't care.

"We're Pac-10 co-champs; it doesn't matter," she said.

It was Oregon's upset of the Cardinal on Thursday that put Arizona in position to win at least a share of the conference crown.

"From the moment we found out on Thursday night (that Stanford lost), we were determined to win this game," Bonvicini said. "We weren't going to be denied."

"We did what we had to do. We can't

See W-HOOPS/13



WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Keith Brock, an aerospace engineering senior and the Aerial Robotics Club president, adjusts a belly-mounted video camera on one of the club's unmanned aircraft on Saturday at the model aircraft park on the far west side of Tucson. The club builds airborne robots to compete in national competitions.

AERIAL ROBOTICS TEAM TAKES OFF

By Jessica Lee
STAFF WRITER

Despite the chilly weather early Saturday morning, the UA Aerial Robotics Club was out in the desert flying its small-scale airplanes.

Club members were testing groundbreaking research, trying to construct planes that will fly — not with direction from onboard pilots, but with the help of computers, cameras and global positioning system technology.

The Tucson International Modelplex Park Association, east of the Tucson Mountains, is

the hangout for the club that met to demonstrate its latest innovation: a 2-ounce Styrofoam glider that can be launched from a 4-foot-long plane in midair and land on a specific target.

The glider has a camera attached to its belly that enables students to watch images of the ground on a computer. Global Positioning System coordinates allow the computer to know where the glider is and where it must land.

With the annual International Aerial Robotics Competition on the horizon, the club has little time to spare to invent an aircraft that can accomplish several daunting

"missions."

The team spends about 20 hours per week designing, programming, testing, building and, of course, crashing planes, gliders and helicopters — all in the hope of eventually winning the prize at the international competition.

The competition, sponsored by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems, challenges universities from across the globe to complete four missions at the urban battlefield training area at Fort Benning, Ga. The team to finish the four levels will win the pot of money. That \$40,000 prize will inspire the UA club to work hard for the rest of the semester.

Unlike other competitions, the aerial robotics contest is so difficult that it must carry over year after year until a team wins. And each year, the prize increases by \$10,000.

"We don't think anyone will win it again this year," said Jess Dooley, an aerospace engineering senior.

Last year, the UA finished level one, trailing behind Georgia Institute of Technology, the only school to complete level two.

Many who consider flying remote-controlled airplanes a piece of cake might think the four missions are nothing but a

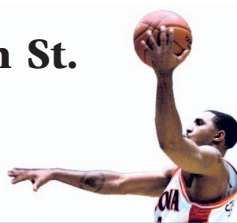
See ROBOTS/9

Light at Sixth and Park delayed

PAGE 3

Cats Men's hoops beat Washington St. avoid home sweep

PAGE 13



Girls on the guitar

PAGE 11