

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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JUSTIN BARKER/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Arizona alumni Kimberly Dong, left, and Rachel Nelson talk to students about job opportunities at Mervyn's. They operated one of many booths at this semester's career fair in the Student Union Memorial Center.

Career fair draws 2,000 students

By Greg Holt
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Over 2,000 students showed up for the first day of the largest career fair held on campus each year.

Located in the grand ballroom of the Student Union Memorial Center, the fair offered employment opportunities ranging from jobs at the Boston Beer Company to the Central Intelligence Agency.

"We have 125 employers in there right now. It's the first year where everyone showed up," said Susan Miller, marketing and special events coordinator for career services, adding that in past years there were a number of employer cancellations due to the weak economy.

"Up until the year 2000, we were turning employers away. In 2001, we noticed a marked difference in the employers that were showing up. It was obvious that the economy was hurting," Miller said. "It's been really clear the economy is looking up. Things are looking up for the graduating class."

Many employers are recruiting students from all majors.

"We're looking for students from a multitude of majors who are looking for a career in sales. We'll extend a job offer to every qualified candidate that meets our hiring criteria," said Jim Yeager, section sales manager for Phillip-Morris USA.

"We're not looking for a specific major. We're looking for students who are either graduating soon or can do our summer internship," said Jill Martinez, human resources for the Jim Click Automotive Team.

Martinez added that she intends to recruit 12 students for a summer internship that pays \$1,800 per month.

"Our hope is that you'll come back next year and do it full time," Martinez said.

Those students uninterested in working for a major corporation have other options open to them.

"There's a lot of pressure in our society to graduate and get a job. This program is sort of the alternative to the student who knows exactly what they want to do," said Amy Bass, representative for Americorp. "We've gotten about 25 responses from students already."

Although recruiters at the career fair are mostly looking to hire graduating seniors, even freshmen can benefit from a trip to the career fair.

"If you're a senior, you're looking for a job. For a freshman, it's an opportunity to get a better feel for what you might be looking for in the future," Miller said.

"It's a good opportunity to meet employers and see what questions they ask," said Randy Deitemeyer, a pre-business freshman. "When I come back in four years, I'll have a better idea of what

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Purse thief hits campus

UAPD releases alert after four incidents

By Nathan Tafoya
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A serial purse snatcher is making his rounds at the UA, police warned students and employees in a campus alert issued yesterday.

UAPD released the alert after a second incident occurred Monday, at 5:38 p.m., near a bus stop on North Cherry Avenue and East University Boulevard.

The first incident occurred on the north side of the Sixth Street parking garage on Sept. 8 at 9 p.m.

The Tucson Police Department said a suspect in two city incidents matches the description of the campus purse snatcher.

Mejia said the UAPD and the Tucson Police Department believe the same person is responsible for the four crimes.

Even though none of the victims have been harmed, Mejia said that as serial criminals continue their crime spree, they gain boldness and become more abusive with each incident.

"Until we identify the suspect, we fear that he will continue with his crime spree until he is caught. This is how these types of criminals work. They continue to commit their crimes until they are caught," he said.

The latest victim, a UA employee who asked not to be identified, said she was walking along the UA Mall to the bus stop at McKale Center, when the robbery occurred.

She said her purse was cradled on her left forearm when a man on a bike

swooped past her.

"The thief just rushed by and pulled the purse from my arm," she said. "He was obviously very skilled. He knew how to do it."

The woman said she screamed, which attracted the attention of several people, including a young woman who rushed into the street and tried to stop "the wretch" as he pedaled away.

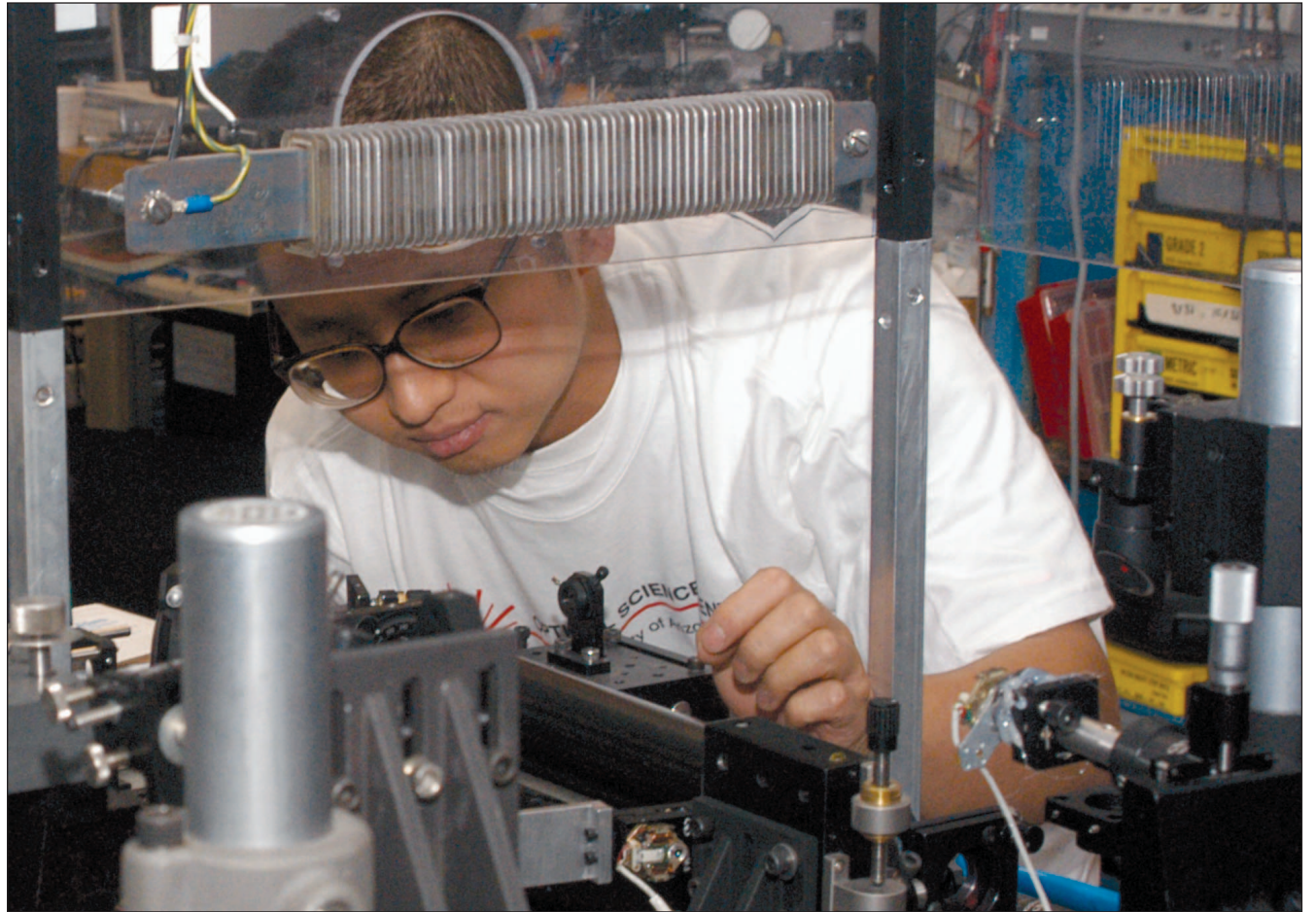
Students are encouraged to hold their purses, briefcases or backpacks close to their bodies. Packs hanging from one shoulder are vulnerable to theft, Mejia said.

While wallets and pant pockets should be used to carry valuables, large amounts of cash and credit cards should be avoided.

UAPD is also reminding people to use

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GRADUATE TUITION



MALLORY LORING/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Optical science graduate student Yan Zhang looks over a dynamic test stand used for volumetric data storage. Zhang is one of the grad students that could lose funding if the UA continues to have problems with money.

Tuition break for research assistants causes concern

By Debra Hollander
STAFF WRITER

Last year research assistants celebrated the university's decision to charge graduate assistants for only half of their tuition.

However, because they pay less now, costs are rising for their departments, who are wondering how they will foot the bill.

Tuition remission — a reduction in the amount graduate assistants pay to attend classes — is unlike a waiver in that it must be paid for by another source.

"It raises the overall cost of research, if we have \$100,000 (in a research grant), and money is going to tuition remission,

something has got to give," said Gary Esham, associate director for finance and administration in Optical Sciences.

In addition to having to find funds to pay for tuition remission, departments are also dealing with rising health care costs.

Last year the Employee Related Expense, or the cost of employee benefits, was at 3.2 percent of a research assistant's wages. This year the cost is at 14.5 percent because there has been a 2.5 percent rise in health care costs and departments have to put 8.8 percent of the wages toward tuition remission.

While the remission for teachers' assistants is covered by state funds, research assistants are usually covered by the grants for which they do research.

In order to help out departments this year, the UA has offered close to half a million dollars in aid.

"The jump (in ERE) can be significant to existing grants. That's why we have offered to offset that jump," said Dorian Voorhees, assistant dean of the graduate college. "We don't plan to compromise any grant or any graduate student being hired."

This is the first year remission has covered research assistants; in the past only TAs were eligible for the remission. Last year, the remission for TAs was 25 percent.

"We want to keep RAs and TAs on an equal level," said Voorhees.

Esham, whose department asked for

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