Walking with Olson: CatWalk nets $12K for Cancer Center

By Dana Crudo

UA basketball coach Lute Olson took a walk yesterday with hundreds of people around the UA campus.

The third annual CatWalk included Olson and nearly 800 walkers from sororities, fraternities and the UA public.

By charging a $15 entry fee, the walk was able to raise $12,000 for the Bobbi Olson Endowment Fund, which goes toward research at the Arizona Cancer Center.

The event began three years ago by the Greek community, after the death of Olson’s wife, Bobbi Olson. She was given a late diagnosis of ovarian cancer, and died in 2001.

This year, for the first time, the event was open to the community.

“We didn’t find a reason for the event to only be for the Greeks; we can have more money, more participation, and more awareness with public involvement,” said Zadok Huang, Interfraternity Council Programming vice president.

Mariel Furst, Panhellenic program vice president agreed.

“It is such a great event, we wanted to open it up and not make it exclusive but part of the UA community, so everyone can be a part of a great cause and a great event,” Furst, a psychology senior, said.

Clint Walls, IFC public relations vice president, said that in previous years, the walk has been treated like a joke since it was only on Greek row. Having it open to the public has turned it into a real walk, he added.

Just like last year, sororities and fraternities are required to participate in the event.

“Twenty percent of sororities and fraternities chapters must participate, but there is a lot more here than that; everyone wants to come out,” Walls, a pre-physiology sophomore, said.

And since the event is now part of Greek Week, members of sororities and fraternities earn points for participating.

“Adding it to Greek Week was a great idea, people want to be here and show their spirit,” Furst said.

Those participating in the event shared the same sentiment.

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