headin’ HOME

A mix of old traditions and new buildings greets UA alumni

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Homecoming court members play tug of war on the Mall

PHOTO BY WILL SEBERGER
Alumni return to a BRAND NEW ‘U’

By Elizabeth Thompson

M ary Hines from the class of 1951 has attended over 20 Homecomings, but she doesn’t necessarily come for the spirited parades and bonfires. Hines, a former member of the UA women’s tennis team, said she has ulterior motives.

“I want to see if they look older than I do, and later,” she said of her former classmates.

This weekend Hines will be one of thousands of alumni, students, and members of the community who will return to the UA in the spirit of Homecoming, which has been going strong for nearly 90 years.

Just as Hines returns to the UA to see how the faces of classmates have changed, other alumni return to see the changing face of their old stomping grounds.

‘There were only two roads’

Many of the changes made to the UA campus in the recent past might have been unimaginable to students attending the UA years ago. This will be the first time for many alumni to enjoy the Student Union Memorial Center, completed in February. It is the largest student union in the country and boasts more retail and dining space than ever before.

The Integrated Learning Center, another recent addition, supplies students with an underground computer hub connecting the Mall to the Main Library.

Today ground will be broken for the Alumni Plaza and three medical facilities in the Arizona Health Science Center, construction projects that promise to change the look of campus even more.

George Genung, who graduated in 1947, said that today’s campus is a bit confusing.

“I didn’t recognize (the campus) all the time,” he said.

Genung said that when he attended the UA, it was easy for him to find his way around campus.

“You knew where you were going and how you got there,” he said. “There were only two roads going in and out of campus.”

Genung was a member of the swim team and played baseball and basketball for the UA. He is a Hall of Fame member, and his wife, whom he met at the UA, was a letterwoman.

Despite all the changes, Genung said he does not feel estranged. He has made it a point to attend nearly every Homecoming since he graduated.

“It’s a privilege to come back and see some of the fellas from the 40s when I was pitching for McKale,” Genung said.

President Peter Likins said that older Wildcats returning to campus have had positive things to say about the physical changes such as the ILC and the union because they understand the changes are for the students.

“Most of the changes we’re making are student-focused,” said Likins.

“There’s a student-centered quality to it.”

Student-centered celebration

Homecoming will also have a student-centered quality to it this year.

Angie Ballard, program director for Homecoming, reunions and special events, said that the number of student organizations hosting events this year is up from last year.

For Greek Life and other large student clubs, participation in the parade has become a Homecoming tradition.

“It’s nice to see people from Chain Gang come back, it lets you keep the tradition alive,” he said.

Pete Ward, ASUA spirit director, said a letterwoman.

“Yes.”

Pete Ward, ASUA spirit director, said that the UA is dotting the i’s and crossing the t’s when it comes to celebrating Homecoming.

“Tents on the Mall.

The event is open to anyone.

Tents on the Mall

UA students and alumni can walk on the Mall and participate in activities and entertainment from campus organizations.

Homecoming Parade

1 p.m. — 2 p.m.

Over 100 entries will circle the Mall heading west from North Campbell Avenue and circling Old Main.

UA Wildcats vs. Washington Huskies

Arizona Stadium.

To purchase tickets, contact the McKale ticket office at 621-CATS, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Compiled by Elizabeth Thompson

Calendar of Events

Friday

UA Campus Achorcetum Campus Tree Tours.

1 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Join Ashworth staff for a one-hour walking tour of trees around campus. Groups meet at the memorial fountain on the west side of Old Main. Wear comfortable shoes.

ASUA Open House at the ASUA offices in the Student Union Memorial Center.

2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

The community will be given the opportunity to meet and interact with current ASUA members and ASUA alumni. The event is open to anyone.

Groundbreaking for three major medical facilities.

4 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

North Warren Avenue and East Maho Street, south of the Arizona Health Sciences Center.

Groundbreaking for the Roy P. Drachman Hall, the Institute for Biomedical Science and Biotechnology and the Medical Research building.

Alumni Plaza Groundbreaking.

4:30 p.m.

UA Mall just south of Administration building.

Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Jim Click Hall of Champions — The 28th class of the UA Sports Hall of Fame will be introduced during this champagne reception.

Tickets are $15 per person.

Bear Down Bash.

5:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Grand Ballroom of the Student Union Memorial Center.

Cocktail hour, dinner, drinks, and silent auction as well as the presentation of Homecoming royalty.

Purchase tickets online at https://somd.dakotacom.net/alumoni/hs03/bdbash.htm or contact Cheryl Andrews at 621-9024.

Bonfire Pep Rally.

8 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

West side of Old Main.

Alumni, students, cheerleaders and coaches root the Wildcats on to victory.

Homecoming Royalty will be crowned.

‘I Don’t Jam’ concert.

9 p.m.

Centennial Hall.

American Idols Kimberly Locke and Carmen Raamussen will appear, as well as the bands Chomsky and Magna Fi.

Free for students with CatCards.

Saturday

“Be Irreer, Livekker, Live Longer.”

11 a.m. — Noon

UofA Bookstore.

Philip J. Gocowski, M.D., shares his observations on how to stop the epidemic of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and more.

Event is free and open to the public.

Junior Scientist Kids Day.

11 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Saturday Science Engineering Library.

Science activities for kids.

Free and open to the public.

Tents on the Mall.

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good,” Sutherland said.

“Design is a secret, he said it sticks to this tradition.”

last Homecoming as students memorable.

seniors in the club wanted to make their decision to build a float this year because it’s an important issue, especially at the University of Arizona,” said Martinez, a political science senior. “We’re representing everyone with our float.”

JUNTOS is the umbrella organization for eight multi-cultural fraternities, sororities and clubs on campus, all of which came together to build this year’s float along with the Hispanic Alumni Association, Martinez said.

“We’ve never done anything like this,” she said. “It’s a huge collaboration.”

Martinez said she and her peers have been working on the design and construction of the float since last spring, enlisting the help of a volunteer paper-mache expert, costume designer and carpenter in hopes of making their entry stand out in tomorrow’s parade.

“Those numbers can fluctuate a chunk of people,” Lowden said.

Although student involvement in Homecoming has been high, some say they have seen a drop in attendance.

Craig Lowden, a 2000 graduate in Consumer sciences and construction of the float since last spring, enlisting the help of a volunteer paper-machete expert, costume designer and carpenter in hopes of making their entry stand out in tomorrow’s parade.

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On the Mall this week
MUD, FOOD, FUN

Mud wrestling and hot dog eating contests turned the Mall into a madhouse

- Jason Ranne, a UA basketball player, takes a minute to goof-off between mudbaths on Tuesday afternoon. Ranne is one of five Homecoming king finalists.
- Sonja Kodimer, a marketing and studio art senior, competes in a hot dog eating contest on the Mall yesterday. Kodimer was representing Delta Sigma Pi in the Club Olympics.
- Homecoming king finalist Scott Cheney, a molecular and cellular biology senior, takes a nose-dive into the mud on Tuesday afternoon. Cheney and other Homecoming court members spent part of the day playing in a mud pit as part of the Homecoming festivities.
- Veronica Martinez, a political science senior and JUNTOS club member, adjusts a flower on the group’s Homecoming float Tuesday night.
- Jason Hilborn, a mechanical engineering freshman, scrambles up an inflatable climbing wall on the Mall yesterday afternoon. The wall was part of the third annual Club Olympics, a competition among clubs for a $500 prize.

(Photos from top left)

RANDY METCALF/Arizona Daily Wildcat
WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat
CHRIS CODUTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat
MELISSA HALTERMAN/Arizona Daily Wildcat
JASON HILBORN/Arizona Daily Wildcat