Former UA dropout donates $10 million

By Ashley Nove

A 1962 UA dropout who finally completed his agriculture education degree in 2000 now has a building named after him.

Thomas W. Keating, a UA and Kappa Sigma alumus, was revealed at Friday's groundbreaking ceremony as the secret $10 million donor for the Institute for Biomedical Science and Biotechnology.

Keating, who started at the university in 1960 and dropped out two years later to take over his family's security guard business, only to return decades later to complete his degree, smiled as President Peter Likins announced that the building would now be called the Thomas W. Keating Biotech Research Building.

"This is a very exciting day and I am honored to contribute to this university," Keating said after the ceremony. "There is nobody that bleeds more red and blue than me.

"Keating requested that his name not be revealed until the groundbreaking ceremony because the first half of his contribution was given when he was still a student in 2000. "I wanted it to be kept a secret because I didn't want my teachers or anybody treating me differently," Keating said.

"Besides, I'm not enormously comfortable with being in the spotlight," Keating said.

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Student found dead in Sierra dorm room

Police investigate possible suicide in residence hall

By Ty Young

Police officers found a UA student dead yesterday in his room in Sierra Residence Hall.

Police said a student called them yesterday afternoon to report a suicide.

After police arrived at the scene at 4:17 p.m., Sierra residents were evacuated and invited to gather in the Final Residence Hall common room to discuss the death.

Sgt. Eugene Mejia, UAFD spokesman, said the death is being investigated as a suicide.

Police are withholding details about the student and his death until the family can be reached, Mejia said.

UA Counseling and Psychological Services were on hand yesterday afternoon and evening to provide grief counseling for students. Sierra residents were evacuated and invited to gather in the Final Residence Hall common room to discuss the death.