Addition up for vote by regents

By Andrea Kelly

As today’s Arizona Board of Regents meeting begins in the Catalina Room of the Student Union Memorial Center, people within the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture are keeping their fingers crossed.

Tomorrow the regents will vote on whether to approve the expansion of the architecture building that will require an additional $2.2 million for construction.

Melissa Dryden, the program coordinator for facilities design and construction said the college needs to expand because it has simply outgrown its space.

“They have programs in many buildings, the update will help them consolidate,” Dryden said.

Architecture students have studio and classroom space in the Architecture building and Landscape Architecture students use facilities on the north side of East Speedway Boulevard.

Many involved in the school say this separation is a problem for their programs.

Richard Erbse, dean of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture said the separation limits interaction between the two disciplines, which in turn, limits opportunities for collaboration.

See ARCHITECTURES

Give up smoking, receive free food

By Erin Schmidt

Kara Keegan, an education freshman, has been smoking cigarettes for three years. Today, she is thinking about not lighting up.

“I might try to quit for the day,” Keegan said. “Especially for a gift certificate.”

Keegan is referring to the more than 100 restaurant gift certificates being handed out to smokers who hand over their packs for the day, as part of the Great American Smokeout.

The Student Health Advisory Committee will be distributing the gift certificates to any student who pledges to quit smoking for the day, said Rachel Kunitz, physiological sciences senior, and director of the SHAC.

“We take their pack from them, and in exchange, give them a gift certificate,” Kunitz said.

The SHAC has spent more than one month organizing the event that will be held on the UA Mall today from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Kunitz said. Some of the participating restaurants include Tony Roma’s, Chuy’s and Applebees’s.

“Most of the restaurants are non-smoking or restricted smoking, and they are trying to promote that,” Kumar said.

“We have gotten great support from the community.”

The SHAC is working in collaboration with the Arizona Lung Association, the Arizona Smokers’ Helpline, Tobacco Free Ways, Wicopgan and the official sponsor of the smoke out, the American Lung Association, Kunitz said.

“We will be distributing flyers and handouts on how to quit smoking,” he said. “We know it is tough to just throw away the pack and quit cold turkey, so we will try to give tips on how to cut back gradually.

The SHAC is not the only student organization trying to help students kick the habit.

See SMOKOUTH

Student reality TV show cancelled

Financial reasons force Showtime to cancel UA’s ‘Freshman Diaries’ series

By Dana Crudo and Andrea Kelly

“Freshman Diaries,” a television documentary that began filming in October, was officially cancelled last night, six months before it was supposed to end.

Showtime, the cable television network that would have aired “Freshman Diaries,” cancelled the show for financial reasons, said Blake Lebin, a field producer.

“It was strictly a money issue and (had) nothing to do with the quality of the show, students, and the UA. Unfortunately it comes to money, which was the most disheartening thing,” Lebin said.

Participants in what would have been a 12-part reality series documenting the lives of college freshmen said that the cancellation came as a complete surprise.

“You have to move on with your life, but something is missing that you’re expecting to be there,” said Kathleen Callahan, a freshman majoring in English.

Lebin, while wiping away tears from his eyes, said that when he found out the news, his first thoughts were of the students and what they would do without the diary cameras that have served as a form of therapy.

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Presidents concerned about foreign student attendance

By Greg Holt

The presidents of Arizona’s three state universities said they were concerned about the decline in international student attendance at a briefing yesterday in the Student Union Memorial Center.

Statistics have shown that the number of foreign students in Arizona has decreased by 1.8 percent since last year.

“We have historically had a good number of students from the Middle East and we’ve had a good relationship with many Middle Eastern countries. That relationship is now jeopardized,” said UA President Peter Likins.

“I’m used to celebrating International Week as a triumph of higher education.”

The annual “Open Doors” study by the Institute of International Education has found that nationwide, the number of foreign students increased by just 0.6 percent in 2002-03.

By comparison, foreign enrollment increased by 6.4 in each of the two previous academic years.

The IIE study cites several reasons for this decline, including student and family concerns about safety, difficulties associated with the processing of student visas and a weakened world economy.

Likins said that as time passes the U.S. will once again be more accommodating for international students but adds that contemporary American attitudes toward foreign visitors need to change.

“As we settle down and as the fear diminishes over time, I think it will streamline the way we let people into this country: But we also need to tone down the rhetoric we direct at the rest of the world. I think they see us in a negative light,” Likins said.

Foreign students began to experience delays in obtaining student visas in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks as the federal government responded to demands for tighter domestic security. One of the Sept. 11 hijackers held a student visa.

According to the report, universities in countries such as Great Britain, Germany and Australia have benefited the most from the September 11 restrictions.

Likins fears that universities outside the U.S. might prove more accommodating to talented international students and faculty members that might have otherwise come to the U.A.

“We need to get members of Congress to understand that without an open society we would not have the faculty leadership that we have,” Likins said. “Increasing numbers of students going to schools in Europe and