

# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

## TOUCHDOWN

### Mars landing lifts UA confidence

#### Phoenix mission on the horizon

By Jessica Lee  
STAFF WRITER

The survival of a sensitive machine the size of a golf cart has UA scientists millions of miles away a bit more confident about the future of UA's Mars research.

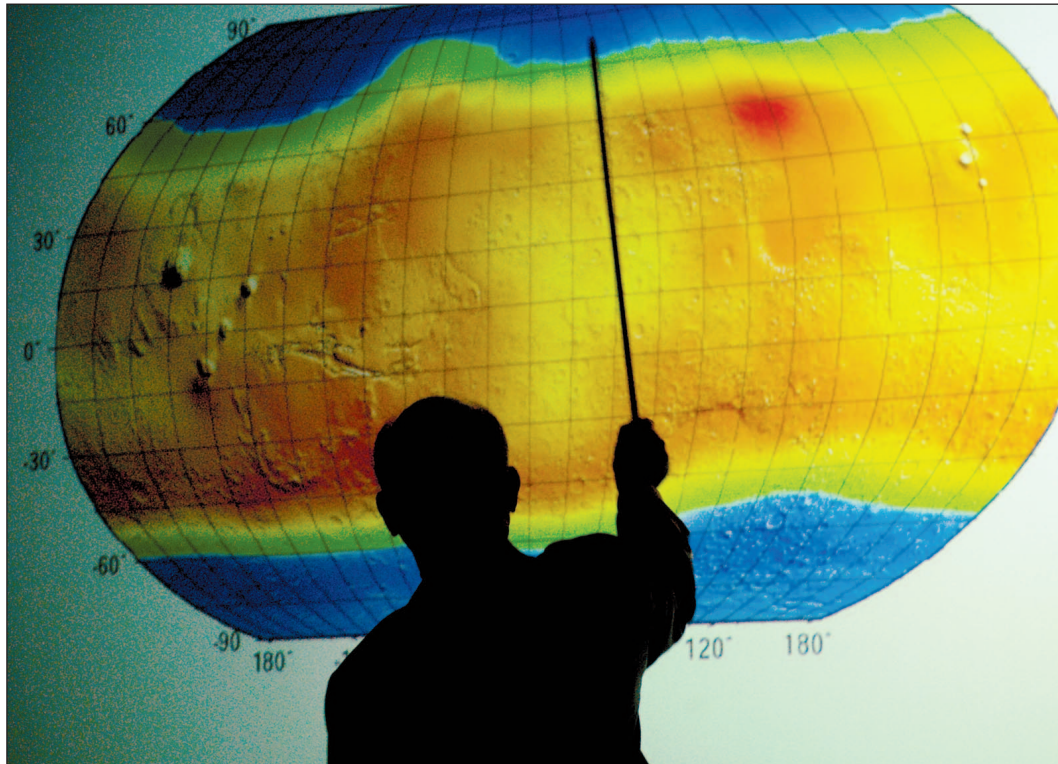
The successful landing of the NASA rover Opportunity on Mars Saturday night was not only a relief to UA scientists who had a hand in the mission, but a needed boost for the upcoming UA-led Phoenix mission in 2007.

The Phoenix mission, which will look for life on Mars by digging down into the soil several feet, will be the first Mars mission that searches for life below the surface of the planet. The project brought a \$325 million NASA grant to the UA last year, the biggest grant in UA history.

"If we were to fail on these recent missions, it will raise the question if the Phoenix mission can get down safely. With the number of successful landings on Mars, it will increase confidence in Phoenix," said Michael Drake, the director of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory.

The Phoenix mission will be run by the UA, the first NASA mission to be run out of Tucson.

Many UA scientists played a role in both the Spirit and



Director of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, Michael Drake, is silhouetted against a map of Mars while giving a presentation at the Kuiper Space and Sciences building, Saturday night during a celebration of the second Mars rover's landing. The UA has played a large role in both of the Mars landings.

EVAN CARAVELLI/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Opportunity missions, including Ross Beyer, a doctoral candidate in planetary sciences, and former UA student Chris Lewicki.

Lewicki was involved in the entry and descent of the rovers into and through the Martian atmosphere.

Beyer was involved in the selection of the two landing sites

on Mars. He designed a computer program that analyzed the smoothness and slope of the possible landing sites.

The landing sites were about 60 miles by 12 miles.

Opportunity landed at Meridiani Planum, a smooth area that scientists like Beyer hope will be composed of coarse-grained hematite.

Hematite is an iron oxide that is formed in the presence of water.

For Beyer, the greatest hurdle in selecting the landing sites was the constant tug of war between the engineers who wanted a safe, flat site, and the geologists who wanted an interesting

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### Greek council changes policies

By Thuba Nguyen  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

No more informational meetings, no more fees and no more stamp cards for rushees.

A new rush policy has been implemented by the Interfraternity Council and presidents of the 22 greek chapters to make the rush process, which begins today, more informal, less structured and easier for potential members to join.

"It is a new way of joining rush which allows individual chapters more freedom and time to rush incoming people," stated a memo from the IFC.

Chris Bullins, Greek Life coordinator, said there has been a decline in the interest of men wanting to become greek both at the UA and nationally because greek fraternities have developed a reputation for hazing and being more social.

"Nationally, there has been a shift in college students because they are interested in scholarship and community service," Bullins said.

There are 2,700 members in the UA's greek system, 1,000 of which are members of a fraternity.

According to the memo, the IFC hopes

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### Students receive more financial aid

By Andrea Kelly  
STAFF WRITER

Even without a state financial aid program, students at the three state universities last year received \$125 million more in financial aid than students received five years ago, according to the Arizona Board of Regents' student financial aid report.

The universities provided \$690 million in financial aid during the 2002-2003 school year, said Dan Anderson, the regents' assistant executive director for institutional analysis, at the board of regents meeting at Arizona State University Friday.

This increase preceded last year's policy changes that mandated the universities set aside even more money for financial aid.

Last year, the regents changed the portion of tuition that had to

be spent on financial aid from 8 percent to 14 percent.

President Peter Likins set aside 40 percent of last year's hike for financial aid.

According to the report, the number of undergraduate students who graduate with debt is 45 percent, a number that some found low, and others were concerned about.

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Regent Gary Stuart was interested in this number because it was lower now than in past years.

"With respect to the undergraduate debt, we've had a decline," Stuart said. "Are we likely to see a continuing decline in debt?"

John Nametz, director of financial aid at the UA, said the decrease might not be a steady figure.

"This year, we're seeing an

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### Law school wins \$50K award

By Walter E. Staton  
STAFF WRITER

A prestigious \$50,000 award was presented Friday to the James E. Rogers College of Law in front of an audience of more than 70 students, professors, lawyers and judges.

The American College of Trial Lawyers, an organization of trial lawyers from America and Canada, presented the Emil Gumpert Excellence in Trial Advocacy Award to the college.

The award honors the work and dedication of professor Thomas Mauet and the trial advocacy program he developed during his 25 years at the UA.

Mauet said the law school is one of the few small law schools that have won this award. "There's no other prize that comes close to it," Mauet said.

The ACTL is comprised of the top 1 percent of trial lawyers. Many of them were in attendance at the award



EVAN CARAVELLI/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Third year law student Charlie Babbitt (right) gets a laugh from the audience as law professor Thomas Mauet (left) corrects a statement he made while doing a mock cross-examination during an award ceremony Friday at the James E. Rogers College of Law. Mauet was honored in the ceremony for excellence in teaching trial law.

ceremony.

"(It was) like a meeting of Nobel Prize winners," Mauet said.

The college is the last school that will receive the Emil Gumpert Award.

The ACTL is retiring the

award this year.

According to David Scott, the president of ACTL, the mission of the award, which is to encourage law schools to teach trial advocacy programs, has

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Out with the holes, in with the rock

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### Cats Men's hoops nets 3rd straight win demolish Ducks

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Takin' it easy on the UA campus

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