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FIGHTING FOR THE CURE



KEVIN KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Lydia Koch, a retail and consumer science junior and Hodgkin's lymphoma survivor, left, and Katie Kowalek, a molecular and cellular biology junior, browsed through a brochure about Relay For Life last night in the Mesa room of the Student Union Memorial Center. Relay For Life, a two-day event to raise awareness and money for cancer research, will be held at UA's Roy P. Drachman field on Feb. 27 and 28.

STUDENTS HELP FIGHT CANCER

By Andy Chang
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After having his leg amputated as a result of bone cancer, Jason Martinson felt lucky to be alive.

Now Martinson will walk with a prosthetic, along with other students impacted by cancer, in order to spread awareness and raise money for the American Cancer Society as part of an initiative to bring Relay for Life to the

UA campus next month.

Martinson, a physiological sciences junior, had a large tumor in his left ankle and was diagnosed with osteosarcoma cancer, the most common type of bone cancer in children, at 13. Today, he is a cancer survivor and is helping the American Cancer Society raise money by serving as the survivor representative for the pre-med club Alpha Epsilon Delta.

People like Martinson, along with more than 100 volunteers, are all preparing for

the first UA campus Relay for Life campaign sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life has over 300 teams nationwide and has recently become international. This event raises approximately \$3 million a year and makes up for about one-third of the American Cancer Society's proceeds that help support cancer research, education and awareness.

Relay for Life is already held at the beginning of October at Tucson Electric Park, but is aimed more at the

Tucson community. The new event at the UA is geared more toward students, said John Zachary deDios, publicity chair of Relay for Life.

"ASU and NAU have issued a friendly challenge with the UA to see who can raise the most money," deDios, a biology and journalism junior, said.

Relay for Life will be taking place at Roy P. Drachman field, 501 S. Plumer Ave., Feb. 27 and 28 from 9 a.m. to

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Disability violations slow PSU progress

By Thuba Nguyen
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After being renovated for conflicts with disability codes, the Park Student Union remains unfinished in large part because the new construction still does not meet disability standards.

"There have been delays, but we have design problems and we're trying to work them out," said Roger Hart, supervisor of Core Construction.

The main reason for the delay is that sidewalks have not been put in place because of flaws in the design of ramps for the disabled, said Rick Marsh, PSU construction project manager.

The designs for the slopes are steeper than the 2 percent grade designated by the American Disability Association. With a slope that has a steep angle, people in wheelchairs will not be able to access businesses, Marsh said.

About half of the concrete in the courtyard had to be taken out because of the design flaw. The sidewalks across the south end of the building will not be put in place until the design is corrected, Marsh said.

Bill Freedman, president of ADA, said it is important to protect disabled people's right to access businesses.

"I would like to encourage students at the University of Arizona ... to take an active interest in making their university accessible," he said.

Minor fixes, like sprinklers and thumbprints on the walls, also need to be looked at, so completion of the building has been pushed back to a later date.

"I wish it hadn't happened; it doesn't make it easier for anybody," said Marsh, who predicts that the building will be completely done by the end of April.

In addition to the delays in the general construction of the building, many retail businesses that have hired their own subcontractors are also experiencing setbacks on their opening dates.

The businesses' subcontractors do not work on the same schedule as Core Construction, the general contractor for PSU.

Retail stores hire separate subcontractors because they want their business on the UA campus.

Tamara De Stefanis, program director of PSU, said

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ASUA uses new tactics to raise voter turnout

By Dana Crudo
STAFF WRITER

As ASUA elections begin today with the announcement of this year's candidates, the organization has adopted new advertising tactics in order to increase voter turnout by 20 percent in this year's elections.

Nearly 4,000 of UA's approximately 36,000 students voted in last year's ASUA elections, and with this year's elections less than one month away, Elections Commissioner Dan Suh hopes to increase that number by roughly 800 students.

Using \$4,000 set aside by ASUA for elections, Suh plans on initiating new advertising tactics for the elections that include giving away products that have elections information on them.

Every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., ASUA

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Enrollment growth faces challenges

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

The UA faces wide-ranging challenges in determining how its student body should look as it assumes more control over which applicants it may admit and reject, a top UA official in charge of overseeing enrollment told the Faculty Senate yesterday.

The challenges relate to shaping a student body that meets the university's ideals, then recruiting and retaining the students it wants most, said Patti Ota, vice president for enrollment management.

Determining how to do so involves figuring out the ideal proportions of undergraduate and graduate students, freshmen and transfer students, residents and non-residents, and other demographic breakdowns.

"What do we want (those numbers) to be in terms of the culture of this institution?" she asked.

Ota hopes to be able to answer some of those questions later this year, and individual colleges will eventually be asked to

work with university administrators to determine their own ideal demographics.

Beginning in 2006, the UA will begin to be able to apply those ideals when the Arizona Board of Regents loosens constraints that now require the university to admit most of its students automatically, based on their GPAs or SAT scores.

With freedom to accept and decline a wider range of students, the UA will be able to shape a student body that fits with the university's mission, while automatically accepting fewer students who meet minimum GPA and standardized test requirements.

That mission, which President Peter Likins has defined as Focused Excellence, involves becoming more selective while prioritizing diversity.

Likins has also said the UA can't handle a student body larger than about 40,000, as space constraints prevent the campus from continued expansion.

But as the number of Arizona high school graduates grows — likely by 20 percent in less than 10 years — deciding who those 40,000 students are becomes

increasingly important.

For example, Ota said, the UA might consider decreasing the size of its freshman class from 6,000 to 5,000, while increasing the number of students it accepts as transfers from almost 2,000 to nearly 3,000.

It might also try to increase its graduate student enrollment, which sits now at about 22 percent of total enrollment, to somewhere closer to the national average of 30 percent.

Whether the university implements such policies depends on how community members define the ideal culture of the institution.

The UA's racial makeup will also play a critical role in shaping its enrollment, as the university slowly seeks to increase its Hispanic enrollment to 25 percent of its student body.

Targeting the students who fit the UA's ideal profile means spending more money on recruitment, Ota said, adding that the \$229 the UA spends on recruiting per student falls below the 25th percentile for

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