Club aims to heighten African awareness on campus

By Kris Cabulong
Arizona Daily Wildcat

The UA African Student Association convened at its last meeting of the semester yesterday evening, ending with a hope to increase cultural awareness on campus next semester.

In addition to hosting numerous events, including an African-themed cultural show and an annual ASA banquet, the association raised $1,500 for African orphans in the last year, said Amuche Okeke, ASA president.

“I wanted to help out with orphans that take care of kids with AIDS,” said Okeke, an electrical engineering and engineering management senior.

But Okeke said one of the ASA’s goals is to inform the UA and Tucson communities of the brighter side of Africa.

She said the group aimed to eradicate AIDS and poverty, but also to show there are a lot of wonderful aspects of Africa that people do not see.

“There is no social security in Africa,” Okeke said.

“But a hungry man lying in the street will be fed and taken into a home by perfect strangers, but you don’t hear about those stories.”

The cultural show hosted in early April was meant “to show African culture from an African perspective,” Okeke said.

She said a lot of her classmates imagine Africa in a box, and they associate Africa with AIDS, war and poverty.

She even said some classmates said they imagine African kids holding lion cubs when asked to describe their perspective of Africa.

“‘It’s really funny, but some people really like that,’” Okeke said.

Officials hand over reins in ASUA inauguration

By Anthony D. Ávila
Arizona Daily Wildcat

Elected officials of ASUA passed down keepsakes, advice and the reins of their positions noon yesterday at the official ASUA inauguration on the UA Mall.

Associated Students of the University of Arizona President Cade Bernsen, Executive Vice President Erin Hertzog, Administrative Vice President Cassiopeia Secon and 10 elected ASUA senators were sworn in for the 2005-2006 school year.

During his inauguration speech, Bernsen, a political science senior, said even though he came to the UA from the University of Texas just a year ago, he would give a voice to UA students passionately and with determination.

“Don’t be mistaken,” Bernsen said. “I am a Wildcat, I bleed U of A red and blue.”

Bernsen said he believes “God has shown (him) a door of opportunity,” but he will only be successful taking that opportunity alongside his Cabinet and the other officials.

“They will walk with me, and I with them,” Bernsen said.

Former ASUA President Alistair Chapman said Bernsen, the 97th ASUA president, is the first president to come from outside of the student government, which he said is a testament to Bernsen’s passion and determination.

Hertzog, a former ASUA senator, said students from local Walter Douglass, Homer Davis, Sam Hughes and Lineweaver elementary schools wrote stories, and each student in an upper-division teaching art class choose their favorites and developed a way to make it come alive on stage, said Brancaccio, a senior majoring in English, creative writing and theatre education and outreach.

“The students write stories and the U of A students come up with ways to

Students make stories come alive

By Danielle Rideau
Arizona Daily Wildcat

Students in the theatre arts program made stories written by local elementary school students come alive last night in a performance hosted by the College of Fine Arts and the School of Theatre Arts.

Stories that Soar! was conceived by Sonia Teder-Moore, a fine arts graduate student. Teder-Moore, along with Sharon O’Brien and McKeen, developed the program, said performer Sara Brancaccio.

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