**By Jesse Lewis**
**Arizona Daily Wildcat**

Honor and support were the overwhelming themes at a ceremony Friday morning meant to celebrate the women who contributed to and are remembered in the Women’s Plaza of Honor.

Organizers predicted about 400 people came out for the dedication, which featured Gov. Janet Napolitano, who spoke about the importance of honoring and appreciating women, and the Tucson Offham singers, a mariachi band from Tucson High School.

The Women’s Studies Advisory Council sponsored the $18,000 plaza, which is located next to Centennial Hall, through donations by community members.

The plaza is meant to offer a space for peace and meditation, and also a place for people to see the names of important women in the state and community, said Saudaria Taylor, senior vice president of Campus Life, who spoke on behalf of President Peter Litkos.

“An area once underutilized will now be frequented by the campus and Tucson community for rest and relaxation,” Taylor said. “It is through your sweat that this has happened.”

Napolitano explained her history and the history of women in Arizona. She said she is the only woman in American history to succeed a female governor.

“(The plaza gives women the opportunity to) see that history and see those who have gone before, see their names on the blocks and arches,” Napolitano said.

Napolitano asked the audience to observe a moment of silence for UA women’s basketball player Shawntinice Polk who died last week. Napolitano said she was spearheading a plan to have Polk memorialized in the plaza.

“In her honor, her memory, I will lead the effort to make sure she is reflected,” Napolitano said.

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**Student dies after year in coma**

By Nicole Santa Cruz
**Arizona Daily Wildcat**

A UA student died last week after being in a coma for almost a year.

Friends and family gathered at St. Pius X Church on the east side of town Friday to pay their last respects to Shawntinice Willingham, a 48-year-old family studies and human development senior who died after being hit by a car and contracting a fatal infection while in a coma.

Willingham was crossing the street on University Avenue at 12:36 p.m. Oct. 18 when she was hit by a car and fell into a coma. Willingham, who wanted to be a family counselor, was a compassionate person who could relate to other people with ease, said Lenora Tanaka, a close family friend who spoke openly about Willingham at her funeral.

“She was very much looking forward to graduating and finally starting a career that would finally be her niche in society,” Tanaka said.

Willingham also had two sons, Jeremy, 14, and Ryan, 8.

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**Permission required to photograph school property**

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**Bush mum on next Supreme Court pick as Roberts begins tenure**

**Nation, 8**

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**Regents talk tuition hikes**

By Nick Smith
**Arizona Daily Wildcat**

FLAGSTAFF— Regents discussed the effects inadequate state funding has on tuition at Friday’s board meeting at Northern Arizona University.

The Arizona Board of Regents listened to a report from the Tuition Study Workgroup, which had been examining tuition possibilities for the past six months.

The workgroup discussed a tuition increase, and the regents discussed two areas addressed by the workgroup: complying with Senate Bill 1537 and the timing of tuition setting. Both of these categories have an impact on how tuition hikes are made.

**Senate Bill 1517 and inflation**

The regents must report to the Joint Legislative Budget

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**Quick Hits**

**Bylaw allows UA to pay for Polk’s funeral**

An NCAA bylaw allowed the university to foot the bill for UA women’s basketball center Shawntrinice Polk’s funeral yesterday in her hometown of Harford, Calif.

Polk died Sept. 23 after collapsing in McKale Center after a blood clot traveled from one of her legs to her lungs and caused a cardiac arrest, said Dr. Eric Peters, Pima County’s deputy chief medical examiner.

The university is allowed to pay for Polk’s funeral and expenses because of NCAA bylaw 13.6.1.3, which states the university may pay for an athlete’s teammates and friends travel arrangements “in situations in which a student-athlete suffers a life-threatening injury or illness, or, in the event of a student-athlete’s death, to provide these expenses in conjunction with funeral arrangements,” according to the association Web site.

A viewing and funeral services were held in the gymnasium of Harford High School and followed by a gravesite ceremony at Harford Cemetery, said Sharon Hendrix, office manager at Jesse E. Cooley Jr. Funeral Service, in Fresno, Calif.

The athletics department paid for the funeral, which included flowers, hearse and casket, death certificate, a musician and minister, and transportation for the family, Hendrix said.

Total cost estimates are $7,500, but she could not confirm an exact amount, Hendrix said.

The athletics department was unavailable for comment.

— Danielle Rideau

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