Planning honored for excellence

By Kylee Dawson
Arizona Daily Wildcat

After facing complete elimination, the School of Planning received two awards from the Arizona Planning Association, including the Best Student Planning Project for the year.

"It's very gratifying," said Barbara Becker, director of the School of Planning who received the Distinguished Leadership award. "For one thing, it shows that throughout all the turmoil that was going on, we still remained focused on delivering to our students the best possible opportunities and best classes that we could."

Even though the department has been cut, School of Planning classes and a graduate degree are still available. "This demonstrates that everyone, including students, will keep their eyes on the objective of getting the planning education they would like," she said.

The Summit Neighborhood Plan is a project that was conceptualized and assembled by Becker's course Planning 611; Projects and Planning during fall 2000.

"We've addressed certain things such as transportation, housing, the
See PLANNINGS/3

Students battle lines at bookstore

By Natasha Bhyan
Arizona Daily Wildcat

Hundreds of students filed through the main UofA Bookstore yesterday, resulting in long lines and unofficially marking the first day of the academic year.

Frank Gillias, director of UofA Bookstores, said the first two days of the fall semester are typically the busiest of the year.

"We try to move people out as fast as we can," Gillias said.

To combat the lines, the bookstore had four checkout points with 28 registers running. In addition, approximately 12 floor staff were on hand to handle questions from students.

"I'm traffic control — having fun," said bookstore employee Joe Gladstone as he guided students through five lines.

In the morning, the approximate waiting time was seven minutes. However, by mid-afternoon, lines snaked around the staircase and students stood in line for up to 30 minutes. "We expect it (long lines), but it doesn't mean we like it," said Troy Maikis, an ecology and evolutionary biology junior.

But Brittany Mountain, a pre-nursing freshman who made two trips to the bookstore, said the wait was
See BOOKSTORE/3

REGENTS/8

Election 2004

Students weigh in

By Mitra Taj
Arizona Daily Wildcat

Students could have a louder voice regarding changes to the university system proposed this summer.

Gary Stuart, president of the Arizona Board of Regents, said he's interested in expanding a workgroup that will be guiding the proposed restructuring of the state's university system to include students.

"This is all about the students in the first place," he said. "It's all about student success."

But whether or not that will happen is still up in the air.

Regardless of whether a student will join the workgroup as a permanent member, student regents and student leaders said they're committing themselves to voicing students' concerns at meetings of the workgroup that lacks a single student representative.

Nonvoting student regent and second-year law student Ben Graff said he and voting student regent Wen McCally agreed earlier this month that at least one of them would be present for each meeting the workgroup holds.

"This has been a legitimate concern from the beginning of the process," said Graff. "I believe this is a perfect solution to that."

Workgroup meetings are open to the public and anyone can speak briefly during a call to the audience. But Graff and McCally wanted to participate in a feasibility study that will research higher education in Arizona and make recommendations to the board of regents.

The board of regents will make the final decision about the future of the university system.

Regents Chris Herstam pioneered the proposal and is the only regent on the workgroup.

After a "cordial discussion" and some "back and forth" with Herstam, Graff said the Herstam agreed the student regents could participate in workgroup activities.

"The redesign proposal has the potential to change the student experience," said ASUA President Alistair Chapman in June, after Herstam and the university