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# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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## UMC workload not traumatic



CLAIRE C. LAURENCE/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Registered nurse Paul Bosseler checks IV flow while Dr. Amy Zheng runs a series of palpitations on a patient admitted to the UMC trauma center with complaints of severe chest pain. UMC is the only trauma center in the city of Tucson, a title it used to share with TMC.

## UMC rises to challenge of being Tucson's only trauma center

By April Lacey  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The staff at the University Medical Center stepped up to the challenge of becoming the only trauma center in Tucson last year, and officials say employees are more skilled because of it.

Since the closure of Tucson Medical Center's trauma center on July 1, 2003, the UMC trauma

center has had a 48 percent increase in the number of trauma patients, said Daniel Judkins, trauma center coordinator.

Judkins said since UMC became the only trauma center in Tucson, its staff has become more skilled because they have been forced to handle more cases.

"The more they do it, the better they get," Judkins said.

To adjust to the higher number of patients, UMC

has increased the number of emergency department staff, including nurses and registration clerks, said Kevin Craven, the director of emergency and trauma services.

In the past year, UMC has added about 10 full-time equivalency hours to its nursing staff, Craven said. That means UMC has hired enough nurses to cover 400 extra hours per week.

UMC has also added more critical care beds to its

center, Judkins said.

When the decision was made to close TMC's trauma center, it created controversy because some doubted UMC could handle all the trauma patients previously allocated to two centers.

TMC announced in December 2002 it would close its trauma center unless it could obtain at least \$3.3 million from the state.

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## Final exam passing time could be reduced

Undergraduate Council says cutting time best option of proposed final exam changes

By Natasha Bhuyan  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The Undergraduate Council has recommended reducing the passing time between finals from one hour to half an hour, a change that could take effect as early as spring.

Jennifer Jenkins, chairwoman for UGC and associate professor in the Humanities Program, said before the official exam schedule decision is made, it must go through other campus groups, including the Office of the Provost and college deans. The Faculty Senate will make the final decision, which could take up to six weeks, Jenkins said.

Jenkins would not talk about how or why the recommendation was reached at last night's UGC meeting, saying discussions would be "premature."

But Gail Burd, associate dean for the College of Science and UGC member, said UGC members made the recommendation after debating each of three proposed changes to the final exam schedule and consulting students and faculty for their input.

"Most students polled wanted to reduce the passing time," Burd said.

However, many students said they were not even asked about the changes.

Dustin McDaniel, a political science senior, said he did not know the changes were taking place.

McDaniel added he did not understand why there is a need to change the final exam schedule, which has been in place for years.

UGC, composed of 25 representatives from campus constituencies like colleges, the student body and academic advisers, was asked earlier this month to consider three proposed changes to the final exams schedule because the current schedule conflicts with some college

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## UA bids farewell to spokeswoman

By Natasha Bhuyan  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

After 21 years as the voice of the UA, spokeswoman Sharon Kha will leave her post at the university next week to focus on her health.

Kha, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease last November, said her last day at UA will be Oct. 8 when she will go on disability leave until her retirement next year.

Although Kha did not want to leave the UA, she said over the summer she was advised to exercise and care for her health in order to prevent her condition from worsening.

Determined to battle the disease, Kha said she is "still kicking" and has hope for a cure.

Prior to landing her position at the UA, Kha was a reporter, assignment editor and associate news director for KGUN-TV with a work schedule that forced her to miss 10 Christmases with her son.

When Kha came to the UA in 1983, she said she was simply looking for a job that allowed her to spend holidays with her family.

Twenty-one years later, as vice president for strategic communications and director of news services, Kha's job is to oversee news services operations and general university communications.

Paul Allvin, Gov. Janet Napolitano's communications director, will replace Kha.

Allvin was chosen for the position because of his experience in communications at the national, state and local levels, said Janet

Bingham, vice president of University Advancement.

"We had excellent applicants, but Paul had all of the expertise that we dreamed of attracting," Bingham said.

Bingham said Kha will be sorely missed.

"Sharon has been an extremely loyal UA employee and supporter," Bingham said. "She has given her all to represent the university."

The first from her family to graduate from high school, Kha said she never imagined she would end up working in such a high-caliber academic environment.

"It's the most exciting way to spend your life," Kha said.

Kha said she has had her share

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MATTHEW ROBLES/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Sharon Kha will be leaving the university Oct. 8 after serving 21 years as UA spokeswoman. Filling her position will be UA alumnus Paul Allvin.