Student hit crossing Campbell

By Holly Wells
Arizona Daily Wildcat

A UA student was in critical condition last night after being hit by a car driven by another UA student yesterday afternoon. Shariene M. Willingham, a family studies and human development senior, was crossing North Campbell Avenue, between East Second Street and East Third Street, when she was struck by a 1996 Audi driven by 23-year-old Benjamin Reesing, a UA student and McKale Center employee.

Willingham, 47, was taken to University Medical Center at 12:30 p.m. after she was hit, said Carlos Valdez, Tucson Police Department spokesman. Willingham, who is also an employee at Steward Observatory, remained in critical condition last night, said Judy Thomas, UMC public information officer. Valdez said Reesing was not cited for anything and the investigation is continuing.

Valdez said Willingham was not crossing the street in a crosswalk. "The investigation showed that she stepped in front of traffic for whatever reason. We don't know if it was inattention or what. We just don't know," Valdez said.

Sgt. Eugene Mejia, University of Arizona Police Department spokesman, said UAPD officers were the first on the scene and resisted TPD officers when they arrived. Mejia said although the accident was within UAPD patrol boundaries, TPD has responsibility for the main thoroughfares in Tucson, including North Campbell Avenue.

HEART CONDITION

Traditions at graduation studied by UA

By Jennifer Assner
Arizona Daily Wildcat

ASU seniors and representatives from UA colleges will present a plan to administration Thursday on how students can retain commencement traditions while still benefiting appropriately, an agreement with UA seniors and administrators came to when the University and ASU December commencement was mandated.

"We need to come up with a plan that will be effective," said Alastair Chapman, Associated Students of the University of Arizona president. "We need to give them as much feedback as possible."

The Commencement Committee met last night to discuss potential solutions to combat disruptive behavior at the university-wide commencement ceremony and will report back to administration.

UMC-designed heart given FDA OK

By Kylee Dawson
Arizona Daily Wildcat

The Food and Drug Administration approved the first temporary artificial heart, developed by a UA professor, yesterday.

Designed by Dr. Jack G. Copeland, a surgery professor, the CardioWest Total Artificial Heart is the first artificial organ to be approved by the FDA. "It’s a lifesaver," said Copeland, who is the co-director of the Heart Center at the UA College of Medicine. "It saves people’s lives."

The biventricular implant, an air-driven device, is used in patients who suffer from heart failure and are waiting for a transplant.

"There’s never been a total artificial heart approved and this is really the only device that you can call an artificial organ because it’s not just a prosthesis, it really takes the place of the heart," Copeland said.

Copeland began work on the concept for the artificial heart 19 years ago. With a team from the University Medical Center, Copeland began developing the CardioWest Total Artificial Heart in 1991 and completed it in 1993.

After submitting a 5,000-page report — which included data, test results, survival rates and complications — to the FDA in 2002, Copeland said the FDA had to visit the plant where the artificial heart was made before they approved the heart.

"This has been a 10-year project which we finally completed," said Dr. Marvin J. Stepan, professor of medicine, director of intervention-