Tucsonans walk to fund search for ALS cure
By Holly Welch
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A man who worked at the UA for 17 years and was forced to retire after he was diagnosed with a fatal disease is encouraging students and staff to participate in the walk to raise money for research for Lou Gehrig’s disease.
Mike Petzel, 45, managed the UA covering department and campus concession stands before retiring in September 2002 after being diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.
Petzel, who cannot talk because of the disease, submits an email that ALS is a disease many people don’t know about, but it affects 30,000 people nationwide.
ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that attacks motor neurons, making movements such as walking, swallowing, communicating and eating nearly impossible. The disease usually claims the lives of those affected within two to five years from the time of onset. Petzel was diagnosed with ALS in August 2001. There is no known cure for the disease.
Walk 4.5K with ALS will take place at Hiawatha Park, 1100 Randolph Way. Saturday. Registration is from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., and the walk will begin at 10 a.m. The walk is a fund-raising event to support local patient services and research at the national level.
Petzel said in the email he enjoyed his time at the UA and misses being on campus every day.
David Galbraith, director of dining services, worked with Petzel for several years and said he has contributed money to the walk.
“It’s important to raise money for continued research, especially when you have personal experiences with how devastating it is,” Galbraith said.
Several people within the dining services department are participating in the walk in one way or another, Galbraith said.
Galbraith said Petzel had the hardest job in the department and said Petzel always took his cool and never lost it.

Women’s hoops head coach to speak on UA student athletes
By Monica Warren
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

UA women’s basketball head coach Jean Bonvicini will speak tomorrow about the importance of leadership and teamwork on student-athletes as a part of the University’s weekly Faculty Fellows speaker series.
Bonvicini’s speech, titled “Success with Student Athletes,” will detail some of the lessons she has learned in her 15 seasons with the women’s basketball program. She said the talk should appeal to everyone, not just student athletes or people who work with them.
Bonvicini said many people think her job is only to coach her players during practices and games.
“Really, what I am is a manager of people, both the athletes and the people on my staff,” she said. “I want to get the very best out of them.”
One way Bonvicini encourages the best in her student athletes is by putting them to take advantage of the academic services offered by the athletics department.
“I think we do an outstanding job with our services here,” Bonvicini said. “(Student athletes) have an incredible accessibility to so many different people.”
Bonvicini said services like tutoring, console writing assistance and help with other job skills are available to help athletes be successful.
According to Bonvicini, so many services are offered that many student athletes aren’t able to take full advantage of them all.
“It’s not until they really take a step back and see all the things we do for them while they were here that they appreciate it,” Bonvicini said.
Shannon Hobson, a psychology sophomore and member of the women’s basketball team, said the demands placed on student athletes are tough, but the support that is offered helps ease the load.
“Teachers usually work with us to help us get back in the groove of things,” Hobson said. “The sport forces you to... manage your time.”