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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Hotels fill quickly for May 2005 graduation

By Jennifer Amsler
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Students graduating in May will have one more thing to worry about besides the usual commotion of commencement — they will have to figure out where their out-of-town relatives will stay as hotels begin to fill for that weekend.

Some popular upscale hotels in the Tucson area are already booked solid for graduation weekend, May 13-15, 2005, and others are close to selling out. In addition, hotel rates are higher on the weekend because of the increased demand.

Patty Doar, president of Arizona Inn, said the hotel started taking reservations for graduation weekend May 14, 2004, exactly one year in advance. Doar said the 86 rooms booked almost immediately and the hotel has a waiting list of 50.

"Parents of students find us when their kids first come to Tucson. They want to stay with us when they graduate," Doar said.

Arizona Inn, 2200 E. Elm St., is only a mile from campus and its standard rooms start at \$219 a night for graduation weekend.

Kevin Tracy, director of revenue management for Marriott University Park, 880 E. Second St., said only about 30 rooms are available for May graduation weekend.

"It's our location that sells us. It's all about the location," Tracy said.

Tracy said Marriott University Park is a hot-spot hotel for parents of students because of the proximity to campus events and quality service.

The on-campus hotel fills up every year for big campus events such as graduation, Tracy said. He expects rooms to be completely booked in February.

"There is always a flurry of reservations after degree checks," he said.

In order to reserve a room for May's

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Athletics expects surplus



SAUL LOEB/Arizona Daily Wildcat

UA's Athletic Director Jim Livengood, backed by NAU's Athletic Director Jim Fallis and ASU's Athletic Director Gene Smith, tells regents yesterday that the athletics department will likely finish the year with a \$1 million surplus at their meeting at the Student Union Memorial Center.

Livengood tells Board of Regents athletic budget looking 'pretty good'

By Mike DeStasio
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

UA athletic director Jim Livengood told the Arizona Board of Regents yesterday he projects the athletics department to have a surplus of more than \$1 million at the end of the year.

Athletic directors from the UA, Arizona State University, and Northern Arizona University presented reports on their financial status as well as how their student-athletes are faring to the regents yesterday.

"Things look pretty good. We've been

able to operate with a positive fund balance," Livengood said.

"Our expenditures are covered by our revenues," said UA President Peter Likins.

The UA athletic budget has finished with a surplus every year for about two decades.

UA's athletic department even managed to escape debt last year despite firing head football coach John Mackovic and hiring current head coach Mike Stoops.

ASU, on the other hand, had a \$400,000 deficit in their athletic department budget

during the last fiscal year, said Gene Smith, ASU athletic director.

Smith also said the ASU athletic budget has a continuing deficit of \$1.6 million.

To help cut athletic expenditures, the UA athletic department has cut about 15 full-time positions, according to the *Arizona Daily Star*.

Livengood told the *Arizona Daily Star* those employees were not necessarily laid off and some were

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KEVIN B. KLAUS/Arizona Daily Wildcat

High school teacher Erik Herman demonstrates the nature of sound waves with fire Wednesday night in the Physics and Atmospheric Sciences building. Herman's microphone carried his voice to the flame tube, which reflected his speech in visible waves of fire.

Profs, students make science 'Phun'

By Cassie Tomlin
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

UA professors and grad students dazzled a crowd of more than 300 with fire, lasers, and bottle rockets Wednesday night during the 21st annual Physics Phun Nite, and they will do it again tonight.

The Physics and Atmospheric Sciences building auditorium was filled mostly with families and elementary school-aged children during the event, which featured more than 15 acts and culminated with a professor lying on a bed of nails.

Anne Murdaugh, physics graduate student, was caped and masked

to play "the Physics Defender." She used a potato gun to shoot a suspended teddy bear during a skit and made metal rings fly with a super-conductor machine.

Murdaugh said she was happy to be a part of the event for a second year because it shows children the exciting parts of physics.

"It brings physics down from a bunch of equations in a book," she said. "And who doesn't love exploding things?"

Erik Herman, a Tucson High School physics teacher, drew the largest applause with his demonstration. He ignited a 15-foot propane-filled steel tube and fluctuated the intensity of the flames by singing

into a microphone connected to the apparatus.

The grand finale came with mathematics professor Bruce Bayly lying on a bed of nails while Herman hammered a brick on top of him.

"The physics really does work," Bayly said. "The nails are close enough together that they absorb the force from the hammer and the brick. It doesn't hurt."

In order to make physics demonstrations available to all elementary schools in the community, Bayly recently purchased an old school bus and transformed it into the "Physics Bus." Bayly and Herman travel in the bus to bring science

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