Construction on plaza in honor of Ariz. women begins

By Holly Wells

Construction begins on campus today on a plaza that will honor women in Arizona, including the first woman to serve as an Arizona Supreme Court Justice, the first congresswoman from Arizona and the wife of UA President Peter Likins.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Women’s Plaza of Honor will take place today at 4 p.m. in the area west of Centennial Hall and east of the Arizona State Museum.

The plaza will honor women who have made significant contributions to Arizona as well as present-day women who have enriched the lives of those around them by being mothers, sisters and friends.

Yolanda Breyols, head of the women’s studies department, said the plaza is unique in that it honors only women. “The plaza is of historical importance,” Breyols said. “It’s the only monument in Arizona that is specifically honoring women. You can walk around town and see a lot of monuments honoring men, but not women.”

Specific women will be honored in the plaza by having their names on benches, light fixtures or tiles, and their pictures and biographies will be available through a computer kiosk, Breyols said.

There are a variety of naming opportunities still available within the plaza. People can sponsor a particular woman and her relatives, sisters and friends.

The Women’s Studies Advisory Council is the sponsor of the plaza and is trying to raise $1.5 million to cover both the construction costs and an endowment fund.

The endowment fund will support the Women’s Studies Department through student and faculty scholarships and stipends, Breyols said.

For more details on the plaza, see PLAZA/13.

Students pop pills to stay up

By Cassie Tomlin

During the final weeks of the semester when students struggle with work overload, some students say they will employ the help of prescription ADHD medications to help them stay awake during classes.

One of the most common attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder medications is Adderall, which contains amphetamines.

Hal Crawford, Campus Health Services psychiatrist, said when used correctly, Adderall aids a person in calming down and focusing, but for someone who doesn’t need it, it has the effect of several cups of extra-strong coffee.

Crawford said he prescribes the drug to students who have been diagnosed with ADHD. To be diagnosed, one must undergo a battery of tests by a doctor off campus and be diagnosed with the disorder, he said.

Crawford said with prescription for the drug comes a recommendation to exercise caution with it. “It is a controlled substance, and it’s against the law to take it without a prescription or provide it to someone without one,” he said.

Crawford said he has noticed that first-hand with Adderall abuse, but has heard indirect reports.

Business freshman Kristine Flanigan said she often hears of Adderall abuse by students, especially in residence halls.

Flanigan, an Arizona-Sonora resident, said she knows of students who buy the drug in Mexico and bring it back to Tucson.

By Georgeanne Barrett

Every day students find themselves sitting in the same seats in their classes, but what they might not realize is that where they sit might actually be helping themselves do better on their tests.

Whether it is because of habit, a boring class or an eagerness to learn, students often find themselves in the same places in the front, back and middle of class-rooms they are in a couple times a week.

Suzanne Delaney, a psychology professor, said when students sit in the same seats day after day they are actually doing something called “encoding specificity,” which helps them remember information they are learning.

She said encoding specificity has everything to do with context, meaning the surroundings a student is in when learning new material.

“Encoding and retrieving information is a good match because it helps increase performance,” Delaney said. “Being in the same seat or in the same mood can help you remember information.”

Delaney said encoding specificity is something that has been studied since the 1970s, and it shows that people remember the context when learning new material.

By Monica Warren

ASUA senators are considering adding a general student fee to the ballot next semester after hearing different campus groups propose various fees.

The UA Adaptive Athletics program approached the Associated Students of the University of Arizona Senate at a meeting last month to propose a fee for all students to help the program continue.

ASUA Senator Erin Hertog said different departments around campus, such as the library and the Student Recreation Center, have also requested charging fees to all students in the past.

Hertog said another idea being developed by ASUA and the University Activities Board is charging students one large amount, such as $30, and allocating those funds