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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

Students' Pell Grants shrink

UA impact minimal compared to nation

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A new Pell Grant eligibility formula passed by Congress will save the federal government \$300 million per year while shutting out thousands of students who depend on Pell Grants to help pay for college.

Under the new formula, announced in late December by the U.S. Department of Education, about 1.3 million university students across the nation will receive smaller Pell Grants next fall, while 80,000 to 90,000 are expected lose their Pell Grants altogether, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

However, since the Arizona tax

structure has not changed significantly in the past decade, the impact the new federal formula will have on UA students should be minimal, said John Nametz, director of the Office of Student Financial Aid.

"I don't think it will have the kind of effect (here) as it will have in New York," Nametz said. "But it will affect

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Governor seeks funding increase

By Andrea Kelly
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

PHOENIX — Gov. Janet Napolitano told the state Legislature Monday that education is her "first priority" and showed her commitment to higher education with a proposal to double state financial aid funding.

In her State of the State address, Napolitano also said she would be asking the Arizona Board of Regents to increase funding for state universities that increase the number of students who graduate "in a reasonable time."

"Our universities have a responsibility to make sure their students graduate — particularly in the fields of nursing, teaching and engineering," Napolitano said.

Regent Jack Jewett said the governor's financial aid proposals were an important element in higher education and suspected they were tied to the redesign of the state university system.

He said he thinks Napolitano is pledging state support for financial aid because higher education is not getting what it asks for financially from the state Legislature. Jewett brought up the \$1,000 tuition increase in 2003 for state residents, citing the large portion of the increase that contributed directly to financial aid the same year.

"The state contribution is not huge," Jewett said. Education was the first issue she covered in the speech. Napolitano said it is important that education change with the economy.

"Education is our most vital mission," the governor said to applause from the audience.

Napolitano spoke to the state about the need for more medical professionals and the universities' roles in the response to that need.

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▶ More aid sought for students

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THE 'RUSH' BACK TO SCHOOL



JACOB KONST/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Chemical engineering sophomore Andrew Bravo, left, helps locate books for bilingual education junior Adrian Chaema and political science sophomore Jazana Garza during "rush" at the UofA Bookstore. "Rush" is the first few days in which the bookstore sells most of their textbooks before classes begin.

Tsunami avoided by 2 UA profs on break

By Zach Colick
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Amid the shock and devastation left over from the tsunami that struck Southeast Asia Dec. 26, concerns raised about the safety of two faculty members in the UA department of planetary sciences, who had not been heard from since the tsunami hit.

Roger Yelle, professor of planetary sciences, and his wife, Caitlin Griffith, an associate professor of planetary sciences, were on a

cycling vacation in the mountains of northern Thailand when the tsunami occurred.

However, Yelle and Griffith finally got in touch with family and their UA colleagues this week, unaware of the disaster that surrounded them, said Virginia Smith, a budget analyst for the UA's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory.

"They didn't know about the tsunami or the concern about them

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▶ Students aid tsunami relief

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Tortillas thrown at graduation

Ceremony disrupted despite warnings

By Joe Ferguson
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The UA tradition of tortilla throwing returned to McKale Center for winter commencement, despite attempts by UA administrators to end the long-standing ritual.

During the fall semester, UA President Peter Likins tried to revoke the university-wide commencement ceremony for December, citing concerns about a lack of decorum during the ceremony itself.

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CHRIS COBUTCH/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Newly minted media arts graduate Joel Moskowitz moves his tassel, after UA President Peter Likins conferred degrees during commencement in McKale Center, Dec. 18, 2004. Likins reinstated the ceremony after pressure from alumni and student groups.