Students remember tsunami victims

Student groups will join together tonight to honor victims of the tsunami that struck Southeast Asia by holding a candlelight vigil on the UA Mall.

The Association of Sri Lankans at the UA is spearheading the effort and has contacted other student groups to join them at the memorial.

“We are having this vigil to honor the victims of the tsunami,” said Suminda Hapuarachchi, president of ASLUA.

Hapuarachchi, a doctoral philosophy student, said there was a great response from other student groups on campus. He said that in addition to the groups speaking at the vigil, there will be a slideshow of pictures, categorized by country, showing the devastation and victims.

Channa De Silva, secretary of ASLUA, will lead the vigil.

“The idea of this event is to get together for a moment of spiritual togetherness in memory of those affected by the tsunami in all the South Asian countries,” De Silva said in an e-mail. “In this event, the religious leaders from the Buddhist, Hindu, Christian and Muslim communities will conduct their services, wishing a fast recovery for all the survivors.”

In addition to honoring the victims, ASLUA will also honor those who contributed to the relief effort.

“His is also a great opportunity to thank everyone,” De Silva said.

Student honored for aiding arrest

By Lauren Lund

A student was recognized last week by UAPD for his help in apprehending a suspect in a theft and trespass crime, officials said.

Andrew Blackwell, a business management junior, aide police by providing information to create a sketch of a suspect who was involved in a theft at Bear Down Gymnasium, 1428 E. University Blvd.

Blackwell, who is also a U.S. Marine Corps sergeant, spotted the suspect at the gym after reporting the crime to UAPD. He immediately called police, who were able to apprehend the suspect and charge him for theft and trespassing, reports stated.

In recognition of Blackwell’s help, UAPD awarded him with a “Partners in Our Community” certificate and a pen.

“Partners in Our Community” is a subdivision of the crime prevention program at the UAPD. It began last semester to help encourage students and people in the community to not only report crimes that are happening, but to call 911 if they see any suspicious activity.

“We do it because we want to feel safer on the UA campus better than three to eight officers,” said Chris Scheopner, a UAPD officer.

If someone sees a crime happening they should call police, said Blackwell. “Don’t do it for an award, do it because you want to make the community a better place.”

Retired prof. pledges $1 million to UA anthropology department

By Zach Colich

A retired anthropology professor donated more than $1 million to help fund an archeological endowment in Asia.

UA professor emeritus Richard Diebold Jr., a former professor in the anthropology department from 1974 to 1992 and the Salus Mundi Foundation, which he heads, recently donated $1,020,000 to the UA anthropology department.

More than 80 percent of the donation is planned to fund the Je Tsongkhapa Endowment for Central and Inner Asian Archaeology, said John Olsen, head of the department of anthropology.

Diebold’s Je Tsongkhapa Endowment, which honors the 14th-century Tibetan Buddhist scholar, will continue to exclusively support UA archaeological research activities in the Central and Inner Asian region, Olsen said.

“Now we will be able to go,” said Olsen. “We have been doing work in the area, but we haven’t been able to support it. Now we can support it and continue it.”

In time, the more than $800,000 endowment will support an increasingly broad geographical

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