Research possible at new land site

By Anthony D. Ávila

The UA Science and Technology Park is looking to acquire land south of campus to build new bioscience research facilities.

Before taking hold of the property, the UA wants to exchange some of the 1,345 acres of undeveloped land at the UA Science and Technology Park for the Sinclair property. The Sinclair property, at East 36th Street and South Kino Parkway, covers 350 acres of undeveloped land that could be used for UA facilities, said Bruce Wright, assistant vice president of economic affairs. KB Home does not currently own the Sinclair property, but John Bremond, KB Home Tucson division president, said the deal has great potential. “We do not own it, and it is too early to predict any plans for the future of this site,” Bremond said. “Sinclair property is among many locations we are looking at in Tucson.”

If the deal goes through, Wright said KB Home will build houses on the unused land at the technology park near the business offices and will house the 6,500 employees who already work there. Although some staff are from the UA, most are employed by the 25 businesses that lease the park from the Arizona Board of Regents. Wright said because the UA has land to exchange, there will be no immediate expense if the agreement goes through, said Joel Valdez, UA senior vice president of business affairs. “The exchange will be value for value, dollar for dollar,” Valdez said. Valdez said the UA would hopefully present a specific plan to be approved by the regents in March. “This is something we’d like to see happen in the next couple of years,” Valdez said.

The deal is still more than a year away, said Mary Mejia, KB Home Tucson division president, said the deal has great potential.

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Artists encourage coexistence through art near Old Main

By Kylie Dawson  

After setting up massive billboards for four days, visitors from Jerusalem’s Museum on the Seam can finally relax now that their international art exhibit is in place on the UA campus.

Located on the west end of Old Main, the exhibit, “Coexistence: The Art of Living Together,” is a traveling exhibit of artworks transferred onto 94-by-15 foot posters promoting peace.

“I believe that art can contribute something here to the preservation of our society,” said Raphael Elgar, initiator and curator of the exhibit. Elgar has been the art director of the Museum on the Seam in Jerusalem since 1999 and first traveled with 24 pieces by Palestinian, Israeli and other artists in 2002. In two years’ time, the Coexistence exhibit has grown to 60 pieces by artists from South Africa, Zimbabwe, England, Poland, Bosnia and the United States, including one by Yoko Ono.

Each piece includes the name and country of the artist as well as passages and quotes from various philosophers and authors selected by Elgar and his team. The Inner Connection, a local non-profit organization, is one of several sponsors of the exhibit.

Lori White and Jann Kennedy, founders of The Inner Connection, invited Elgar to bring the exhibit to Tucson. A piece by Stephen Romaniello, digital arts professor at Pima Community College’s west campus, and his friend Andy Rush, a member of Drawing Studio, a private non-profit organization in the Tucson artist community, is the newest addition to the exhibit. Romaniello and Rush will receive an award for their winning piece, which includes a quote by Albert Einstein in the artwork itself.

The Coexistence exhibit officially opens this evening at 5:30 with a ceremony at Centennial Hall consisting of performances by Panther Creek Intertribal Pow Wow Drummers, UCLA B. Carlos Nakai, vocalist Mary Redhouse and others.

Speakers include Elgar, Peter Narrow of the folk group Peter, Paul and Mary, UA President Peter Linsker and Saudarda Taylor, senior vice president of Campus Life.