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TURNING ON TECHNOLOGY



RAJA THIRU/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Bachelor of Arts in engineering senior and multimedia zone staff member Jonathan Wilson works on a multimedia presentation yesterday in the ILC. The Multimedia Zone has its grand opening today.

Multimedia center opens

ILC services continue to expand, new computer lab opening today

By Julie Wetmore
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Toward the back of the Integrated Learning Center, there's an entrance on the right adorned with old bike parts, audio records and strings of lights.

It serves as the gateway to the Multimedia Zone, which has eight computer workstations boasting two monitors each.

Although the Zone has been up and running since the semester

began, it is about to be officially dedicated today.

The grand opening will take place in the ILC commons from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., with the ribbon cutting ceremony at 2 p.m.

Door prizes will also be given away throughout the event. Everyone is welcome to attend, but people have to be there to win.

"We're practically going to be giving away \$1,000 an hour," said Lemill Lawson, computing manager for the Multimedia Technologies Group.

The ILC opened about two

years ago, but the Multimedia Zone has only recently been finished because of budget concerns.

The Zone was funded by ILC budget money and by Proposition 301, which provides money to fund technology used for educational purposes, said Christopher G. Johnson, director of the Digital Media Resource Center.

Although the Zone is finally opening, it is not as equipped as originally planned with only eight workstations instead of 40, another product of budget cuts.

It might not be what administrators had hoped for, but people

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Students may pay tech fees

By Ashley Nowe
STAFF WRITER

After the recent tuition increase, some UA administrators are debating whether to ask students to dip further into their pocketbooks to support the university's technology needs.

A technology fee could be used for computer labs, in-classroom technologies such as projectors, and support staff, said Barbara Hoffman, co-director of the Center for Computing and Information Technology.

The fee, which is still in the early stages of consideration, would help compensate for recent budget cuts. Those cuts forced spending reductions across the UA, including the delayed and scaled-back opening of the Integrated Learning Center's multimedia facilities.

Some members of the finance committee, which is composed of many of the UA's top officials, think the fee is necessary to compete with other universities.

As stated in a finance committee document obtained by the *Wildcat*, "Without such funding, the UA cannot compete with its peers nor achieve its vision 'to be a preeminent, student-centered research university.'"

Approximately 67 percent of all public colleges and universities have implemented a technology

fee, ranging from \$45 to \$422, according to a report published in 2002 by Educause, a nonprofit organization that focuses on higher education technology.

Before a decision is made, President Peter Likins requested an analysis of what the fee would entail and how much it would cost each student, Hoffman said.

"I don't believe that (Likins) is specifically in favor of the technology fee, but he wants to know more," Hoffman said.

Likins was unavailable for comment.

No direct technology fees have been implemented in the past and a separate technology fee is unlikely, said Richard Kroc, director of assessment and enrollment research and a staff member on the finance committee.

"There was a strong sentiment ... that we ought not to have fees for every student," Kroc said. "Instead, if we need more money for technology, we would get it from a general raise in tuition."

Before any decision is made, student sentiment will be considered, Hoffman said.

"I think that keeping technology updated in the classroom is very important for students," student body President J.P. Benedict said. "I have yet to decide if the fee should be applied, but it is important that students can come to campus to get their studies done."

WHAT OTHER SCHOOLS PAY

University	Fee	Residential tuition	Non-residential tuition
Iowa	\$188	\$4,993	\$14,634
Michigan	\$60	\$8,481	\$25,647
UNC	\$303	\$4,072	\$15,920
Texas A&M	\$422	\$5,051	\$12,131
Virginia	\$45	\$6,149	\$22,169

Faculty focuses on 'Excellence'

By Andrea Kelly
STAFF WRITER

Starting today, faculty will have a chance to weigh in on plans for Focused Excellence.

The Earth Sciences and Environmental Programs study team will meet at noon in the Agave Room on the fourth floor of the Student Union Memorial Center to discuss how programs related to earth science and environmentalism can improve by combining their efforts.

All interested faculty are invited to join the meeting and are encouraged to come with suggestions for the team to consider in their proposal to administrators.

As part of Focused Excellence, President Peter Likins and Provost George Davis formed the ESEP study team and four other study teams to look at how interaction could improve between different departments.

"The whole purpose is to solicit input from

See FOCUS/10

Heat wave keeps students sweating

By Nathan Tafoya
STAFF WRITER

Students might find themselves in the middle of their midterms, but they're sweating about more than their exams.

Yesterday, the Old Pueblo tied its 1909 record of 96 degrees as it continued to take a beating from a heat wave, which has suffocated the Southwest.

Pamela Wollack, a meteorologist intern at Tucson's National Weather Service Forecast Office, said the heat wave is a result of a high pressure system, drawing warmer temperatures away from the Pacific Ocean and into southern Arizona.

Most students took refuge in the shade yesterday afternoon as they waited for their rides to pick them up, or as they made

phone calls.

Well, most of them.

Cat Climaco, an art education sophomore, and Zaliah Zalkind, a human rights and sustainable development junior, laid on their backs on the grass near the Science and Engineering Library, talking.

The shadow from the library's roof separated the two friends: Climaco basked in sunlight, while Zalkind took in the darker pleasures of the shade.

"I love it," said Climaco, who is from Ohio. "I've been riding my bike. It's nice."

Zalkind had a different perspective.

"This summer is the first summer ... we've stepped off the cliff of global warming," he said.

He said the heat has contributed to the death of his



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Mechanical engineering graduate student and Cactus Grill employee Prasanna Adavi services the head of a long line of thirsty students trying to beat the heat with a cool smoothie.

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