

# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

## Homecoming 2003

# headin' HOME

A mix of old  
traditions  
and new  
buildings  
greet UA  
alumni  
PAGE SR2

Homecoming  
court members  
play tug of war  
on the Mall

PHOTO BY  
WILL SEBERGER

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# Alumni return to a BRAND NEW ‘U’ More students involved in Homecoming

By Elizabeth Thompson  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**M**ary Hines from the class of 1951 has attended over 20 Homecomings, but she doesn't necessarily come for the spirited parades and bonfires.

Hines, a former member of the UA women's tennis team, said she has ulterior motives.

"I want to see if they look older than I do, and fatter" she said of her former classmates.

This weekend Hines will be one of thousands of alumni, students, and members of the community who will return to the UA in the spirit of Homecoming, which has been going strong for nearly 90 years.

Just as Hines returns to the UA to see how the faces of classmates have changed, other alumni return to see the changing face of their old stomping grounds.

## 'There were only two roads'

Many of the changes made to the UA campus in the recent past might have been unimaginable to students attending the UA years ago.

This will be the first time for many alumni to enjoy the Student Union Memorial Center, completed in February. It is the largest student union in the country and boasts more retail and dining space than ever before.

The Integrated Learning Center, another recent addition, supplies students with an underground computer hub connecting the Mall to the Main Library.

Today ground will be broken for the Alumni Plaza and three medical facilities in the Arizona Health Science Center, construction projects that promise to change the look of campus even more.

George Genung, who graduated in 1947, said that today's campus is a bit confusing.

"I don't recognize (the campus) all the time," he said.

Genung said that when he attended the UA, it was easy for him to find his way around campus.

"You knew where you were going and how you got there," he said. "There were only two roads going in and out of campus."

Genung was a member of the swim team and played baseball and basketball for the UA. He is a Hall of Fame member, and his wife, who he met at the UA, was



Students involved in the Homecoming court as well as Bobcat members spent the early afternoon Tuesday playing in the mud. The mud pit was one of many activities organized to celebrate Homecoming.

a letterwoman.

Despite all the changes, Genung said he does not feel ostracized. He has made it a point to attend nearly every Homecoming since he graduated.

"It's a privilege to come back and see some of the fellas from the '40s when I was pitching for McKale," Genung said.

President Peter Likins said that older Wildcats returning to campus have had positive things to say about the physical changes such as the ILC and the union because they understand the changes are for the students.

"Most of the changes we're making are student-focused," said Likins.

"There's a student-centered quality to it."

## Student-centered celebration

Homecoming will also have a student-centered quality to it this year.

Angie Ballard, program director for Homecoming, reunions and special events, said that the number of student organizations hosting events this year is up from last year.

For Greek Life and other large student clubs, participation in the parade has become a Homecoming tradition.

Journalism and creative writing junior Marc Viscardi, president of the Chain Gang Junior Honorary, said that the yel-

low school bus the club rides in through the parade has become a symbol for the group and alumni.

"Alumni always remember the bus," Viscardi said. "They come and watch, and I'm sure they remember all the fun they had riding in the parade in the past."

Viscardi said that getting involved in Homecoming is important for student clubs and organizations.

"It's nice to see people from Chain Gang come back, it lets you keep the tradition alive," he said.

Peter Wand, ASUA spirit director, said

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## Calendar of Events

### Friday

#### ► UA Campus Arboretum Campus Tree Tours.

1 p.m. — 4 p.m.  
Join Arboretum staff for a one-hour walking tour of trees around campus. Groups meet at the memorial fountain on the west side of Old Main. Wear comfortable shoes.

#### ► ASUA Open House at the ASUA offices in the Student Union Memorial Center.

2 p.m. — 4 p.m.  
The campus community will be given the opportunity to meet and interact with current ASUA members and ASUA alumni. The event is open to anyone.

#### ► Groundbreaking for three major medical facilities.

4 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

North Warren Avenue and East Mabel Street, south of the Arizona Health Sciences Center. Groundbreaking for the Roy P. Drachman Hall, the Institute for Biomedical Science and Biotechnology and the Medical Research building.

#### ► Alumni Plaza Groundbreaking

4:30 p.m.  
UA Mall just south of Administration building.

#### ► Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

5 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.  
Jim Click Hall of Champions — The 28th class of the UA Sports Hall of Fame will be introduced during this champagne reception.

Tickets are \$15 per person

#### ► Bear Down Bash

5:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom of the Student Union Memorial Center. Cocktail hour, dinner, drinks, and silent auction as well as the presentation of Homecoming royalty. Purchase tickets online at <https://seare.dakotacom.net/alumni/hc03/bdbash.htm> or contact Cheryl Andrews at 621-9024.

#### ► Bonfire Pep Rally

8 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.  
West side of Old Main. Alumni, students, cheerleaders and coaches root the Wildcats on to victory. Homecoming Royalty will be crowned.

#### ► "Idol Jam" concert

9 p.m.  
Centennial Hall.

American Idols Kimberley Locke and Carmen Rasmusen will appear, as well as the bands Chomsky and Magna Fi. Free for students with CatCards.

### Saturday

#### ► "Be leaner, Livelier, Live Longer"

11 a.m. — Noon  
UofA Bookstore. Phillip J. Goscinski, M.D., shares his observations on how to stop the epidemic of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and more. Event is free and open to the public.

#### ► Junior Scientist Kids Day

11 a.m. — 4 p.m. Saturday  
Science Engineering Library. Science activities for kids. Free and open to the public.

#### ► Tents on the Mall

11a.m. — 4 p.m.  
UA students and alumni can walk on the Mall and participate in activities and entertainment from campus organizations.

#### ► Homecoming Parade

1 p.m.— 2 p.m.  
Over 100 entries will circle the Mall heading west from North Campbell Avenue and circling Old Main.

#### ► UA Wildcats vs. Washington Huskies

4 p.m.  
Arizona Stadium. To purchase tickets, contact the McKale ticket office at 621-CATS, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

— Compiled by Elizabeth Thompson



# Homecoming parade floats through campus

By Alexis Blue  
STAFF WRITER

**H**omecoming just wouldn't be Homecoming without the colorful parade that snakes through campus each year, and campus clubs have been working overtime to make this year's parade entries the best they can be.

The parade, which hits the streets at 1 p.m. tomorrow, will follow in the footsteps of Homecoming parades past, as 25 floats built by various alumni and student organizations circle the UA Mall along with classic entries like the "Pride of Arizona" marching band and a collection of smiling VIPs, including Homecoming royalty and President Peter Likins.

The 35 members of the Chain Gang Junior Honorary will also roll through the streets as they have for years, waving out of the windows of their traditional yellow school bus.

But not everyone in this year's parade has participated before.

A few clubs, like the Student Alumni Association, Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity and JUNTOS, the student advisory council for Chicano/Hispanic Student Affairs, will make their parade debuts this year, said Kristen Wolf, parade co-chair and member of Bobcats Senior Honorary, the organization that coordinates Homecoming activities.

Dane Sutherland, president of the Student Alumni Association, said SAA decided to build a float this year because seniors in the club wanted to make their last Homecoming as students memorable.

Sutherland, a marketing senior, said working on the float has been an exercise in team-building for the organization and said it will definitely become a new SAA tradition.

Although Sutherland said the float's design is a secret, he said it sticks to this year's Homecoming theme of "paint the town red and blue."

"I can tell you that it'll be looking good," Sutherland said.

While everyone in the parade is

expected to stick to the "painting the town," theme, some organizations hope to convey more than just Wildcat spirit with their entries.

Members of JUNTOS and the Hispanic Alumni Council joined together this year with a goal to design and build a multi-cultural Homecoming float, said Veronica Martinez, chair of JUNTOS.

"It's important to show diversity because it's an important issue, especially at the University of Arizona," said Martinez, a political science senior. "We're representing everyone with our float."

JUNTOS is the umbrella organization for eight multi-cultural fraternities, sororities and clubs on campus, all of which came together to build this year's float along with the Hispanic Alumni Association, Martinez said.

"We've never done anything like this," she said. "It's a huge collaboration."

**M**artinez said she and her peers have been working on the design and construction of the float since last spring, enlisting the help of a volunteer paper-machete expert, costume designer and carpenter in hopes of making their entry stand out in tomorrow's parade.

"We've put in a lot of work," Martinez said as she helped with the finishing touches on Tuesday night. "I'm impressed, and I'm very proud."

Covered from bumper to bumper in shimmering red, blue and silver, the float features a rotating red and blue "A" above a series of four paper-machete masks, representing African-American, Asian, Native American and indigenous Mexican cultures.

Costumes will also have a multi-cultural flair, and students who ride on the float will don outfits ranging from cowboy attire to mambo dancer costumes, Martinez said.

A multi-cultural Wilbur the Wildcat look-alike will also join the group.

Oscar Lujan, executive director for the Hispanic Alumni Association, said he was glad so many people from so many different organizations came together to create



MELISSA HALTERMAN/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
*Lisa Corella, a sophomore majoring in biology and Spanish, helps psychology sophomore Sonya Morris onto the Homecoming float for JUNTOS Tuesday night. The eight-member organization JUNTOS worked for three months creating their float for tomorrow's parade.*

the float.

"It was really cool. It was a good experience because we were all working together for a common cause," he said.

**L**ujan said the Hispanic Alumni Association and JUNTOS have talked about entering a float for at least two years, and said he's glad they finally took the plunge.

"It's the beginning of a lot of things," he said. "It instills a sense of pride. It shows anything's possible if you group together."

Lujan said he's hoping for first place in tomorrow's parade.

The club that wins first place for its entry will win \$200. The second place entry will get \$100 and third place will get \$50, Wolf said.

Judges will also give out a "Wildcat Spirit Award" plaque as well as a plaque for "most entertaining" entry.

The parade begins at 1 p.m. tomorrow at East Second Street and North Campbell Avenue, and it will make its main stretch around the UA Mall.

## HOMEcoming:

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that it is the students who are involved around campus who keep Homecoming alive.

"The more students are involved, the more they want to come back," Wand said.

Although student involvement in Homecoming has been high, some say they have seen a drop in attendance.

Craig Lowden, a 2000 graduate in charge of Homecoming events for the Kappa Sigma fraternity, said that the levels of participation among alumni usually fluctuates, but that the fraternity has seen an overall decrease in recent years.

"We usually have a good chunk of people," Lowden said. "Those numbers can fluctuate a little, with the down-turning economy. Bad football hurts a little bit."

For some students, an interest in Homecoming can seem reserved primarily for those only involved in greek life, sports or large student clubs.

Lindsay Keefer, a retailing and consumer sciences junior, said that she is one of the stu-



Raja Thiru/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
*Pre-education sophomore Herman Lee participates in the hot dog eating competition held on the Mall Thursday afternoon. The competition was part of the Club Olympics, organized by ASUA.*

dents who feels no connection to the Homecoming tradition.

"I didn't even know it was Homecoming week until yesterday," Keefer said.

Phillip Fung, an undeclared freshman, said he didn't know it was Homecoming week either

until he saw the activity on the Mall.

## Homecoming history

Not only does the UA Mall have a different look now, but Homecoming traditions have also undergone changes since

they first began in 1914, when the UA became the first school in the west to hold a Homecoming.

Held on Thanksgiving Day in 1914, the first Homecoming game was played on a field adjacent to the UA Main Gate at North Park Avenue, where the Arizona State Museum now sits. About 1,500 spectators are thought to have attended, watching from cars and horse-drawn buggies parked along the sidelines.

Students at the UA today might have a hard time picturing such a low-key scene, as Homecoming now includes a football game attended by more than 40,000 people in Arizona Stadium.

In 1947, students saw the dawn of one of UA's most popular Homecoming traditions, when sophomore Ruth Tackett was elected to be the first Homecoming queen.

Homecoming kings were not elected until 1983, and the tradition of crowning royalty during the bonfire pep rally on the Friday night before the game did not become a tradition until 1988.

This year, students voted for Homecoming royalty for the first time online.

The Homecoming parade, which started in 1929, featured student-built floats that were driven around the newly built stadium track.

In the late 1940s the parade moved downtown where members of the community lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the Homecoming queen and the stream of intricately constructed floats.

The parade moved back to the Mall in the mid 1970s and today it is considered to be the largest Homecoming parade in the nation, in length and number of participants.

Though parade routes have varied over the past few years due to construction, this year's route will begin on North Campbell Avenue and proceed down the Mall toward Old Main, where it will circle back around.

Despite all the changes, the spirit of returning alumni remains high.

Norma Don, who graduated in 1955, said after she left the UA she wanted to preserve her closeness to the university.

"I enjoy being a part of the UA," Don said. "I feel like I never actually left."



# On the Mall this week MUD, FOOD, FUN

Mud wrestling and hot dog eating contests turned the Mall into a madhouse



RANDY METCALF/Arizona Daily Wildcat



CHRIS CODUTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat



WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat



WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat

(Photos from top left)

► Jason Ranne, a UA basketball player, takes a minute to goof-off between mudbaths on Tuesday afternoon. Ranne is one of five Homecoming king finalists.

► Sonja Kodimer, a marketing and studio art senior, competes in a hot dog eating contest on the Mall yesterday. Kodimer was representing Delta Sigma Pi in the Club Olympics.

► Homecoming king finalist Scott Cheney, a molecular and cellular biology senior, takes a nose-dive into the mud on Tuesday afternoon. Cheney and other Homecoming court members spent part of the day playing in a mud pit as part of the Homecoming festivities.

► Veronica Martinez, a political science senior and JUNTOS club member, adjusts a flower on the group's Homecoming float Tuesday night.

► Jason Hilborn, a mechanical engineering freshman, scrambles up an inflatable climbing wall on the Mall yesterday afternoon. The wall was part of the third annual Club Olympics, a competition among clubs for a \$500 prize.



MELISSA HALTERMAN/Arizona Daily Wildcat