

## Hoops 'legend' Polk dead at 22

Athletic, academic communities shocked to learn of Polk's death

### SHAWNTINICE POLK 1983-2005

Senior center collapses in McKale after blood clot travels to lungs

By Seth Mauzy  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

By Danielle Rideau  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The unexpected death of UA women's basketball player Shawntinice Polk has sent shockwaves of despair and sorrow throughout the UA community.

"She's the best. I think along with Hassan (Adams) and a couple other of our guys there's probably nobody in Tucson that's better known nor better liked than Polkey," said Jim Rosborough, associate head coach of the men's basketball team. "It's just a tragedy for her family, her basketball team, the

Arizona women's basketball center Shawntinice Polk died yesterday morning from an apparent blood clot in her lungs.

The 22-year-old basketball player, affectionately known as "Polkey" by her request, collapsed unexpectedly in McKale Center and was taken to University Medical Center where she was pronounced dead, officials said in a press conference.

Members of the women's basketball team were told last night that an autopsy showed Polk developed a blood clot in the back of her knee, which led to her eventual collapse.

Though Polk was in McKale Center when she collapsed, she was not there to practice or workout, Livengood said.

Polk, a family studies and human development senior, was around other people at the time of her collapse, although whether they were teammates or other athletes could not be released, Livengood said.

The athletics department notified as many student-athletes as possible about Polk's

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Cassandra Tomlin/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
President Peter Likins addresses the death of women's basketball player Shawntinice Polk outside of McKale Center yesterday afternoon. Likins said he developed a friendship with Polk in her first semester at the UA in 2002.

Claire C. Laurence/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
Arizona center Shawntinice Polk embraces Wildcat alumna DeeDee Wheeler in McKale Center during the Senior Day ceremony last season. Polk passed away yesterday morning after reportedly collapsing while in McKale Center.

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## Plan would revamp UA transportation

By Evan Pellegrino  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The Regional Transportation Authority visited the UA last night to collect public opinion on a proposed 20-year construction plan intended to expand transportation around the UA campus and other areas.

The key concepts of the plan aims to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety and increase bike and pedestrian paths, which will have an affect on how students get around, planners said.

Ten percent of Tucsonans travel to the UA area each day to study, work and shop, said Shellie Ginn, a City of Tucson project manager. One way the city plans to improve transportation for this part of the community is by adding a new form of transportation, she said.

If county residents pass the proposal and tax in the spring, one of the changes implemented will be a modern streetcar.

The streetcar will connect downtown Tucson to the UA, traveling through UA-area business districts like East University Boulevard and North Fourth Avenue, Ginn said.

"The streetcar is expected to greatly increase business along its track."

If approved, construction is expected to begin in 2009, Ginn said.

When the streetcar begins its route, planned for 2011, it will aim to "transport as many people as possible as fast as possible," Ginn said.

The federal government has offered to match up to \$75 million for the streetcar, but the city will depend on the sales-tax increase to fund its half of the project.

Improvements to UA-area roads outlined in the proposal include widening Grant Road, the city's heaviest traveled east-west corridor, into six lanes, divided by a raised and landscaped medium. The improvements also plan for a bike lane in each

#### GO ONLINE

To review the proposal and submit your own opinion go to [www.rtamobility.com](http://www.rtamobility.com)

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## Women's plaza to be dedicated Friday

Donors provided more than \$818,000 in funds

By Mika Mandelbaum  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Construction workers are putting the finishing touches on the Women's Plaza of Honor, located next to Centennial Hall, in preparation for a dedication ceremony Friday.

The plaza, a Campaign Arizona project that started in 2001, is one of only three plazas in the country to honor women on a university campus, said Virginia Healy, senior director of development for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and member of the Women's Plaza of Honor committee.

Construction of the plaza cost about \$818,000 and was funded by individual donors, corporate donors, foundations and some fundraising, Healy said.

The largest individual donation came from Laurel Wilkening and her husband Godfrey Sill who gave \$118,000 to the project, Healy said.

"That was the lead gift that really launched the campaign," Healy said.

For all contributions, donors can choose the women they want to honor at the plaza.

Wilkening was the UA's first female vice president for research, and she chose to honor conquistador women and all the women who were

Jake Lacey/Arizona Daily Wildcat

The final touches are being added to the Women's Plaza of Honor, which is set to be dedicated Friday. The plaza was constructed with more than \$800,000 in donations from UA community members.

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