



# ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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## Two men charged in murder of UA doctor

By Kris Cabulong  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

Two men have been charged with the murder of Dr. David Brian Stidham, the 37-year-old pediatric ophthalmologist and UA College of Medicine clinical instructor found stabbed to death earlier this month. One of the men is Stidham's former medical partner.

Stidham was found dead Oct. 5 in the parking lot of North First Medical Plaza on the 4700 block of North First Avenue. He was stabbed 17 times.

Dr. Bradley A. Schwartz, 39, and Ronald Bruce Bigger, 38, were arrested Friday evening. Schwartz was charged with conspiracy to commit murder in the first degree, and Bigger was charged with murder in the first degree, said Deputy Dawn Barkman, Pima County Sheriff Public Information Officer.

The arrests were made after police received multiple tips linking Schwartz and Bigger to the murder, Barkman said.

"We have statements from a number of people who say that Dr. Schwartz tried to get a hit man to kill Dr. Stidham," said Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik. "There have been over the past two weeks numerous calls from the medical community and others providing us with very compelling information."

Dupnik said many people said there had been "animosity" between Stidham and his former partner, Schwartz.

Dupnik said in the days following the murder, Schwartz, who allegedly hired Bigger to kill Stidham, actively tried to get people to provide him with an alibi.

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## Traditions at graduation studied by UA

By Jennifer Amsler  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

ASUA senators and representatives from UA colleges will present a plan to administration Thursday on how students can retain commencement traditions while still behaving appropriately, an agreement ASUA senators and administrators came to when the university-wide December commencement was reinstated.

"We need to come up with a plan that will be effective," said Alistair Chapman, Associated Students of the University of Arizona president. "We need to give them as much feedback as possible."

The Commencement Policy Committee met last night to discuss potential solutions to combat disruptive behavior at the university-wide commencement ceremony and will meet again

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## Student hit crossing Campbell

By Holly Wells  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A UA student was in critical condition last night after being hit by a car driven by another UA student yesterday afternoon.

Sharlene M. Willingham, a family studies and human development senior, was crossing North Campbell Avenue, between East Second Street and East Third Street, when she was struck by a 1996 Audi driven by 23-year-old Benjamin Reising, a UA student and McKale Center employee.

Willingham, 47, was taken to University Medical Center at 12:30 p.m. after she was hit, said Carlos Valdez, Tucson Police Department spokesman.

Willingham, who is also an employee at Steward Observatory, remained in critical condition last night, said Judy Thurston, UMC public information officer.

Valdez said Reising was not cited for anything and the investigation is continuing.

Valdez said Willingham was not crossing the street in a crosswalk.

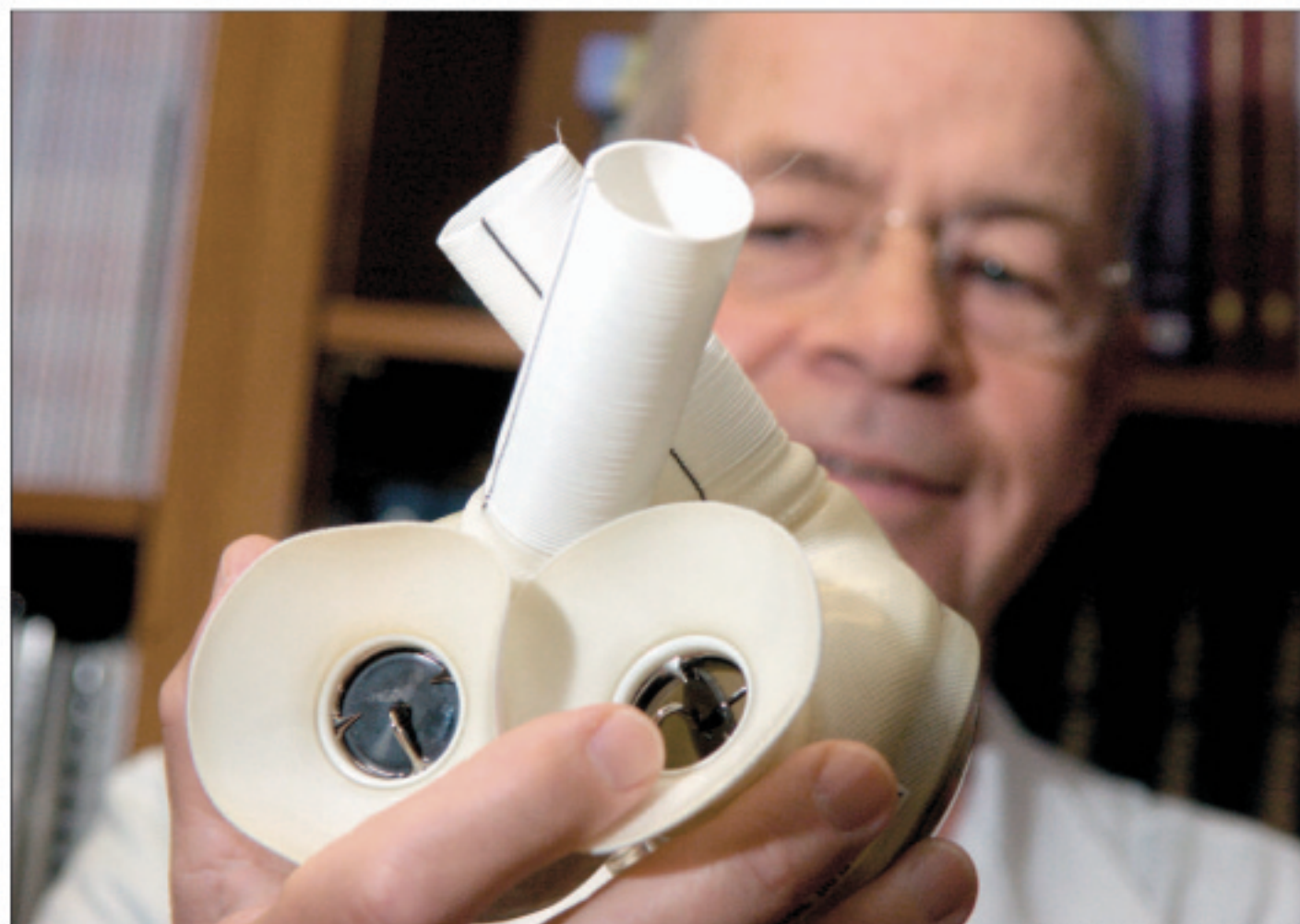
"The investigation showed that she

stepped in front of traffic for whatever reason. We don't know if it was inattention or what. We just don't know," Valdez said.

Sgt. Eugene Mejia, University of Arizona Police Department spokesman, said UAPD officers were the first on the scene and assisted TPD officers when they arrived.

Mejia said although the accident was within UAPD patrol boundaries, TPD has responsibility for the main thoroughfares in Tucson, including North Campbell Avenue.

## HEART CONDITION



Dr. Jack G. Copeland, UA professor of surgery and co-director of the Sarver Heart Center at the UA College of Medicine, holds the artificial heart that he helped create. The FDA approved the artificial heart yesterday.

## UMC-designed heart given FDA OK

By Kylee Dawson  
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The Food and Drug Administration approved the first temporary artificial heart, developed by a UA professor, yesterday.

Designed by Dr. Jack G. Copeland, a surgery professor, the CardioWest Total Artificial Heart is the first artificial organ to be approved by the FDA.

"It's a lifesaver," said Copeland, who is the co-director of the Sarver Heart Center at the UA College of

Medicine. "It saves people's lives."

The biventricular implant, an air-driven device, is used in patients who suffer from heart failure and are waiting for a transplant.

"There's never been a total artificial heart approved and this is really the only device that you can call an artificial organ because it's not just a prosthesis, it really takes the place of the heart," Copeland said.

Copeland began work on the concept for the artificial heart 19 years ago. With a team from the University

Medical Center, Copeland began developing the CardioWest Total Artificial Heart in 1991 and completed it in 1993.

After submitting a 5,000-page report — which included data, test results, survival rates and complications — to the FDA in 2002, Copeland said the FDA had to visit the plant where the artificial heart was made before they approved the heart.

"This has been a 40-year project which we finally completed," said Dr. Marvin J. Slepian, professor of medicine, director of intervention-

al cardiology at UMC and CEO of SynCardia Systems Inc., the private company that owns the rights to the artificial heart.

"I think it's a major advance in medicine, a major advance for technology and ultimately it's a major advance for patients that have end stage heart failure," Slepian said.

The CardioWest Total Artificial Heart was supposed to be approved in September, but FDA paperwork took longer than UA

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