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UA freshman Elisa Meza is one of about 600 students in The University of Arizona’s first class of Arizona Assurance Scholars, who can graduate in four years, debt-free. “Being a first-generation student is harder than most realize, financially. Having support from the Assurance lives up to its name, assuring me that I deserve to be here pursuing education,” Meza said. Helios Education Foundation donated $2 million to the scholarship program, which covers tuition, fees, books, and room and board, as well as provides students with mentors and community networks to ensure their academic success. You can learn more and see Elisa in a video at http://azassurance.org.
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In the midst of an economic crisis, the UA is looking to Old Main for inspiration and hope during this tough transformation period.

5 UA Budget News
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14-15 Endowed Chair Established at Arizona Cancer Center
The Alan and Janice Levin family donated $1 million to The University of Arizona Foundation to fund the Alan and Janice Levin Family Endowed Chair for Excellence in Cancer Research at the Arizona Cancer Center.
16-21  UA Department of Classics Goes Global
University of Arizona students and faculty are venturing out into the world to participate in archaeological digs directed and co-directed by faculty in the UA department of classics.

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A quick peek at the many happenings on the UA campus.

24-29  Arizona Assurance Promises Debt-free Education for UA Students
The Helios Education Foundation has donated $2 million to the Arizona Assurance program to fund scholarships for hundreds of Arizona students in need of a debt-free college education.

30-31  Curtis Building at Yuma Agricultural Center
A new state-of-the-art research building at Yuma Agricultural Center was built in honor of Glen G. Curtis to allow researchers and faculty to adequately conduct research without contaminating samples.

32-33  Ways to Give
Learn how you can make a difference at the UA by supporting major colleges and departments or by donating via estate planning, real estate, gifts of stock or through annual giving.
DEAR FRIENDS:

The University of Arizona was established in 1885 with a $25,000 state appropriation and 40 acres of privately donated land – a public-private partnership that essentially laid the foundation of the institution.

At that time, Tucsonans were skeptical of the benefits of a university. They expressed their dismay over Phoenix having been given public funding for an asylum, which they thought would be a more successful economic driver.

Today, those early concerns have been assuaged. The University of Arizona has proven itself a true economic engine, returning $6.70 for every dollar of state funding, creating a $2.3 billion gain for the Tucson community, and generating tens of thousands of jobs.

As with any great institution, the UA has continually evolved to reach this point of excellence, benefiting our students, our faculty and our communities. Just as we have done throughout our history, we depend on that public-private partnership that lies at our core to keep our engine humming.

With about 27 percent of the University’s $1.5 billion total budget supported by state funding – prior to the recent budget cuts – we rely heavily on the generosity of friends to preserve our quality of excellence. In this unprecedented financial situation, we need those friendships now, more than ever.

As we look back at our more recent history, we certainly have not seen hurdles as extreme as those of today, but we do take heed of other times the University has faced troubling situations. For 126 years, Old Main, in particular, has been consistently symbolic of the institution’s ability to persevere.

In the late 1930s, the iconic building faced what surely seemed an insurmountable obstacle. Declared unsafe in 1938, Old Main remained vacant and locked for four years. Some proposed it be demolished, but even that was too costly to consider.

By 1942, friends of the University came to the rescue, and the Navy funded the building’s repair and rehabilitation, cultivating the site of the wartime Naval Indoctrination School.

People continue to invest in our fine institution for many reasons – cases for support exist today, as much as they did years ago. Obviously, we have a lot of work in front of us. But if there is a single, most important call-to-action, it is to recognize The University of Arizona is still a place where dreams come true.

The economy is challenging, but that is no reason not to be enthusiastic about the great opportunities at the University. Inside you will read about important scholarship programs helping students achieve their dreams of higher education, amazing archaeological digs involving students and faculty within the UA department of classics, and ways community members supported the University and engaged in “fore”-ward thinking through a charity game of golf.

I cannot express enough how grateful I am, on behalf of the entire University, for the many friends who support The University of Arizona. While private support alone will not solve this budget crisis, philanthropy remains a critical component to preserving the quality of our great University. The dreams we invest in today will become the realities we hope for tomorrow.
In our troubled economy, downsizing across the UA campus – from operations to outreach – has become not just an option, but a necessity. Recent budget cuts of $56 million, on top of $20 million in cuts last summer, account for a tremendous decrease in funding resources for The University of Arizona.

While these cuts certainly pose operational and academic challenges for the University, UA leadership is working to ensure changes remain consistent with our mission. Adopted and proposed changes align with strategies allowing us to maintain a world-class institution for current and future students, faculty and staff.

Below is a brief outline of the UA's strategic two-year plan to operate under restricted state funding.

$20 million original cuts for FY 2008-09 (actions enacted)
> $11 million reduction in academic colleges and departments
> $3 million reduction in academic support and student services units
> $6 million reduction in central administration units

$56 million mid-year cuts for FY 2008-09 (includes current and proposed actions)
> Hiring freeze in effect since fall 2008; cumulative loss of approximately 600 positions
> Renegotiated utilities contracts to achieve $3 million in savings
> Consolidation of four colleges; elimination of University College
> Consolidation or mergers of potentially more than 50 academic and administrative units
> 5 percent operating reduction in state-funded units
> Redirection of student tuition dollars to meet budget reduction
> Depletion of emergency operating reserves
> 75 percent cut of UA funding for UApresents
> Flandrau Science Center, Planetarium and UA Mineral Museum closed to school groups and the public
> Reduced hours of operation at Arizona State Museum and many cancellations of its outreach and educational activities
> Reduced hours of operation at UA Museum of Art and elimination of its engagement in University education and educational outreach
> Suspension of many UA outreach and extension operations across the state
> All campus fountains and water features shut off, and other reductions in grounds maintenance

Planning for additional cuts in FY 2009-10
> Five required furlough days for UA employees on state and allocated funds
> Further 5 percent reduction to campus operations
> Consolidation of business and IT functions
> Close academic programs, departments and colleges
> Fewer class offerings, resulting in larger class sizes
> Increase campus usage and student fees, including program fees or differential tuition
> Increase base tuition and mandatory fees no later than fall 2010
> Change and/or reduce student scholarship awards, including curtailing the Regents High Honors Awards
Former UA softball players team up to honor their friend, Athletics Department icon.

Nan Barash, Rocky LaRose and Jayne Hancock reunited recently in Tucson to celebrate the creation of Rocky’s Roster.
Rocky LaRose has been a fixture at The University of Arizona for more than 30 years, from her time as a softball player to her current role as the senior associate athletic director.

Two of her oldest friends are committed to ensuring the mark she’s made on Arizona Athletics is forever remembered.

Former UA softball players Nan Barash and Jayne Hancock, who played for La Rose in the 80s, have made the lead gifts for the Rocky LaRose Softball Scholarship Endowment.

Barash donated $50,000 and Hancock added $25,000 to the endowment fund that will serve as an enduring tribute to their friend while providing support for future Wildcats.

“Rocky has been good to so many people at the UA and I was one of them,” said Barash, a pitcher on the 1980 UA softball team. “I felt she should be honored.”

For Hancock the endowment also is a way to honor a childhood friend.

“Rocky and I knew each other in the first grade,” Hancock said. “We have had a lifelong friendship, not only growing up together, but also playing softball together for many, many years.”

Barash and Hancock both came to Tucson to tell LaRose in person about the endowment.

“To see Nan and Jayne coming together towards the front door of our home, when they had not seen each other in decades, was truly the biggest surprise of my life,” LaRose said. “When Nan spoke to why she was here I was completely speechless. It was really, truly a magical moment.”

Barash said that LaRose earned the honor of having a scholarship named after her a hundred times over.

“She’s a person who’s always done good for others,” Barash said. “Everybody has a Rocky story. If you’ve been a part of Arizona Athletics, Rocky LaRose has touched your life.”

Barash and Hancock hope their gifts will inspire other former student-athletes and friends of the program to contribute to raising the remaining $25,000 of the $100,000 endowment goal.

“She’s always been there for both male and female athletes,” Barash said. “If Rocky did something to help you, honor her by adding your gift and name to Rocky’s Roster today.”

Rocky LaRose and Ray Judd coached the 1980 softball team that included Nan Barash and Jayne Hancock (pictured middle row, third and fourth from the left).
Vern Friedli is in the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame. His 309 career football victories are a state record in Arizona. The football field at Tucson's Amphitheater High School, where he has coached for the past 33 years, is adorned with his name.

You can have all that, Friedli says. He measures success by another method: Seven of his former pupils played in the NFL, while countless others went on to be teachers, doctors, CEOs, chiefs of police, Air Force pilots, or Olympic medalists.

Friedli's greatest contribution has always come in the form of education and life lessons, not in wins and championships.

The legendary coach is assured that legacy will live on after The University of Arizona Foundation recently established the Vernon F. Friedli Scholarship Endowment in the College of Education.

“It’s pretty high up on the list of honors, if not right at the very top,” said Friedli, who earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the UA’s College of Education in 1961 and 1964.

“ Anything that creates an opportunity for young people to go on and succeed in life is very worthwhile. To have my name connected with the endowment is amazing.”

Friedli’s impact on the young men he coached and taught is made apparent after every Friday night home game at Amphi, where scores of ex-players return with their wives and children to chat and rub shoulders with the incomparable coach.

Time and distance have not lessened Friedli’s lessons.

“One of the hardest things I did was play football at Amphi, but it was certainly one of the best. He instilled a work ethic in us,” said Dr. Phillip Heine, a 1982 UA graduate who practices Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the Duke University School of Medicine.

“I remember running plays 50 times until everybody got it right. To this day I follow that philosophy: You do it until you get it right. I find myself telling my kids that.”

The scholarship is available to graduates of Amphi, Sunnyside and Morenci high schools, three schools or districts where Friedli, 72, worked and coached during a career that is still going strong after 48 years.

The majority of his teams in that span were undersized and outmanned, but it didn’t matter. Amphi won games at a record clip anyway. It was a testament to Friedli’s ability to trigger the best performances in his players.

“He almost dares you to be successful. He dares you to achieve your goals,” said Jon Volpe, a running back who starred in the Canadian Football League in the 1990s and is now the chairman and CEO of Nova Home Loans in Tucson. “By doing that, he has made a lot of men out of boys. I wouldn’t be where I’m at today without Coach Friedli.”

The venerable coach’s teaching and
coaching career began at Sunnyside Junior High in 1961, shortly after finishing his bachelor’s degree. He coached baseball and football and immediately showed a knack for discipline and holding students responsible for their own actions.

Richard Miranda, the retired Tucson Police chief and the City of Tucson’s current Assistant City Manager, played baseball and football for Friedli at the Sunnyside school. To this day, Miranda occasionally receives letters from the coach, who implores his former pupil to make good on his commitment to the community.

You can almost hear the gritty coach sound a warning: Give Tucson your best effort, or you’ll be running laps all day.

“Although his responsibilities were to teach us how to hit a curveball or how to tackle a ball carrier, Coach Friedli took the time to teach us life lessons with the goal of making all his players contributing, valued members to our community, irrespective of our batting average or how many yards we gained,” Miranda said.

Friedli’s first two teams at Amphi in 1976 and ’77 went deep into the state playoffs thanks to a talented roster that boasted two future NFL players, Riki Ellison and Sam Merriman. But it was players like Craig Barker who helped shape the coach’s reputation as a mentor.

“All I wanted was to be the starting left guard on the offensive line for Amphi football as a senior, but I weighed 150 pounds,” said Barker, who is now the UA Foundation’s Senior Vice President of Financial Services. “Mr. Friedli didn’t just laugh at me and say, ‘Kid, I’ve got great players who are bigger and better than you.’ He always encouraged me to get better.”

Barker spent every available moment in the weight room during the off-season. Whenever he was there, Friedli was there with equal amounts of dedication. They both knew Barker’s goal was more of a pipedream than anything else, but they pressed on.

Barker never looked like a lineman, but he started at left guard for an Amphi team that went 11-1 and made the state semifinals his senior year. He performed so well that he was voted first-team All-City.

“I won’t take credit for that,” Friedli said, “but I was very fortunate to cross paths with these young people. They would have been outstanding people regardless. We might have tweaked their value systems a little bit, but they were the ones who did the hard work.”

Friedli still uses the same approach he began with in 1961 because the formula – hard work, respect and pride – has worked for nearly a half century. He has won more football games in Arizona than anyone in history, but his truest gauge of success is in the opportunities he helps create for students.

In that sense, the UA scholarship signals a new beginning in Friedli’s unparalleled career.

“When I first met him, he was stern and very big on discipline, but he had a big, open heart and cared for the kids tremendously.”

MICHAEL BATES, ATHLETE
The late Raymond E. White Jr. was a University of Arizona Distinguished Professor in astronomy who devoted 35 years of his life to teaching and educating thousands of students in various areas of astronomy. In honor of White’s many contributions and accomplishments at the University, the Raymond E. White Jr. Scholarship Fund was formed to help support student summer research projects in astronomy, archeoastronomy and ethnoastronomy.

White’s colorful personality reflected many of his widespread interests. He was extremely well traveled and his passion for archeoastronomy research was revealed in his numerous trips to Machu Picchu in the 1980s. Throughout his time in Machu Picchu, he performed extensive research on how a building was used as an observatory. He also led a number of undergraduate and adult Earthwatch groups on field trips to Machu Picchu to engage in his remarkable experience.

During his time at the University, White was recognized for many admirable achievements. In 1989, he was selected as an Outstanding University Faculty Member and served as a Faculty Fellow in the dormitories. In 1995, White was one of two professors to be recognized as a University Distinguished Professor. In 1999, the year of his retirement, he was asked to serve as Master of Ceremonies at the University commencement to honor all his contributions to the school.

In memory of White and his many years of service to Steward Observatory, or his so-called “second home,” the 21-inch campus telescope was renamed the Raymond E. White Jr. Reflector in 2007. White helped in getting the telescope on campus, making it work and dedicating it to undergraduate education. White enriched the lives of thousands of students and colleagues, and will have a continued presence at the University through the scholarship fund.
After spearheading a $25 million fundraising campaign to build the new McClelland Park building to house the John and Doris Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, school director Soyeon Shim has been honored with The University of Arizona Foundation’s Eugene G. Sander Endowed Faculty Fundraising Award.

Shim wasn’t the only one in for a surprise when she was presented with a plaque for her efforts by the UA Foundation in November. Eugene Sander, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was also presented with a plaque as he learned for the first time that the annual award will bear his name.

“I was absolutely, totally surprised,” Sander said. “I must admit that I’m really honored.”

The award, endowed by the UA Foundation board this fall and to be given annually, honors faculty members who have shown leadership in fund raising for the University.

“When the UA Foundation established an award to honor faculty members, Gene was an obvious and deserving choice” for the award name, said Jim Moore, president and CEO of the UA Foundation.

Sander founded, and for 21 years chaired, the Deans Plus Development Committee (he added the Plus to the name to include the non-deans involved) to encourage active fundraising involvement at the college and unit level. He is credited with helping raise tens of millions of dollars in private contributions since joining the UA in 1987.

While the state budget crisis emphasizes the importance of private funding sources for universities, Sander noted that private support has grown increasingly important in recent years.

“State support for public universities has been declining easily for 30 years,” he said.

Of inaugural award recipient Shim, Sander said: “She’s an absolute wonder.”

Shim, who was hired by Sander 20 years ago, has been director of the School of Family and Consumer Sciences for the past 10 years and has been dedicated to private fundraising activities in a variety of ways throughout her career at the UA.

Most recently, she led a privately funded $25 million capital campaign to build the 72,000-square-foot McClelland Park building near Park Avenue and Fourth Street.

“The School of Family and Consumer Sciences moved into the new building from its previous home in the Family and Consumer Sciences building earlier this year.

Shim said the new building will give the program more visibility and help it grow, and she knows the approximately 2,000 people who donated to the campaign will see a good return on their investment.

“Dr. Shim’s individual passion for her program and her desire to help students and colleagues is exactly what is necessary to engage donors at a leadership level,” Moore said. “The McClelland Park building is an amazing example of faculty-led philanthropy.”

Shim said she was in “shock mode” when she learned she’d won the award from the UA Foundation.

She believes deans and department heads should take an active role in fund raising.

“Faculty program directors need to be involved; it’s not just the Foundation’s job,” she said.

Winners of the Eugene G. Sander Endowed Faculty Fundraising Award will receive a certificate plus the annual payout from the endowment, which is to be used for professional development or to support and build the fundraising program for their college or unit. Their names are listed on a plaque displayed in the “Swede” Johnson Building, the location of the UA Foundation offices.

By Alexis Blue

**Eugene G. Sander Faculty Fundraising Award**

Soyeon Shim, Ph.D.

Professor and Director, Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences
Three faculty members of The University of Arizona College of Social and Behavioral Sciences have been named 2008 Magellan Circle Earl H. Carroll Fellows.

Professors Susan Karant-Nunn, Charles Ragin and Mary Stiner are receiving one of the highest honors that SBS can bestow on its faculty. Awards consist of a one-time stipend of $5,000 and a lifetime membership in the Magellan Circle. This award is made possible by the generosity of Magellan Circle member U.S. District Judge Earl H. Carroll.

“Our Magellan Circle Faculty Fellows Program supports and rewards innovative research, excellent teaching and service to the UA and to the field,” said Ed Donnerstein, dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. “Thanks to the generosity of Judge Carroll, we were able to recognize professors whose international stature enhances the entire University.”

The Magellan Circle is the college’s donor society, which provides financial support for students and faculty. Membership in the Circle begins at $1,000 per year.

2008 Magellan Circle Earl H. Carroll Fellows

Susan Karant-Nunn, professor of history and director of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies, is an international expert in German Reformation and early modern social history.

Karant-Nunn is the North American co-editor of the “Archive for Reformation History.” She recently completed her fourth single-authored monograph, “The Reformation of Feeling: Shaping the Religious Emotions in Early Modern Germany.” Karant-Nunn is the winner of the Roland H. Bainton Book Prize and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship.

Karant-Nunn also has played a central role in the effort to achieve the endowment of the Heiko A. Oberman Chair in Late Medieval and Reformation History at the UA.

Sociologist Charles Ragin’s groundbreaking contributions to comparative research have changed the way sociologists and political scientists conceptualize and study large-scale social change.

Ragin has helped bridge the division between “quantitative” and “qualitative” approaches in the social sciences. His 1987 book, “The Comparative Method,” is a classic that is used by social scientists around the world. He has received the International Social Science Council’s prestigious Stein Rokkan Prize in Comparative Research.

Mary Stiner is an internationally recognized archaeologist in the anthropology department. Her research has had a major impact on anthropology, especially in Upper Paleolithic human ecology and demography, evolutionary anthropology, zooarchaeology and taphonomy.

Stiner received a National Science Foundation Career Award for her work on Neanderthal paleoecology. She has done archaeological fieldwork at sites in Italy, Israel, Turkey, Portugal, Greece and France.
You may not be one of the top 64 golfers in the world, but you might have felt like a PGA Tour pro at the “Fore for Four” charity event at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, Dove Mountain in January.

More than 140 amateurs were the first to experience the majestic – and often challenging – 27-hole, Jack Nicklaus designed course that hosted its first WGC Accenture Match Play Championship in February.

After a round on the scenic course that borders the lush and rugged Tortolita Mountains, more than 300 guests enjoyed a banquet reception at the $60 million clubhouse facility.

Event proceeds benefited the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson Museum of Art and The University of Arizona Foundation.

“Our goal with the event was to support a broad spectrum of local charities that touch education, the arts, medical research and children,” said Michael R. McMahon, general manager, The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain.

“Fore for Four” was created by project developers Kathryn and Tim Bolinger of Greenbrier Southwest Corporation and UA alumni David and Bonnie Mehl of Tucson-based Cottonwood Properties, which developed La Paloma Resort. The couple attended the UA in the early 1970s.

“For over 30 years, David and Bonnie Mehl’s philanthropy has supported the greater Tucson community in many ways,” McMahon said. “At The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain, we share a similar view in giving back to the community in which we operate. Our Community Footprints initiatives allow our residents, members and resort guests to participate in charitable endeavors that support worthy causes in Southern Arizona.”

Of course, The Ritz-Carlton also is known for unparalleled quality and luxury. Southern Arizona’s newest golf club, resort and residential community sets a new standard in beauty and experience.

The longest course on the PGA Tour this year at about 7,900 yards, The Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain was designed to protect par by countering advances in club and ball technology with length and challenge.

The other 51 weeks a year, members and guests will enjoy the same golf course, which can be tailored to their skill level based on the distance they choose to play.

The course is open for preview play throughout 2009.
Levin Family Endowed Chair established at Arizona Cancer Center

By Sara Hammond
A $1 million gift from the Alan and Janice Levin family to The University of Arizona Foundation will fund the Alan and Janice Levin Family Endowed Chair for Excellence in Cancer Research at the Arizona Cancer Center.

Dr. Clara Curiel, director of the Pigmented Lesion Clinic and the Multidisciplinary Cutaneous Oncology Program at the Arizona Cancer Center's Skin Cancer Institute, and assistant professor of dermatology at UA College of Medicine, has been appointed to fill the Levin Family Endowed Chair.

“Clara Curiel is an immensely talented cutaneous oncology specialist with a tireless work ethic and a strong desire to conquer skin cancer. Generous support like this from Alan and Janice Levin and their family are critical to our research activities,” said Arizona Cancer Center Director Dr. David S. Alberts. “Endowed chairs support basic and translational research that we can apply to our patients and help in our goal to prevent and cure cancer. Our Skin Cancer Institute will benefit immensely from this gift.”

“Our family is impressed by the dedication of Dr. Curiel and the researchers at the Skin Cancer Institute,” said Alan Levin, who with his family owns and operates Century Park Research Center, a family-owned warehousing, distribution and manufacturing facility, and the Port of Tucson intermodal rail facility. The Levins have lived in Tucson since 1969. Alan Levin has been a patient of Dr. Curiel.

Dr. Curiel became a member of the Arizona Cancer Center in 2005. She is certified by the American Board of Dermatology. Her specialty is cutaneous oncology. She is the Arizona Cancer Center principal investigator of a grant from Science Foundation Arizona to study ways to adapt satellite remote-sensing technology to image the human body for medical purposes.

The Alan and Janice Levin Family Endowed Chair brings the total of endowed chairs at the Arizona Cancer Center to six. Awarded to faculty members at the height of their careers, an endowed chair is an acknowledgment of past performance and a commanding statement of expectations about future accomplishments. It is a compelling recruiting tool, and an effective means to retain the talent already on campus.

The Arizona Cancer Center is the state’s premier National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center. With primary locations at the UA in Tucson and in Scottsdale, the Center has more than a dozen research and education offices throughout the state, and 300 physician and scientist members working to prevent and cure cancer.
Digging IT

UA department takes interdisciplinary approach to studying the classics

By Lisa Lucas
On a quest to better understand mankind, faculty and students from The University of Arizona’s department of classics are venturing out into the world to see what they can dig.

According to Regents’ Professor David Soren, the UA department has more active archaeological dig sites than any other classics program in the nation, including most doctorate programs. Thanks to the winning combination of a high quantity of dig opportunities, immensely research-driven faculty, bright and eager students, and generous private donors, the UA classics department is a leader in unearthing ancient gems worldwide.

“The support we receive from our donors makes it possible to conduct these projects and to bring our fine UA students, providing them with wonderful field opportunities that often change their lives,” said Professor Mary Voyatzis, head of the UA’s department of classics. “It also allows the donors to become connected in a fundamental way with this cutting-edge research in archaeology and classics.”

Following is a sampling of the history participating UA faculty and students have brought back to life.

Show your support of the UA department of classics’ archaeological ventures by giving online at uafoundation.org/givenow. From that page, select College of Humanities, designate “Other” and type the name of the program to which you would like to give.
Lightning may not strike the same place twice, but in archaeology, it is often prudent to dig the same site multiple times – especially when at a sacred site of Zeus, the Greek god of sky and thunder.

Such is the case with The University of Arizona’s Mt. Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project. Co-directed by Professor Mary Voyatzis, head of the University of Arizona’s department of classics, the sanctuary site, located in the Arcadia region of Greece, was last excavated in 1903 by Greek excavator Konstantinos Kourouniotes.

Since 2004, Dr. Voyatzis, Dr. David Romano from the University of Pennsylvania, and an international team of scholars are rediscovering the site. The project is under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and in collaboration with the 39th Ephorate of Antiquities in Tripolis, Greece.

“We wanted to understand more about the development of the site in antiquity,” Dr. Voyatzis said. “When Kourouniotes excavated the area, he uncovered many tantalizing pieces of evidence and determined that the earliest material went back to the seventh century B.C. We were wondering if there would be anything earlier.”

The dig team includes specialists in various areas, from architecture to osteology, as well as about 15 to 20 students per season. Students represent schools nationwide, but primarily are from the UA and University of Pennsylvania.

“This has really been a model of collaboration,” Dr. Voyatzis said. “We’re doing cutting-edge research that puts us on the radar and is a wonderful opportunity for our students. The work we do is, literally, groundbreaking.”

Already, materials found at the site pre-date Kourouniotes’ finds, going back to at least 3000 B.C. Last year, the team discovered a layer of Mycenaean pottery stratified on top of bedrock at the altar, on the upper level of the sanctuary.

“That means what we are likely to have is a Bronze Age ritual place, which is much older than we thought, and much older than Olympia,” Dr. Voyatzis said.

In 2008 the group also found pieces of fulgurite, or fossilized lightning. “We always think of Zeus with his thunderbolt,” Dr. Voyatzis said. “It seemed to be tangible evidence of his worship.”

Combined with other findings, suggestions of early activity support legends of Mt. Lykaion as Zeus’ birthplace. Not only is the site of Cretea, where Zeus was said to have been born and raised, near the dig site, but last summer former UA provost George Davis uncovered a cave in the area that could be what ancient authors describe as the cave of Rhea, Zeus’ mother.

The team will continue to excavate Mt. Lykaion through summer 2010, thanks to the generous support of many individuals and foundations. Supporters include the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Hellenic Cultural Foundation of Tucson, the UA Foundation and the Wallace Foundation.

“It all adds up,” Dr. Voyatzis said. “People have been very generous and supportive.”

Classics graduate student, Kathryn McBride, who has been to Mt. Lykaion twice, credits outside funding for parlaying students’ opportunities for invaluable excavation experiences.

“Many students, myself included, don’t have the funds to go abroad for long periods of time in the summer,” she said. “Because this excavation is well-funded, it gives more people the opportunity to gain the experience they will need later on in their careers.”
Regents Professor Richard H. Wilkinson, director of The University of Arizona Egyptian Expedition (UAEE), has excavated in Egypt for more than 20 years, mainly in the Valley of the Kings.

His current dig, running since 2004, is at the Memorial Temple of Tausert on Luxor’s west bank. It was inspired by images of temple remains he saw while analyzing satellite imagery.

“This is the temple of one of the queens of Egypt, Tausert, who ruled as a pharaoh, like Cleopatra,” Dr. Wilkinson said. “There are only half a dozen queens who ruled as pharaohs in the whole 3,000 years of Egyptian history.”

Tausert ruled during the 19th Dynasty of the New Kingdom, although very little is known about her.

“We are fascinated by this woman, mentioned in Homer’s ‘Odyssey’ as King of Egypt at the time of the Trojan War,” Dr. Wilkinson said. “She is very important for us in Egyptian archaeology – this is proving to be a really important and interesting dig.”

Dr. Wilkinson expects to continue digging at the site during summer and winter trips for another three years. “It’s a huge temple site,” he said. “I form a UA international team of specialists from North America and Europe, and I employ Egyptian workmen, as well.”

Typically, about five to 10 students participate in each trip, many of whom work in the actual excavation, itself. The opportunity, combined with the thrill of learning from Dr. Wilkinson, attracts top students to the UA classics program.

“Dr. Wilkinson is one of the foremost Egyptologists in the world,” said Aaryn Brewer, a first-year graduate student who participated in the Tausert dig this winter. “The quality of his scholarship and insight is outstanding, and I would not pass up an opportunity to work with and learn from him.”

Donors to the project also find joy in Dr. Wilkinson’s work. “From the time I was in elementary school I dreamed of being an Egyptologist,” said UA liberal arts alumna Stephanie Denkowicz. “Although that did not happen, I find that I still can live my dream by supporting the exciting work Richard Wilkinson is doing at the Temple of Tausert.”

Next up for the dig crew is to excavate what appear to be tombs in the back of Tausert’s temple.

“Even after the temple stopped being used, however many hundreds of years ago, elite classes of people had burials made at the back of the temple where the god was believed to have been accessible,” Dr. Wilkinson said. “We’re hoping to study these burials and fully recover their remains.”
When on an archaeological dig, Regents Professor David Soren from The University of Arizona’s department of classics doesn’t just look for artifacts — he searches for truth.

“You don’t force your ideas onto the site, the site forces its truth onto you,” he said. “It is a lot like a mirror of life — you come into it not knowing that much, you learn along the way, and then you teach.”

Since 1967, Dr. Soren has participated in and led numerous digs, including one at a Roman and ancient Etruscan site, Chianciano. The site is linked to the UA’s largest study abroad program at the Orvieto International Institute of Classical Studies in Italy, which serves about 120 UA students each year.

Participants in the Chianciano dig have made truly unique discoveries. This includes getting the inside scoop on how the emperor Augustus was cured of his stomach problems while working at an ancient healing spa.

“We found calcium sulphate [in the water], which when ingested acts like an industrial strength laxative,” Dr. Soren said. “We think he was perhaps severely constipated and this cleaned him right out.”

Such unusual findings are part of what makes the excavation process worthwhile for Dr. Soren.

“It’s essential to try to choose sites that will yield uncommon results,” he said. “There’s not much point in just digging another Roman bath.”

In addition to his archaeological dig work overseas, Dr. Soren is making his mark on documentary films. He has worked with the History Channel and currently is completing a pilot for a series called “Forgotten Lives” with KUAT.

The reality show features UA undergraduate students profiling famous people from the past. “This is archaeology of the cinema,” Dr. Soren said. “We look at society, pick it apart and excavate it through studying film.”

According to Dr. Soren, the UA community is a wonderful support system for this type of collaborative work.

“The UA has this southwestern quality where there is warmth and collegiality,” Dr. Soren said. “When I’m working with other departments here I’ve experienced tremendous friendliness and helpfulness — that’s a real hallmark of the UA.”
Deep in the vineyards of Sicily, Robert Schon, an assistant professor in the UA’s department of classics, and his wife, Emma Blake, an assistant professor of classics at Tufts University who will join the UA department next year, stop to take a survey.

With permission from Sicilian authorities, Drs. Schon and Blake, along with a group of University of Arizona and other university graduate students, survey a 100-square-kilometer section of the land for surface evidence of historical cultures. Starting at the coast of a Phoenician colonial site, the team is attempting to determine how far colonists strayed from home.

“When it comes to Phoenicians, the story is they stuck to the coast and didn’t enter the interior of the island,” Dr. Schon said. “We want to determine if we can monitor the interaction between the colonial powers and the indigenous populations.”

First-year classics graduate student Aaryn Brewer joined Dr. Schon’s survey project in its opening year last summer. Like the other volunteers, she spent a majority of her time in the field, searching for traces of vanished settlements.

“A given field would be partitioned into 10-meter transects and each walker would travel down the center, picking up every artifact within a single meter,” Brewer explained. “One can use numerical information gleaned from this to extrapolate how many artifacts lie within a given field, and by covering a group of adjacent fields, how many artifacts lie within a large area.”

Following their walks, volunteers would head to the lab to clean, identify and photograph artifacts. So far, the team has found prehistoric – potentially Paleolithic – materials, as well as a Roman villa with thousands of artifacts. They will travel back this summer to continue surveying, with hopes to renew their permit for another two years.

With no external funding, the survey team will likely remain small, consisting of about six to eight volunteers. “We would like to expand it,” Dr. Schon said. “But for now we have a loyal following of students who volunteer to pay their own way, and most of the people who went last summer are anxious to go back.”

Fired UP
Assistant Professor Eleni Hasaki from the UA department of classics is fired up about her craft.

A pottery specialist for various excavations in Greece and Tunisia, Dr. Hasaki calculates areas of workshops by function, and analyzes individual artifacts.

During craft analysis, she considers the wisdom of ancient philosophers and technical writers; the presence of ancient establishments, including workshops and kilns; and the actual ancient artifacts, themselves.

“Using scientific methods, you can establish the composition and origin of the clay, and find how potters controlled their firing,” Dr. Hasaki said. “With some you can analyze fingerprints and establish how many people were involved and what they were doing.”

Drawing from an ancient potters’ proverb, “Do not learn to throw a pithos,” Dr. Hasaki applies knowledge from her craft to promote patience in her students.

“The proverb means to not start learning how to throw a vessel by throwing a huge vessel,” she said. “Build up your experience and you’ll be able to throw something big.”

Dr. Hasaki built something big at Tucson’s St. Augustine High School in October 2004 – a replica of an ancient Greek kiln.

“It’s an open air lab,” she said. “People from the community, the University, and from around the world have sent small pieces to be fired inside.”
A RESEARCH TEAM, led by Michael Worobey, UA assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, has found that the most pervasive global strain of HIV began spreading among humans between 1884 and 1924, suggesting that growing urbanization in colonial Africa set the stage for the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The team screened tissue samples to uncover the world’s second-oldest genetic sequence of HIV-1 group M, which dates from 1960. Using this sequence, along with other previously known HIV-1 genetic sequences, they constructed a range of plausible family trees for this viral strain.

Tracking the Origin of HIV

News Bits

College of Education Grants

The University of Arizona received a $30,000 grant from The Qwest Foundation to help fund the Cooper Center, a new partnership between the UA College of Education and Tucson Unified School District (TUSD). The program will teach Tucson area students about environmental issues through an innovative approach that combines fundamental science concepts with real-world emphasis.

UA College of Education researchers studying the social inclusion and academic success of deaf and hard-of-hearing students received an $800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs. The four-year grant will be used to train educators who teach the deaf and hard-of-hearing population. After a pilot run, the master’s level program will be offered exclusively online to teachers across the nation, leading to a deaf/hard of hearing specialist certificate.

Valley Fever Study

A University of Arizona-supported company is working to cure valley fever, a lung disease that affects as many as 150,000 people in the southwest U.S. every year, yet is virtually unknown in the rest of the country. Valley Fever Solutions Inc. is backed by a broad coalition that includes the UA, the BIO5 Institute, C-Path, a New York-based foundation and private donors.

$44 Million for Child Health

The University of Arizona department of pediatrics has been awarded a $44 million, six-year contract to participate in the National Institutes of Health’s National Children’s Study, a major effort to investigate the interaction of genes and the environment on children’s health. NIH officials named the UA as one of 36 new and existing study centers that will recruit study volunteers from a total of 72 locations. The UA will recruit participants from Pinal and Apache counties in Arizona. The study will investigate factors influencing the development of such conditions as autism, cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, birth defects, diabetes, asthma and obesity.
DNA Shoah Project

Genetic technology developed to identify the remains of those killed in the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, will be enhanced in a University of Arizona genomics laboratory to solve a more complex puzzle — identification of families separated for generations after the Holocaust. In addition to possibly reuniting families, the DNA Shoah Project will collect a database that will aid identification of remains yet to be discovered and will develop forensic tools for use in other acts of genocide. The project, an effort of the UA’s Human Origins Genotyping Laboratory, is also creating an educational component that will allow the story of the Holocaust to be taught in scientific curricula.

UA Now

Stay in the know with UA Now, a free news service of The University of Arizona. To receive daily e-mails or breaking news straight to your desktop, go to uanews.org/signupfornews.

Hey, kid, text me your diet

A group of UA researchers is devising a plan to target childhood obesity through the very technology that is partly to blame for the increasingly large number of growing young waistlines. A three-year, $1.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is funding “Stealth Health: Youth Innovation, Mobile Technology, Online Social Networking, and Informal Learning to Promote Physical Activity.” This program intends to combat the prevalence of childhood obesity in the U.S. by focusing on “screen-time” technology, capitalizing on mobile phone technology and online social networks through the design of a youth-friendly nutrition and physical activity program.

Arizona State Museum “Touch Tour”

To make art and history accessible for everyone, the Arizona State Museum at The University of Arizona hosted its first “Touch Tour” last fall. About 30 people with different levels of visual impairment participated in a hands-on tour of the museum’s pottery collection. Visitors got to experience the different steps of pottery-making, feeling the pot slowly take shape, step by step, touching the coarse stones used to grind rocks into clay, the soft clay, the coils of an unfinished pot, and the designs etched into a completed pot. The museum also received a national award for its care and preservation of the world’s largest and most comprehensive collection of southwest Indian pottery.


Transforming Lives Through Education

The Arizona Assurance program’s bold promise of a debt-free college education has found a partner in the Helios Education Foundation, which has donated $2 million to fund scholarships for hundreds of Arizona students in need.

“Helios Education Foundation, as part of its roots, will always be involved in helping students at the university level to finance their education through scholarships,” said Chairman Vince Roig. “It is a commitment to giving back to the community and a commitment to helping our community grow.”

Roig said Arizona Assurance was attractive to Helios from the outset because the program’s goals match the foundation’s mission perfectly. Founded in 2004, Helios is dedicated to creating opportunities for post-secondary education in Arizona and Florida.

“The Helios Education Foundation is excited about the Arizona Assurance program because it helps disadvantaged students who would not be able to go to the University without that type of aid,” he said. “These are high potential kids who do not have the economic resources to go. It is exactly what Helios is all about and exactly what we want to do and accomplish.”

The timing of the gift also is an important statement about how much Helios views education as an investment, Roig said. With The University of Arizona making a stronger commitment to expand college accessibility across the state, Helios felt inspired to make a commitment of its own.

“The Helios Education Foundation has a longstanding relationship with The University of Arizona,” Roig said. “We have been excited about the manner in which they assist students through scholarship aid, and that forged the partnership with the Helios Education Foundation to continue this work. As the Arizona Assurance program was developed, it excited us because it really went to the heart of where we wanted to be, and that is to help first-generation students go to college.”

Breaking down the barriers that perpetually keep some students from college success enables current students, and demonstrates to younger students, that college is an option, said Paul Luna, president and CEO of Helios Education Foundation.

“At its core, the Arizona Assurance program focuses on those students who, quite frankly, really need this type of support,” Luna said. “It helps ensure that students who have greater barriers than others have that equal opportunity and equal access to the university environment, and will help ensure their academic success.

“Another of the really key pieces of this is that the Arizona Assurance program is committed to helping students graduate within a four-year period,” Luna continued. “When they leave and have that graduation success, they also haven’t incurred a significant amount of debt. This helps for lifelong achievement, even beyond their college graduation.”

Luna added the “visionary leadership” UA President Robert Shelton brought to this program is crucial to guaranteeing its long-term success.

“To partner with a great university, with great leadership committed to this type of program that we know will be successful far beyond the support investment our foundation will make, is critically important to us,” he said. “The opportunity for the Helios Education Foundation to stand side-by-side with The University of Arizona to help the types of families this program targets, I think speaks a lot for the type of work we can do together and how successful this will be.”
Recognizing that access to an affordable college education is even more important in a struggling economy, Cox Communications has pledged $100,000 to the Arizona Assurance scholarship program.

The gift arrives as a major statement in support of the reality that education is an investment in the future of a community and a state.

“It’s critically important that our bright and capable students continue to have access to a college education, especially during these challenging times,” said Lisa Lovallo, vice president of Cox Communications of Southern Arizona. “Our partnership with the Arizona Assurance scholarship program allows us to directly invest in our state’s future workforce.”

The gift drew media attention and kudos from both daily newspapers in Tucson. The Tucson Citizen called Cox Communication’s gift “a badly needed boost” for the UA’s efforts to make college affordable to all students in the state.

The UA Foundation will continue to seek corporate partnerships, with the ultimate goal of building a $100 million endowment to sustain the Arizona Assurance program in perpetuity.

Arizona Assurance Quick Facts

**Access**

Arizona Assurance is expanding access to a UA education to more in-state students than ever before.

**Success**

Arizona Assurance scholars are enrolled in a comprehensive student success plan designed to increase the likelihood they will remain at the University until graduation.

**Services include:**

- **Faculty mentors** — individualized mentoring with faculty, providing personal guidance in a large university setting
- **Support services** — streamlined access to career counseling, peer mentors and advisors, and pre-enrollment programming for a smooth academic transition
- **Communications** — newsletter and other programs designed to keep scholars connected and informed of resources and happenings

**Costs 2008-09**

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**To qualify to become an Arizona Assurance scholar, students must:**

- Earn admission to the UA.
- Apply for financial aid no later than May 1.
- Be an Arizona resident.
- Enter the UA as a freshman directly from high school.
- Have family income equal to or less than $42,400.
- Be eligible for the federal Pell Grant.
- Enroll as a full-time student at the UA.

Give now at uafoundation.org

The UA Foundation is raising funds for the immediate operational needs of the program as well as for a $100 million endowment that can provide permanent private support.

Edith Sayre Auslander
Consultant, Arizona Assurance
UA Foundation
520-621-3943
auslander@al.arizona.edu
You both were the first in your families to graduate from college. How important were your scholarships in opening up those opportunities?

Adrian:
My father had two brief starts, both interrupted by war, but I was the first in my family to graduate college. I was the eldest of five children. My parents worked hard, but my dad’s Air Force salary could not stretch to accommodate college for me. The fat envelope from Stanford offering me admission, plus the General Motors Scholarship of our class, changed my entire world.

The core goal of the new Arizona Assurance scholarship program is extending more opportunities to students in Arizona, and President Robert Shelton and his wife, Adrian, know as well as anybody how much difference a college scholarship can make in a person’s life.

The couple met as undergraduates at Stanford University, both there on scholarships that made all the difference in the world. And since both know the difficulties that first-generation college students can encounter, the Sheltons knew that a strong mentoring component would be crucial for students.

President and Mrs. Shelton shared some of their own experiences, as well as the impetus behind the Arizona Assurance.

Q. Robert: My scholarship was essential to my attending college. My selection of Stanford (over my local college - Gonzaga University - or the public University of Washington) was based on affordability and quality. Stanford was the most affordable due to the scholarship. Without financial help, I could not have attended college. In addition to the scholarship, I worked (washing dishes, waiting tables and selling housewares at Macy’s) and took out a loan.

Q. What difficulties did you encounter when you started college, and how did you seek out help?
Adrian:
I was excited and thrilled, a hard worker and a self-starter with what seemed to me to be a very strong record of academic accomplishment, but I quickly found that many (perhaps most) of my classmates had academic preparation far beyond what my high school had been able to offer.

I asked professors for assistance when I didn't understand a specific math or physics problem, but I did not seek any more global help or guidance than that. I was afraid that I would be labeled inadequate, by others and by myself, and perhaps even jeopardize the confidence in me that had resulted in my vital scholarship award. And if help was available, it was well hidden.

I learned enormously in every dimension; my horizons were exhilaratingly expanded. I met and married the most important person in my life; and I graduated with honors. But a mentor and some genuinely interested, consistently available and encouraging counsel could have made a huge difference in maintaining my confidence level and even heightening my aspirations.

If a few other problems had arisen at the wrong moments, I might not have made it. I worry that this is not uncommonly the scenario for many students who may qualify for the Arizona Assurance program.

Robert:
I came from a good public high school, but not one that had extensive academic opportunities. For example, I had never heard of "advanced placement" courses. So many of the students in my class seemed better prepared and some had more discretionary time to devote to studies or recreation.

To overcome this situation, basically I just worked harder, read more and studied longer. The faculty in my major courses at that time were decidedly disinterested in helping (some didn't have office hours) undergraduate students. There were one or two notable exceptions, but basically I was on my own.

President Shelton, along with the chancellor at UNC, you were instrumental in starting the Carolina Covenant, which was the first public university program to provide grants as part of a guarantee that lower-income students could graduate debt-free. What successes from that program did you bring to Arizona Assurance?

Robert:
The real brains behind the idea was the head of financial aid, Ms. Shirley Ort. She is still at Carolina and still brilliant! From this Carolina Covenant program, I realized the necessity and power of combining financial aid with mentorship. The person-to-person interactions are so critical to the success of our students.

In your inaugural address, as well as the two subsequent State of the University addresses, you've spoken of the need to expand financial aid to ensure Arizona students from all backgrounds have access to the state's best education. How does Arizona Assurance fit with those goals?

Robert:
The Arizona Assurance program fits perfectly with my commitment to access and success. Edie Auslander (Arizona Assurance consultant) has all of the statistics on our first class of Arizona Assurance Scholars. It's important to note that they come from all ethnic backgrounds and geographic locations in Arizona.
Whitley Hatcher doesn’t hesitate to describe how much of a shock it was to walk onto The University of Arizona campus as a freshman in August, and she has the numbers to prove it.

The UA’s student body of 38,000 is more than 11 times the entire population of her hometown of Williams, Ariz. But a scholarship from the Arizona Assurance program turned the daunting into the doable.

“It’s really hard. The school I’m from is really small and they do not do a good job of preparing students for college. Coming in, I just didn’t know what to expect, and it’s nice to have this small community at first,” said Hatcher, a 19-year-old studying English and creative writing.

“There were times I probably would have been in tears if I had to figure out everything on my own.”

Active in the Christian Challenge group on campus and in community service projects, Hatcher is the first in her family to go to college. She knows how much pride she brings to her three older siblings and parents in Williams.

“I feel like I’m such a symbol of hope to my parents and my siblings,” Hatcher said. “I not only came here, but I made it through the first semester with good grades and I’m going to go a long way. They’re proud of me and of themselves. I’ve always been told I was going to go to college, and I always assured myself I would, but in high school there were times I doubted I would come,” she continued. "When I got here for the first semester, I had to decide if my motivations were for me and my dreams. Right away I realized that I do belong in college and I’m here to stay.”

Teaching seems to run in the family. Alonzo’s sister is a high school English teacher who went to Grand Canyon University and her brother is a middle school math teacher who went to Arizona State University.

“All we’re missing is a science teacher,” she said. “If medical school doesn’t work out, I’ll have a teaching degree.”

Alonzo is glad for the Arizona Assurance scholarship that not only made it possible for her to attend her first-choice school, but also for the program’s guidance and support.

“Everything about it is good,” she said. “Because of this scholarship I got to come to college. Without it, I would have had to take out loans, or maybe I wouldn’t have been able to come to school at all. I’m just grateful I got to be a part of it. I want to express my gratitude as much as I can because it has put me in the right direction.”

After her two older siblings went to college near the family’s central Phoenix home, Carol Alonzo knew The University of Arizona was a big leap for her.

She also knew it was the right place for her to study the difficult science curriculum she needs to prepare for a career as a doctor or science teacher.

“When I started looking at colleges, I wanted something good in medical fields and far enough away from home,” said Alonzo, who is the only one of her graduating class from Carl Hayden High School to attend the UA. “I applied here and got a really great scholarship, so it was the smart choice for me.”

Majoring in science education with an emphasis in biology, Alonzo has a two-track plan that lets her explore both medicine and teaching before finalizing a decision.

“Pre-med/education major
Carl Hayden High School
Phoenix”

“English major
Williams High School
Williams, Ariz.”

Stories by Eric Swedlund
Built into the Arizona Assurance program is a faculty mentoring component that gives students additional support and guidance so they can have a successful college experience.

UA President Robert Shelton believes that alongside expanding University access to low-income and first-generation college students, the University must also be committed to retaining those students so the four-year graduation promise is fulfilled.

Lori Goldman, director of special projects for UA Student Affairs, coordinates the Arizona Assurance mentor program. She said those strong connections on campus may make a difference in how easily students adjust to a new environment, and ultimately may determine whether students will continue.

In the first class of about 600 Arizona Assurance scholars, about 250 students were paired with faculty mentors. Goldman said the other students have opportunities to meet with mentors through other programs like Faculty Fellows, Blue Chip and multicultural centers.

“Part of being a college student is developing interpersonal relationships and being able to take criticism, as well as compliments,” said Whitley Hatcher, a 19-year-old Arizona Assurance scholar from Williams, Ariz.

The 125 faculty mentors all volunteered for the program and have been instrumental in easing student transitions. The mentor relationship is different for every pair, but Goldman said faculty assist with advice about studying and academics, provide career guidance, help to place students in research labs or projects, and converse with students on a personal level, asking about goals and providing additional support in lieu of a family member.

“The faculty have been very enthusiastic about the opportunity to connect with these students,” Goldman said.

Preliminary results from the first semester of the Arizona Assurance program point to some academic successes Goldman believes were impacted by the mentoring component. Of the 600 students, 57 percent of whom are first-generation college students, 45 percent earned a GPA of 3.0 or better for the first semester. About 10 percent are honors students, similar to the UA’s overall freshman class.

“The beauty of this is as we learn more about how to improve student connections, and ultimately their ability to be retained in this population, we’re learning lessons on a smaller scale about what we can do to help the general population,” Goldman said. “We’re looking really closely at assessment and evaluation of what we’re doing so we can apply the best practices to everyone.”

Goldman is seeking to expand the mentoring program for next year’s class of Arizona Assurance scholars by including other University staff so more students can connect with a mentor.

“Eventually we’d like to see scholars moving through the University become peer mentors for other students,” Goldman said.

Tucson High School graduate Elisa Meza is now in her second semester at the UA as an Arizona Assurance scholar. Her story is featured in a video about the program.
Agriculture researcher Charles Sanchez used to travel to labs on The University of Arizona’s Tucson campus to prepare study samples. He couldn’t adequately do it at the Yuma Agricultural Center where he works; the ambient dusty atmosphere in the 1950s-era research building would contaminate his samples.

There’s no problem with that and many other issues now. As the director of the center, part of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Sanchez last fall presided over the opening of the state-of-the-art Glen G. Curtis Research Building that anchors the Yuma Valley Farm.

The 20,000-square-foot building gives the eight researchers and faculty adequate office space and laboratories that comply with safety and access regulations. No longer will they have to share space in a dilapidated building and aging trailers.

With new mini-labs, the center can better respond to special events such as a food-safety crisis that requires study facilities to be certified to house live pathogens. “These outbreaks and food diseases have been in the news lately,” says Sanchez. “Part of our reach is understanding how we can handle produce and we need to work with actual organisms to do that.”

Glen G. Curtis arrived in Yuma in 1949 to start a citrus nursery and launch an industry that thrives today.

The San Diego native served as a fighter pilot in World War II. After the war he worked on the Baja California tomato fields owned by the family of his late wife, Elena.

Taking advantage of tax laws that encouraged farming, he moved to Yuma to develop real estate into citrus orchards, says his son, Rocky Curtis. Some of that 20,000 acres became residential, industrial and commercial subdivisions for a growing Yuma.

In 2004, Glen Curtis and his 12 children agreed to “pitch in” $250,000 to launch the research building that bears his name, says Rocky. It was a way to honor his father and display the pride in the farming the family continues to do. “He was a good guy,” Rocky says. “Everybody respected him in this community.”

Glen Curtis died in 2006 of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
Since 1906 the UA, through research, outreach and education, has supported agriculture in the lower Colorado River valley that straddles the southern Arizona and California border. Current research delves into fertilization, irrigation, harvesting and processing, pest and plant disease management, weed control and onsite wastewater treatment.

Rocky Curtis, whose family seeded the building project that bears his father’s name, feels the new building will help the UA continue its excellent work. “We’ve got people down there that are top notch,” he says. “Putting them in this facility is really going to keep them here.”
WAYS TO SUPPORT THE UA

Estate Planning – To remember the UA in your will or estate plan, be sure to name The University of Arizona Foundation as beneficiary. Our federal tax ID number is 86-6050388. If you already have named the UA Foundation in your estate plan, please contact us so we can appropriately recognize your gift. Individuals aged 70½ or older with individual retirement accounts can make IRA gifts without paying income tax on the amount through December 2009. We also offer life-income gifts that provide income and immediate tax benefits. You can contact our planned giving specialists during business hours at 520-621-1993 or visit uafoundation.org/plannedgiving to learn more.

Real Estate – Your gift provides a convenient way for you to enjoy a charitable deduction based on the current fair market value of your property, and it can reduce the size and complexity of your estate.

Gifts of Stock – By donating appreciated securities or mutual fund shares, you can provide a lasting contribution while receiving tax benefits, such as capital gains tax savings.

Annual Giving – You can provide vital, unrestricted support for UA colleges, schools and non-academic programs by calling 1-888-285-3412.

Contact Us – Visit uafoundation.org for a complete listing of Development Officers for each college and program.

Online Giving
You may make a gift securely online using your credit card. Visit uafoundation.org/givenow.

Give By Mail
Gifts made by check should be payable to the UA Foundation and mailed to:
UA Foundation
1111 N. Cherry Ave.
P.O. Box 210109
Tucson, AZ 85721-0109
Fundraiser Spotlight

Ginny Healy

For eight years, Director of Development Ginny Healy has raised funds and cultivated relationships for the UA College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. These relationships are mutually meaningful to donors and to The University of Arizona, as Healy joins donors’ passions with their ability to support higher education.

“There is nothing better than watching the smiles on donors’ faces when they meet the student who receives their scholarship, or the appreciation a professor experiences when a donor supports their research goals,” Healy said. “That is what makes development so rewarding.”
The late Lionel "Lee" Rombach was living the green life long before it became trendy. He biked more than 5,000 miles a year around Tucson and lived on a $4-a-day diet of oats, beans, rice and powdered milk.

Not only did Rombach's conscientious lifestyle limit his carbon footprint, it also allowed him to help others as much as possible.

"Service is my creed and I've stayed with it quite well," Rombach told the Arizona Daily Star in 1999.

The University of Arizona benefited greatly from the 93-year-old retired probation officer's generosity. Rombach maintained a series of charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts and estate gifts that totaled nearly $1 million when he died in January 2008.

The many interests that he supported included the Eller College of Management, the School of Art and religious studies. During the last seven years, he also donated nearly $270,000 to scholarship endowments for students pursuing master's degrees in public administration and other graduate programs.

Rombach's approach to life is an inspiration to the many students who benefited from his kindness and demonstrates that one person's efforts can make a difference.

A charitable gift annuity is a simple way to make an enduring gift to the University while providing you a higher rate of return than traditional investment programs. You’ll enjoy the security of annual fixed payments and numerous tax advantages.

The older you are and the longer the deferral period typically will provide a higher rate of return on your investment.

**HOW IT WORKS**

1. You make a gift of cash, securities, stock or property to the UA Foundation.

2. The UA Foundation invests the assets and pays fixed annual payments to you for life (and another beneficiary, if desired).

3. Upon the death of the last beneficiary, the remaining funds are distributed to your area of interest at the UA.

**Suggested maximum gift annuity rates**

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*Based on $20,000 funding*