

Special Graduation Issue: May 2008

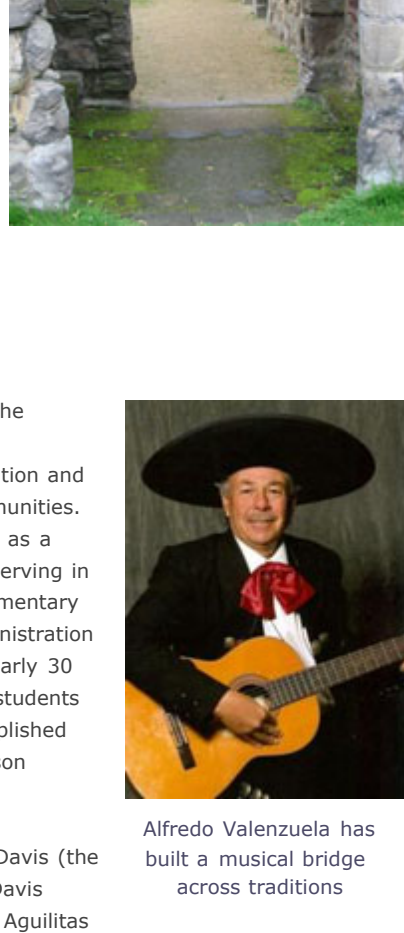
"The doors we open and close each day
define the lives we live."
— Flora Whitmore, author

Graduation is upon us!

The quote from Flora Whitmore seems especially appropriate. This is one of the best times of the year — not only for graduates, but for everyone — to reflect on the doors you are opening in your world and the doors you are closing.

Fulfilling our hopes and dreams rarely happens overnight, but you can take a tiny step toward them every day.

Congratulations to our College of Education graduates.



Alumni Spotlight

The Spectacular Mr. V

Self-taught mariachi musician Alfredo Valenzuela is the quintessential example of how a life of teaching and community engagement can fuse the power of education and the arts to serve children, youth, families, and communities. "Mr. V," as he is known, grew up in Arizona, worked as a ranch hand, groundskeeper, and truck driver. After serving in the U.S. Army, he earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in elementary administration from the UA College of Education. Throughout his nearly 30 years of teaching, Mr. V has transformed beginning students into confident and competent musicians — so accomplished that, since 1982, they have performed with the Tucson International Mariachi Conference.



Alfredo Valenzuela has built a musical bridge across traditions

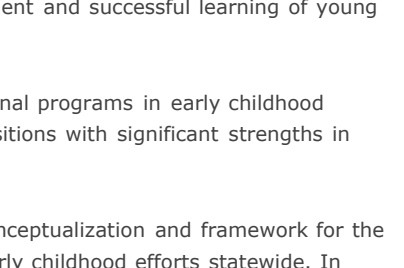
He established and directs Mariachi Los Aguilitas de Davis (the Little Eagles of Davis), the performing mariachis at Davis Bilingual Magnet School. (By the way, Mr. V and Los Aguilitas will be performing at the College of Education Convocation Thursday, May 15.)

His participation and leadership in education has built a musical bridge across traditions that span geography and culture. He has earned many honors for outstanding teaching, service to local communities, and commitment to education.

We are proud to call him one of our own, as is the University of Arizona. In fact, Mr. V will be presented with an honorary degree of Doctor of Music by Dean Ronald W. Marx at this Saturday's UA commencement ceremony.

Who Will Teach Our Children?

The College of Education played a large part in the success of the 92nd Arizona Town Hall, *Who Will Teach Our Children?*, which was held in Prescott, Arizona, at the end of April.

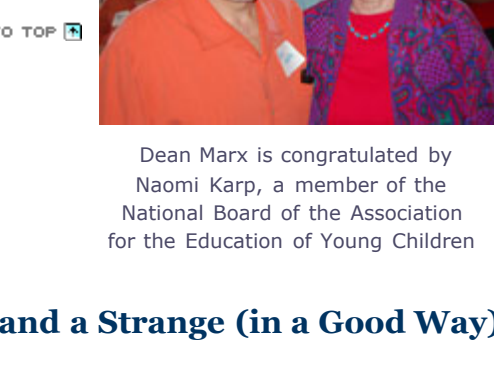


The College of Education wrote and produced the background report — with Teaching & Teacher Education Professor Walter Doyle serving as editor — which fueled the discussion during the Town Hall. The report examined preparing, recruiting, and retaining the best teachers to educate our children for the challenges of the 21st century.

To review the report, [click here](#).

A report with recommendations from the session will be available this summer.

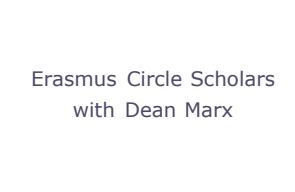
Dean Ronald W. Marx was interviewed regarding the 92nd Arizona Town Hall background report on Horizon on KAET, Arizona State University's public television station. He also discusses some of the challenges Town Hall participants face as they try to recommend ways Arizona can best recruit and retain quality teachers. To view the program, click on the "TV screen" to the right, and enter "teacher shortage" in the search box.



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Dean's Work in Early Childhood Education Honored

Dean Marx also made headlines when he was honored with the 2008 Mary Froebler Teacher Education Award from the Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children during its 22nd Annual Awards Brunch at the Westward Look Resort in April. Below are just some of the reasons Dean Marx, who began his career as a childcare teacher for Los Angeles City Schools, received this tribute.



Dean Marx:

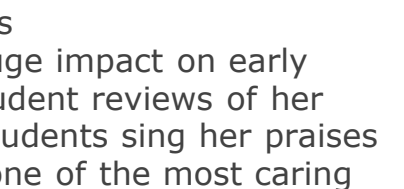
- Established the Early Childhood Development and Learning Collaboration at the University of Arizona between the College of Education and the Institute for Children, Youth and Families in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The collaborative hosted workshops and community meetings with education and agency partners working with young children and has partnered with the Pima County Superintendent for Public Instruction to offer professional development opportunities for education and childcare professionals.
- Has begun building a network of support locally and nationally to establish a center for young children at the UA. The center will provide research, education, and service to address pressing challenges to the healthy development and successful learning of young children.

- Re-established the College of Education's instructional programs in early childhood education and has hired at least four new faculty positions with significant strengths in teaching and research in early childhood education.

- Has consulted with prominent Arizonans on the conceptualization and framework for the First Things First referendum to support Arizona's early childhood efforts statewide. In addition, he has assembled a consortium among the three state universities and other agencies to develop a proposal for the 10-year evaluation and assessment of First Things First.

- Has made funding and public access to the College of Education's Worlds of Words: The International Collection of Children's and Adolescent Literature one of his highest priorities.

If you'd like to learn more about these and other numerous initiatives regarding early childhood education, contact Dean Marx at 520-621-1081 or ronmarx@u.arizona.edu.

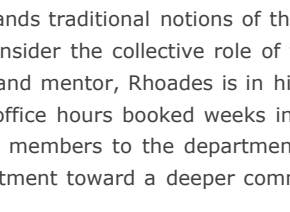


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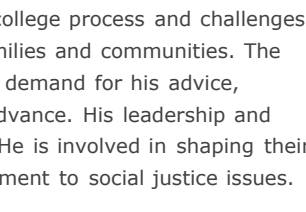
Dean Marx is congratulated by Naomi Karp, a member of the National Board of the Association for the Education of Young Children

Panaromic Views, Sunsets, and a Strange (in a Good Way) Visitor

More than 125 members, alumni, and friends attended the College of Education's "Education is Key" Erasmus Circle Celebration at Skyline Country Club on March 4.



Helaine Levy, executive director of the Diamond Foundation, and Steve Alley, executive director of the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona



Erasmus Circle Scholars with Dean Marx

The spectacular sunset and panoramic view of the city was a perfect backdrop for an evening filled with appreciation for the teachers and students who continue our great tradition of excellence in education.

In addition to President Robert Shelton, and his wife, Adrian, we were honored to welcome Fred Harclerod, the first director of our Center for the Study of Higher Education, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

Shelli Moore and her husband, Jim, president of the University of Arizona Foundation, conducted a lively discussion between audience members and four of the outstanding new teachers who have completed their commitments to the Rodel Exemplary Teacher Initiative.



UA President Shelton



UA Foundation President Moore fields a question from Danielle Thu, chair of the Erasmus Circle, while Steve Thu looks on

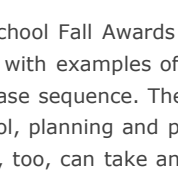
Many guests sponsored the costs for 25 graduate and undergraduate Erasmus Circle Scholars and Rodel Promising Student Teachers to attend the dinner. Erasmus of Rotterdam, aka Senior Faculty Fellow John Pedicone, engaged Dean Marx in renaissance-style banter bringing the evening to an uproariously funny close.

Please congratulate this year's Erasmus Circle Fellows, who were honored that evening:

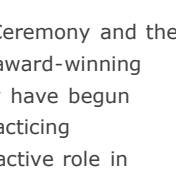
Iliana Reyes

Assistant Professor of Language, Reading & Culture

Iliana Reyes' research on young children's acquisition of bilingualism and biliteracy is widely published and presented nationally and internationally. Because there is no other research like hers, it is sorely needed and will make a huge impact on early childhood education. Likewise, student reviews of her teaching are always very high. Students sing her praises with comments such as, "She is one of the most caring and smartest teachers I have ever had. I dream of being just like her." In addition to local service, Reyes helped organize the first U.S./Mexico Binational Symposium for Educational Researchers, held in Mexico City. A gracious and generous professor, she is highly respected by all faculty members and excels in teaching, research, and service.



Reyes



Rhoades

Gary Rhoades

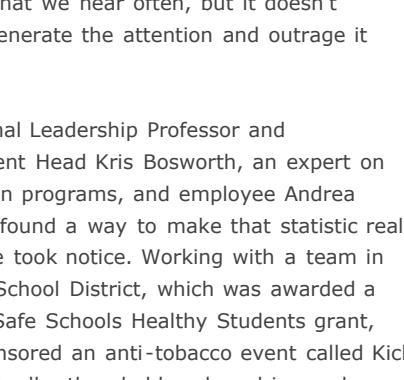
Professor and Director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education

A distinguished leading scholar in the field of higher education, Gary Rhoades' research is praised nationally and internationally. His scholarship is extremely productive and influential, with considerable impact on the understanding and practice of higher education. His research on college access expands traditional notions of the college process and challenges scholars and practitioners to consider the collective role of families and communities. The consummate advisor, teacher, and mentor, Rhoades is in high demand for his advice, wisdom, and guidance — with office hours booked weeks in advance. His leadership and scholarship attracted six faculty members to the department. He is involved in shaping their research and guiding the department toward a deeper commitment to social justice issues.

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College of Education and Honors Go Together!

Laurea Juliana Urbutey, our very own Pillars of Excellence Scholar, was recognized at a reception for her excellence in academics. Each year, just a few students from the Honors College are selected for this high honor.



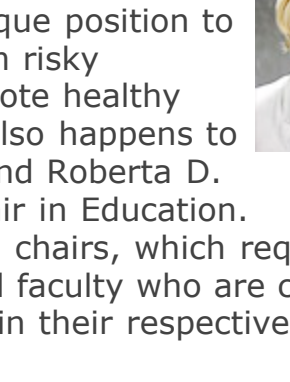
Urbutey (third from left) is congratulated by President Shelton and her scholarship donors, Elsa and Elvis Padilla

Urbutey is a junior majoring in elementary education with a bilingual endorsement. A Phoenix native, she serves as a mentor for freshmen who are considering teaching as a profession. She also has volunteered at elementary schools in Tucson and in Bahia de Caraquez, Ecuador. She has served as a SALT tutor and has studied abroad in Alicante, Spain, and plans to study in Argentina and Brazil. She wants to promote bilingualism among her students, particularly for native Spanish speakers.

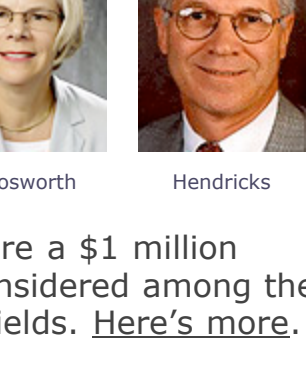
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What Are You Doing, Sir?

Last year, several students at Wildcat School noticed — as students are wont to do — Assistant Professor David Betts videotaping school activities as part of his research in Language, Reading & Culture. Always curious, the students expressed an interest in what he was doing.



"The Coach," aka David Betts



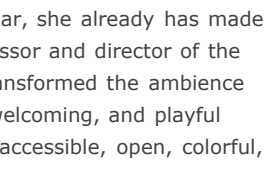
Tyler and Anastasia learn to use the camera

In its first semester, the team videotaped the Wildcat School Fall Awards Ceremony and the school play, *The Mummified Muggle*, created a CD-ROM with examples of award-winning student art, and produced *The Robber*, a short video chase sequence. They have begun creating a digital scrapbook of the year at Wildcat School, planning and practicing interviewing and editing. They are discovering that they, too, can take an active role in today's "new literacies."

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Anne Frank: A History for Today

More than 60 years ago, a young girl was forced into hiding, while she watched a government try to obliterate her family, her neighborhood, and her people.



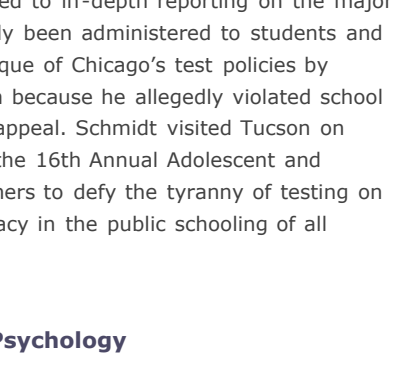
The College of Education, along with the UA Alumni Association, cosponsored the powerful "Anne Frank: A History for Today" exhibit, never before seen in the Arizona area, through May 1 at the Barnes Family JCC in Chandler. The exhibit juxtaposes images of the Frank family with historical events that took place during and after the Nazi dictatorship. With Anne Frank's history as the leading thread running through the exhibit, visitors learned about the history of World Wars I and II, as well as the Holocaust, in a more personal way. They learned about racism, ethnic cleansing, genocide, tolerance, and other issues of human rights and conflict resolution.

In the words of Anne Frank herself, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

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Paying My Phone Bill Feels Good?

Here's a great way to help out the school of your choice — and it's free! Qwest will donate one percent of a customer's bill amount to the public school district of the customer's choosing, involving no additional expense for the customer. To be eligible for the program, customers must sign up for paperless billing and EFT.



It's easy to enroll: Log onto www.qwest.com/onenpercent. Sign up for paperless billing and payment through electronic fund transferring, then select the school district from drop-down menu.

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Shoes and Cigarettes



Andrea Richards poses with thousands of shoes during the anti-tobacco event

Each day, 1,200 people die in the United States from tobacco and secondhand smoke. That means, one person dies every 72 seconds from a tobacco-related disease. It's an important statistic that we hear often, but it doesn't always generate the attention and outrage it should.

Educational Leadership Professor and Department Head Kris Bosworth, an expert on prevention programs, and employee Andrea Richards found a way to make that statistic real so people took notice. Working with a team in the Vail School District, which was awarded a federal, Safe Schools Healthy Students grant, they sponsored an anti-tobacco event called Kick Butts Day. They gathered 1,200 pairs of shoes — actually, they held a shoe drive and collected more than 1,400 pairs of used shoes! — which were displayed at the entrance of Vail Pride Day, which was at the Pima County Fairgrounds in March. Students were on hand to answer questions and discuss the ills of tobacco use.

[Here's more on Project 1200.](#)

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Making Headlines

The College of Education is the winner of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing 30th Anniversary Partnership Award for its dedication to the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. The ACDDH, which is celebrating 30 years of service, presented the award during a road tour around the state in March. In a letter announcing the award, Sherri L. Collins, executive director of ACDDH, wrote: "It's a time for reflecting on the past, looking to the future, and highlighting the people and programs that have made us special."

Since we're home to the state's only programs to prepare rehabilitation counselors and educators of the deaf and blind, we know our impact on this community is far reaching.

Educational Leadership

Professor **Kris Bosworth** focuses on changing school climate because schools are in a unique position to buffer students from risky behaviors and promote healthy development. She also happens to hold the Lester L. and Roberta D. Smith Endowed Chair in Education. Such highly coveted chairs, which require a \$1 million contribution, reward faculty who are considered among the most accomplished in their respective fields. [Here's more.](#)



Bosworth



Hendricks

A fond farewell to our dynamic Associate Dean **J. Robert Hendricks**, who will be on sabbatical during the summer and fall semester. While he is leaving his post as associate dean, he will return to the EDL faculty next spring. His sabbatical will hardly be relaxing: During early fall, he will be a visiting faculty member at Nanjing International University in the Jiangsu Province, China. Additionally, he will be working with Harvard Education Press in refining a methodology for teaching leadership through a case study framework. He also will continue his curriculum development consultancy with Zaner-Bloser. Hendricks will divide his time between Arizona and California upon returning from China.

Higher Education

Administrative Assistant **Sara Kersels** is the recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Support Staff Achievement Award from the Graduate and Professional Student Council. One of the nomination letters noted, "She has volunteered her home for social gatherings to promote a sense of community, she provides candy in the common areas to keep students awake and ready for academic discourse, and she is a great source of energy for students and staff. Even though she has been with the department for just over a year, she already has made a lasting impact on its faculty and students." Gary Rhoades, professor and director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education, adds, "She has truly transformed the ambience and environment of our office and unit. She is a very engaging, welcoming, and playful person. More than that, though, Sara has successfully created an accessible, open, colorful, and warm environment."



"Bravo!" to **John Cheslock**, who just received word of a promotion from assistant professor to associate professor with tenure.

Language, Reading & Culture

Professor and Department Head **Patricia L. Anders** was elected president of the National Reading Conference, the premier research organization in literacy. NRC is a professional organization for those who share an interest in research and the dissemination of information about literacy and literacy instruction. Anders has been a member for 33 years and says she is thrilled to be elected.



Anders



Reyes

Assistant Professor **Iliana Reyes** received funding from the UA Foundation for research on literacy practices in bilingual homes, which will lead to strategies for more effective teaching.

LRC awarded its In Defense of Good Teaching Award — an award established to honor LRC Emeritus Professor **Kenneth S. Goodman** — to George Schmidt, a former Chicago Public School social studies teacher. Schmidt was fired in September 2000 from his teaching job for publishing six of the 22 "1998 Semester I Pilot Form B CASE exams" in a newspaper, *Substance*, a monthly investigative newspaper devoted to in-depth reporting on the major issues facing public education. The exams had already been administered to students and publishing the questions was part of an ongoing critique of Chicago's test policies by *Substance*. The Chicago Board of Education fired him because he allegedly violated school board policy, a decision that has not held up under appeal. Schmidt visited Tucson on March 8 to present a talk and encourage the award at the 16th Annual Adolescent and Children's literature conference. He encouraged teachers to defy the tyranny of testing on behalf of the poorest children and to restore democracy in the public schooling of all children.

Special Education, Rehabilitation & School Psychology

Approximately 400 people gave Professor Emeritus **James Chalfant** a standing ovation when he was awarded the Arizona Council for Exceptional Children's highest honor — the Samuel Kirk Educator of the Year Award. The award, presented in March during the conference in Phoenix, was especially meaningful as Samuel Kirk was Chalfant's mentor, advisor, colleague, and coauthor at the University of Illinois and later at the UA. The presenters of the award noted Chalfant's selfless leadership and advocacy and the tremendous impact he has had on students with disabilities, their teachers, and their families.

Chalfant

Ursula

Then, less than a month later, **Chalfant** was honored in Boston when the Pioneer Division of the Council for Exceptional Children awarded him the Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award. This award honors pioneer leaders in special education. The nominating committee received letters of support from 10 professionals and parents throughout the United States, including two former assistant secretaries of education for OSEP, the deputy commissioner of education for Nebraska, five university professors at four different universities and two parents of disabled students, one from Missouri and one from Virginia, who led the advocacy movement for students with learning disabilities in the U.S.

Brenna K. Wood, third-year doctoral student, received a national P.E.O. Scholar Award. Her research interests include young children at risk for emotional and behavioral disorders, functional behavioral assessment, and positive behavioral interventions and supports. The P.E.O. Scholar Awards program, established in 1991, provides support for women in pursuit of advanced degrees. [Find out more.](#)

Annamarie Urso, a doctoral student in SERSP, received the Outstanding Student Member Award for Graduate Students during the opening session of the Council for Exceptional Children during its April conference in Boston. She was selected for her outstanding service to students with exceptionalities (she served for 18 years as a special ed teacher and preservice teacher educator and is a recognized beginning researcher and scholar) and outstanding service to CEC, having served at the national level for three years representing graduate students in the representative assembly and on the student committee and as a member of the elections committee.

Teaching & Teacher Education

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program sends approximately 1,100 American scholars and professionals per year to more than 130 countries, where they lecture and/or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. Associate Professor **Toni Griego-Jones** has been named a Fulbright Scholar and will begin conducting research in Ciudad Obregon to examine the prior experiences of Mexican immigrant children. The project, "Arizona-Sonora Transnational Teacher Education: Curriculum Development and Research on Classroom Practice," will begin in August. See the article in the *Tucson Citizen*.

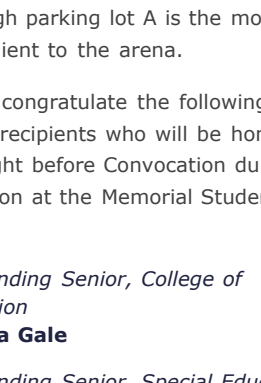
Griego-Jones

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Upcoming Events



The College of Education Convocation is Thursday, May 15, at 4 p.m. in the Tucson Convention Center Arena, located at 260 S. Church Avenue. **Special musical guests include Mariachi Los Aguilitas de Davis, the performing mariachis at Davis Bilingual Magnet School, under the direction of Alfredo Valenzuela** (see accompanying article in this issue of *E-News*).

Please note the change in the location of the ceremony to the arena, due to the large number of guests. Refer to this [site](#) for directions and parking information. Handicapped parking is available in all parking lots at the TCC, although parking lot A is the most convenient to the arena.

Please congratulate the following award recipients who will be honored the night before Convocation during a reception at the Memorial Student Union:

Outstanding Senior, College of Education
Jessica Gale

Outstanding Senior, Special Education, Rehabilitation & School Psychology
Tana M. Vestal

Outstanding Elementary Student Teachers
Rosa Islas
Kari Sjursen

Outstanding Secondary Student Teacher
Anthony Gerrette

Outstanding Cross-Categorical Special Education Student Teacher
Purvi Shah

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant
Ellen Spitzer

Outstanding Graduate Student Mentoring Award
Assistant Professor Leisy Wyman

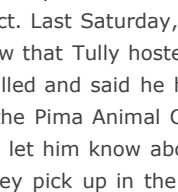
Outstanding Faculty Research Award
Associate Professor Eliane Rubinstein-Avila

Maria Urquides Laureate Award
Associate Lecturer Mary Carol Combs

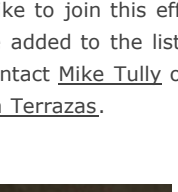
More Newsmakers

Adjectives Galore

"Knowledgeable, amazing, welcoming, impressive, the most helpful advisor I've seen so far..." These are just some of the ways students describe our advisors. In fact, three of our four academic advisors were nominated by students for a Professional Advising Award. While **Barb Collins**, **Kathleen Humphrey**, and **Kerith Morris** did not win, they were recognized by President Shelton at a special reception on April 8, and they each received a \$25 gift certificate to the UA Bookstores. Congratulations!



Collins



Morris



Humphrey



Morris

Abandoned No More!

During a meeting a few years ago, two College of Education employees discovered they both had a great love of animals. **Ana Luisa Terrazas**, director of communications, commented on the photos of the dogs in the office of **Mike Tully**, West Regional Equity Network senior media specialist. That conversation sparked a drive to prevent the abandonment of animals on campus, a tragic problem that escalates at the end of each semester.

Fast forward to now: After years of work, meetings, and many heartfelt, some major inroads have been made, including a [front-page story](#) and an editorial in the *Arizona Daily Star* plus the top story on *Channel 9 News*.

Tully and Terrazas have met with several entities, both on and off campus, to garner university and community support. University officials are now looking at ways to address the problem.

At the end of this semester, Tully and Terrazas worked with volunteers to blanket the campus and surrounding areas with posters to raise awareness of the issue.

Pima County Supervisor Ray Carroll has been a strong supporter since the beginning and also has met with university officials on behalf of the project. Last Saturday, on a radio show that Tully hosted, Carroll called and said he has directed the Pima Animal Care Center to let him know about any animal they pick up in the university area.

If you'd like to join this effort, or simply be added to the listserve, please contact **Mike Tully** or **Ana Luisa Terrazas**.



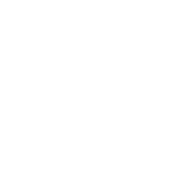
Tully



Terrazas



If you leave me, I will die.



A life is depending on you.

One version of the posters distributed on campus and in surrounding areas

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We Want to Hear from You

If you have any news or feedback, please submit your information [here](#). Please let us know if you do not want your information published in a future issue of *Education E-news*.

Looking for Past Issues?

Check our [Education E-news archives](#) for past issues.