

# BEAR DOWN BUZZ



SPRING 2017

AN INSIDE LOOK AT ARIZONA ATHLETICS EXCLUSIVELY FOR WILDCAT CLUB MEMBERS

**WILDCATCLUB**  
INVESTING IN ARIZONA STUDENT-ATHLETES



## INCOMING AD HEEKE PRAISES THE UA'S WILDCAT CLUB



New Athletics Director Dave Heeke took the reins of the University of Arizona's athletics department on April 1. He is already well aware of how vital Wildcat Club Members are to the UA.

"The impact of donors is crucial to the success of athletics departments around the country," Heeke said. "So much of what we do in athletics would not be possible without their loyal support. From what I understand, the Wildcat Club has seen extraordinary growth over the last decade, but we need that to continue for our programs to compete for championships on both the Pac-12 and national level moving forward."

He went on to extend a special message specifically to Wildcat Club members, "I want to personally thank you all for being involved and I can't wait for the opportunity to meet you in the coming weeks and months."

Heeke comes to the UA from Central Michigan University, where he served as Athletics Director for the past 11 years. Prior to that, he spent 18 years in the Oregon athletics department, finishing his tenure there as senior associate athletics director/chief of staff.

"My goal for Arizona Athletics is to build on the storied history and tradition of this wonderful athletics department," Heeke remarked. "Arizona has already accomplished so much, but there is more to be done. This program is about excellence and we will continue to focus on achieving at the very highest level athletically and academically, while creating the finest experience in the country for our student-athletes."

An East Lansing, Mich., native, Heeke received a bachelor's degree from Albion College in 1985 and a master's degree from Ohio State University in 1987. At Albion, he was a co-captain of the baseball team and a member of the club hockey team. He was a three-sport athlete at East Lansing High School and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the East Lansing Educational Foundation in 2007.



Heeke and his wife, Liz, have three sons, Ryan, Max and Zach.



## **COACHES CORNER: MIKE CANDREA, SOFTBALL**

*UA Softball Head Coach Mike Candrea is in his 32nd season at the helm of the Wildcats. One of the most respected coaches in the nation, Candrea is credited with eight national titles, 21 trips to the Women's College World Series, and stewarding Team USA to Olympic gold, to name a few of his many career accomplishments.*

### **WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE 2017 WILDCATS?**

The 2017 Wildcats are a team determined to make a deep run into postseason. They have worked extremely hard and hopefully that hard work will pay off this spring. It is a team that is deep in talent and therefore, the process has been competitive. Many players will contribute to the success of this team.

### **WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT THIS SENIOR CLASS OF EIGHT PLAYERS?**

This is a group that brings great leadership, competitiveness, and knowledge of what it will take to have success this year. They understand the intangibles and have set a great example for our young players.

### **WHAT MAKES ARIZONA ATHLETICS SPECIAL?**

Arizona Athletics is special to me because it has been my life for the past 32 years. I have had the honor to watch many great players and teams perform at the highest levels of collegiate athletics and represent this university with great pride. There are many Wildcats forever!

### **TWO YEARS AGO, A NEW LOCKER ROOM AND CLUBHOUSE, THE LAPAN FAMILY CENTER, WAS BUILT. WHAT HAS THAT DONE FOR YOUR PROGRAM?**

The addition of the Lapan Family Center was a necessity for our ability to continue to recruit the best softball athletes in the country. Hillenbrand Stadium was built in 1993 and was the best in the country for many years. Today, many new stadiums are being built around the country and it is important for us to update our facility and continue to be a major player in the country. Eye candy is important for today's athlete and the Lapan Center has allowed us a new beginning and a great start for more improvements to come in the near future!

### **HOW IMPORTANT IS THE SUPPORT OF THE WILDCAT CLUB TO YOUR PROGRAM?**

Support of the Wildcat Club is the most important aspect of our future. Without the support of the Wildcat Club, Arizona Athletics would not be able to compete for championships and postseason. We must build our financial stability for the future of Arizona Athletics, and the Wildcat Club is a huge portion of that financial future.

# DO YOU LIVE IN WILDCAT COUNTRY?



**MONTANA: 0**

**NORTH DAKOTA: 0**

**ALABAMA: 0**

**WEST VIRGINIA: 0**

**RHODE ISLAND: 0**

Fans and supporters of the University of Arizona know that Wildcat country extends far and wide across the U.S. and beyond. But how well is your state represented? If you renewed your annual contribution or donated for the first time, our nearly 500 UA student-athletes thank you for your support. If you know friends or family members who haven't joined yet, send them to [beardownchallenge.com](http://beardownchallenge.com) today and help us fill this map with proud Wildcat Club members. Let's make sure that Wildcat country is EVERYWHERE.

*\*Membership as of 3/22/17 Does not include Student Wildcat Club members*



## BENEFITS REVIEW

The priority point system was created to reward loyal Wildcat fans for years of season ticket purchases and contributions to Arizona Athletics. While benefits are determined by annual gift club level, we use priority points to order members within their gift club level when allocating some benefits like parking, luncheon and/or banquet seating, season ticket upgrades, post-season tickets, etc. Priority points are non-transferable.

### YEARS OF SUPPORT

- 2 points for every year you're a season ticket holder (Football beginning 1946, Men's Basketball beginning 1972, Women's Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Soccer and Gymnastics)
- 2 points for every year of charitable giving (non-priority seating)
- 1 point for every year of priority seating contributions



## **STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: LABRITTNEY JONES, WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

*Senior LaBrittney Jones is a business management major at the UA with the goal of becoming a sports accountant. Earlier this season, she scored her 1,000th point and now ranks 11th on Arizona's all-time scoring list with 1,263 career points.*

### **WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED MOST DURING YOUR TIME AT ARIZONA?**

The weather! No, just kidding. I think I've enjoyed the people I've met the most. I've met a lot of great people: my teammates, different coaches, support staff and professors.

### **WHAT IS IT LIKE PLAYING FOR HEAD COACH ADIA BARNES?**

Playing for Coach is cool. She's a good coach. She knows a lot because she's been in our position. She played here and having been in our shoes, we are kind of following in her footsteps. That is the best part.

### **WHAT DO THE FANS HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN THE FUTURE?**

I think after (the progress we made) this year, we're going to have a great next season. Coach is bringing in a lot of new players. I think our team is going to be a thing to see. It's going to be a different kind of vibe and energy. I think you'll see our team playing hard and playing together.

### **WHAT WOULD YOU TELL SOMEONE CONSIDERING ATTENDING ARIZONA?**

I would say it's a great school. If they're going to be a student-athlete, there is a lot of support staff (here). You'll have a lot of help. It's good for athletics. The community is really involved and it's a great place in general. Plus the weather.

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE FANS?**

The support of the fans means a lot. Even through the seasons where we've had losing records, the fans have stayed the same and they're always there for us, to this day. That's the best thing, to know that people are still cheering and supporting you.

## **CASH CONTRIBUTIONS**

- 2 points for every \$100 of charitable gifts since 1985 (non-priority seating)
- 1 point for every \$100 given for the purchase of priority seating
- 1 point for every \$100 given for the purchase of a Skybox/loge/Super Suite Seat (excluding season ticket, parking and food costs)
- 1/4 point for every \$100 given for a corporate sponsorship package

## **FIXED POINTS**

- 10 points for lettering in a varsity sport at the University of Arizona (additional 10 points if spouse is an Arizona letterwinner)
- 5 points for University of Arizona Alumnus/ Alumnae (additional 5 points if spouse is UA alum)

## **PLANNED GIFTS**

- 2 points for every \$100 of accumulated cash value annually on a whole-life insurance policy (Since 1990)
- 2 points for every \$100 of an irrevocable charitable remainder trust/gift annuity, after calculating the charitable deduction according to the IRS guidelines
- Other planned gift points are awarded on a case-by-case basis



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Intercollegiate Athletics  
Wildcat Club**

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*Pictured on the front cover are University of Arizona student-athletes JJ Matijevic (baseball), Katiyana Mauga (softball), and Aaron Castle (track and field).*

## WILDCAT GEAR FOR EVERY SEASON

Are you ready to cheer on your Wildcats at all of the outdoor spring sports? The Wildcat Club online store has you covered with sun hats, "boonie" hats and ball caps. There's also Uvida shirts for men and women that provide UPF 50 sun protection.

Check out these items and more at [wildcat-store.com](http://wildcat-store.com). If you haven't logged into the store yet this season, use your Wildcat Club account number as BOTH your username and password. And remember, shipping is always free!

