What Does It Mean to Bear Down?

An Introduction to the History and Traditions of The University of Arizona
How the UA Came to Be

- University was “assigned” to Tucson by the 13th Territorial Legislature in 1885
  - Received the right to bond for $25,000 to build the UA
  - 40 acres was donated in 1886 to provide the land upon which the UA was built
  - Donated by two professional gamblers and a saloon keeper
- Ground was broken to build Old Main in 1887
- Classes began October 1, 1891
- 32 students enrolled
  - Only six were college freshmen; others were admitted into a prep school
  - No high schools nearby, so for 23 years, the UA also hosted a prep school to prepare students for their University education.
What Does It Mean to Bear Down?
First Graduating Class, 1895

Mercedes Anna Shibell
Mary Flint Walker
Charles Oma Rouse
Joseph Wood Krutch Cactus Garden

- Started in 1891 by Professor James W. Toumey
- Originally located on the West side of Old Main – moved to East Side in 1930
- Extended from Old Main to Cherry Ave. and contained over 600 species
- Renovations to campus to create the Mall downsized the Cactus Garden in 1960’s
- Named after Joseph Wood Krutch in 1980
St. Patrick’s Day “Strike” - 1904

- Students petitioned the University administration to be given the holiday as a day off
- President Babcock denied the students’ request
- Students protested and went on “strike” – taking the holiday that they felt they had been denied and marched downtown in protest of the decision
First Football Team - 1899

- Played first game against Tempe Normal School on Thanksgiving Day, 1899.
- Lost the game 11-2
- Early uniforms were cleats attached to regular shoes, shirts stuffed into playing jerseys for pads and consisted of no helmets
- Colors were sage green and silver – changed to cardinal and navy in 1900
- Winner was awarded the Territorial Cup – oldest collegiate rivalry trophy in existence.
Athletics History

- 1899 – First football team
- 1904 – First basketball team
- 1906 – First baseball team
- 1913 – First basketball game against an actual opponent
- 1914 – Coach J.F. “Pop” McKale hired
- 1921 – First football bowl game appearance
- 1922 – Polo team established
- 1972 – Title IX is voted into law by congress
- 1976 – First baseball CWS Title
- 1980 – NCAA accepts governance of women’s sports
- 1983 – Lute Olson hired as Head Men’s Basketball Coach
- 1988 – First Final Four appearance for Men’s Basketball
- 1991 – Softball wins first National Championship
- 1997 – Men’s Basketball wins National Championship
- 2003 – Zona Zoo established
- 2007 – Eighth National Women’s Softball Championship
- 2012 – Men’s Baseball CWS Title
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UA Mascots – “They fought like Wildcats…”

- 1914 – Arizona played Occidental in Football
  - Arizona lost the game 14-0
  - Los Angeles Times correspondent Bill Henry wrote that the team “showed the fight of wildcats” in the loss
  - Wildcats became the official mascot of The University of Arizona
- 1915 – First mascot was “Rufus Arizona” named after then-UA President Rufus Von Kleinschmidt
- 1916 – Rufus died
- First costumed-student mascot, Wilbur, was introduced in 1959
- Wilma Wildcat was introduced in 1986 and Wilbur and Wilma were married on November 21, 1986, at halftime of the UA-ASU game
- They renewed their vows in 2001 at the UA – ASU game
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“A” Mountain

- Developed after Arizona defeated Pomona in football, 7-6, on November 6, 1914
- Albert H. Condron, a civil engineering student and member of the football team, suggested it as a class project
- Students did all of the work on Saturdays
- Completed March 4, 1916
- Each year freshmen participate in A Day, whitewashing the A
- A has changed colors numerous times and has become a political statement
- The A is a big part of the ASU-UA rivalry
Berger Memorial Fountain

- Sits at West Entrance to Old Main
- Dedicated January 31, 1920
- Gift from Alexander Berger
- Commemorates those students who lost their lives in WWI
  - 13 spouts to recognize the 13 students who died
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The Bear Down Story

- John “Button” Salmon
  - Football quarterback, student body president
- Involved in car accident in October 1926
- “Tell them, tell the team to bear down…”
- 1927 – Student body votes to make Bear Down official slogan of UA Athletic teams
- 1927/1928 – Bear Down Gym renamed
- 1939 – State Legislature votes to make the slogan Bear Down the exclusive property of the UA
- 1952 – Bear Down, Arizona! becomes UA’s official fight song
What Does It Mean to Bear Down?

Yell:
Go, go, Wildcats Go!

Sing:
Arizona, Bear Down!
Let's cheer for Arizona
Let's lift our voices high
Let's cheer for Arizona
The Bear Down battle cry
Let's cheer our team to victory
Let's cheer our team to fame
Let's cheer for Arizona
For spirit wins the game!

Bear Down Arizona
Bear Down Red and Blue
Bear Down Arizona
Hit 'em hard.
Let 'em know who's who
Bear Down Arizona
Bear Down Red and Blue
Go! Go! Wildcats go!
Arizona Bear Down

Bear Down, Arizona!

- Written by Jack Lee
- Became UA’s official fight song in 1952
What Does It Mean to Bear Down?

Fight, Wildcats, Fight!

Hail Arizona Wildcats
Fighting for old UA
A raging team of Wildcats
Growling for the fray
There’s not a team can stop them
When the ball goes into play
So Fight! Team!
Fight with all your might
And win today.

Fight Wildcats, Fight for Arizona
We’re with you ever staunch and true
This day we hail you and we cheer you
They can’t defeat the Red and Blue
Circle the ends and crash thru the center
Hit hard and gain on ev’ry play
Fight Wildcats!
Fight! Fight! Fight!
We’ll win today!

• UA’s first fight song
• Written in 1929 by Dugald Stanley Holsclaw
• Performed for the first time at the 1930 Homecoming game
• Was replaced by Bear Down, Arizona! in 1952
All Hail Arizona

All Hail Arizona! Thy colors red and blue, stand as a symbol of our love for you.
All Hail Arizona! To Thee we'll e'er be true. We'll watch o'er and keep you, All Hail, All Hail!

All Hail Arizona! Thy rugged peaks aglow, here on the desert strength and peace bestow.
All Hail Arizona! We sing our praise of Thee, in trial and in vict'ry. All Hail! All Hail!

All Hail Arizona! Thy sons and daughters true. Stand now as ever to fight and die for you.
All Hail Arizona! We pledge our faith anew. To guard and protect you, All Hail! All Hail!

• UA’s Alma Mater
• Performed at Commencement, and after football and basketball games
Homecoming

- 1914 – First Homecoming football game (5th oldest in America)
- 1929 – First Homecoming parade – went around track inside Arizona Stadium
- 1985 – Tents on the Mall began
- Today, more than 100,000 alumni participate in Homecoming activities
- Over 60 parade participants – largest Homecoming parade in the United States
- More than 120 organizations represented at Tents on the Mall
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Spring Fling

• Largest student-run carnival in the United States
• Started in 1975
• Moved off-campus in 2000 due to campus construction
• Raises close to $100,000 annually for campus clubs and organizations
• More than 3,000 students are involved in some capacity
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U.S.S. Arizona Bell

- Salvaged from the U.S.S. Arizona after it was sunk at Pearl Harbor in 1941
- Bill Bowers ’27, salvaged bell from a Naval Yard in 1944
  - Bell was to be melted down
- Bell arrived on campus in 1946 and was placed in old Student Union in 1951
- Bell installed in new Union on August 16, 2002
- Currently rung one time after each football game and on selected occasions as determined by the Student Union Advisory Committee
- Also is rung on the Sunday before Pearl Harbor Day, on the Union’s birthday and for certain memorial occasions
The UA Then...