The UA had a big year in 2017: We welcomed our 22nd president, Robert C. Robbins, in June; the Division of Human Resources launched a large-scale project to clarify titles and career paths for many University employees; and faculty and staff from across the UA received regional, national and international recognition for their work.

As we say goodbye to 2017, here’s a look at some of the most popular Lo Que Pasa stories of the past year.

Karen Williams Appointed VP for Information Strategy and University Libraries
February

Karen Williams, who had been serving as the interim leader for UITS in addition to her duties as dean of University Libraries, was appointed vice president for information strategy and university libraries, and now oversees both areas. Provost Andrew Comrie said he and others around the University realized during last year’s search for a new chief information officer that Williams "had the approach and relationships necessary to thrive in this role."

Why We <3 the UA
February

Valentine’s Day had many thinking about significant others, family and friends ? but we had a feeling that plenty of UA employees were feeling love for the University, too. We asked readers to tell us why they love the UA, and shared what they had to say.

English Professor Considers UA Home After 50 Years of Service
April

Half a century ago, Charles Scruggs moved from Delaware to Arizona after accepting a job to teach at the UA. Despite the heat that welcomed him, he fell in love with the Southwest and made Tucson his home. "I feel lucky," Scruggs said. "Not only by coming here but being able to get a good job and being able to teach as long as I have." Scruggs and 993 other employees were recognized at the UA’s annual Service Awards ceremony in April for their milestone work anniversaries.

Above and Beyond: Employees to be Recognized With Awards for Excellence
April

There are employees all over the University who are willing to go the extra mile to do their jobs and to help their colleagues. Many of these employees were recognized at the annual UA Awards for Excellence ceremony, sponsored by the Classified Staff Council, the Appointed Professionals Advisory Council and the President’s Cabinet.

Project Aims to Clarify Compensation Guidelines and Career Paths for APs and Staff
May
The goal of the University Career Architecture Project is to create a more straightforward and easy-to-understand nonacademic career structure that supports career progression and makes it possible to match UA jobs with jobs in the external market for compensation benchmarking purposes. The project is expected to go live in July 2019.

If You’re Not Getting 7 Hours of Sleep Each Night, Read This | May

Sleep is critical to overall health and well-being. It’s one of the three pillars of health, alongside diet/nutrition and exercise/activity. Michael Grandner, assistant professor of psychiatry, psychology and medicine, explained why it’s so important, and offered tips for getting better sleep.

24 Emerging UA Leaders Selected for Academic Leadership Institute | June

The eighth cohort of the Academic Leadership Institute includes academic and administrative department heads, associate and assistant deans, and other emerging leaders from across campus. During the yearlong institute, the 2017-18 fellows will participate in discussions and workshops to help them develop their leadership skills.

UA Surgeon Arpana Jain Prepares for Opening of Banner Burn Center | June

Arpana Jain, an assistant professor of surgery, is preparing for the opening of the Banner UMC Tucson burn center in 2019. Lo Que Pasa talked with Jain about the importance of the burn center to the community, how burn medicine has changed over the years and why she chose this field.

Tales From 'Jeopardy!' | August

Appearing on "Jeopardy!" was a childhood dream come true for UA instructor Tucker Dunn, who finished his streak on the game show as a three-day champion with $40,999 in winnings earlier this year.

From the Library to the Runway, UA Fellow is a 'Model' Scholar | August

When Daniel Fitzpatrick isn’t behind the reference desk at the UA Law Library, he’s in front of the camera as a working model. Fitzpatrick, a law library fellow, has modeled professionally for two decades, doing runway and print work for clients ranging from Gap to Audi.

Installation to Blend UA Traditions With Robbins’ Personal Style | November

President Robert C. Robbins’ installation ceremony included traditions such as a procession and the presentation of the ceremonial mace. The reception, however, featured rock ‘n’ roll tunes picked by the president himself. Robbins, in his speech at the ceremony, said the UA is positioned for a higher profile, adding that this will require a combination of collaboration and vision. "In every area, our goals must be ambitious enough to accelerate the rise of the UA among the ranks of the leading public research universities of our nation."

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