Inside UNLV

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Curious Minds Want to Know About UNLV

7 Questions You Need Answered Before the Semester Begins

By Holly Ivy DeVore

Whether you’re a newbie or a longtime employee, just about everyone has a question about how “things work” at UNLV. Answers are readily available, but sometimes you don’t know who to ask. The following are answers to seven common questions you may want answered before the academic year begins.

What can I do to maximize my health benefits?

Whether you’re covered under a PPO or HMO, you can optimize your health insurance by using your plan’s wellness benefits, setting up a Section 125 Flexible Spending Account, using in-network providers, and ordering prescriptions through the mail.

Preventive health services—such as physical exams, immunizations, and screenings—are covered under the wellness benefit and have a co-pay. To access this benefit, ask your physician to bill the procedure as a preventive measure.

The Unreimbursed Medical/Section 125 plan allows you to contribute pretax dollars through payroll deduction into a reimbursement account for health-care services not covered by insurance. The maximum contribution is $6,000 per plan year, which runs from July 1 through June 30.

When you use in-network providers, your co-pay and co-insurance will be lower. For lists of providers, check out the PPO website at www.pebstatewidedppo.com/provider.html and the HMO site at www.talispoint.com/sierra/hpn.

Both plans allow participants to receive up to a 90-day supply of non-emergency, extended-use, maintenance prescription drugs such as those for high blood pressure or diabetes. The medications are directly mailed to your home within 14 days, but not all are available via mail order. Mail-order forms may be picked up at the human resources office, Campus Services Building, Room 237.

How do I put money on my RebelCard, and where can I use it?

In addition to being an official identification and library card, the RebelCard can be used to pay for on-campus services. This feature works much like a gift card. Cash can be added to the card at the RebelCard office in the student union and at Value Transfer Stations located across campus. Also, money can be deposited online using VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover at www.unlv.edu/rebelcard.

It is accepted at most campus dining locations, the bookstore, computer labs, library circulation desks, McDermott Physical Education Center, MSU information desk, RebelCard Services Center, residence hall laundry machines, and copy and vending machines.

If used for payment at dining locations, a discount equivalent to sales tax is awarded.

By showing the card, you can

Want to Volunteer? Hour-long training sessions for the “Ask Me” campaign will take place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Aug. 16-20 in the Classroom Building Complex, Room A-108. Volunteers do not have to preregister.

Teach Yourself The Answers. Find the information that newcomers are likely to ask about at www.unlv.edu/askme. From there it’s also easy to link to information about welcome week and orientation.

‘Ask Me’ Campaign: Do Ask, Do Tell

Employees Needed For Welcome Program

By Diane Russell

“Welcome” is a message that will be sent to thousands of students this month via a campuswide effort to make arriving at college less daunting.

Hundreds of staff volunteers will be stationed at seven “Ask Me” booths around campus. The booths will provide students readily available information on everything from building locations to how to change their class schedule to how to obtain a parking permit.

“We’re going to have answers lined up in advance for all the frequently asked questions we can think of,” said Tom Studdert, assistant director of student involvement & activities. “And for the questions we haven’t anticipated, we’ll have people in key areas we can contact to get the information. Our goal is to help new students—especially those who have never attended college before—shed any nervousness they are feeling. Returning students also can benefit from the sorts of assistance that will be available.”

Vice President Rebecca Mills, whose Division of Student Life is coordinating the program, said it is another step in UNLV’s effort to become more student-centered. “We are always looking for ways to make sure students know they are our primary focus. I believe this program will have a positive effect on the students’ first-experience and long-term perceptions of their university experience. We are setting the stage for students’ academic success.”

“I encourage faculty and staff to visit www.unlv.edu/askme so that


can see answers on page 8
Three Improvement Projects Top Legislative Funding List

By Carol C. Harter

It is once again the time of year for me to formally welcome new faculty and staff to UNLV, as well as to welcome back campus community members returning after the summer months. Although I recognize that many of you remain on campus teaching and/or working year-round, it is an abiding tradition for us to look upon the fall semester as a fresh start — and to offer special greetings to mark the occasion. Personally, I find the prospect of fall particularly invigorating since I moved to Las Vegas. The anticipation of cooler weather — combined with the new endeavors of the academic year — produces a genuine sense of renewal.

This fall as we face, yet again, dramatically increased enrollments, my thoughts turn to how we will accommodate our growth. The kind of enrollment growth we have faced in recent years has far-reaching implications for the campus; I know that the impact is both being felt and discussed at multiple university levels and that multifaceted approaches are being employed to deal appropriately with it. In this column, however, I would like to focus on one aspect of the growth equation: recent developments regarding our plans to build new facilities.

Our capital improvement plans for the next biennium were approved by the Board of Regents at a special meeting in June and will go forward for legislative consideration. Three UNLV projects are on the list of the top 15 priorities for the university system for the 2005-07 budget cycle. While the $214 million UCCSN capital improvement budget and our projects were discussed briefly in the media, I feel it is valuable to offer more information to the university community.

By way of background, I should note that I believe all carefully considered capital improvement projects help accommodate growth in one way or another. Some projects

 contained classrooms and other facilities that directly support the student population; others accommodate growth by facilitating the provision of services to handle student needs more efficiently or by advancing an institution’s research agenda. In that context, all of our projects for the upcoming biennium will effectively complement our current efforts at dealing with a variety of growth-related challenges.

SET Furniture and Equipment

The first priority on the list of projects is a combination item involving UNLV and several other UCCSN institutions: It will supply $39 million for furniture and equipment for buildings at those institutions. Our portion of that funding, approximately $13.6 million, will cover furnishings, equipment, and data/telecommunications wiring for the new the Science, Engineering and Technology Building. (This figure grew substantially from our original plans due to unanticipated costs associated with price increases in steel and related materials.) Our portion of this funding was deferred from the last budget cycle and is critical to the completion of a building that will be tremendously beneficial to both the campus and the state. Given that this item is the first priority on the list and is shared by many institutions, we are optimistic about its chances of being funded.

Greenspun Hall

Our second priority for the next biennium will be funding for the proposed Greenspun Hall, which would house all of the offices and departments in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. With the completion of the more than 70,000-square-foot Greenspun Hall, the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies, along with the School of Social Work, the advising center, and the departments of communication studies, counseling, criminal justice, environmental studies, and public administration would be centralized under one roof for the first time in the college’s history.

The site planned for the building is the 2.3 acres formerly owned by the Boy Scouts of America, located to the south of the Moyer Student Union. (That site is currently a parking lot.) The state-of-the-art facility, which is expected to cost approximately $40 million, will house high-tech classrooms, journalism labs, broadcast studios, faculty and administrative offices, and more. The Greenspun family recently increased its pledge for the facility to $16 million, which represents 40 percent of the cost of the facility. (They had pledged $9.4 million for the building before the last biennium with the understanding that additional funds would be offered in the future to expand the scope of the building.) The project, which is ranked third on the UCCSN list of priorities, will serve as a reminder of our commitment to Southern Nevada, as it will be the home of a college that seeks to address social and community issues through its teaching, research, and service.

Student Services Complex

Our third priority is the Student Services Complex addition and renovation. The goal of this project — which includes a 22,700-square-foot addition to the existing complex — is simple yet critical to our student-centered orientation: to consolidate the appropriate student services departments, including student enrollment and financial services and the office of undergraduate recruitment, into one central location — the Student Services Complex. This “one-stop-shopping” approach to the provision of services is an obvious and necessary component of universitywide efforts to streamline the way we conduct business with our students.

This project, which is expected to cost approximately $10 million, has been prominently placed on the UCCSN’s capital improvement funding list for four biennia without receiving funding. Given the widely accepted success of centralizing student services, this project would seem to have solid support. It is, however, ranked eighth on the list of UCCSN priorities.

Though we requested several other projects for consideration by the Legislature, we are pleased that these three made the UCCSN priority list. We feel we have made compelling cases for all of these capital improvement projects, and we are optimistic they will be funded. We must keep in mind that, as always, we are competing for limited state dollars. However, these projects, if funded, will have a dramatic impact on the programs and services they will support and will help us build the future of our campus.

As for the more immediate future, I would like once again to welcome all to the start of the new academic year. And, as is also a growing tradition, I would like to invite the entire campus to attend my State of the University address. It is my hope that my address will provide everyone with a better understanding of the priorities, challenges, and accomplishments of our institution.

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‘Best of UNLV’ Poll Reveals Campus Hot Spots

By Cate Weeks

Yes, UNLV has some top-notch academic programs and state-of-the-art research labs, but where can you find a parking spot and a good cup of coffee? Over the summer, Inside UNLV asked the campus to reveal favorite spots for fulfilling some of our everyday needs, like lunch. Fortunately, we could count on the faculty and staff to give us their opinions. Here are the results in some of the categories. In the coming issues of Inside UNLV, we’ll reveal the answers to more of UNLV’s “bests.”

Best Place to Plug In Your Laptop

The overwhelming answer is the Lied Library, with its more than 800 data drops. But, Mamie Peers of the office of information technology (OIT), points out that soon you won’t actually have to plug in your laptop for network connectivity.

This summer, OIT began the first phase of the UNLVwireless pilot project at the Book-N-Bean and the MSU. The program for the second testing phase will be available to all campus users next month.

“During the pilot we fully expect to encounter problems such as unexpected disconnections,” said Peers, adding that wireless access locations will expand upon completion of the initial phases of the project. “We hope to work out many of those details by the official pilot launch of the new service on Sept. 17.”

Signing up will be easy. Simply go to one of the access points, launch your Web browser, and you’ll automatically be taken to the UNLVwireless registration page. Have your faculty/staff ID card handy.

More Info: wireless.unlv.edu; call Faculty/Staff Help Desk, ext. 5-077; or at the launch ceremony, 1:30 p.m., Sept. 17, Book-N-Bean.

Best Food at the Moyer Student Union

Fresh Cyber Wrap sandwiches were the clear winner followed in a distant second by the taco salad from Salsa Rico. Scott Jones, general manager of UNLV’s dining services, recommends the Greek Cyber Wrap on a garlic tortilla.

Jones reports that while fall will bring a few new offerings at the MSU, the real changes are happening at the Wilson Dining Commons, which is open to faculty and staff. The dining room was remodeled over the summer to allow for more intimate small-group seating.

Buffet lunch at the commons costs faculty and staff $5.50 and includes the “Classics Line” of meat and vegetarian entrees and casseroles, a soup and salad bar, and deli sandwiches.

As an aside, several survey respondents lamented the loss of the student union’s pasta station. Jones recommends they check out the MSU’s Cyber Wrap.

Glenda Perez-Smith prepares a wrap at the MSU’s Cyber Wrap.

More Info: studentlife/facilities/mcdermott.html, or call ext. 5-3221.

Best Place to Park When the Nearest Lot is Full

It seems that grousing about parking is a universal pastime at all college campuses. Some respondents refused to answer for fear their little-known lot would be, well, known, and others reported that the parking garage on the north side of campus and the Thomas & Mack lot on the south side were best bets. A few respondents reminded us that biking to work gets you a parking spot right by the front door of your building.

And a couple of people had to rub it in that their locations – Campus Services Building and Paradise campus – were never short on spaces.

Our favorite response, however, comes from Adrienne Zamora, an administrative assistant in parking services. She reminds us that it’s not the fault of the student workers that we’ve gotten parking tickets.

“It’s not because the kids work hard or apply much stress they endure during parking services registration, you would never complain about paying for a parking permit or ticket again!”

Best Place to Work Off Tension

You were equally divided between sweating it out at the McDermott Physical Education Center (MPE) and simply taking a walk around campus. MPE is free to faculty, staff, and students with a valid RebelCard. The gym features a weight room, cardio machines such as elliptical trainers and treadmills, racquetball and volleyball courts, and a pool.

Employees also can take advantage of classes at MPE. One of the more popular among employees is the adult exercise research program led by Lawrence Golding, distinguished professor of kinesiology. The class, part of a decades-long study, is held weekdays at 11 a.m. for women and noon for men. Sign up through the division of educational outreach, ext. 5-3394, in September.

For those who want to work out a little aggression through friendly competition, philosophy professor Dave Beisecker recommends MPE’s pingpong tables.

More Info: www.unlv.edu/studentlife/facilities/mcdermott.html, or call ext. 5-3221.

Lucky Winners Named

Thanks for participating in the first Inside UNLV poll. Respondents were entered in a drawing for fun UNLV paraphernalia.

Winning brightly colored UNLV water bottles were Bill Cox of campus housing and Valjean Elander of the math department.

Ana Martinez of student enrollment services, Mamie Peers of the office of information technology, Daryl Privott of UNLV Libraries, and Brian Rudolph of systems & applications took home felt block letters that spell UNLV.
**Business**

**Nominations Accepted**

The College of Business, in association with Deloitte, is accepting nominations for the 2005 Nevada Business Hall of Fame through Aug. 20.

Nominations should be submitted to the college by Aug. 20 or until the hall of fame reaches its capacity of 20 inductees. The five candidates selected by the college’s advisory board will be announced at UNLV’s annual meeting Oct. 13.

**Entrepreneurs Across Asia**

As a relative neophyte in traveling abroad, I am struck by the false impressions I have had about other countries. In the last two years, I have visited Korea, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Singapore.

My purpose for traveling to Asia in these recent times has been to explore how we might extend our W.F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration programs to the Far East. We are exploring certification training programs to be delivered both in Asia and Las Vegas to hospitality managers. In each of these foreign destinations, I did not venture away from the major cities. To be sure, I had seen pictures of the architecture of many cities and images of their residents. However, these images did not convey the contemporary nature of the societies nor the warmth of the cultures and their eagerness to work with the Harrah Hotel College.

I had prepared myself by reading about the various cultures, and had even studied a little Japanese language. I was aware of the high esteem in which educators were held in all of the Asian cultures. What I was not prepared to find was the entrepreneurial spirit of the people. The Chinese entrepreneurs want to establish a relationship before any business transaction takes place. Meals and other social events are an integral part of the process. These times have been a great learning experience for me.

Certainly in the countries where capitalism has been the norm for many years, one would expect that entrepreneurs would be at the core of business. But in China, where socialism had been the basis for the economic system, to my great surprise, entrepreneurs are exploding on the scene. The subjects of many discussions with hospitality entrepreneurs were so similar that, other than by the language they were speaking, I would not have known whether I was with an entrepreneur.
nationally, but UNLV’s numbers outpace national and regional statistics. UNLV is becoming a nationally known law school. About 75 percent of the entering class is from Nevada, but the majority of applicants were from 46 other states. A record number of 60 applications were received from students who are currently enrolled in other law schools but would like to transfer. The entering students have earned undergraduate degrees in a vast array of majors from universities across the country. However, the majority of students earned undergraduate degrees from UNLV. UNLV faculty and staff members also have graduated from the school. Students, faculty, and staff who are considering law school can attend an open house in October. For details, check out law.unlv.edu.

LIBERAL ARTS

Forensic Science Added
Multidisciplinary studies, an interdisciplinary degree program, is offering a concentration in forensic science this fall. It combines existing courses from the colleges of Urban Affairs, Sciences, and Liberal Arts in a unique way to deliver a strong, broad background in forensics. After completing the foundation courses in forensic science, students can concentrate in one of three areas: legal systems, scientific techniques, or the human body.

Contact Jennifer Thompson, chair of multidisciplinary studies, for more information or visit liberalarts.unlv.edu/interdisciplinary.

LIBRARIES

Website Receives Face-Lift
University Libraries has implemented changes to improve its services and resources, including a redesign of its www.library.unlv.edu website. The new design, developed in response to usability and sorting tests, makes navigation more intuitive and showcases news and important services. The “Ask a Librarian” option allows patrons to contact a librarian for help with research by phone, e-mail, and, for limited hours each week, live via a new chat service. The library catalog still offers access to the library’s more than one million volumes. In addition, site visitors can access databases of journal, newspaper, and magazine articles. New “get text” buttons can be found in many of the databases and links patrons to the online full-text of the article if it is available through subscription. If full-text is not available online, options to track it are offered. A schedule of faculty seminars can be found at www.library.unlv.edu/inst/seminars.html.

DENTAL SCHOOL SUPPORT

U.S. Sen. Harry Reid and UNLV President Carol C. Harter tour the School of Dental Medicine on the day Reid presented the university with a giant check representing a $1 million federal grant for dental equipment. Speaking with Reid and Harter are second-year student Quishonda Jefferson, left, and patient Elizabeth Aghi. “This new school is making dental care available to Nevadans who didn’t have access to it before,” Reid said. “It’s just one more example of how UNLV is improving the quality of life in Nevada.”

Students may need help with library services and the research process. Drop-in sessions for individual students are available, as are sessions tailored for entire classes. Contact the instruction department at ext. 5-2123 for information.

SCIENCES

Employees Welcomed
Natalie Brandes from University of Wisconsin joined the college as its first graduate affairs coordinator. She will work on advising, recruitment, and maintaining the records for the fast growing graduate programs.

Chris Smith has become an important component in the Undergraduate Advising Center. He is helping the college fulfill its commitment to provide students with enhanced services.

New faculty members were recruited from some of the best universities and institutions in the United States and Europe, including:

• Biological sciences – Allen Gibbs (University of Arizona, physiologist), Helen Wing (Harvard Medical School, microbiologist), and Sharon Rogers (Ohio State, pharmacologist).
• Chemistry – Chulsung Bae (Yale University, organic chemistry), MaryKay Orgill (University of Missouri, chemistry education), and Clemens Heske (University of Wurzburg, material science).
• Geosciences – Gangting Jiang (Columbia University, sedimentology) and Patrick Drohan (Penn State University, soil sciences).
• Physics – Bing Zhang (Penn State, astronomy).

STUDENT LIFE

Programs, Staff Expand
Change is the watchword as the Division of Student Life creates new programs, welcomes new staff, and builds new facilities.

Student Life begins the academic year by welcoming undergraduate recruitment and student enrollment and financial services to its division. The administrative change consolidates most services provided to students outside the classroom. Pamela Hicks, interim associate vice president for enrollment management, is responsible for this unit.

Residence Hall Opens
A noticeable change on the landscape is Dayton Complex, a 500-bed residence hall located just off of Tropicana Avenue. With the addition of this new facility, there will be about 2,000 students living on campus. The campus master plan calls for an eventual on-campus population of 3,500. The office of campus housing is well-regarded nationally for its community standards program, which models problem solving, negotiation, and leadership for the students who live in the residence hall.

URBAN AFFAIRS

Conference Held
The Hank Greenspun School of Communication held its fourth annual Research and Ideas Conference in May. Organized by associate professor Larry Mullen, the daylong conference featured graduate student presentations of research projects. Professor Felicia Campbell from the English department was the keynote speaker and presented “Truth in Fiction.”

Presentation titles and students were:

Students Exhibit Work

Students Exhibit Work
David Hassenzahl (Environmental Studies) served as a guest panelist on the radio program “State of Nevada with Gwen Castaldi” on KNPR. He spoke on the health effects and cleanup efforts regarding air pollution caused by development in the Las Vegas Valley.


Jennifer Cox, Priscilla Finley, Susie Skarl, and Diane VanderPol (Libraries) presented the workshop “Polishing Gems: Using Peer Feedback to Develop Innovative Lesson Plans” at the LOEX of the West Conference in Boise, Idaho.

Colleen Peterson (Counseling) is chair-elect of Family Therapy Section of the National Council on Family Relations. After two years as chair-elect, she will serve two years as chair. The council links family research, education, and practice.

Jose Elique (Public Safety) wrote an article about UNLV’s police department for the March/April issue of Campus Law Enforcement Journal. It was titled “Efficacy of Change in a Police Culture.” Featured on the cover of the professional journal were Luiz Ferreira of the department’s mounted unit and his horse, Big Red.

Toby Murray (Libraries) conducted a two-day workshop on “Water-Damaged Library Materials: Marc and Metadata: METS, MODS, and MARCXML: Current and Future Implications.”


This edited volume contains 21 chapters related to innovative library technical services and futuristic options for library technical services departments. He has also guest edited a two-part issue of Library Hi Tech titled “Marc and Metadata: METS, MODS, and MARCXML: Current and Future Implications.”

Andrew Nazarechuk (Tourism & Convention Administration) spoke at the 2004 Asian Gaming Expo in Singapore. He also presented “Emerging Gaming Markets in Asia,” “Recent Casino Developments in Macau,” and “The Role of Government in Developing Policies and Procedures for Overseeing the Gaming Industry.” He also presented “A Preliminary Tourism Assessment of Huangshan (Yellow Mountain), Anhui Province, China” in Thailand at the Asian Pacific Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education Conference.

New Degrees Available

As the number of students continues to increase, so does the variety of academic degrees available to them. Among the degrees available for the first time this academic year are:

• Doctoral degrees in educational psychology, nursing, public affairs, and radiochemistry.
• A master’s degree in materials and nuclear engineering.
• A bachelor’s degree in university studies.

TRAVEL: Dean Reflects on Asia

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American or a Chinese?

We understand the importance of offering programs in Asia and elsewhere and having people from other countries studying with us in the United States. The greater exposure that our students have to other cultures, the greater understanding they will have in being able to create and deliver outstanding products and services to everyone. This is true whether our students are physically here or in another part of the world. And it is true whether they are Americans or from another culture.

As I learn about other cultures in the course of my travels, I am finding that the similarities are far greater than the differences. And I am finding that my impressions and expectations are far different from reality. However, if one expects to conduct business with other cultures, regardless of the nature of the business, it is imperative that we focus on and understand both our similarities and our differences.

University Makes Appointments, Changes

Summer is a time of change on campus. Here’s a roundup of major appointments and reassignments.

New Hires:
• Elizabeth Baldwin, dean of Student Development. The former UNLV employee returns from South Seattle Community College, where she was dean of student life. She worked at UNLV from 1988 to 1995 and then again during the 1996-97 academic year, when she served as assistant dean in the College of Business.
• Gerry Bomotti, vice president for finance. He had been vice president for administrative services at Colorado State University since 1993. He previously worked at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and the University of Alaska.
• Richard Clark, director of residential life. He had been director of residential life at Purdue University. Previously, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, he worked his way up from resident director to assistant director for residential life.
• Teresa Donnelly-Major, bursar. She was bursar at Keene State College in New Hampshire. She also has served as bursar at Florida’s Daytona Beach Community College and at the New York Chiropractic College.
• Nancy Flagg, director of the public lands initiative. She returns following four years as deputy to the chancellor of the University and Community College System of Nevada. During her previous 20 years at UNLV, she held several positions, including deputy to the president and special assistant to the provost.
• Mary Guinan, interim dean of the School of Public Health. She spent 20 years as a physician and scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and was known for work investigating the first recognized cases of HIV/AIDS. In 1998 she became Nevada’s state health officer and investigated a cluster of leukemia cases in children living in Fallon.
• Marcia Holmberg, director of government relations. She formerly was the assistant administrator for intergovernmental relations at University Medical Center of Southern Nevada. She has a master’s degree in communication studies from UNLV. She is pursuing a Ph.D.
• Mark Jennette, director of development for the College of Business. He comes from the University of Miami, where he served as director of development. He has more than 25 years of experience in the university development field.
• Richard Lee, vice provost of the Division of Educational Outreach. He has spent 25 years in higher education, most recently as the Jones Distinguished University Professor, an endowed chair in the Teachers College at Emporia State University in Kansas. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
• Brent Morgan, controller. He was assistant controller and director of retirement plans accounting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also worked at Brandeis and Arizona State universities and at Dartmouth College.
• Michael D. Murray, director of the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies. He spent 22 years teaching at the University of Missouri, St. Louis where he was the Curator’s Distinguished Teaching Professor. He worked for NBC and CBS network news and founded the communication and journalism program at the University of Louisville.
• Brad Rothermel, special advisor to the athletics director. Rothermel, who served as UNLV’s athletics director from 1981 until 1990 and then spent nine years as an associate professor of educational leadership, returns after heading the Las Vegas Bandits basketball franchise.
• Edward Shoben, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He comes to UNLV from the University of Illinois, where he had taught since 1974 and was head of the psychology department from 1995 until 2003. He earned a Ph.D. from Stanford University.
• Mark Wharton, associate athletics director for development, comes from a similar position at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. He also worked at James Madison and East Carolina universities.
• Carolyn Yucha, dean of the

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Jennifer Fabbi (Libraries) and Nancy Gallavan, formerly of the College of Education, published the article “Stimulating Moral Reasoning in Children Through Situational Learning and Children’s Literature” in the January-February edition of Social Studies and the Young Learner.

• Erika Engstrom (Libraries) and Priscilla Finley, Susie Skarl, and Diane VanderPol (Libraries) presented the workshop “Polishing Gems: Using Peer Feedback to Develop Innovative Lesson Plans” at the LOEX of the West Conference in Boise, Idaho.

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Dean Marks Opens Chapter On Retirement

Who: Ken Marks, dean of libraries
Time at UNLV: Seven years
Why he became a librarian: I worked for almost 10 years as a buyer for R.H. Macy and the May Co. and as a store manager for White Front. I concluded there had to be another way to make a living.
Career highlight: My time at UNLV has been the highlight. There have been many factors: being involved with the opening of one of the most dramatically designed academic libraries in the world; having excellent support from the university administration; working with a fine, fine library faculty and staff in a delightful environment; and having the opportunity to feel you are making a difference.

On the award-winning Lied Library, which was constructed and opened during his tenure: What was unexpected was the tremendous reception for the library as a physical space – not just by the campus but also by the academic library community in the United States and internationally. We continue to have visitors from all over the world three and a half years after it opened. That is a stunning success.
People, when they come into the building for the first time, stop and are just taken away. When you have a new building you always hope that it will work in meeting people’s needs in terms of being a place they want to come. Nobody could have anticipated the reaction to this building. It talks volumes to the success of the Lied as a building, but it also, I think, says a great deal about the way service is delivered and the quality of the staff and of some of the technology.

About UNLV: Clearly, of the five universities where I’ve worked, UNLV is the most dynamic in the sense of being able to absorb and accomplish change. It never ceases to be surprising and certainly has the opportunity to define its future in ways that nearly all other major universities have long since passed – and that’s both a curse and a blessing.

Plans for retirement: We’re moving to Henderson, N.C., a small town of 10,000 people in the western part of the state. I will do some consulting on library buildings and marketing. I also plan to do a great deal of hiking on the Appalachian Trail and in the Smokey Mountains. Spending time with the grandchildren is a priority. It’s an open question which will arrive at our house first – the grandchild or the moving van.

Provost Provides New Services

Resources Help Faculty, Staff Serve Growing Student Body

By Cate Weeks
With phenomenal growth in the student body placing demands on UNLV’s academic units, the provost’s office recently added new services to help faculty and academic staff cope.

“Our goal is to make the business of academics as efficient as possible so faculty can focus more of their time on teaching and research,” said Ray Alden, executive vice president and provost.

How Good Is Good?

Beginning this fall, departments and colleges won’t have to go it alone when accreditation boards come visiting. Jennifer Fager was appointed to develop the systems that assess student learning.

“My role essentially is to help the faculty, who are the keepers of the curriculum, find out just how good their programs really are,” Fager said.

Fager will help UNLV prepare for the coming year’s accreditation visits from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. She’ll also be an expert resource for departments and colleges. Before her hiring, there was no primary resource for departments and colleges. Before her hiring, there was no primary resource for departments and colleges needing to construct the evaluation systems that are vital to program accreditation.

In addition, Fager will assist in responding to assessment requests from the Board of Regents, the Nevada Legislature, and other external audiences. As Fager said, “Overall, the assessment systems we develop help us make the case for what needs to be done to help students meet the demands they’ll face in their fields after graduation.”

Taming the Space Beast

As director of academic and research space, Anthony Vaughn is championing the needs of faculty for classrooms, offices, and research facilities on our space-crunching campus.

 Vaughn is the one who found campus homes for this fall’s more than 125 new faculty members – no small task considering that this time last year there were only two empty faculty offices on campus. He accomplished this by consolidating College of Urban Affairs offices in the Central Desert Complex, thus opening up offices from the Flora Dungan Humanities Building to the McDermott Physical Education Building.

“Academic space planning is its own animal,” Vaughn said. “The space solutions aren’t always easy and precise, but by coordinating this function through the provost’s office, we ensure the best possible balance is achieved for teaching and research.”

Doing Better Through Training

To meet the specialized needs of academic faculty and staff related to human resources and budgeting, the interim associate provost for academic resources, Dawn Neuman, will serve as the focal point for academic/research personnel processes and academic budgeting.

“The hiring process for academic faculty and training for academic staff is not optimum,” said Peg Rees, senior vice provost. “We know we can do better.”

Working with human resources, Neuman and her staff will help streamline the hiring process so that deans, chairs, faculty, and executive administrative assistants can easily use and improve university systems. Rees said.

To make hiring and budgeting systems more efficient, the office of the executive vice president and provost is restructuring academic administrative development seminars as well as the Academic Support Council, which is comprised of dean’s administrative assistants.

The office also will conduct training on topics such as class scheduling, faculty workload reporting, faculty evaluation and merit processes, strategic planning, and leadership development.

More info: visit www.unlv.edu/Provost/ or call ext. 5-3301.
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receive such staff perks as 10 percent off at the campus bookstore, 10 percent off Performing Arts Center tickets, various discounts for fine arts events, and reduced prices on season athletic tickets. A variety of area merchants also give discounts to card-holders.

For the hours of the RebelCard Services Center at MSU and at Lied Library, check the RebelCard website.

Who do I call if I’m having trouble linking from my office or home computer to the University Libraries?

Call the library’s computer help desk at ext. 5-2101. Troubleshooting tips also are listed at www.library.unlv.edu/help/remote.

How can I improve my technology skills?

The Computing Resource Center offers workshops in MS Office, Lotus Notes, Windows, and the Internet for professional and classified staff and faculty members for a small fee. It also frequently hosts an open lab. The labs give employees one-on-one assistance with specific computer problems. For information, call ext. 5-0777 or visit ccs.unlv.edu.

Full- and part-time faculty and adjuncts, as well as graduate students, may use the Teaching & Learning Center, which offers free computer and technology programs. Also available are teaching enhancement workshops and a resource room. For information, call ext. 5-2293 or check out tlcl.unlv.edu.

If I have problems with my computer, where can I get help?

Contact the Computing Resource Center within the office of information technology at ext. 5-0777. Also, for answers to frequently asked questions, check out its website at ccs.unlv.edu/cms/support.

How do I order equipment for my classroom?

Call media services at ext. 5-0701 at least 24 hours in advance to order VCRs, DVD players, LCD projectors with monitors, slide and overhead projectors, overhead screens, laser disk players, teleconferencing units, portable CD and tape players, laptops, portable PAs, wireless microphones, speakers and extension cords, tripods and camcorders, and palmcorders.

Teaching and Learning Center Director Leora Baron listens to hotel management professor Wanda Costen, right, during one of the center’s workshops.

What are some of the ways that I can support the university?

Faculty and staff can join the UNLV Alumni Association for $45 a year. Membership includes discounts from area businesses, networking opportunities, discounted AAA memberships, and free access to UNLV tailgates. To date, the association has contributed more than $5.9 million for scholarships, endowments, and major capital improvements to campus grounds and facilities, including the development of the Tam Alumni Center. For information, call ext. 5-3621 or go to www.alumni.unlv.edu.

Employees also can show their support by becoming involved with the UNLV Foundation. Faculty and staff contribute more than $130,000 annually to campus programs including scholarships, staff development funds, the UNLV Libraries, and specific programs and departments. Many employees already donate to the annual giving program, which supports areas of greatest need across campus and in specific colleges.

Employees may make one-time or payroll deduction gifts to a program or area of choice, and they may also include the university in their estate plans. UNLV is a federally recognized charitable organization, and gifts to the university may provide tax benefits. For information, call ext. 5-3641.