UNLV
101

101 Things You Should Know About the University of Nevada, Las Vegas
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What do icon Elvis Presley, former U.S. President Bill Clinton, CSI creator Anthony Zuiker, the son of former Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev, and the rock group The Killers all have in common? They all have a connection to UNLV.

So, welcome to UNLV 101. It’s not a syllabus for an introductory class. It’s 101 interesting things we think you should know about the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. At a university as large, dynamic, and complex as UNLV, this book could be called UNLV 1,001, but we had to stop somewhere. And we think these facts represent a wide array of what makes UNLV … well, UNLV.

Some of the items included are about the great things our faculty, students, and alumni are doing. Some demonstrate the recognition our academic programs are receiving and the facilities that house them. Others describe the importance of our research and our impact on the community, including “zero-energy” homes, protecting our troops from roadside bombers, alternative energy, cancer research, gaming and hospitality, and conflict resolution. Finally, some will just make you say, “Really?” We hope you enjoy UNLV 101.
Las Vegas is unique and so is our university. UNLV embraces the qualities that make our region dynamic. It is an entrepreneurial, innovative and unconventional spirit that brought us here and a passion for these qualities that keeps us here.

For the last two years, we have been engaged in a collaborative planning effort known as Focus: 50 to 100, which strives to chart a course from where we are now to what we aspire to be in our next 50 years. As a result of this planning process, we developed the following vision for UNLV.

Our Vision:

- We promise that student learning and success will be the cornerstone for all that we do. It is imperative that we prepare our students to serve the leadership needs of the future and give our graduates the practical skills needed to be productive, active and engaged citizens.

- We will strengthen our current and emerging research to improve our national reputation, foster the economic and social development of our region and contribute to the national and international dialogue among scholars.

- We will create stronger partnerships with public and private research entities to improve our impact on Nevada’s economic development.

- We will ensure that equity, diversity and inclusiveness are inherent in every decision.

- We will support the development of the human capital, regional infrastructure and economic diversification that Nevada needs for a sustainable future.

UNLV’s distinctive identity and values permeate a unique institution that brings the best of the world to our region and, in turn, produces knowledge to improve the region and world around us.
President Neal Smatresk — Whether he is looking at the antipredator arsenal of fire salamanders or championing student access and success, UNLV President Neal Smatresk is a renowned zoologist and administrator. Smatresk is a passionate advocate for students, faculty and staff and was the architect of the extensive strategic planning effort at UNLV—Focus: 50 to 100. He joined the UNLV team as provost and executive vice president in 2007 and, in August 2009, was appointed president. Smatresk served as vice chancellor and chief academic officer at the University of Hawaii at Manoa after spending 22 years at the University of Texas at Arlington as a faculty member, department chair and dean. While in Texas, he was one of the statewide leaders of major science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) outreach initiatives. Now for the big question—how DO you say his name correctly? He says, “Smah-tresk.”
2. **CYBER SECURITY LEADER** — The National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security designated UNLV as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education, indicating that UNLV is a national leader in cyber security education and research.

3. **ENGINEERING SHOWCASE** — Every semester, engineering students showcase their research on high-tech design projects and introduce the commercial application of their work to local industry representatives at the Senior Design Competition.

4. **PROTECTING OUR SOLDIERS** — The Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering received several U.S. Army grants totaling $6 million to design vehicle technologies that can help save soldiers’ lives by protecting them from deadly roadside blasts.
5. **PRESERVING HISTORY** — The personal experiences and observations of the people of Nevada are captured through the Oral History Research Center and Digital Collections. Their projects include the accounts of Nevada Test Site workers, relocated Hurricane Katrina survivors, and Las Vegas showgirls. Listen online at library.unlv.edu.

6. **KIDS’ KICKS** — Kinesiology Professor John Mercer studies how running impacts the bodies of children differently from adults and how children’s sneakers may need to be uniquely designed based on those effects.

7. **HOT SPRINGS** — Microbiologist Brian Hedlund has received a National Science Foundation Early Career Development Award for his work in researching how microorganisms function in extreme environments – specifically, the hot springs of Nevada’s Great Basin.
$55 MILLION — With a total of $55 million in federal grants, more than 100 faculty and students are conducting over 25 alternative energy research projects in partnership with many public and private entities. These partnerships are fueling the future of Southern Nevada.

NUCLEAR POWER — UNLV associate professor of radiochemistry Ken Czerwinski is part of a research team that received a prestigious National Science Foundation grant to study nuclear energy. They’ve harnessed $687,288 in grants – all toward harnessing the power of nuclear energy.

ZERO-ENERGY HOME — Imagine a home that produces as much energy as it uses. Just such a home has been built by UNLV researchers from the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering in conjunction with Nevada Southwest Energy Partnership, Pinnacle Homes, and NV Energy. The so-called “Zero-Energy Home” has opened up infinite possibilities in energy-efficient research.

AGING PROCESS — What makes living things grow old? What biological factors contribute to the process? These are just some of the questions UNLV researchers are answering. Professors Michelle Elekonich and Stephen Roberts have received a National Science Foundation grant to pursue these questions.
LOOKING ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE — Distinguished Professor Robert F. Boehm of the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering is looking on the brighter side with a variety of solar power research initiatives. He’s finding new ways toward more efficient power generation – and even using the sun’s rays to drive air conditioning.
MOJAVE DESERT POWER — UNLV is in a partnership to construct a 64-megawatt solar power generation plant in Eldorado Valley near Boulder City, Nev. The plant will make use of a “trough” design, wherein mirrors are aligned to concentrate the sun’s rays on a series of tubes. These tubes contain “working liquid” that turns a turbine when heated. From this movement comes power – and a smart use of the Mojave Desert’s most abundant resource.
FAST-PACED RESEARCH — UNLV was the fourth-fastest-growing university in the nation in the output of articles in the sciences and engineering fields, according to a study by the National Science Foundation. Publication of peer-reviewed articles — considered a key measure of productivity and excellence by a university — grew 99 percent at UNLV between 1991 and 2001, while nationally, research productivity among top universities remained flat or decreased, the study showed. Such success can help the university rise in national rankings, enhance recruitment of faculty and students, and help secure grants and other funding.

FIRE AND ICE — UNLV Assistant Professor of Geosciences Adam Simon hiked seven miles over snow and ice to stand at the mouth of a volcanic crater in Russia. But he is more than a thrill seeker. He’s a researcher who took the treacherous journey to study more efficient ways to harness geothermal energy right here in Nevada.
16. **NUMBER ONE ON THE BEST SELLERS LIST** — *The Atlantic Monthly* named UNLV’s master of fine arts program in creative writing as one of the five most innovative in the country and the doctoral program as one of the overall best of its kind.

17. **METEORIC RISE** — UNLV ranks in the top 10 universities in the world for advertising research, according to *The Journal of Advertising*, which called UNLV’s increase in prestige a “meteoric rise.”

18. **AN ACTIVE RESEARCH CULTURE** — The UNLV Graduate College is dedicated to furthering the research goals of the university – classified as a “high research activity institution” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. It happens through more than 1,000 faculty, 7,000 graduate students, 120 graduate degree programs (including 37 doctoral and professional programs), and more than 1,000 graduate assistants.

19. **RESEARCHING WOMEN’S ISSUES** — The Women’s Research Institute of Nevada at UNLV is a nexus of information and research initiatives on issues affecting women and girls, including health, education, social welfare, and employment. It was created not only to empower women but also to collect and analyze vast stores of information to make their lives better.
BEFORE HER TIME — Alumna Hiba Risheg ('97, BS Biological Sciences) discovered a gene for FG syndrome, a probable cause of a form of mental retardation, something scientists have been researching since a decade before the 30-year-old Risheg was born.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE — Traci Newton turned UNLV degrees in civil engineering '94 and mechanical engineering '99 into success both locally and beyond. After stints with the local water district and the EPA, Newton accepted a position as a nuclear safeguards inspector with the International Atomic Energy Agency. In 2005, Newton earned the merit award for outstanding service to the agency and was among a team of inspectors to share the Nobel Peace Prize for working toward a peaceful use of nuclear energy.

CSI BEGAN HERE — When Anthony Zuiker was a student at UNLV about 20 years ago, he came up with an idea that now dominates television viewing. He is now an accomplished screenwriter and creator and executive producer of the smash hits CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, CSI: Miami, and CSI: New York. Zuiker has risen to the top of Hollywood’s elite, earning multiple awards, including an Emmy nomination for best dramatic series.
23. **GUY’S BIG BITE** — Since winning the second season of the popular television show *The Next Food Network Star*, UNLV alumnus Guy Fieri (’90 Hotel Administration) has gone on to host four of his own shows on the Food Network, including *Guy’s Big Bite*. He is also an author and co-owner of five successful restaurants in California.

24. **MUSIC TO OUR EARS** — UNLV Alumnus Eric Whitacre (’95, BA Music) pursued graduate studies at Juilliard and eventually became a Grammy-nominated classical composer.

25. **FROM CLASSROOM TO BOARDROOM** — Former UNLV student Bob Boughner presented a $1.2 million gift to UNLV to fund the Bob Boughner Career Services Center within the Harrah Hotel College. The center’s goal is to help students transition from college to career as seamlessly and successfully as possible. With his generous gift, Boughner is making it easier for students to go from the classroom to the boardroom.

26. **WATER POLO PHENOM** — UNLV alumna and current director of the Division of Health Sciences Advising Center Vaune Kadlubek (’80, BS Physical Education, ’83 MS Physical Education) was the first female water polo player to play on a men’s high school water polo team. She coached the USA women’s team as well and is in the U.S. Water Polo Hall of Fame.
27. **12 Million Killers**—Former UNLV music major Ronnie Vannucci is now best known as the drummer for rock ’n roll phenom The Killers, whose first two albums sold 12 million copies combined worldwide. The band used to sneak into the Alta Ham Fine Arts Building after hours to practice – and it paid off in platinum.
28. **NOW SERVING 60,000** — The UNLV Division of Educational Outreach serves about 60,000 students annually. It offers nontraditional students – particularly adult and part-time learners – face-to-face, online, and blended learning formats. Educational Outreach oversees a number of programs such as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), which provides intellectually stimulating programs for retired and semiretired adults who want to continue their education and meet people with similar interests. There are more than 500 members in the OLLL.

29. **THINKERS AND WRITERS** — Through public programs, residential fellowships, and publishing initiatives, the Black Mountain Institute fosters an environment where thinkers and writers from around the world can challenge entrenched perspectives on profound human issues. Renowned writers such as Toni Morrison, Wole Soyinka, Derek Walcott, Jane Smiley, Joyce Carol Oates, and John Dean have shared their perspectives at institute events.

30. **KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL** — UNLV’s Public Lands Institute organizes anti-littering campaigns, coordinates cleanup events, strengthens anti-littering laws, develops strategic plans to help local agencies “can” littering, assists in restoring native plants to fire-damaged areas, and helps preserve sensitive cultural sites being damaged by vandalism and looting. Also, through a federal grant, the institute is identifying native species that will help improve the restoration of arid lands following wild fires.

31. **THE GREAT DEBATERS** — After being eliminated in the 1990s, the UNLV Debate Team was re-established in 2007. The team came back stronger than ever, ranking above such notable schools as Georgetown, Stanford, and Notre Dame after just one semester.
32. **ONLY THE BEST** — The Honors College, whose students average SAT scores of more than 1,200 and grade point averages of 3.8, is a learning community of high-achieving students, accomplished faculty, and dedicated staff who share a commitment to academic excellence. The college offers an innovative curriculum with classes of 15 to 20 students and co-sponsors the SAGE (Summer Advanced Gifted Education) Academy, which offers advanced classes for gifted high school students. UNLV professors teach the courses to high school students, who can earn three college credits and a high school enrichment credit through SAGE.

33. **PUTTING ON A SHOW** — The Entertainment Engineering and Design program is an interdisciplinary major combining aspects of engineering and the fine arts. Technologies from both disciplines are interwoven to create the spectacular shows and special effects people expect when they visit the Entertainment Capital of the World. As Las Vegas continually grows and reinvents itself, UNLV students are poised to grow and invent the entertainment venues and effects of the future. There’s no better environment to learn and practice entertainment engineering than UNLV and Las Vegas.

34. **LEARNING FROM DUMMIES** — The technology used to train future nurses has become very sophisticated. While clinical training is still a key part of nursing education, students are now able to simulate real patient scenarios earlier in their training (and without risking actual patients) through the use of simulated patient technology. In UNLV’s on-campus Nursing Skills Lab, students interact with SimMan and SimBaby, realistic manikins that simulate patient responses, heart and lung sounds, and verbal responses – and that represents the bridge between classroom learning and clinical experience. From behind the scenes, instructors can carry out scenarios in a replica hospital room. By making the manikins verbally present symptoms and exhibit changing vital signs, instructors allow the students to become totally immersed in the experience.
35. MOVING ON UP — The Boyd School of Law posted a strong showing in the 2008 U.S. News & World Report’s annual rankings of the best law schools. In addition to moving up 12 spots, from 100 to 88, in the overall rankings in just 10 years of existence, the Boyd School of Law’s Lawyering Process Program, which includes legal writing, was named the nation’s third-best program. The Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution was ranked ninth in the nation for dispute resolution. And the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic jumped from number 20 to number 12.

36. IN THE GREEN ON THE GREEN — It’s no secret that golf makes a great networking tool for business. But the Harrah Hotel College’s Professional Golf Management program takes it a step farther through the PGA’s Golf: For Business and Life initiative. This national program helps college juniors, seniors, and graduate students improve their golf knowledge — and their use of sports as a business tool.

37. CURTAINS UP — The Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV stages a variety of productions, from Tony Award-winning plays to student-crafted creations to special guest performances. It provides opportunities for graduates and undergraduates to work side by side with seasoned professionals in the region’s foremost theater environment.
GOING GLOBAL — UNLV opened its first international campus in Singapore, offering degrees through the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, which for the past 15 years ranked as either the number one or two hotel administration college in the nation, depending on the source. The new campus is located in the prestigious National Library of Singapore and provides UNLV students with an opportunity to spend a year learning abroad.
39. **YOU’VE GOT A FRIEND** — There is nothing more important at UNLV than ensuring the academic success of students, and the new Academic Success Center was created for just that purpose. Here, incoming students find a “first-stop, one-stop” home that will keep them on track to graduation. They receive a diagnosis on their academic skill set and a plan to correct any gaps. The center coordinates career services to help them make the right choices on their classes and in deciding on a major. Also, welcoming learning communities headed by inspirational and motivating faculty and graduate students focus on particular disciplines like entertainment, sustainability, technology, and the environment. Small classes, customized curriculum tailored to student individual needs and learning styles, and extracurricular activities also are part of the experience.

40. **MARK OF DISTINCTION** — The College of Business is among the 6 percent of business colleges in the world to be accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, representing the highest standard of achievement for business schools and management education. It is one of a select few schools of business in the world to achieve the dual accreditation — both for the college and in the specialized area of accounting.

41. **NO FIGHTING** — The Saltman Center is a worldwide authority on conflict resolution, right here on the UNLV campus. The center provides research, teaching, and public service in the resolution of disputes.
CREATIVE MINDS — The UNLV English Department is home to some of the nation’s most creative minds. English Professor Douglas A. Unger was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and is co-founder of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing International Program. Also, John Bowers, Donald Revell, and Unger all teach dramatically different genres: medieval literature, poetry, and fiction, respectively – and all hold the distinction of receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship.

NOBEL PRIZE — Wole Soyinka, former Elias Ghanem Chair in Creative Writing in UNLV’s Department of English and acclaimed writer, poet, and playwright, became the first African to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1986. A former political prisoner who was also forced to live in exile from his home country of Nigeria, Soyinka has become both a major figure in the world of literature and a courageous voice for human rights, democracy, and freedom. Soyinka is now an advisory board member with UNLV’s Black Mountain Institute.

HE’S A GENIUS — Dave Hickey, author and renowned art criticism professor at UNLV, is a certified genius – just ask the MacArthur Foundation. Hickey is the recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship, nicknamed the “genius grant.”
45. **KHRUSHCHEV AND CUBA** — UNLV Professors Mike LaTour and Tony Henthorne teamed with the son of former Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev to research ways to improve U.S. business interactions with a post-embargo Cuba.

46. **AND THE BAND PLAYED ON** — Founding Dean of the School of Public Health Mary Guinan was part of the first Centers for Disease Control task force assigned to investigate the emerging AIDS epidemic. She was at the forefront of what was, at the time, a startling new illness. The best-selling novel *And the Band Played On* (also a motion picture) is based largely on her work.

47. **GROUNDED IN HER FIELD** — UNLV Associate Professor of Geosciences Brenda J. Buck is the first woman to receive the prestigious Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Soil Science Award. The honor recognizes her breakthroughs in the areas of mineralogy and soil chemistry and places her firmly among the ranks of the foremost thinkers in the field.
48. **RESEARCH TIMES TWO** — The new Science and Engineering Building is a state-of-the-art facility that creates a world-class environment for interdisciplinary research and education and doubles the current research space on campus. The building supports innovative research approaches and houses new technologies that are conceived and developed through collaboration among faculty in sciences, engineering, fine arts, health sciences, and allied units on campus. Students will be offered expanded and more specialized fields of study, with hands-on experience gained using the most technologically advanced equipment available.

49. **PRE-COLUMBIAN ART** — Special reception events, exclusive exhibits by artists from around the world, and collections of the cultural history of the American Southwest and Ancient Mesoamerica. This is the UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum. Today, the museum houses an extraordinary collection of pre-Columbian and ethnographic art, thanks to donations of collectors like Dr. Michael C. and Mannetta Braunstein. This collection is one of the largest of its kind. It is hoped that the museum will become an international center for pre-Columbian art. The museum and the Braunsteins host a unique semiannual symposium on Mesoamerican figurines, bringing in scholars from around the world. The first publication of symposium-related papers is due to be published next spring and will be the first of its kind.
LANDMARK GIFT — The new Greenspun Hall on Maryland Parkway is five stories and 120,000 square feet of pure innovation and includes classrooms, broadcast studios for the university’s radio and television stations, and a 190-seat auditorium. The building centralizes most of the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, including journalism and media studies, communication studies, criminal justice, public administration, social work, and environmental studies. The Greenspun Family Foundation is contributing $37 million for the project—the largest single donation in UNLV history and one of the largest in state history.
51. **HARRAH’S INNOVATION** — Innovation
UNLV and the hospitality campus will be the new academic home of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. The facility, which will include an on-site, for-profit hotel and conference center, will bridge the gap between academic research and real-world practice. A generous $30 million gift from The Harrah’s Foundation will help fund the academic center and Innovation UNLV, marking the beginning of a new way of learning.

52. **IT’S WORKING OUT** — The New Student Recreation and Wellness Center (SRWC) is no ordinary campus recreation center. Students are equipped to be healthy and well in every conceivable way. Complete with sports, activities, health services, and tailor-made wellness programs, the SRWC maximizes how students live, work, play, think, and thrive. It’s a comprehensive approach to complete well-being.

53. **WHAT’S THE FORECAST?** — The National Supercomputing Center for Energy and the Environment was established at UNLV by the U.S. Congress in 1990. This one-of-a-kind facility manages a number of important projects, including weather prediction in four states for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
FIND IT HERE — The University Libraries promotes a culture of innovation with technology such as RFID collection, inventory management, and LASR, the robotic, high-density materials storage unit. The Libraries’ Special Collections preserves and makes accessible the rich history and culture of Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. Attracting scholars from around the globe, the libraries contain the most comprehensive collections related to the history of gaming and the gaming industry in the world.
55. PRACTICING LAW — The Thomas & Mack Moot Court provides mock court experiences for the William S. Boyd School of Law students. The facility has also served as a venue for a U.S. Senate Committee hearing, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the Nevada Supreme Court, and a hearing of the Congressional Oversight Panel of the Troubled Asset Relief Program – the $700 billion rescue plan for the nation’s financial sector.

56. TUNE IN — Typically, you think of a library as a place to find a book or two. The UNLV music library marches to a different beat. Here you can peruse a music reference collection, a 30,000-volume collection of musical scores, more than 9,000 recordings, and more than 1,000 DVDs.

57. ALWAYS SOMETHING TO SEE — Dance, theater, and music come to life at the PAC, UNLV’s Performing Arts Center. As the cultural home of Southern Nevada, the PAC plays hosts more than 350 events a year.
58. **WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS**
   — Over the past four years, UNLV has won 19 Mountain West Conference Championships – which ranks second in the conference over that span – and has made 30 appearances in NCAA Championships.

59. **RUNNIN’ REBELS**
   — Over the past two full seasons, the UNLV men’s basketball team has won 57 games, two Mountain West Conference Tournament Championships, and three NCAA Tournament games – including advancing to the Sweet 16 in 2007. In fact, UNLV recently was named the nation’s eighth-most-prestigious men’s college basketball program in the last 25 years.

60. **BEIJING-BOUND** — Three former members of the UNLV men’s swimming and diving team competed at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Former student-athlete Joe Bartoch represented Canada, while Richard Hortness and Jonas Anderson, who finished their UNLV careers this past spring, swam for Canada and Sweden, respectively.
HOLE IN ONE — The most heralded player in the history of the UNLV men’s golf program, former Rebel golfer Ryan Moore, experienced unequaled success at the collegiate and amateur levels. As a senior, he won every major player-of-the-year honor given out in collegiate golf. He was just the second UNLV student-athlete to win his respective sport’s national player-of-the-year award (men’s basketball’s Larry Johnson was the first). In 2004, Moore won five major amateur championships, a feat that may never be matched. He captured the U.S. Amateur, the NCAA, the U.S. Amateur Public Links, the Western Amateur, and the Sahalee Players Championships to become the only golfer to ever win all five events in the same year.
62. GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS — Development officials and community leaders turn to UNLV’s Center for Business and Economic Research, which tracks key stats and puts the impact of policies into perspective for business owners and the media. Meanwhile, the Entrepreneurship Center at UNLV’s College of Business provides education, research, and community resources for those starting or wishing to start their own businesses.

63. LAW AND ORDER — With so many city, county, and state law-enforcement agencies, getting a comprehensive picture of crime can be a challenge. UNLV’s Center for the Analysis of Crime Statistics is the state’s central repository for justice system data for the past 40 years. The center’s website provides a valuable database – and reports on public policy research.

64. THAT ADDS UP — The Center for Mathematics and Science Education at UNLV has partnered with the Clark County School District to improve the teaching and learning of math and science in Las Vegas Valley middle schools. The project is a result of an $860,000 grant from the Nevada State Department of Education. It’s a partnership that’s adding up to breakthrough methods and greater efficiency.
BACK TO SCHOOL — The UNLV Child School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic, the only such clinic in the West, treats children ages 5 through 17, with the goal of easing their return to school.

SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT — Through the Crackdown on Cancer program, the School of Dental Medicine faculty and staff travel to high schools throughout Nevada to teach tobacco prevention and provide free oral screenings. The program has caught more than 1,500 tissue abnormalities in 60,000 young people tested. The school also offers free dental screenings to various groups in the community, including the Smiles for Success program, which offers dental services for a local battered women’s shelter.

TURN THE TASSEL — The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach has helped more than 15,000 county students finish high school and go on to college. With services for both high school students and their parents, the center helps families overcome the challenges that might hinder educational achievement.
68. **CAN I HELP?** — UNLV earned a spot on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll from the Corporation for National and Community Service – the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement. UNLV students rack up an impressive 5,000 service hours annually.

69. **WHAT’S FOR LUNCH?** — UNLV’s Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences, in conjunction with the cities of Las Vegas and Henderson, was selected as one of only 14 We Can (Ways to Enhance Children’s Activities and Nutrition) sites in the nation. The national initiative focuses on giving caregivers the tools they need to foster better health in children 8 through 13 years old.

70. **SPECIAL EDUCATION** — Three College of Education professors, Tom Pierce, Kyle Higgins and Kristin Sayeski, have been awarded highly competitive grant funding totaling $1.3 million from the U.S. Department of Education to improve the quality of special education programs and increase the number of special education teachers – both critical needs in the Clark County School District. One grant will start a rigorous and accredited training program to create 60 new special education teachers, and the other will enhance the special education emphasis of the Master of Education program by augmenting advanced education programs for teachers seeking specialized training in educating students with learning disabilities, emotional disturbance problems, or mental retardation.
71. **MULTIPLIER EFFECT** — An economic impact report revealed that UNLV is a powerful economic engine for Southern Nevada. In fact, for every dollar UNLV gets in state funding, $4.50 is created for the economy. This generous yield is attributed in part to the university’s research activities.

72. **HOPE FOR 3,000** — Every spring, the Undergraduate Council conducts a bone marrow registration drive on the UNLV campus. The drive is the first one of its kind in the state and is helping the more than 3,000 Americans in need of transplants find their matches.

73. **GET THE LEAD OUT** — The School of Public Health teamed with the local health district to develop the state Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP). Program researchers conduct free lead-based paint inspections in valley homes and search for sources of lead exposure in children — a search that led to the removal of lead-tainted candy from 1,600 store shelves in Southern Nevada and to the development of a national lead candy database. An Environmental and Occupational Health Lab on campus — funded through a $500,000 federal grant — studies the effects of environmental contaminants and issues like lead poisoning in children and water quality.
WHAT ARE THE STAKES? — The International Gaming Institute provides resources and training for the gaming industry. Its purview has grown to include expanded regulatory training as gaming has proliferated around the world. In addition, Professor Bo Bernhard conducts research that helps in the treatment of problem gambling, and his work has had a positive impact throughout the U.S. and internationally. In fact, UNLV conducted the first research in Nevada to assess and justify state-funded programs for problem gamblers and found they help problem gamblers recover financially and emotionally and even save some from suicide.
LENDING A HAND — The UNLV Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders provides valuable resources and support for people with autism spectrum disorders, for their families, and for those who serve these individuals. The center provides a wide range of services along with ample hope. Also, professors of political science and women’s studies found that the rate of autism in Nevada schools has risen dramatically. They hope that information will encourage lawmakers to increase funding for programs for children with autism.

MANAGING DIABETES — Researchers in the School of Nursing are among the nation’s first to examine how factors like decreasing vision and cognitive function affect the elderly’s ability to self manage their diabetes – one of the most prevalent chronic diseases in Nevada.

WATCHING OUT FOR OUR CHILDREN — The School of Social Work, the School of Public Health, and the Boyd School of Law conducted an audit of Nevada’s three child welfare agencies to gauge how well they are protecting children from harm.
78. **DIET PILLS** — Life sciences professors have studied the genetic basis of obesity to seek potential drugs to reduce obesity.
79. **HOMELAND SECURITY** — The Institute for Security Studies is coordinating research requested by local and federal agencies on homeland security issues, including detection of weapons of mass destruction, decomposition of explosives, and digital forensics.

80. **HEALTH CARE GAP** — Through a federal grant, the Center for Health Disparities Research is exploring how to eliminate the gap between the general population and ethnic groups in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, and other health issues.

81. **WHAT’S SHAKING?** — Because Nevada is the nation’s third most seismically active state, UNLV centers are constantly studying seismic activity and earthquake preparedness. In fact, engineering and geology professors’ research on a potential seismic hazard is leading to the creation of a three-dimensional seismic hazard map for emergency personnel and land development planners.
82. **RENEWABLE ENERGY** — The director of the School of Architecture received a $2.1 million grant to help area businesses and community leaders incorporate renewable and sustainable energy technology.

83. **PRECIOUS COMMODITY** — In the desert, water is the most precious commodity. And the Center for Urban Horticulture and Water Conservation is continually researching innovative ways to preserve this limited resource. In addition, UNLV is working with other state institutions and various external partners to support statewide water resource management and education.

84. **HYDROGEN FILLING STATIONS** — UNLV and the Las Vegas Valley Water District developed one of the nation’s first solar-powered hydrogen fueling stations — a critical step toward advancing hydrogen as a viable fuel alternative.
85. **HOPING TO SELL CELLS**

— Through a $450,000 National Science Foundation grant, Chemistry Professor Chulsung Bae and undergraduate and graduate students are looking for ways to make fuel cells more efficient and affordable so they can be commercialized.

86. **EXERCISE AND PARKINSON’S**

— Through balance exercises and other physical therapies, Professors Merrill Landers and Gabriele Wulf are discovering new ways to help Parkinson’s patients. This research has led to broader investigation into how exercise affects the brain.

87. **WHAT’S THE PROGNOSIS?**

— UNLV’s School of Public Health conducts research that tackles the latest headline-making health issues like the recent Hepatitis C outbreak, asthma, HIV, the leukemia cluster in Fallon, Nev., and other health care problems.
88. **NOT ASLEEP ON THE JOB** — Doctoral student Jenifer Utz received a National Science Foundation grant for her research on the physiological mechanisms behind the hibernation of the golden-mantled ground squirrel. Her work has serious medical implications for humankind. Understanding hibernation may lead to new ways to treat pathologies.

89. **TRUMAN POWER** — English literature/political science double major Emily Powers was chosen from more than 595 candidates nationwide to be a Truman Scholar – one of the country’s most prestigious scholarships. Powers is dedicated to a diversity of causes benefiting women and children, which means she has a profound impact both in the classroom and out in the community.

90. **ARTS AND AUSTRALIA** — Fine Arts students and faculty from UNLV have participated in the Adelaide Fringe Festival, the largest arts celebration in Australia. From film to dance, theater, art, and more, it’s a chance for these talented individuals to share their work on what is literally an international stage.
A SELECT FEW — Former biology major Archana Nelliott was the recipient of the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Award – the premier award in life sciences and one that leads to impressive post-graduate awards like Rhodes Scholarships. The award is given to only 310 recipients nationwide. Another life sciences student, Karen Levy – in large part due to her research on a pathogen closely related to E. coli – also earned the competitive Goldwater Scholarship.

KILLING CANCER — It’s amazing that something as tiny as a fruit fly could tell us so much about ourselves. In fact, the cellular pathway that leads to human colon cancer was originally deciphered by using fruit fly genetics. Elana Paladino, a School of Life Sciences graduate student, knows that and hopes to use her research to shed some light on conditions associated with the development of coronary heart disease.

ON TOP DOWN UNDER — Students from the William S. Boyd School of Law achieved top national honors in the 2007 Client Counseling Competition. Elizabeth Naccarato and Jenny Routheaux eventually traveled to Sydney, Australia, to compete internationally, shining a global spotlight on a few hometown heroes.
94. **VIVA LAS VEGAS** — In 1964, Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret danced in the university’s original gym in a famous scene from the film *Viva Las Vegas.*

95. **A FACTOR OF A THOUSAND** — Twenty-eight students began meeting for classes in dressing rooms of Las Vegas High School’s auditorium more than 50 years ago, and 28,000 are enrolled at UNLV now. UNLV’s student population is more diverse than ever and includes international students attending from more than 77 countries.

96. **HALF A BILLION DOLLARS** — In 1966, the university received its first major gift from private industry – $280,000 to create a hotel college. In 2009, the university is nearing the end of its $500 million capital campaign.
A NATIONAL STAGE — Former President Bill Clinton began Energy Week on campus this fall with remarks on clean energy during an opening session. U.S. Senate majority leader Harry Reid and chairman of BP Capital Management T. Boone Pickens also spoke to help chart a course to a clean energy future for our nation. The event featured panel discussions with local and national leaders about the development of renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies, and robust clean-energy markets in Nevada, the nation, and the world. This is one of many high-level events the campus hosts annually. For example, a Democratic presidential primary debate was held on campus in 2007.
98. TURN OUT THE LIGHTS — Thanks to various energy-management efforts, UNLV has decreased its utility consumption by about 11 percent since 1999, despite adding about 1.4 million square feet of new space since then. This resulted in a 44 percent reduction in utility consumption per square foot. Also, since 2002, UNLV has converted more than 458,000 square feet of turf into landscape that does not require supplemental irrigation, saving more than 19 million gallons of water a year.

99. WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS — The Thomas & Mack Center has been the highest-ticket-grossing college venue in the country for 22 years in a row and has been ranked in the top-10 highest-ticket-grossing venues for all professionally operated venues for more than 20 years. The venue also owned the number-one overall ranking twice. In 2007, the Thomas & Mack Center was ranked as the fifth-top-grossing venue in the world. Together, the Thomas & Mack Center, Sam Boyd Stadium, and Cox Pavilion book more than 250 events annually and are the home of several world finals events, such as National Final Rodeo, Professional Bull Riders World Finals, Supercross Series Finals, Monster Jam World Finals, Pioneer Las Vegas Bowl, and the Mountain West Basketball Conference Championships. Since the Thomas & Mack Center opened its doors in 1983, the three facilities have had a combined economic impact of $1 billion.

100. FINANCIAL AID — With the help of federal and state agencies, community organizations, corporations, alumni donors, and private foundations, more than 73 percent of UNLV students received some form of financial aid in 2008. Responding to the need, more than $133 million was disbursed to just over 15,500 students.
NATURE WALK — The entire UNLV campus has been designated as an arboretum – a walking study of various plant species. That means a quick stroll through campus is much more than a way to get from Point A to Point B. It’s also a way to learn more about the plants that help shape our living planet.