Inside UNLV

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University Launches Public Lands Initiative

• Program Provides Federal Dollars for Research Projects

By Diane Russell

Helping children learn about fragile ecosystems while spending time on a boat at Lake Mead.

Safeguarding part of Southern Nevada history by preserving a historic ranch.

Providing ethnically diverse high school juniors invaluable internship experience through conservation jobs with federal agencies.

These projects – and many more – are increasing faculty and staff research and community service opportunities, while bringing significant sums of research funding to campus.

Management of the projects falls under UNLV’s new public lands initiative office. Opened in May with little fanfare, it was created specifically in response to the federal government’s need to identify partners to help carry out millions of dollars in federal projects. Former longtime UNLV employee Nancy Flagg was hired back to head the office.

“We’re still laying the groundwork at this stage, but the eventual benefit to the university, faculty, staff, and students – not to mention the Southern Nevada community – is significant,” Flagg said.

The funded projects all stem from the 1998 Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, which requires the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to provide federal dollars for research projects.

Cabinet Approves 2004 Winter Break Change on Trial Basis

All nonessential campus offices will close the week between Christmas and New Year’s Day, providing most employees with a 10-day break from work.

This one-time closure, which recently received approval from the President’s Cabinet, is being done on a trial basis. It will be evaluated during spring semester.

“In our Web survey and focus groups, employees greeted the winter break proposal with great enthusiasm,” explained Sam Connally, associate vice president for human resources & diversity initiatives.

While noting that many academic and research activities will require continuing support during the break period, he said that the extended break was perceived by most employees as a family-friendly gesture that would promote positive employee relations.

The dates of the closure are Dec. 27-30. The campus already was slated to be closed on Dec. 24 and 31, which are official holidays. Most employees will have a 10-day break from Dec. 24 through Jan. 2.

Professional staff will have the option of working, using annual leave, or adjusting work schedules to make up lost days in half-day or full-day increments on non-working days during 2005.

Classified staff will have the option of working (which may involve project-related duties other than the employee’s regular job), using annual leave or accrued compensatory time, or making up lost time during the next 12 months subject to regular timekeeping rules.

The decision to try this winter break schedule was initiative office. Opened in May with little fanfare, it was created specifically in response to the federal government’s need to identify partners to help carry out millions of dollars in federal projects. Former longtime UNLV employee Nancy Flagg was hired back to head the office.

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Accomplishment, Community Engagement, and Midtown UNLV

I was honored recently to present my 10th annual State of the University address, and I was delighted, as always, to see so many members of the campus community in attendance. I genuinely appreciate your willingness to come to this presentation each year to learn more about our accomplishments, challenges, and goals. For those of you who could not attend, I will provide some highlights of the address here.

I sometimes find it hard to believe that it has been almost a decade since I became UNLV’s president, and yet I simultaneously marvel at how much has been achieved in what is really such a short period of time – the blink of an eye in the otherwise long and distinguished history of higher education in America. We have realized many incredible accomplishments at UNLV in this time, and so many of them are directly attributable to the hard work of the faculty and staff.

We have transformed the university into a major Doctoral/Research Universities-Extensive institution, and we are moving rapidly to the Doctoral/Research Universities-Extensive status. This is one of our proudest accomplishments, but there are many more.

Our enrollment has increased by more than 35 percent, from approximately 20,000 to more than 27,000 students. Doctoral headcount enrollment has grown a startling 215 percent (not including professional schools) since 1994.

• More than 100 new academic programs have been added, including 53 percent at the graduate level.
• UNLV has increased faculty and professional staff by 63 percent, expanding from 972 to 1,585, recruiting individuals from the finest universities not only in the United States, but in the world.
• UNLV has constructed 17 buildings, has remodeled six more, and is planning $91 million in student-centered facilities.

By Carol C. Harter

• We have acquired land in three parts of the valley totaling 773 acres (more than twice the size of the main campus), building an entirely new campus at Shadow Lane. As part of that land acquisition, UNLV received a 115-acre parcel located in a booming area of southwest Las Vegas for the development of the Harry Reid Research and Technology Park.
• The university has raised $214 million in cash and gifts, received $142 million in pledges, and is aware of $100 million in estate expectancies.
• UNLV has tripled external dollars from $19 million to $73.4 million, including research-dollar increases from $14 million to $58 million.

In my address I went on to list many other achievements, and I would be delighted to include all of them here if space were not limited. Suffice it to say that we have made remarkable strides in a variety of areas.

One of the other central themes of my address was community engagement, a topic I discuss frequently, as I believe our continuing commitment to our community and state is critical to our mission. We are a metropolitan research university and, as such, we have worked very hard to become a resource, a partner, and a source of pride for our community. We have encouraged an outward-looking perspective and have begun to do what the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges believes modern universities must do: Change our emphasis from the traditional “teaching, research, and service” mantra to the more proactive and interactive “learning, discovery, and engagement” orientation. As a result, our numerous community engagement and research activities now extend beyond traditional campus boundaries through efforts that demonstrate that we are all citizens of a much larger community.

It is clear that UNLV faculty and staff continue to find innovative and useful ways of contributing to the greater good – particularly to the good of Southern Nevada. Faculty are engaged in research and program development on a number of issues pertinent to our area, from sustaining water resources to preparing students for careers in entertainment engineering, from addressing the devastating health indicators present in our state to transforming waste into a less destructive and possibly more useful substance.

Some of our engagement activities are specifically designed as services to the community. For example, our law school provides free legal advice to the public through its several clinics. We are providing oral health care to some of our neediest citizens through our School of Dental Medicine. Our many student life and co-curricular activities embody the very essence of community engagement by enabling students to volunteer for service and charity. And there are literally dozens and dozens of additional examples of our university reaching out in every way to create synergies with the community. These activities demonstrate how we are continuing the rapid development of academic programs and related scholarship while connecting vitally with the world around us to create new opportunities for our area and our state.

One such opportunity I discussed in my address is the Midtown UNLV project, a redevelopment effort that will help transform the areas in the vicinity of our campus. This project, which is in its earliest planning stages, calls for private businesses, various government entities, community members, and the university to join forces to improve the physical space around the campus, starting with the areas immediately to the east along Maryland Parkway at the campus entrance.

The goal of Midtown UNLV is to create a university district at our front door – a neighborhood of restaurants, cafes, outdoor gathering places, small-scale galleries, and welcoming residential and retail opportunities. This district will revitalize the area, serve as an attraction to the creative people the university seeks to serve and employ, and literally and figuratively transform our surrounding community.

UNLV Foundation board member Michael Saltman, a business owner in the area and one of our most valued supporters, plans to spearhead the project. He has exhibited wonderful leadership on this partnership project, and we are grateful to him for sharing his vision and energizing community partners to become involved.

In my view, this project can become a visible metaphor for, and physical manifestation of, our commitment to community engagement. As an incredibly young enterprise, UNLV is already employing the flexibility, nimbleness, and entrepreneurial spirit necessary to become a major metropolitan research university. It becomes clearer to me every day that the development of our university links directly and vibrantly to the development of our community and our economy. As citizens of this community, we are in the wonderful position of both contributing to the improvement of the quality of life in Southern Nevada through our work at UNLV, as well as reaping the benefits. I hope you enjoy this opportunity as much as I do; it has been my sincere pleasure to serve the campus for these 10 years, and I look forward to the years ahead. There is still much to achieve.

Spring Semester Textbook Orders Due Oct. 15

Although fall semester isn’t even half over, the campus bookstore is already preparing to stock its shelves for spring semester.

Faculty members should turn in their spring book requests by Oct. 15 to allow ample time for ordering and to reduce shipping delays.

Submitting orders early will also save students money. The bookstore sets the prices for the buy-back of books based on the orders it receives for the spring semester. If orders for books are placed early for a course that is being taught again the next semester, students will receive the full buy-back amount on their books.

“Having the orders in early can help us and the students a lot,” said Stan Hansard, bookstore general manager.

Fortunately, there is some flexibility in ordering. “Faculty members can still make changes to their orders after submitting them,” Hansard said.

“We also are aware that faculty may change and the new faculty member might want to use different materials. Those changes are fine and we understand that.”

He said that ordering is an easy process.

“We hand-deliver all of the book orders of previous semesters to the departments. Faculty can review the form and return it to us if they want to use the same books. Or, they can fax it to us or submit an order online at www.unlvbkstore.com,” Hansard said.

To ensure that the correct number of books is ordered, bookstore staff reviews data on past class enrollment.

For Assistance: call ext. 5-3290 or e-mail bookstore@ccmail.nevada.edu.
Free Fun On Campus

● Editor’s Note: This continues our series of UNLV’s “bests,” compiled from an online staff survey over the summer.

Best Free Entertainment on Campus

BY CATIE WEAVER

The short answer: Just about anything sponsored by the College of Fine Arts.

Exhibitions and artist receptions at the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, located in the Alta Ham Fine Arts building, are always free. (The gallery was also mentioned as a favorite spot for peace and quiet.) On display through Oct. 30 is Specimens: Digital Works by Mark Sawrie. The images represent Sawrie’s observations of culture and people’s search for identity.

As the semester progresses, look for a number of music concerts and recitals by UNLV’s many ensembles. A favorite is the joint concert featuring the UNLV Symphony Orchestra and UNLV Chorus. This year’s event, set for Dec. 3, will feature Sally Braybrooks on saxophone. Watch UNLV information list e-mails for notices of upcoming performances.

The film department just kicked off its weekly Evening Festival of Shorts, which showcases award-winning short films. Visit shortfilmarchive.unlv.edu for showtimes as well as The Archive 100, a listing of must-see movies for short-film enthusiasts.

Other free favorites included exhibits at the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History and lecture series events. The next University Forum lecture, titled “Wind Music of the World,” is Oct. 7, followed by Oct. 12’s “Editing, Publishing, and Writing in America.”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Management to sell land within prescribed boundaries throughout Southern Nevada, she explained. “As the federal government sells land in this area, the proceeds from the sales are channeled into particular types of projects,” she said. “Because of the sheer number of pending and future projects, the four federal land management agencies – BLM, the National Park Service, the Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service – have elected to partner with UNLV to carry out selected projects that fit our educational and research strengths.”

The university’s level of involvement will vary from project to project, she said. So far, Flagg’s office has been asked to provide overall project management and oversight for most of the projects it has taken on.

The money raised from the land sales must be used for projects in specific categories:

• Acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in Nevada.
• Capital improvement projects at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, and the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.
• Development of a multispecies habitat conservation plan in Clark County.
• Development of parks, trails, and natural areas in Clark County.
• Conservation and environmental education initiatives.

Portions of the proceeds also benefit the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the state general education fund. Other provisions in the act direct the BLM to convey title to land in the McCarran International Airport noise zone to Clark County and provide for the sale of land for affordable housing.

With the money raised from the land sales, the four agencies involved propose projects to the Secretary of the Interior, who approves or denies each request.

“Many of these projects will provide excellent opportunities for our faculty, staff, and students to participate,” Flagg said. “One of our landscape architects, for instance, might become involved in designing a public park or hiking trail. In another case, an archeologist might help preserve valuable links to our past. A language professor might assist with developing culturally appropriate interpretive signage.

“These projects will not only give the professor – and perhaps his or her students – a chance to participate, but also lets local residents who use that park or trail see how UNLV contributes to the broader community.”

Peg Rees, UNLV senior vice provost and geoscience professor, initiated the university’s involvement after learning of the opportunity through her ties to local outdoor organizations.

“The project ties in well with two of the university’s macrothemes – both the arid lands environmental science, policy, and engineering macrotheme and the one dealing with analysis and preservation of history, culture, and society,” Rees said.

“We’re advancing our mission while at the same time forming partnerships with the federal government and helping our community. What could be better?”

Student Life Tackles Retention Issues

The Division of Student Life has contracted with Noel Levitz to explore ways to enhance student retention. A retention steering committee appointed by President Carol C. Harter will focus four task forces on student communication, students first (eliminating run-around), academic advising, and course management. Their recommendations will shape the university’s retention plan.

The 2002 student satisfaction inventory revealed high satisfaction with faculty accessibility and quality, library facilities, and campus safety. Respondents were less satisfied in areas where they felt they received the “run-around.”

UNLV’s first-to-second year retention rate exceeds the national average; however, students in good standing leave the university in higher than usual numbers after their sophomore and junior years.

The inventory will be administered again in the spring. Under the direction of Elizabeth Baldizan, dean of student development, an assessment committee will partner with teaching faculty to ensure broad student participation. Results will be used to shape retention goals.

Students who feel a sense of connection to and engagement with the university are more likely to graduate.

● LAND: Initiative Increases Research, Service Opportunities

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Current Public Lands Initiative Projects

• Red Rock Desert Learning Center, a residential science camp for fifth-graders, which will include a wild horse and burro facility.
• Forever Earth, a floating environmental science laboratory and center at Lake Mead.
• Wonderful Outdoor World on the Water, a recreation program that will introduce economically disadvantaged youths to outdoor recreation, environmental education, fishing and boating, and aquatic resource management.
• Development of Walking Box Ranch, a historic property once owned by cowboy actor Rex Bell and his wife, silent screen star Clara Bow, as a museum and interdisciplinary research field station.
• An area-wide outdoor environmental education strategy that will produce a five-year strategic plan and implementation plan for environmental education in Clark County.
• An internship program for ethnically diverse high school juniors interested in conservation careers with land management agencies.
• A volunteer-based site stewardship program that trains volunteers to help land management agencies protect cultural and natural resources.
• An interagency volunteer program consolidating recruitment and training of volunteers.

Inside UNLV Page 3
A Shining Star

Legendary actor Tony Curtis walks across stage at last month’s campus ceremony inducting him into the Nevada Entertainers/Artist Hall of Fame. The star of 106 films, Curtis is perhaps best known for his lead role in Some Like It Hot, a movie named by the American Film Institute as the funniest movie of the past 100 years. For his work in The Defiant Ones he received an Emmy Award nomination as Best Actor. A supporter of the College of Fine Arts, Curtis regularly speaks to UNLV students. He also is an accomplished artist whose works were exhibited at the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery in September. Curtis is the second person inducted into the Hall of Fame, which was founded at UNLV to honor Southern Nevada residents who have made a significant impact on the arts.

Business
Gift Funds Endowed Chair
The college established its first endowed chair after receiving a $1 million gift from Ken Knauss, a member of the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees and the president of Palm Mortuaries and Cemeteries, and his wife, Tracy.

The gift, the largest from an alumnus in the college’s history, will support the Ken and Tracy Knauss Endowed Chair in Accounting.

“The education I received from the College of Business has played a major role in my success in this community,” said Knauss, who received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from UNLV in 1978. “This is my way of saying ‘thank you.’”

Education
Grant Aids Training
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security awarded a $1.5 million grant to the Center for Workforce Development and Research in the Department of educational leadership.

The funding will be used to create a “train-the-trainer” program for security professionals in tourist-destination cities. The program will concentrate on prevention, detection, response, and recovery, and provide participants with the skills, knowledge, and materials needed to train others within their organizations. UNLV’s Institute of Security Studies will help identify subject-matter experts.

Since 1999, the Center for Workforce Development and Research has been dedicated to providing professional development and customized training services, primarily through grant funding sources. Its executive director, Sterling Suddler, will be the project’s principal investigator.

Paul Papa, an undergraduate student in workforce education and a security professional, saw a need for training for his industry and approached the center with the concept. He worked with Nick Walling, a doctoral research assistant, and Melissa Scott, director of projects/operations at the center, on planning and developing the grant.

Suddler said this grant will engage undergraduate and graduate students in activities consistent with one of UNLV’s research macrothemes: development and protection of community infrastructure: ensuring homeland security.

Engineering
Space Technology Eyed
A partnership between UNLV and Bigelow Aerospace prompted Congress to earmark almost $1 million to develop three major areas related to space technology and human habitation in space.

Graduate
New Programs Offered
The Board of Regents recently approved several new graduate degrees. Now accepting applicants are Ph.D. programs in nursing, public affairs, radiochemistry, and sports education and leadership.

One of the largest “Beowulf” clusters on any university campus will be built at UNLV. This collection of 500 off-the-shelf computers designed to work on a single problem will perform radiation-shielding analyses for potential space habitats.

Also, the safety of space habitats exposed to micro-meteorite impacts will be examined using a high-speed, two-stage gas gun capable of launching projectiles at more than 10 kilometers per second. This speed is close to “re-entry” velocities and the approximate velocity of micro-meteorites that impact the International Space Station.

The collaboration also will develop sensors for space applications using nanotechnology.

Engineering faculty members involved in the 18-month project include Bill Culbreth, Yi-Tung Chen, and Biswajit Das.

Air Force ROTC to Begin
The college announces that an Air Force ROTC program will begin at UNLV next fall.

The nominated commander for the program, Col. Robert M. Hogan, is scheduled to bring a staff of five to campus in January. This is the first new Air Force ROTC program in the country in many years.

Health & Human Sciences
New School Approved
The new School of Public Health, located in the Bigelow Health Sciences Building, will offer a master’s degree in public health with classes beginning spring semester.

The program prepares students as public health professionals, and its mission is to improve quality of life. The program is comprised of a 18-credit required core and a 21-credit concentration in one of four specialty areas: health promotion, health care administration, environmental and occupational health, or biostatistics and epidemiology.

Shawn Gerstenberger is the graduate coordinator and director of the environmental and occupational health program. Tim Bungum is the chair of the department of health promotion. Chuck Mosely is the director of the health care administration program.

Honors
Council Tabs Harter
President Carol C. Harter has been selected to receive the Presidential Leadership Award from the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), the professional organization for honors education. Each year the NCHC recognizes a president who has made the greatest contribution to honors education.

She will receive the award during the NCHC national conference in New Orleans in November.

Harter established the Honors College in 1997 and helped develop it in a variety of ways. The college is now housed in a central campus location and endowments have grown from just over $30,000 to $2.5 million.

Student Interns with NBC
Honors student Brandi Powell interned with Dateline NBC and completed fieldwork with Univision during the summer.

As an editorial intern with Dateline NBC, she worked with producers on a variety of stories, submitted story ideas, and helped develop storylines. Her internship was the result of a nationwide application process. She also was nominated to participate in a program through Washington Center. Based in Washington, D.C., the center helps students get involved in politics through academic fieldwork. Through this program, she was part of the Univision contingent on the floor of the Republican National Convention in New York City.

Hotel
Staff, Majors Added
The college welcomes four new assistant professors to the department of tourism and convention administration: Kathryn Braun-LaTour (Auburn University), Debra Pace (Ohio University), Kurt Stahura (University of Minnesota), and Clark Kincaid, who recently earned his doctoral degree at UNLV. The professional golf management program welcomes its new director and assistant professor in residence, Christopher Cain (Pennsylvania State University).

Four new management-based...
majors: gaming, food service, lodging and resort, and meetings and events. The college continues to offer majors in hospitality, recreation, culinary arts, and beverage management.

Revisions Made to Site
To launch the new academic year, the college unveiled its redesigned website, home.unlv.edu.

This site was created to provide a student-centered area that gives more information about available degrees and programs. It also provides resources for the industry, including a listing of books written by faculty, academic journals, seminars and certifications, and alumni resources.

**Law**

**Intro Centers on Gideon**

The law school welcomed its 152 newest students with a four-day “Introduction to Law” program organized around Anthony Lewis’s legal classic Gideon’s Trumpet. The book follows Gideon v. Wainwright, the 1963 U.S. Supreme Court decision that recognized the requirement for states to appoint counsel for indigent criminal defendants.

Students were privileged to hear from three Nevadans:
- Federal defender Franny Forsman described her career as having “lived Gideon” and presented a dramatic reading of portions of the Gideon oral argument before the Supreme Court. She also demonstrated what the newly appointed attorney’s interview with Clarence Gideon prior to the re-trial might have looked like.
- Judge Johnnie B. Rawlinson of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals spoke about the honor of the legal profession and the book’s message that a single person can make a difference in the justice system. She reminded students that Gideon changed the legal system by pursuing his rights, and suggested that, as lawyers, students would have even greater opportunities to make a difference.
- U.S. Sen. Harry Reid spoke about some of his earliest cases as a lawyer in Nevada representing indigent criminal defendants. Reid emphasized the personal satisfaction, professional growth, and life lessons he received from representing indigent people who needed his legal abilities.

**Liberal Arts**

**Journal Appoints Editor**

The executive committee of the American Society for Legal History appointed David Tanenhaus, associate professor of history and the James E. Rogers Professor of History and Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law, as editor of the *Law and History Review*.

The journal is published three times a year by the University of Illinois Press and is available online through the History Cooperative. It furthers research and writing in the social history of law and the history of legal ideas and institutions.

He is the author of *Juvenile Justice in the Making* (Oxford University Press, 2004) and of several articles and book chapters, and is the co-editor of *A Century of Juvenile Justice* (University of Chicago Press, 2002). He graduated from Grinnell College, received a Ph.D. in U.S. history from the University of Chicago in 1997, and joined the UNLV faculty that year. In 2000-01, he was a Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Newberry Library.

**Libraries**

**Hours Extended**

In response to student, faculty, and staff requests, Lied Library is open later on Fridays and earlier on Saturdays than in previous semesters.

For a full listing of regular hours, holidays, and exceptions, call the hours line at ext. 5-2255 or visit www.library.unlv.edu/about.

**New Staff Welcomed**

Sherri Vokey, remote services librarian, joined the Libraries from Canada’s University of Winnipeg. She coordinates the real-time chat reference service and is a great resource for faculty who teach online classes.

Sidney Watson is a 19-year veteran of the UNLV Libraries, most recently working in the Curriculum Materials Library. Having recently obtained her master of library science degree, she’s moved into the role of science and engineering librarian.

**Sciences**

**Kernan Accepts New Role**

Warnick Kernan began his two-year term as Bechtel Nevada’s first distinguished visiting professor in spring 2004. He is dividing his time equally between the physics department and the Remote Sensing Laboratory at Nellis Air Force Base.

“I am very excited by the possibilities of research and teaching in an academic environment. There is tremendous opportunity for synergy between government, academia, and industry in the Las Vegas area,” Kernan said.

The position is funded by Bechtel Nevada and subject to annual renewal. It is helping Bechtel Nevada build a strong collaborative relationship with UNLV and strengthening science and engineering activities through joint research and development efforts in order to pioneer advancements in these fields.

Kernan’s research focuses on radiation detection. His fall class, Nuclear Threat and Detection for Homeland Security, features guest speakers drawn from academia, government, and industry. Also, he has started developing collaborative research programs with other UNLV faculty.

Kernan, who has been with the Remote Sensing Laboratory since 1991, earned a B.A. in physics from Middlebury College in Vermont and a Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from the University of Rochester. He gained experience at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and held a post-doctoral position at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

**University College**

**Degree Draws Interest**

The official opening of University College met with enthusiasm. More than 130 students enrolled in the bachelor of university studies degree program. The college’s students exhibit a range of academic interests and accomplishments, and novel combinations of their two required areas of study (18 credits each).

The flexibility and breadth of the program is resulting in a range of multidisciplinary topics such as philosophy and political science, history and elementary education, psychology and hotel management, and music and nutrition.

In the spring semester, several students will complete, under faculty supervision, a capstone project combining their respective areas of study in productive and thoughtful ways. The college anticipates as many as a dozen graduates in May.

**Library Faculty and Graduate Seminars Continue**

The Libraries’ Faculty and Graduate Student Seminar Series is under way. Three sessions remain:
- Oct. 14: Libraries’ webmaster Kyle Felker will lead a discussion of copyright and fair use.
- Oct. 20: Diane VanderPol, head of the Libraries’ instruction department, will present “Making Movies @ Your Library,” which will cover the basics of Microsoft’s MovieMaker digital video editing software.
- Nov. 4: Humanities librarian Priscilla Finley will lead a session ideal for graduate students on strategies for getting published in humanities journals and using a citation database.

**Urban Affairs**

**Disasters Topic of Event**

The Center for Urban Partnerships and the department of environmental studies hosted the Clark County-UNLV Vulnerability Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Symposium in August. Faculty from several colleges offered their expertise to the Clark County Hazard Mitigation Report, a project under the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The multidisciplinary symposium provided a venue for faculty to collaborate with government agencies on integrated vulnerability and hazard mitigation research to explore ways to minimize costs and losses associated with natural and human-caused disasters, such as floods, wildfires, epidemics, drought, and terrorism.

Participants included representatives from Clark County’s emergency management and fire departments and the UNLV School of Public Health. Presenters included professors Shashi Nambisan (UNLV Transportation Research Center); Cathy Snelson (geosciences); Tom Pietcha and Barbara Luke (civil and environmental engineering); Pat Markos (marriage, family, and community counseling); and David Hassenzahl (environmental studies). Hassenzahl also coordinated the event.

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**Homecoming Fun**

During last year’s homecoming festivities, Vice President Rebecca Mills visited with the Cat in the Hat. Will this year’s homecoming be as much fun? Come see for yourself. The homecoming game pitting UNLV against the University of New Mexico is set for Oct. 16. The time had not been announced when Inside UNLV went to press. For updates, check unlvrebels.collegesports.com.

For information on other events, including a parade that begins at the Moyer Student Union at 5 p.m. Oct. 15, a homecoming dinner that same evening, and a fund-raising golf tournament on Oct. 18, call ext. 5-3621. Inside UNLV Page 5
Event Marks Opening of Shadow Lane Campus

Members of the university community are invited to join the celebration marking the grand opening of the Shadow Lane campus.

Date: Thursday, Oct. 21
Time: 11 a.m.
Location: Northeast corner of Charleston Boulevard and Shadow Lane

Shadow Lane is the university’s first regional campus. At full build-out the 18.2-acre campus will support nearly 420,000 square feet of advanced training and research space for use by UNLV’s Biotechnology Center and School of Dental Medicine as well as by those engaged in other university-related biomedical studies.

BREAK: Some Departments to Close for a Week

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

made after evaluating comments from more than 300 faculty, professional staff, and classified staff through a Web survey and focus groups; hearing from the Faculty Senate, Professional Staff Committee, and Classified Staff Committee; and assessing academic and research support requirements identified by senior academic and administrative officers.

The human resources department will serve as a clearinghouse for information on services that will be available or suspended during the break.

More winter break information:
• Vice presidents and deans will exercise discretion in identifying essential services and will determine necessary staffing levels in their division, college, or school.
• Faculty and professional staff will retain access to individual offices and all research facilities. Building systems will be maintained to ensure an acceptable work environment, while achieving moderate energy savings.
• Lied, Curriculum Materials, Music, and Architecture Studies libraries will be closed, enabling them to remain open on some holidays that occur during the fall and spring semesters when classes are in full session. Online resources will remain available. Boyd School of Law library and legal clinic will remain open.
Benefit Briefing: Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

By Cate Weeks

Life is full of problems. While we can solve most of them on our own, sometimes we need a little guidance. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP), a free and confidential service, helps employees locate the resources they need to find those solutions.

“We recognize that for someone to be a happy, healthy employee, that person needs to be a happy, healthy individual,” said Hilary Bockstanz of the human resources department. “That’s the main reason that the University and Community College System of Nevada recently improved the Employee Assistance Program. Not many people can simply check their problems at the door when they come to work.”

Earlier this year, UNLV contracted with Behavioral Healthcare Options (BHO) to provide service to university employees and family members. BHO is staffed with licensed and certified professional counselors.

By contracting with an outside agency, we’re able to make comprehensive services available to employees while assuring them of confidentiality,” Bockstanz said.

Who It’s For

The EAP is open to all full-time and regular part-time employees as well as individuals living in the employee’s household. Similar services are available to student workers through UNLV student counseling & psychological services.

What It Covers

The EAP helps with many problems, including:

- Legal or financial troubles
- Workplace conflicts
- Depression and anxiety
- Couple and parenting issues
- Substance abuse and gambling addiction
- Grief and loss
- Stress management

UNLV provides four sessions of EAP counseling at no cost to the employee.

With such a large employee population, there’s a wide diversity to the problems people on campus experience. This program gives them a single place to call for help,” Bockstanz said. “EAP can help bring some clarity to the problems and provide professional referrals when it’s necessary.”

How It Works

When an employee or family member calls, BHO will note the general nature of the problem. A counselor will then call to schedule an appointment. EAP counselors will help employees assess the problem and provide short-term counseling.

If additional counseling or the services of another professional are needed, the EAP counselor will provide a referral. Referral services are not covered by the EAP, but may be covered by other UNLV benefits. EAP counselors are quite familiar with UNLV benefit programs and related personnel policies and can refer employees to appropriate insurance plan providers, Bockstanz said.

How to Use It

Call BHO, which administers the program, at 364-1484 or 800-873-2246. The help line is answered around the clock. If you feel you are in crisis, ask for immediate assistance from the on-call therapist.

More Information

Online access to BHO’s articles, videos, and other resources is available at www.behavioralhealthcareoptions.com.

Select “Online Resources” from the website menu, then select “New Members Register Here.” Enter the company name as “UNLV.” As with phone calls and appointments, online services are confidential.

Online resources cover such topics as adoption, anxiety, buying a car or house, cancer, child care, coping with crisis, creating a will, debt and bankruptcy, depression, diabetes, dieting, divorce and child custody, eating disorders, elder care, estate and retirement planning, grieving, management skills, marriage and living together, pregnancy, smoking, stress, substance abuse, supervisory skills, and balancing work and family life.
Team Approach to Improving Research Services Initiated

By CARYN KEY

A pilot program in the College of Sciences will help UNLV researchers compete at the national level for highly coveted grants.

If the program – which helps researchers coordinate, administer, and manage grants – proves successful, it likely will be duplicated in other colleges, noted Mark Rudin, associate vice president for research services.

Research service teams will be formed to help principal investigators with the “business” portion of their research activities, beginning with the application process. Staff from other units, including purchasing, receiving, payroll, disbursements, general financial accounting, human resources, and facilities management and planning will also provide team support.

“In essence, the College of Sciences research service team will serve as advocates for principal investigators and work to ensure that grant-related services are provided in a timely and efficient manner,” Rudin said.

The team will provide faculty members with one-on-one assistance in a variety of areas, including:

• Identifying extramural funding sources
• Preparing budgets
• Submitting proposal applications
• Monitoring ongoing projects
• Setting up initial cost accounts
• Troubleshooting post-award procedures
• Closing out completed projects
• Renewing continuing sponsored activities.

UNLV officials believe that the university, which already is quite successful in obtaining federal grants, is in the position to receive even more funding in the future.

While the majority of the $31.6 million in extramural research funding obtained by UNLV in 2003 came from federal grant programs, even greater opportunities to conduct highly complex and interdisciplinary research projects will become available in the near future, said Rudin. The U.S. Department of Energy budget for 2005, for example, dedicates $3.4 billion exclusively for fundamental scientific investigation in such areas as nanoscience, fusion, advanced computing, and microbial genomes.

Sciences Dean Ronald Yasbin is enthusiastic about the pilot project because it “complements many of the research-related initiatives currently under way at the university and will serve as a conduit for increasing our scientific endeavors.”

Paul Ferguson, vice president for research and graduate studies, said he views the consolidation of the administrative and service elements of the UNLV infrastructure as another positive step that will help further the university’s goal of becoming a premier research institution.