One Hundred Facts and Stats about the University

The Write Stuff

Screenwriter and creator of the immensely popular CSI television franchise Anthony Zuiker is a UNLV alumnus. His BA in English helped him hone the writing chops that enabled him to get to where he is today. It doesn't take a detective to figure that out.

The Science of Saving Lives

Graduate students at UNLV have developed ways to pre-vent children from getting lead poisoning from imported candies. Working closely with faculty, they've developed protocols and methodologies to detect the deadly contaminant in confections. The result? Safer kids – and maybe, lives saved.

101 Things You Should Know About the University of Nevada, Las Vegas
What do gamma ray bursts, the Nobel Peace Prize, lyrical hip hop, the O. Henry Award, Carnegie Hall, tone-up shoes, CSI television shows, the United Nations, and the rock group The Killers have in common? They all are connected to UNLV.

Just how are these (and many more) exciting, curious, creative, significant, and occasionally wacky things related to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas? Find out by paging through UNLV 101 – a kind of crash course on the interesting things we think you should know about us. At a university as large, dynamic, and complex as UNLV, we could have easily called this book UNLV 1001, but we had to stop somewhere. And we think these facts represent a wide array of what makes UNLV…well, UNLV.

Many of the items you’ll see are about the great things our students, faculty, and alumni are accomplishing. Some highlight the recognition our academic programs are earning. Others describe UNLV’s impact on our community. You’ll learn how we’re discovering ways to make our homes safer, transfer energy into fuel cells, enhance medical treatments, spur business development, transform hospitality, and find ways to resolve conflict. Finally, some will just make you say, “Really!” It’s a good time to learn more about UNLV, and we promise, there won’t be a quiz.
Quick, what’s the medical term for avascular necrosis of the lunate? Give up? A group of UNLV athletic training students didn’t, and their correct answer won the National Athletic Trainers’ Association quiz bowl championship. (The answer is Kienbock disease.) The UNLV team – Cody Bremner, Christine Samson, and Shun Jinnouchi – bested 10 schools in a Jeopardy-style competition. “We didn’t expect to win by such a large margin,” says Bremner about the 28,303 points they amassed. The University of Florida was a distant second with 11,011.

UNLV’s student chapter of the American Marketing Association ranks in the top 2 percent of student AMA chapters worldwide after winning the Silver Chapter Award at the annual American Marketing Association International Collegiate Conference. UNLV students have also won the AMA website competition in recent years. In addition, the group took third place in the national Nintendo Case Competition – the chapter’s fifth consecutive trip to the finals.

Engineering students Wali Zaidi, Sammy Zaidi, and Christopher Belcher had an idea about how to help people in developing nations: bring affordable power to rural areas to improve education, health care, and economic development. They won the United Nations Foundation Technology Challenge for their design of an affordable solar-tracking power system for small-scale appliances like a household lights, computers, or refrigerators.
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**All the World’s a Stage**

Students in the College of Fine Arts perform not only at UNLV but also on the stages of Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, the Kennedy Center, and Broadway. Students and faculty mentors travel all over the world, to events like the Adelaide Fringe Festival in Australia, the world’s second largest arts celebration.

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**More Than Acceptable**

Alex Gill wasn’t sure how to make his dream of becoming a doctor come true. Then he found a mentor in Joseph Nika, a professor who works closely with UNLV students wanting to go on to medical or dental school. “He got me hooked on community service.” That good advice, extensive volunteering, and hard work got Alex where he wanted to be. Students participating in the College of Sciences preprofessional advising program have very high acceptance rates to med school (85 percent) and dental school (100 percent) — far above national averages.
Native American reservations and college campuses are two very different worlds, and some Native American students have a hard time adapting. Crystal Lee, a Navajo and UNLV doctoral student in community health sciences, knew firsthand how hard it was to make the adjustment, so she created United Natives, a nonprofit organization that pairs American Indian college students nationwide with professional mentors of Native descent. The United Nations took notice and appointed her as North American representative on its Indigenous Youth Caucus.
Talking a Mile a Minute

Debating is like a high-speed game of chess. UNLV debater Christian Bato makes his verbal moves at about 400 words per minute as a member of the Sanford I. Berman Debate Team. Currently the team is ranked among the top 10 varsity programs in the nation, according to the National Debate Tournament Rankings Report. The high ranking is well ahead of Cornell, Harvard, Dartmouth, and Stanford.

Ethnic Mix

UNLV is one of the most ethnically diverse universities in the country, according to *U.S. News and World Report*. It ranks in the number 10 spot, with nearly half of the student body a member of a racial or ethnic minority.
Students in UNLV’s Honors College typically meet admissions standards comparable to many Ivy League institutions and earn national awards and professional recognition. Emily Tamadonfar, who was awarded UNLV’s 100,000th degree, is a recent Honors College graduate.

Karla Washington got accepted to all the hospitality programs she applied to and chose UNLV. “Why would I not? It’s the number one hotel college in the nation.” The William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration is consistently ranked as one of the country’s top programs, and it’s not hard to see why. With 150,000 hotel rooms, internationally known resorts, and industry leaders on the UNLV faculty and among its alumni, Las Vegas is the ideal living laboratory for the study of hospitality.
Going Nuclear

UNLV displayed its strength in nuclear technologies research and education at a recent national student competition held by the U.S. Department of Energy. In fact, UNLV blew away the competition, when four students and recent alums took top honors from the DOE for their investigations into the nuclear fuel cycle, winning 25 percent of the prizes.

Team UNLV’s Time to Shine

UNLV is one of just 20 university teams chosen for the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013, a highly competitive contest that attracts colleges from around the world. Says architecture professor Eric Weber, “This challenge will give our students the unique experience of working on a zero-energy home.”
Ensuring students’ academic progress is a top priority at UNLV. That’s why the “first stop, one stop” Academic Success Center has been, well, such a success. The retention rate for those using ASC services is 88 percent. Advisors and mentors help students focus on the right classes for their major and a future career.

Graduating engineers present their inventions and work with MBA students on business plans for their commercially viable products and designs. Industry experts judge the projects and award cash prizes at the Senior Design Competition held every semester. Recent products of this partnership have won the Dominic Anthony Marrocco Southern Nevada Business Plan Competition and the Governor’s Cup.
Graduates of UNLV’s highly ranked creative writing doctoral program are telling great stories and are being recognized around the country and the world. Maile Chapman’s novel, *Your Presence is Requested at Suvanto* was noted in the *New York Times* Sunday Book Review and has been short-listed for the Guardian First Book Award. Alissa Nutting’s story collection, *Unclean Jobs for Women and Girls*, is the winner of the Starcherone Prize for Innovative Fiction. Vu Tran, winner of the O. Henry Award for his short stories in 2007, has continued his winning ways, earning finalist status for the 2011 Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise as well as being honored with the Whiting Writers Award and the Best American Mystery Stories Award.

“My father used to say that education was the best investment a person could possibly make because no one can steal it from you and you can’t lose it,” explained Ted Lee at the announcement of the $15 million gift that transformed the College of Business into the Lee Business School. Ted, his wife, Doris, and their family gave the gift to recruit exceptional students and trailblazing faculty to UNLV. The gift also creates the Lee Thought Leader Lecture series so some of the biggest names in the business world can interact with community leaders and UNLV students.

**In its Element**

For a nuclear chemist, discovering a new element is the scientific equivalent of finding the Holy Grail. That’s just what health physics professor Ralf Sudowe and recent doctoral graduate Megan Bennett did as part of an international team of U.S. and Russian scientists. The yet-to-be-named Element 117 will be added to the periodic table after the discovery is confirmed.
O u r  R e s e a r c h
What’s Shaking?

Because Nevada is the nation’s third most seismically active state, UNLV scientists are constantly studying seismic activity and earthquake preparedness. In fact, engineering and geology professors’ research on potential earthquakes is leading to the creation of a comprehensive seismic hazard map for planners, builders, and emergency personnel.

Does the Shoe Make You Fit?

Do the “tone-up” shoes with the rocker-like soles really live up to their marketing claims? Kinesiology professor John Mercer, who researches the biomechanics of running, assessed whether the shoes help people burn more calories and build more muscle. The American College of Sports Medicine welcomed his findings: tone-up shoes performed almost identically to traditional running shoes. But “if people like how they feel and the shoes get people out and moving, then, in my opinion, they are working fine.”
Clinical psychology professor Cortney Warren explores socio-cultural factors related to eating disorder prevention. Her work has garnered an Award of Excellence in Addiction Research and Education from the Foundation for Recovery.
Keep Moving

Transportation Research Center director Pushkin Kachroo likes to keep things moving. He notes “billions of dollars in productivity are lost every year because of extra time spent on highways.” The center studies traffic management innovations, pedestrian safety, distracted driving, and high-speed trains.

The Right Balance

To address the epidemic of Type 2 diabetes affecting American Indian youth, researchers from UNLV worked with federal agencies and eight tribal colleges to develop “Health is Life in Balance,” an innovative K-12 diabetes curriculum blending scientific knowledge with native cultural teachings for American Indian and Alaska Native school children.
Communications professor Erin Sahlstein is researching the different ways military couples struggle to communicate effectively before, during, and after a service member’s deployment.

According to UNLV ecologist Scott Abella, to truly save our forests we may need to stop trying so hard to rescue them. Naturally occurring wildfires once did a good job of clearing out overgrowth and non-native species. But since quick wildfire suppression for small blazes is now the norm, “large fires in our deserts and forests are becoming more frequent and severe,” and ecosystem recovery can take 65-70 years.
Stalagmites in Mexico are unlocking the secrets of how climate change may have affected the rise and fall of the Toltec and Aztec civilizations. *National Geographic* sends UNLV geoscientist Matt Lachniet to the caves in southern Mexico to study these rock formations that not only record, but may also help predict, climate change.

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**Magnetic Attraction**

A trip to Badwater Basin in Death Valley turned out to be good luck for UNLV biologist Dennis Bazylinski. He and his colleagues discovered a new kind of magnetic bacteria and were able to isolate it and grow it in the lab. A recent article in *Science* magazine describes their work and the bacteria, which may prove useful in medical imaging and delivery of medicine at the cellular level.
O u r  I m p a c t
“The hallmark of our school is service,” says Karen West, dean of the School of Dental Medicine, which treats 60,000 patients annually. UNLV’s dental clinics provide low-cost dental care to Southern Nevadans and offer free dental care to eligible local veterans and seniors in assisted living centers.

A good indicator of a college’s popularity is the school’s yield, which is defined as the percentage of those accepted who actually enroll. According to *U.S. News and World Report*, UNLV ranks 12 on the most popular scale for universities. Other schools in the top 25? Harvard, Stanford, MIT, BYU, and Yale.
Beatriz Alcala grew up in a rough part of town. “I dreamed of getting out of there.” Now a Doctor of Physical Therapy, she got some help from UNLV’s Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, which prepares Clark County middle and high school students for higher education. CAEO’s programs have already helped 15,000 students finish high school and go on to college.

More than 40,000 local residents have learned how to help themselves navigate the legal system through free classes offered through a partnership with UNLV’s Boyd School of Law, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, and Nevada Legal Services. The classes on tenant rights, immigration, children’s rights, and other topics demystify court procedures.

An economic impact report recently revealed that UNLV is a powerful economic engine for Southern Nevada. In fact, for every dollar UNLV gets in state funding, $4.50 is added to the local economy. That’s more than $1 billion a year.
One of the Best for Vets

*GI Jobs Magazine* places UNLV in the top 20 percent of military-friendly colleges and universities. More than 1,100 UNLV students receive GI bill benefits or tuition assistance. Michael Dakduk, a UNLV alumnus, is the national Executive Director of Student Veterans of America.

Read to Know, Read to Grow

Nearly 7,000 Clark County fourth and fifth graders chanted that slogan during the kickoff of the Rebel Reading Challenge at the Thomas & Mack Center. At the rally, university, school district and business leaders, local celebrities, and student athletes encouraged students to read. More than 30 schools competed in the month-long challenge to see which school and individual could set the record for the most pages read.

Mountain of Information

Brookings Mountain West, a partnership between UNLV and the Brookings Institution, the world’s leading public policy think tank, provides high quality, independent research focused on the dynamic Intermountain West region. The Brookings Mountain West Lecture series has delivered more than 30 free public lectures on topics including deficits and tax policy, education, energy, foreign policy, global climate change, housing, immigration, and robotics and warfare.
UNLV students are an amazing group, and thanks to the generosity of our donors, thousands of them can be recognized for a variety of reasons: special talents, academic merit, community accomplishments, potential, and perseverance in spite of obstacles. Recently endowed scholarships at UNLV include the Englestad Scholars program, which recognizes the importance of community service, the Lee Scholarships for business students, and the Philip J. Cohen Scholars program for deserving students who might not meet traditional scholarship criteria.
SAGE Advice
Every year the Honors College and the Division of Educational Outreach host the SAGE Academy (Summer Advanced Gifted Education), where more than 150 of the most academically accomplished middle and high school students take classes in everything from foreign languages to humanities, social sciences, and engineering.

To Be Continued...
Through UNLV’s Division of Educational Outreach, there’s always something new to learn. Nontraditional students – 60,000 of them – can take classes in a variety of formats: face-to-face, online, and a combination of the two. People can earn professional certifications, prepare for a new career, or explore new talents and hobbies through the university’s continuing education programs.
OUR FACULTY
Thousands of wounded soldiers are air evacuated because of battlefield injuries. They are subjected to high-altitude conditions that can alter the body’s normal inflammatory response and worsen their condition. Nursing professor Barbara St. Pierre Schneider is studying how air transport affects crush injuries and how to improve their care, thanks to a $2.26 million grant from the Air Force.

While gambling may be an invisible affliction, its addicts may be anywhere — the neighbor playing poker online, a bank president obsessed with blackjack, or a teacher into fantasy sports. People on six continents seek out Bo Bernhard, director of UNLV’s International Gaming Institute, an expert in gaming and problem gambling. Bernhard’s research indicates treatment is effective, and his expertise has garnered interviews with ESPN, CNN, and addiction specialist Dr. Drew Pinsky.

When a catastrophic tsunami struck Japan, four of the six nuclear reactors in Fukushima were destroyed. General Electric, the company that designed the reactors, called in radiochemist Ken Czerwinski, known for his expertise in radioactive isotopes. His team is helping GE engineers understand how spent nuclear fuel scattered radioactivity when seawater was used to cool the damaged reactors.
45 Healthy Helping

Once a member of the “medical FBI” at the Centers for Disease Control, founding dean of UNLV’s School of Community Health Sciences Mary Guinan was among the first to investigate a startling new illness, later identified as AIDS. Her work tracking the virus is documented in the book and movie And the Band Played On. She has undertaken a number of other challenges in her career, from eradicating small pox in India, to studying cancer clusters in rural Nevada, to investigating the hepatitis C outbreak in Las Vegas.

46 Some Like It Hot

Because of microbiologist Brian Hedlund’s success in identifying and characterizing new hot springs organisms, he’s now recognized as a leading expert on this untapped but potentially rich renewable resource.
Geoscientist 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 mineralogy and soil chemistry and places her firmly among the leading experts in her field.

Astrophysicist Bing Zhang, known internationally for his research on gamma ray bursts, recently co-authored an article in the journal *Nature*, which details the first-ever evidence of a star being swallowed by a supermassive black hole. A member of NASA’s Swift satellite research team, Zhang is exploring the “dark ages” of the universe at UNLV.

While some children may not want to go to school, some flat out refuse. Distinguished Professor Christopher Kearney is one of the world’s leading experts in school refusal behaviors, its treatments, and the effects on families. He directs the Child School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic, which assesses and treats children to get them back in the classroom.
Nursing professor and recipient of a Lincy Fellowship award, Nancy Menzel is dedicated to improving the community. Her work on the MAPP project — Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships — includes gathering information on local health and quality of life issues to create the foundation for a strategic plan to improve public health in Southern Nevada.

Clemens Heske has assembled an international lab to study the surfaces and interfaces of devices that convert energy from one form to another. The team wants to improve the efficiency of energy conversion in solar, fuel, and photoelectric cells.

From finding better ways to generate solar power to creating a zero-energy home to advising solar decathlon team members, Distinguished Professor Robert Boehm is helping transform energy connections in Nevada, the nation, and around the world.
Our Community
Big dreams. Small packages. UNLV’s Adopt-a-School program puts the two together, bringing the message to students in at-risk elementary schools that school is important and going to college is possible. UNLV students reward their adoptees through spirit rallies, book drives, and game tickets.

Dr. Shawn Gerstenberger makes house calls, but in his case, the house – not its owner – is the patient. The environmental health professor heads the Nevada Healthy Homes Partnership, in collaboration with the health district and other community partners. His team of certified home inspectors identify and correct preventable health hazards that can trigger asthma and unintentional injuries.

Thinkers and writers from around the world come to UNLV’s Black Mountain Institute. Through public programs, residential fellowships, and publishing initiatives, internationally renowned writers such as Toni Morrison, Wole Soyinka, Derek Walcott, Jane Smiley, Uwem Akpan, and Joyce Carol Oates have shared their perspectives at BMI events.
Getting Down to Business
Community leaders count on UNLV’s Center for Business and Economic Research, which tracks key stats and puts the impact of economic policies into perspective. The director of the center, Stephen Brown, is an expert in energy policy and was a key researcher and analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

No Fighting
The Saltman Center, a worldwide authority on conflict resolution, is right here on the UNLV campus. Providing top-notch public service, research, and teaching, it’s ranked the tenth best dispute resolution program in the nation.

Best of Show
The Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV has been named the “Best of Las Vegas” theatre company in the Las Vegas Review-Journal’s 2011 poll. It stages a variety of productions, from Tony Award-winning plays to student-written creations and special guest performances. NCT provides opportunities for students to work side by side with professional actors.
59

Never Too Late To Learn
The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UNLV offers retired adults intellectual and social experiences in a welcoming atmosphere. Nearly 1,000 Southern Nevadans take and teach OLLI classes.

60

For the Record
Hearing the voices of more than 150 scientists, soldiers, protesters, and downwinders really brings to life the Cold War era at the Nevada Test Site. Recognized by the National Council on Public History as Outstanding Public History Project, the Nevada Test Site Oral History features these riveting interviews, part of the UNLV Libraries digital collection.
Testing...Testing

Psychology professor Michelle Carro runs the Psychological Assessment and Testing Clinic, which has tested more than 300 people from kindergarteners to adults, in such areas as memory, processing speed, attention span, problem solving, and math. The tests can help determine whether a person has attention deficit disorder, autism spectrum disorder, or a learning disability.

Cutting Edge

Barbershop owner Calvin “Tito” Hudson Jr. is just one of more than 2,000 business owners who have worked with the Nevada Small Business Development Center to learn how to create new businesses and sharpen their marketing skills.

On a Roll

UNLV was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service - the only college in Nevada to achieve this distinction.
To a Tee

The UNLV men’s golf team has been among the best in the entire country for more than two decades, earning three national championships (one team, two individual). In addition, the Rebel program currently boasts an impressive lineup of alumni playing on the PGA Tour, including Ryan Moore, Chad Campbell, Charley Hoffman, Skip Kendall, Bill Lunde, Chris Riley, Adam Scott, and Andres Gonzales.

Coming Home

Once teammates on the 1990 NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship team, Dave Rice and Stacey Augmon have returned to UNLV as head coach and assistant coach, respectively. Together with rest of the coaching staff, Justin Hutson and Heath Schroyer, they led the Runnin’ Rebels to a 26-win season and an at-large bid to the 2012 NCAA Tournament. Season highlights included beating three top-25 teams, including a win over then-No. 1 North Carolina.

On the Ball

The last few years have been special for the Lady Rebels tennis team, which had a perfect conference season in 2011 while earning an NCAA Public Recognition Award for work in the classroom. In 2012 sophomore standout Lucia Batta was named the Mountain West Player of the Year and competed in the NCAA Division I Singles Championship.
Amanda Bingson, UNLV Sportswoman of the Year, earned All-America status in the 2011 NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championship, where she finished fourth in the hammer throw. She won her third Mountain West Conference title in that event, breaking several UNLV and stadium records along the way. A possible Olympic contender, this graduate of Silverado High School volunteers with local students interested in track.

Olympian Khadevis Robinson, head of UNLV’s women’s cross country team, recently competed in the World Track and Field Championships in Korea. He earned a spot on the U.S. national team when he finished second overall in the men’s 800m run at the USA Outdoor Track & Field Championships. In addition to competing internationally and coaching at UNLV, KD is president of the Track and Field Athletes Association and a motivational speaker.
Matt Williams was a first team All-American and Major League first round draft pick when he left UNLV in 1986 for the San Francisco Giants. He played for 17 seasons, first with the Giants, and later with the Cleveland Indians and Arizona Diamondbacks. During his time in the majors, he drove in 1,218 runs, hit 378 home runs, and batted .268 for his career. Along the way he garnered four Golden Glove awards and was named an All-Star five times. Matt still holds the UNLV record for home runs – 58. The third baseman is one of only three UNLV Hustlin’ Rebels to have his jersey retired.

UNLV ranked in the top 25 nationally for home basketball attendance at the Thomas & Mack for the third straight year and is first on the West Coast, ahead of Cal, Gonzaga, and Oregon. The Thomas & Mack is the highest ticket-grossing college venue in the country.
FACILITIES
The Association of Physical Plant Administrators honored UNLV’s facilities management team with its highest accolade – the Award of Excellence – for innovative sustainability, which resulted in dramatic reduction of both energy costs and water use. In addition, the Nevada Taxpayers Association recognized the department for its efficient and effective use of taxpayer funds.

UNLV has two buildings that are LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. Greenspun Hall is gold certified and generates about 30 percent of its own power. The LEED silver-certified Science and Engineering building, named the Best Public Green Project when it opened, is designed specifically for interdisciplinary research and features flexible laboratory space.
The libraries at UNLV promote a culture of innovation, from peer education to robotic book retrieval. The Special Collections unit preserves the rich history of Las Vegas, and Lied Library contains the most comprehensive collections related to the history of gaming and the gaming industry in the world.

UNLV’s Marjorie Barrick Museum is home to one of the largest collections of pre-Columbian art — textiles, ceramics, flints, figurines, and masks — thanks to the generosity of Mannetta and Michael Braunstein. UNLV is also a partner of the Las Vegas Art Museum, which exhibits in College of Fine Arts galleries.

The Science and Engineering Building has two nanotechnology clean rooms. One of the rooms has a class level of 1,000, meaning that it contains no more than 1,000 particles that are .5 microns or larger within a cubic foot; a second room is a Class 10,000-level clean room. Clean rooms are necessary for sophisticated research involving optoelectronics, high-speed electronic devices, and nanostructures, including carbon nanotubes.
Edward Smith wanted to leave a legacy to honor his late wife Maurine Jackson Smith, a talented organist and UNLV graduate. He couldn’t have found a better tribute – the magnificent pipe organ in the Doc Rando Recital Hall. Built by the Rudolf von Beckerath Co. in Germany, the organ has three keyboards, 53 ranks, 38 stops, 3,000 pipes, and 10,000 pieces.

The landmark “Flashlight” sculpture, constructed by internationally known husband-and-wife artists Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, recently celebrated its 30th anniversary in the courtyard outside the Performing Arts Center.
ALUMNI
Mayne Idea
Kenny Mayne ’82, once a UNLV quarterback and a free agent for the Seattle Seahawks, is better known as an ESPN sports journalist, anchor, and host with an offbeat sense of humor. The broadcast journalism major even had a stint on “Dancing with the Stars.”

Legal-Ease
As the executive director of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Barbara Buckley ’86 and her staff provided civil legal assistance to more than 45,000 locals in the last year. Her clients include the most vulnerable – children in the foster care system, victims of domestic violence, and consumers misled by deceptive practices. Her long history as a public servant includes serving in the State Assembly from 1994-2010, and she was Nevada’s first woman Speaker of the Assembly.
Music major Ronnie Vannucci would sneak into the Alta Ham Fine Arts Building after hours to practice with his band. Today he is best known as the drummer for that same band, The Killers, whose albums have sold 18 million copies worldwide. Success hit before graduation, but recently, between international tours, Ronnie came back to UNLV to complete his studies. At the May 2011 Commencement, he received his degree - and a key to Alta Ham Fine Arts Building.

Internationally acclaimed composer and conductor Eric Whitacre ’95 won a 2012 Grammy in Best Choral Performance for his album *Light & Gold*. At UNLV, we remember Whitacre when we hear the Alma Mater, which he composed. During his Grammy acceptance speech, he thanked David Weiller, the director of choral studies at UNLV, for being “the man who tricked me into joining choir and changed my life completely.”

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Quite the Conversationalist

Warren Buffet Speaks to Janet Lowe. And he’s not the only one. Jack Welch, Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey, and Michael Jordan have also been interviewed by Lowe as part of her “Speaks” series of books. Even Google Speaks to her. Recognized as one of America’s top business writers, Lowe ’68 has written or contributed to 21 books, including a number of investment guides. She was one of the first women to graduate from UNLV with a business degree.

Crime Does Pay

As the creator, executive producer, and often screenwriter for the TV hits “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,” “CSI: Miami,” and “CSI: New York,” crime does pay for Emmy-nominated Anthony Zuiker ’91. He came up with his idea, which turned into a television franchise, while a student at UNLV. These days he often visits campus to meet with screenwriting and film students.
Her Honor, the Mayor

Carolyn Goodman, the mayor of Las Vegas and founder of The Meadows School, received her master’s degree in education from UNLV in 1973.

Napoleon & Tabitha
Conquer Hip Hop

Married choreographers Napoleon and Tabitha D’Umo ’96 met as students at UNLV (he studied biology, she majored in communications) and performed on the Rebel cheer and dance teams. They created dance routines for Cirque du Soleil, NFL cheer squads, Celine Dion, and Justin Timberlake. The duo, known as “NappyTabs,” are probably most famous for the Emmy-winning “lyrical hip hop” dances they’ve created for the competitors on the television show “So You Think You Can Dance.”
**Undefeated**

Did you know the Rebels had an undefeated season in football? The year was 1974, when UNLV was in Division II. The quarterback was Glenn Carano. After guiding UNLV to bowl appearances as a Rebel, he played for the Dallas Cowboys, backing up Roger Staubach and Danny White. Today he’s a casino executive in Reno. He keeps in touch with teammates like “Hammerin’” Hank Melton, who is still in the Rebel record books and on the UNLV Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Heart for the Game**

Former Rebel soccer star Simon Keith ’92 is the first athlete to ever play at the professional level after a heart transplant. He arrived at UNLV in 1987, a year after his surgery. Besides his contributions on the pitch, he worked closely with Distinguished Professor Larry Golding who studied cardiac health in elite athletes. Today, the local businessman is one of the world’s longest-surviving heart transplant recipients, the author of *Heart for the Game*, and an advocate for organ donation.
REALLY!
Those words start what is widely regarded as the greatest pregame show in all of college basketball. The tradition began in the mid-1970s with swirling spotlights, a loud pep band, and cheerleaders. The show has become even more elaborate and, to some opponents, intimidating, over the years. A visiting coach once told *Sports Illustrated* that the pregame show was worth 10 points to UNLV. Today’s display includes the original crowd-pleasing elements plus strobe lights, a red carpet, the Rebel Girls, and UNLV’s trademark indoor fireworks with 60 pyrotechnic effects.

UNLV alums have been well represented on a host of reality TV shows and channels including A&E, CNN, DIY, MTV, PBS, SyFy, TLC, and the Travel and Discovery channels. Former students on reality TV include comedian and political commentator Jason (J.Son) Dinant, environmental and recycling activist Tara Pike, magician Seth Grabel on “America’s Got Talent,” Nick Groff and Aaron Goodwin of “Ghost Adventures,” Alison Victoria Gramenos in “Kitchen Crashers,” and “The Verminator” Mike Masterson.

Nearly 6,000 students earned their degrees this academic year and were eligible to participate in Commencement. UNLV undergraduates - from every state in the union and 84 different countries - now wear scarlet caps and gowns when they receive their bachelor degrees, creating a sea of red in the Thomas & Mack Center. Graduates join the ranks of 100,000 alumni.
The UNLV Foundation, founded by local visionaries 30 years ago, has provided more than support to thousands of students and given the university the flexibility to develop and enhance academic programs and build a stronger UNLV. In 1981 the foundation raised $800,000. Today that figure is more than $800 million.

Many hotels and resorts have been developed or run by a veritable Who’s Who of Harrah Hotel College alumni, including Bill Paulos ‘69 and Bill Wortman ‘71 (Cannery Resorts), Cynthia Kiser Murphey ‘80, MS ‘95 (New York, New York), Jung-ho Suh ‘82, MBA ‘83 (Ambassador Hotel Group), Bill McBeath ‘87 (Aria), George Maloof ‘88 (Palms), Scott Sibella ‘89 (MGM Grand), and Anthony Marnell III ‘98 (M Resort).

Dance, theater, and music come to life at UNLV’s Performing Arts Center. The PAC hosts more than 350 events a year and also welcomes 40,000 Clark County school children who come to campus to attend and participate in student performances and recitals annually.
The UNLV/CSUN preschool is an award-winning and accredited preschool that serves members of the public as well as the UNLV community. Enrollment is diverse and inclusive, with spots reserved for children with disabilities. Preschool faculty also conduct community training courses for day-care providers throughout Nevada and model the best practices in early childhood education.

World-renowned French “Chef of the Century” Joël Robuchon works with Hotel College students as part of the Chef Artist Dinner Series, which allows students to learn culinary and hospitality techniques as they work alongside professional chefs like Robuchon, Kerry Simon, Guy Fieri, Eric Klein, and Sean Griffin.
The Streak

The UNLV men's basketball team holds the NCAA Division I record for most consecutive games scoring a three-point goal. The streak extends back to the 1986-87 basketball season, when the NCAA first established the three-point goal, and UNLV has had at least one three pointer in every game it has played since then.

Global Reach

UNLV Singapore, part of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, opened in 2005. The self-supporting campus offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in hotel administration, bringing UNLV's top-notch hospitality programs to the fast-growing Pacific Rim. More than 1,000 students have finished course work and another 500 are currently enrolled.

They’ll Sandwich You In

UNLV grads Ashley Morris ’02 and Jason Smylie ’03 are the entrepreneurs behind the astronomical growth of Capriotti’s Sandwich Shops, which made Inc. Magazine’s list of the 5,000 fastest growing companies in the country, with sales of $39.4 million. That’s a lot of Bobbies (a Thanksgiving-in-a-sandwich masterpiece).
To make the most of UNLV’s 332-acre campus, master planners convene every decade. This important process is underway right now, with many exciting possibilities being explored, including new academic facilities and a mega-events center capable of hosting events for more than 50,000 spectators. An all-weather covered facility of this size (the only one in our region) could attract 25 special events each year, in addition to UNLV athletic events, bringing an estimated $763 million annually to Las Vegas. We are inviting friends and neighbors of the university, as well as students and staff, to share their thoughts on the range of campus improvements currently being considered through open houses and the UNLV website.