

Summer 2006

UNLV Magazine

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UNLV Opens In Singapore | Rothman Faces Gehrig's Disease | Rebel Rouser Fires Up Crowd

Summer 2006

UNLV

Magazine

CAROL HARTER
REFLECTS ON
11 YEARS OF
MILESTONES

DAVID ASHLEY
BRINGS STRONG
ACADEMIC RECORD
TO PRESIDENCY

High Expectations

PLUS: RED-HOT RHETORIC AT NEW INSTITUTE

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UNLV
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS



UNLV President Carol C. Harter is asked for comments by local media after announcing that she is stepping down.

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The drive to become a major research institution was here. David Ashley offered his talent for building strong academic programs. The combination may be just what's needed to take our university to new heights.

20 Presidential Memories

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New institute hopes cooler heads prevail as artists and writers debate today's issues

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History professor Hal Rothman on his career, his ALS diagnosis, and his future

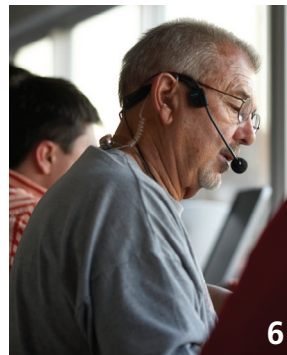
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Exceptional Experiences

As a university president, there are times you really look forward to with great anticipation, and others that give you great pause and even some sadness. As I sit down to write this column for *UNLV Magazine*, I am feeling decidedly mixed emotions. It has given me occasion to reflect on the strides UNLV has made as well as to look ahead to a different chapter in my life, and in the life of this great university.

As most of you reading this are already aware, I will retire from the presidency at the end of June — just about 11 years to the day from the time I assumed the role. It's been an incredible ride.

I remember coming to visit UNLV back in 1995, accompanied by my dedicated and long-suffering husband and greatest supporter, Mike. It was February, and when we departed for Las Vegas, it was one of those frigid, snowy upstate New York days. But in Las Vegas the sun was shining and it was about 70 degrees — Mike jogged in shorts and thought he'd died and gone to heaven. In some ways that image — that beauty, that brightness, that singular Las Vegas-ness — was a great metaphor for my experience at UNLV.

I cannot begin to tell you what a once-in-a-lifetime experience it has been to be at this university during its most formative stage of development. Having come from Ohio University and the State University of New York at Geneseo — two institutions steeped in well-established traditions — the opportunity to be a part of a young university just establishing its shape, its vision, and its own traditions has truly been an honor.

Just how far we've come together as a university family cannot be measured in simple statistics — though looking at growth in terms of student and faculty population, buildings, degrees, and research programs does boggle the mind.

One of the many outstanding qualities of our university is the sense of shared identity, of the campus community knowing where it wants to go and working productively together to get there. This is a community that, in my years as president, has never been afraid to speak its mind, to explore, to imagine, and to proudly proclaim its uniqueness. These are some of the qualities that intrigued me about UNLV even before I set foot on campus for the first time.

During our first strategic planning process, that energy and drive brought about some the most important, exciting, and difficult conversations in the life of the university. I'm very proud that so many in our extended family — including alumni, civic partners, and supporters — have joined students, faculty, and staff for these sessions over the years. They have been so critical to framing UNLV's essential role and mission in Southern Nevada.

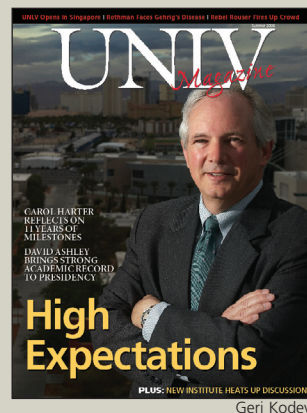
Two major planning documents and 11 planning retreats later, we've emerged stronger, with a clear strategy for the near, and not-so-near future. The 2005 planning retreat challenged us to look even further out — imagining UNLV a decade later and assessing our pathways to achieve that vision.

What I've learned from working with all of you is that UNLV is a place as unique as its people, and its community. It is a campus that welcomes non-traditional students and embraces a diverse learning community, valuing the teaching and learning experience at all levels. It is also increasingly a place for research, for discovery and economic development, for academic discipline and community engagement. These aspirations are intertwined in countless ways, with research adding to the richness of the student experience at all levels.

As I look back on my tenure as president, I am so proud of where UNLV has been and where it is headed. This progress is due to the hard work of so many — from dedicated faculty, classified and professional staff, students, and alumni to community partners and the many generous volunteers who have dedicated time and talent to strengthening and growing this great university. Looking at the astounding list of milestones we've achieved together, I am confident that with your stalwart support, UNLV will continue its rapid rise to prominence at every level. This is an institution that knows where it's going. There's just no stopping it.

It is a privilege to have served UNLV through such an amazing period of change. For all these wonderful years and so many exceptional experiences, I thank you all. The university is in great hands.

Carol C. Harter



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David Ashley, UNLV's eighth president, Page 16

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Aaron Mayes

Taking a Peek

A student peers over the construction fence of the new student union. The first phase of the project will be completed in time for fall semester. The Moyer Student Union building will be demolished to make way for phase two of the project. Once finished, the new facility will include expanded ballroom and meeting space, more food services, and a theater.



UNLV Opens Its First International Campus

Hotel College Program Serves Singapore's Growing Tourism Industry

By Karen Sharp

This fall UNLV is opening its first international campus. The Singapore campus, located in the heart of the city's education hub, will offer degrees through the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. Its first classes will begin in September with UNLV professor Andy Nazarechuk serving as dean.

"Our timing could not have been better as Singapore is in the process of building two integrated resorts in 2009 with an expected price tag of more than \$3 billion," Nazarechuk says, referring to the casino-based properties aimed at boosting tourism in the country. "Many students and professionals in the area see the opportunity to enter the growing hotel and tourism industry and see the Harrah Hotel College as one pathway to their future success."

The campus was designed to serve 350 students, Nazarechuk says. "Right now there are opportunities for people in fields such as manufacturing, engineering, and

finance to change their career paths. The two new (casino-based) resorts are expected to create about 10,000 direct jobs and some 25,000 indirect jobs."

Stuart Mann, dean of the Hotel College, said Singapore provides an ideal setting for the college's first international campus. "As Asian tourism increases dramatically over the next 10 to 20 years, the proximity of Singapore to China and other Asian nations makes it the ideal place for our hospitality management

programs," he said.

The campus takes up the 10th and 11th floors of the National Library of Singapore, a prestigious institution comparable to the U.S. Library of Congress. The 16-story building opened in 2005.

The campus will offer a bachelor's degree program in hotel administration and hospitality management as well as an executive master's degree in hospitality. There will also be a variety of overseas internship programs, including some based in Las Vegas. UNLV faculty will teach at the Singapore campus on a rotating basis. In addition, resident faculty for Singapore will be hired as the campus grows over the next three to four years.

UNLV Singapore has achieved the Institute of Higher Learning designation from Singapore's Ministry of Education.

More info: Visit the UNLV Singapore website at www.unlv.edu.sg.



Rendering of UNLV's Singapore campus, located in the heart of the city's education hub.

Study Takes Closer Look at Immigration

As legislators in Washington struggle to find common ground on immigration reforms, UNLV researchers are developing a comprehensive picture of Nevada's growing immigrant population.

The researchers are exploring the impacts of the immigrant population on Clark County's educational, social, and economic systems and analyzing the legal and policy issues that frame the significance of these changes for Southern Nevada.

"The impacts of immigration growth are all local, and most of the time local jurisdictions are not in the

position to handle those impacts," says law professor Sylvia Lazos. "I think it's important for academics to get involved because we can frame the issue in a more analytical manner without hitting the emotional hot-button issues regarding immigrants."

According to 2000 census data, Nevada experienced a 302 percent increase since 1990 in its immigrant population, with nearly 77 percent of that population residing in the Las Vegas area – the majority of which are Latino.

Included in the project, were reports on social and economic status of immigrants, including comparisons with U.S. natives on issues such as education, employment, and home ownership.

The project also detailed the demographics of Hispanic/Latino students in the Clark County School District and analyzed their achievement and available educational support systems.

Through this research, Lazos and her colleagues hope to gain a better understanding of the social and legal policy options available to the county and the state in responding

to the influx of new immigrant groups. "New immigrants realize that their new lives are much better here, especially since Nevada offers much more economic opportunity and entrepreneurship than other parts of the country," she says. "Immigrants who come here envision a path that will lead them to a middle-class lifestyle."

Whether immigrants and their children will be able to successfully integrate into the local community will greatly depend

"Immigrants who come here envision a path that will lead them to a middle-class lifestyle."

— law professor Sylvia Lazos, on immigrants in Nevada

By THE NUMBERS

8 number of professors who collaborated to develop a clearer picture of Nevada's immigrants for local policy makers. They brought expertise from seven disciplines.

302 percent by which Nevada's foreign-born population grew between 1990 and 2000.

77 percent of immigrants in Nevada who live in the Las Vegas.

Source: UNLV immigration research project

on local leaders learning how these new stresses affect local community relations and how they can reconfigure existing programs so that more diverse local populations are better served.

"We hope to show that by providing a smooth transition and incorporation for these immigrants we can help create a more cohesive and productive community."

— by Gian Galassi

IT DAWNED ON SMEE

David Smee is an archaeological illustrator at UNLV's Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies. For this issue of the magazine he turned his attention to activities in student life.



A tragic case of double-booking the intramural fields



Update: The work of UNLV employees to preserve a Nevada treasure paid off in April when UNLV and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management announced the details of their cooperative management agreement. Walking Box Ranch (**above**) holds historic value as a ranch that was once the escape of Hollywood elite and ecological value as a critical habitat for the desert tortoise and more than 300 native plant species. In 2004, UNLV's history department had documented the ranch's potential for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with funding from the prestigious "Save America's Treasures" grant.

The **Public Lands Institute** (which *UNLV Magazine* featured in the Spring 2006 issue) and the BLM began assessing the property's potential to serve as a museum on ranching and conservation efforts, as well as a field station for researchers in a wide range of disciplines, including biology, anthropology, history, and geology. In April, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced new funding for the project under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

More info: Read the Spring 2006 issue at magazine.unlv.edu or visit pli.unlv.edu.

Arthur C. Clarke Foundation Picks UNLV for Center of Its Universe

UNLV is embarking on a new odyssey with the creation of a center to study human imagination.

The new Arthur C. Clarke Center for Imagination and Opportunity is a collaboration between UNLV and the namesake foundation of the prolific writer of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The center will explore the source of creativity and its impact on the advancement of science, literature, and the arts.

"Everything we've discovered about UNLV and Las Vegas, in our view, simply verifies the decision to come to here," says Tedson Myers, chair of the Arthur C. Clarke Foundation, adding that the center's goal will be to find intersections between human imagination and opportunity.

Clarke's achievements "bridge the arts and sciences — his work ranges from scientific discovery to science fiction — and have made a global impact on the lives of present and future generations," said Stephen Rosenbaum, dean of the Honors College, which will oversee the center.

Clarke's more than 70 science fiction

books often drew from his background as an accomplished scientist. He pioneered the concept for the global communications satellites used today. His archives are expected to be housed in UNLV's Lied Library special collections.

New Facility Planned

Long-term plans call for a new facility to be built specifically for the center. Last summer, the Arthur C. Clarke Foundation hosted a 10-day design competition among UNLV architecture students to develop concepts for the center.

Fundraising efforts are under way for the center's facility and its programs. In the meantime, Rosenbaum says the center's work has already begun with the SAGE Academy, UNLV's summer program for gifted pre-college students as well as a public lecture series.

The first Clarke lecture brought in Robert Sternberg, an expert on creativity education, and the second featured Michael Turner, chair of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of Chicago.

Open for Business

College of Business Launches E-Center

Universities are supposed to be bastions of bright ideas. Now, UNLV is hoping to help turn them into viable ventures.

The universitywide, multi-disciplinary Entrepreneurship Center (E-Center), recently approved by the Board of Regents, supports academic programs and also has the potential of being a resource for the business community. Housed in the College of Business, it will offer an undergraduate major in entrepreneurship. It will provide students and community members training in the basic skills necessary to bring an idea to market. The center will also assist in bringing together venture capital and campus innovation.

"We are extremely gratified that the Board of Regents supports our vision for entrepreneurship education and research," said Richard Flaherty, dean of the College of Business. "The new center will allow us to better coordinate and facilitate existing and planned entrepreneurship initiatives within the college, across the campus and the higher education system, and with external constituencies."

Flaherty and other organizers believe the E-Center will appeal to the business leaders in the Las Vegas community. They hope the center becomes a catalyst for promoting economic diversification and growth in the Las Vegas Valley and across the state. The goal is to be recognized as a strong resource by the business community and as a visible and respected facilitator of outstanding academic programs.

Management professor Janet Runge has been appointed as the interim director of the center. "I'm incredibly excited about the opportunity we have to make entrepreneurship a part of the campuswide vocabulary. The incredible outpouring of interest and support just reinforces that now is the right time to build this center. I think it's a powerful testament to UNLV's commitment to 'Invent the Future,'" she says, referring the university's fundraising campaign.

—Karen Sharp

Rebel Rouser

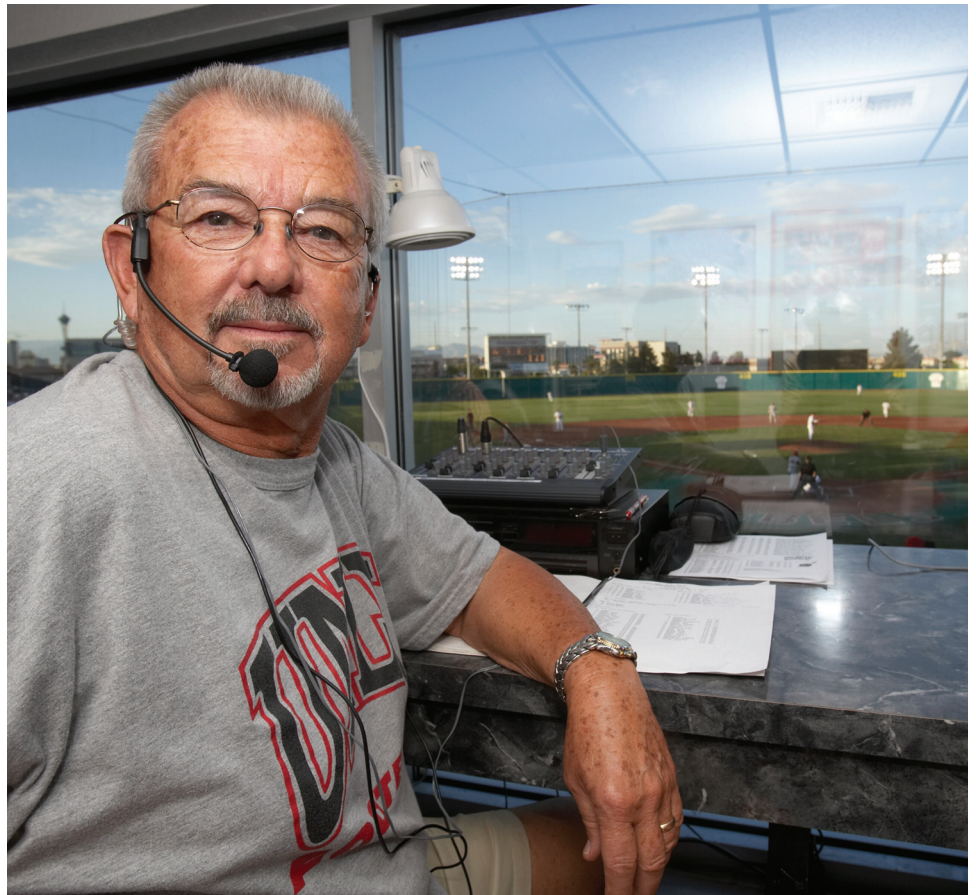
Announcer Fires Up the Crowd Without Stealing the Show

By Tony Allen

Perched atop Sam Boyd Stadium in the spacious, air-conditioned Wells Fargo Tower press box, game announcer Dick Calvert remembers well a time when his “office” left a lot to be desired.

In the 1970s, the stadium’s press area was “a single-level shack somehow concocted from the top row of seats,” Calvert recalls. A railroad I-beam ran through the open-air viewing area. “That beam caused so many fits; we’d put foam on the corners, rubber, pieces of hose, everything we could think of. And without fail, we’d get caught up in a game, turn around for a stat sheet, and walk right into that beam. It still gives me nightmares.”

For more than 35 years, Calvert has been the voice of Rebel sports, calling more than 3,000 Rebel sporting events and working under every UNLV athletic director and all but two of its presidents. He’s become a well-respected announcer for his ability to play on the excitement of the crowd without stealing the spotlight from the players.



Aaron Mayes

Dick Calvert is still in the press box after more than 35 years as the announcer for baseball, basketball, and other sports.

“I’ve learned how to use inflection to show my enthusiasm — maybe by the way I call a three-point goal or by the subtle inclusion of a nickname,” he says. “I’m able to be heard without being heard. The real show is on the playing field. I’m simply there to give the information necessary to make the game flow.”

Trademark Phrase

Though he tries not to steal the show once the game begins, Calvert’s trademark phrase “And now...” boosts the adrenaline of Rebel fans during player introductions. His unique introductions became the inspiration for the Chicago Bulls’ now-famous pre-game montage.

You Say Potato, Calvert Says pə·tā´tō

Pronouncing the names of players correctly is a challenge for any game announcer, especially with the recent influx of international competitors.

The extra vowels of the Finnish alphabet and the glottal stops in Polynesian surnames have always given the veteran announcer the most trouble. “It’s one thing to pronounce a name in your living room, but another entirely while in the heat of a play with thousands of fans clinging on your every word.”

Calvert’s biggest gaffe came during an exhibition basketball game between UNLV and the Chinese National Team during

Jerry Tarkanian’s tenure. He meticulously studied the Chinese roster, breaking each name down into phonetics as he always does, but needed a little extra help. So he enlisted the aid of team managers and several foreign languages professors.

“The game went off without a hitch as I nailed each name with the crispness of a native. And when the game was over, members of the team even complemented me on my performance. They said, ‘Dick, you did a great job, except for one little thing: you transposed the players’ names throughout the entire game,’” he recalls, explaining that in China surnames precede given names.

“And now...’ is just one of those things that stuck. I’ll try out new things occasionally, and the crowd will let me know whether or not to continue,” says Calvert. “That phrase has become the cue for our elaborate introductions, a theme for the UNLV basketball media guide, and has even attracted attention from the (National Basketball Association). Not bad for a spur-of-the-moment decision.”

Prepping for game time takes hours, he says. He pores over rosters and studies formations no matter which sport he is calling. Getting a player’s name right might sometimes require a personal visit before a game. It’s a lesson he learned from a Radio Hall of Fame broadcaster. “Vin Scully would never mispronounce an athlete’s name; attention to detail is the mark of a true professional,” he says.

Scully inspired Calvert to try announcing after playing and scouting for the Los Angeles Dodgers through the 1960s. His scouting territory brought him to UNLV, which in 1971 needed a basketball announcer. He got the job despite never having been in a basketball press box and a year later was asked to do football.

Beyond announcing nearly every home basketball and football game, Calvert has called some of the Thomas & Mack’s most significant sporting events. His most memorable was the game in which Los Angeles Lakers legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar became the NBA’s all-time leading scorer. “I still remember the play vividly,” says Calvert. “It was on a pass from Magic Johnson to Kareem on the right wing. It was fitting Kareem would break the record with his patented sky-hook.”

Calvert has called games for the Utah Jazz, Los Angeles Lakers, and the NBA Summer League, and is one of the most experienced broadcasters of American professional soccer. But according to Calvert, nothing compares to the thrill of sitting behind the mic for a UNLV game — except maybe watching the action from the stands. He was just a fan for two of his most memorable games: the Runnin’ Rebels 1990 NCAA Championship game and the football team’s 1981 upset victory over BYU, which pitted UNLV quarterback Sam King against BYU’s Jim McMahon. “First and foremost, I’m a fan of college sports,” he says.

Miss Ann’s Husband

Inside the press box, Calvert calls the plays alongside his wife, Ann. “She is my biggest fan, and my biggest critic,” he says. “As a volunteer in the press box at football games and as a fervent supporter of UNLV athletics, Ann is probably more well known than I am. In fact, if someone doesn’t recognize me, I just tell them I’m Miss Ann’s husband.”

Though now officially retired from the UNLV athletics department, Calvert remains an active game announcer. In fact, he announced more than 200 UNLV sporting events in 2005, including baseball, softball, soccer, and volleyball.

“I had a courtside seat for the entire Tarkanian era, where I was able to watch a tiny school blossom into a national powerhouse,” he says. “It’s been great to call the highlights of countless star players, but I get just as much joy out of announcing the name of a senior reserve who worked his tail off for years to get the chance to play.”



Aaron Mayes

With her No. 17 finish, sophomore star Elena Gantcheva became only the third player from UNLV to rank in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association’s top 20. She was also named the Mountain West Conference Women’s Tennis Player of the Year and earned a seed in the NCAA Championships, making her an All-American. She lost in the first round to the eventual winner of the tournament. Freshman Nikol Dimitrova was also named to the All-MWC team and finished No. 115 in the country.

Hall of Famers: The 2006 inductees for the UNLV Athletic Hall of Fame include former teammates Chris Riley and Chad Campbell (golf), Cyndi Parus (softball), Roger Pettersson (tennis), Trevaia Williams (track & field), the 1989-90 Lady Rebel basketball team, and distinguished UNLV contributor Mel Wolzinger.

The group will be inducted Oct. 13 at the South Coast Hotel. Tickets are \$110 per person and can be reserved now by calling Kara Jefferies at 702-895-3678. Tables of 10 and sponsorship opportunities are also available. Ceremonies begin with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m., and program to follow.

Established in 1987, UNLV’s Athletic Hall of Fame will now grow to 85 members strong. Former student-athletes must have completed their eligibility at least 10 years earlier to be selected. Coaches and administrators must have stopped working at the University five years previous. Classes now enter on a biennial basis.

Avoiding The Oncoming Traffic

Student Auditors Help Streamline Alumni Office Operations

Call it win-win meets the hit-by-a-truck scenario.

With a small staff, Russel Kost knew that documenting all the procedures in the alumni relations office could be one of those projects that keeps getting bumped to meet some other deadline. He also knew what it was like to lose a key staff member. Then Paulette Tandy, chair of the accounting department, offered a solution.

As part of her department's internal auditing class, students examine the operations of a campus department to recommend how it can run more efficiently within their current budgets.

A Win for Alumni Relations

The project, says Kost, associate vice president for alumni relations, will help ensure that the alumni association operations are run with industry "best practices." It will also help capture some of the knowledge of the office's employees.

"When a long-term employee leaves and the organization hasn't documented all the processes and procedures that particular employee developed through the years, it's an incredible sinkhole to start out in," Kost says.

The 10 students in the class were divided into teams of five, with two teams assigned to the association's project. One team concentrated on the financial processes — how records are kept and what controls are in place. The other examined the policies and procedures of the membership records system.

The audits were led by internal auditing professionals who volunteer their time. Supervising the alumni relations projects were C. Monica Robles, '96 BS Accounting, an internal auditor for the Clark County School District, and Philip Cheng, city auditor for North Las Vegas.

Student Jennifer Luebbert said the first step in assessing the operation is to determine what it is they do.



Gerri Kodey

Accounting major Jennifer Luebbert gained real-world experience before her May graduation by helping the UNLV Alumni Relations document its processes.

"If they don't have any policies and procedures, you try to create them. You determine whether or not they are following their procedures and document their internal control over their assets," she explains.

"Then you test those controls to determine if they are being done and if they're effective," she added. The final step is presenting the findings and recommendations in a report to management.

In the audit of the association processes, for example, an area that the students examined was membership records — what type of records are kept, how they are maintained, and so on, Tandy said.

A Win for Students

The students have the chance to gain real-life experience and implement the theory discussed in class. And for the departments and businesses that seek the audits, the

program offers ways to improve how they do business.

"There are several instances where they implemented the things that the students suggested," Tandy said. "It's always nice when that happens."

Since the auditing projects began in 1999, several university departments and student organizations have been examined.

On campus, the auditing projects carry an additional benefit: It gives non-academic departments an opportunity to participate in the students' education, Tandy said.

Luebbert graduated in May with bachelor's degrees in accounting and psychology. She has already landed a job and will begin working as a staff accountant with Houldsworth, Russo and Co. in August.

"The experience has been great," she said. "We're working with a project manager who is actually working in internal

auditing, and she has given us great feedback.”

When the alumni relations office went into the auditing process, it was trying to get answers to some key questions.

“If I get hit by a truck tomorrow, will the university know what I do right now? Will it have a document or plan to reference who does what, when, why, and with what intended result?” Kost says. The students helped come up with answers. The result will be a smoother, more streamlined operation.

“As an institution, we’re growing so fast that we’re not always able to take the time out to document what we’re doing and how we’re doing it,” he says. “The students helped point us in the right direction.”

— Jennifer Lawson



Save the Date for Fall Activities

Fall is the time to come back to campus. We hope you’ll mark your calendars for the following events:

Meet the Coach — The Rebel Athletic Fund sponsors lunch with coach Mike Sanford Sept. 1 and 29.

Tailgates & Rivalry — Join the crowd before all six home games. Visit unlvrebels.com for the schedule. The rivalry game against the UNR Wolf Pack is Sept. 30 at home.

Young Alums — Mix it up with fellow recent grads at the Young Alum Mixer Sept. 12.

Lifetime Members Reception — Meet UNLV’s new president, David Ashley, at this special event Oct. 4.

Homecoming — Come back to campus Nov. 3-6. The weekend includes alumni gatherings, a parade, tailgate, a golf tournament, and, oh yeah, the football game.

For a full listing of alumni relations events, visit alumni.unlv.edu or call 702-895-3621 or 800-829-2586.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Taking a Trip This Summer?

One of the privileges of a UNLV Alumni Association membership is discounts on travel products. Here’s just a couple:

AAA Auto Club — If you don’t already have AAA and are an active alumni association member, you can purchase a new or gift membership for only \$49. AAA will waive the initial enrollment fee. Individuals and families join AAA for a variety of reasons including towing services, special member rates on insurance, travel specials, and “Show Your Card and Save” discounts at hundreds of establishments.

Car Service Discounts — Ted Wiens Tire & Auto Centers in Las Vegas offer association members 10 percent off the purchase of tires and \$5 off oil changes.

Visit alumniassociation.unlv.edu to learn about these and other benefits.

July Marks Membership Renewal Time

Have you forgotten when your yearly alumni association membership is due? To make it less confusing for members and to streamline processes, the UNLV Alumni Association is changing how it bills renewal notices.

Association membership dues for all members will now be collected every July. Previously, association dues were collected during the month when members originally registered. July was selected because most members use their benefits in conjunction with the school year and university calendar, said Russel Kost, associate vice president for alumni relations

Approximately 1,800 to 2,000 current alumni association members can expect to receive their membership renewal notices soon. This change does not affect the more than 1,800 lifetime members.

The Alumni Association Board is expected to approve a pro-rated membership to ensure members get a full year out of their previous registrations, Kost said.

Member benefits include exclusive

event access, scholarships for children of members, and numerous discounts. But, most important, members play a prominent role in enhancing the entire university and helping its students.

“While state funding is a valuable resource, it alone cannot meet the growing needs of our institution,” Kost says. “The UNLV Alumni Association helps bridge the gap through a wide array of programs, including student scholarships and capital improvements. Members also help the university tremendously through their legislative advocacy efforts and support of athletics and the arts at UNLV. Ultimately, the alumni association helps the university achieve its goal of becoming a true voice of leadership in both Nevada and the nation.”

The UNLV Alumni Association was established in 1967 to provide volunteer leadership, scholarship support, and resources to the campus community. Joining is easy, and you don’t have to be a UNLV graduate to become a member.

— Shane Bevell



Lifelong Learning Program Gains Prominence

The Bernard Osher Foundation, based in San Francisco, donated \$100,000 last year to establish the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in UNLV's Division of Educational Outreach.

The institute enhances the division's existing programs for senior citizens. UNLV has been offering lifelong learning programs for the past 14 years, with approximately 300 Las Vegas seniors enrolled each fall in more than 20 study groups designed and conducted by the seniors themselves.

The funds allowed the learning institute to install new sound systems and infrared audio systems in its large lecture rooms for hearing impaired students; purchase a laptop, a projector, and a document camera to improve the visual presentations made in the OLLI classes; and advertise UNLV's senior programs to attract new students.

In addition, the Osher Foundation funded the costs for a key staff member of educational outreach to attend a conference with other Lifelong Learning Institute programs throughout the West. The goal was to promote information sharing among the institutes on how to manage, develop, and expand programs.

Another major contribution of \$50,000 this year from the Osher Foundation allowed the UNLV Jean Nidetch Women's Center to establish the Osher Re-entry Scholarship. The scholarship will assist up to 10 people per year. It is targeted at adults whose academic pursuits had been interrupted for five or more years.

New Building Will Help Athlete Recruitment

Rebel fans may know some UNLV athletic statistics by heart: 17 sports, 430 student-athletes, founded in 1958 when Michael "Chub" Drakulich opened play for the Runnin' Rebels. But there is one shocking statistic top-of-mind for athletic administrators and students alike: UNLV is one of just 10 Division I schools — out of 313 total — that lacks a dedicated academic athletic facility.

That record is about to be broken. Late this summer, the university will begin construction on the Academic Athletic Administration Building, a facility where student-athletes can focus on academics, build camaraderie, and promote greater bonds between UNLV and the Las Vegas community.

"This isn't about one sport. This building is about the athletic program as a whole," says Mark Wharton, associate athletic director for development.

The facility will help coaches recruit the best student-athletes and bolster the program's image and commencement rates. While the student-athlete graduation rate is at 51 percent — its highest ever at UNLV — the new facility will provide strategically placed resources for the collegiates. "When we bring recruits to campus, one of the first questions they ask is about our student-athlete academic support," athletic director Mike Hamrick says. "This facility will help us attract better students, which in turn will help them succeed academically and athletically."

The design's award-winning concept, which accommodates a number of student services, was recognized last year by the American Institute of Architects.

"With student-athletes, there is a time-management issue," explains Wharton. "In the new complex, we will be able to approach this holistically by having tutors, academic counselors, and study areas all in one facility. It will help tremendously with the students' stress levels."

The new building will provide a home for the UNLV Athletic Hall of Fame, with nearly 3,000 square feet dedicated to valuable memorabilia. Additionally, the building will have a welcome area for Rebel Athletic Fund donors and will house all administrative offices for UNLV Athletics.

Several donors have already committed significant funds for the \$16 million facility. Private gifts of all sizes will also help create a \$1 million operations endowment for long-term maintenance costs, Wharton says.

Hamrick adds that the new building will bring additional value to the student-athletes' college experiences. The newly expanded community relations department, which will be centralized in the new building, links student-athletes to the speaking and mentorship opportunities available at charitable organizations, local schools, hospitals, and various youth events.

"Kids look up to UNLV student-athletes. Of course, part of this progress is academic, and part of it is about our role in the community. But all of it," Hamrick emphasizes, "is about education."

—Lori Bachand

More info: contact Mark Wharton at 702-895-3020.



The Academic Athletic Administration Building, shown in this rendering, will place many of the services student-athletes need in one location.



"I think about my own experience, and I remember how difficult getting through college was. There are a lot of students who have no choice but to work full time in order to pay for school."

— Bob Genzer,
on why he donated to a scholarship fund

Gerri Kodey

A Fitting Tribute

Genzer/APA Scholarship Endowment Hits Goal in Record Time

When the Las Vegas chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) decided to fund a scholarship at UNLV, the group projected that it would take its members five years to raise the \$25,000 needed for an endowed fund.

Thanks to the help of Bob Genzer, who had just retired as a city planner, the goal would be met much sooner than anticipated. "Bob came to us and said, 'Let me help

you guys get started,'" said Laura Spina, current president of the local APA chapter. "His initial gift gave us the momentum we needed."

The chapter took every opportunity to raise funds, calling for donations at its events. Within a year, the group reached its goal and then some.

"I think about my own experience, and I remember how difficult getting through college was," Genzer said. "There are a lot of students who have no choice but to work full time in order to pay for school."

Genzer began working for the city of Las Vegas in 1973. Chapter members con-

tinued their fundraising efforts at Genzer's 2005 retirement party, asking friends and colleagues to pay tribute by contributing to the fund. Now fully endowed, the fund is fittingly called the Bob Genzer/APA Scholarship Endowment Fund. Architecture students will begin receiving awards in 2008.

Tribute and memorial gifts to UNLV can honor an individual's dedication to a program, field of study, or personal interest. These contributions can be made through one-time or annual gifts, or as part of estate plans.

— Regina Vaccari

More info: Contact Deborah Young, director of scholarship and tribute giving, at 702-895-2818 or at Deborah.Young@unlv.edu.

Volcanology Professor Receives UNLV's Top Research Award

UNLV geoscience professor Eugene Smith received the 2006 Harry Reid Silver State Research Award at UNLV's academic recognition ceremony on April 20. The award was established in 2001 by President Carol C. Harter to honor the contributions U.S. Sen. Harry Reid has made to UNLV's research programs. It is given to researchers whose work positively impacts the local community and the state.



Smith

Throughout his 26 years at UNLV, Smith has developed an impressive record of research in the field of volcanology, including studies of the probability of volcanic eruption in the area of Yucca

Mountain. Smith currently is studying the geology of the new Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area south of Henderson and large stratovolcanoes in Alaska and Kamchatka, Siberia, related to the "Ring of Fire," which contains much of the world's volcanic activity.

Smith is the author of 75 journal articles. He has mentored 15 graduate students, five postdoctoral scholars, and six research associates. Smith played an instrumental role in developing the geoscience master's and Ph.D. degrees at UNLV.

All full-time faculty members are eligible to be nominated for the award, which is funded by the UNLV Foundation. The winner receives a \$10,000 stipend and a medal presented at UNLV's academic recognition ceremony.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The UNLV Foundation recognizes the following new members of its annual fund gift club programs for their contributions of unrestricted funds, their involvement in UNLV's development, and their advocacy on behalf of UNLV.

President's Inner Circle Gold

(Individual gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999)

- Jerilyn & Robert Clayton
- Mary & Tom Gallagher

President's Inner Circle

(Individual gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999)

- Selma & Troy Bartlett
- Molly, '91, & Robert Hamrick
- Karen, '86, & Greg McKinley, '80

President's Associates

(Individual gifts of \$1,000 to \$2,499)

- Amy, '94, & Lucius Blanchard
- Grace Devitt, '00
- Bradley Mayer, '05
- Birttany Morse
- Candy, '92, & Jim Olson, '71
- Traci, '94, & Louis Polish, '92
- Kathleen Robins & Bryan Spangelo
- Fred Snyder
- Nicholas Tanno
- Gino Vincent

Academic Corporate Council Gold

(Corporate gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999)

- American Pacific Corporation
- Cashman Equipment Company
- Focus Commercial Group

Academic Corporate Council

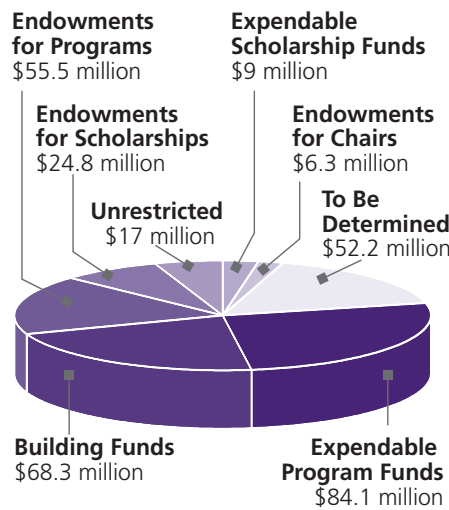
(Corporate gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999)

- Global Gaming Business

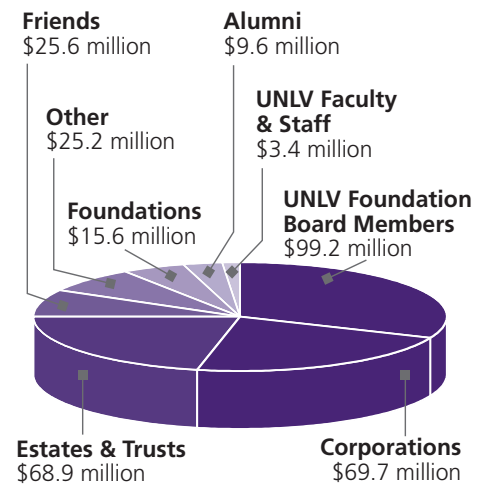
(Member listing updated May 13, 2006)

Invent the Future Total: \$317 Million

Where's the Money Going?



Who's Giving?



Campaign Momentum Continues

UNLV's Invent the Future campaign brought in more than \$17 million in its second public quarter, pushing the overall campaign total over \$317 million. The university's first comprehensive fundraising campaign was launched to the public in September, with \$263 million previously raised during the "quiet" phase. The goal is to raise \$500 million by the end of 2008.

UNLV President Carol C. Harter attributes this early success to the volunteers serving on more than 45 boards. "Volunteers are the heart and soul of this campaign," said Harter. "From faculty and staff members to supporters all over the world,

they are the front-line ambassadors for UNLV. They serve the university in countless ways — not just by raising funds. These are the people working hard to invent a great future for our university and our entire community, and we are extremely grateful for their efforts."

As of March 31, the Invent the Future campaign had raised \$124,395,009 in gift revenue received to date, and \$192,729,103 in longer-term pledges and commitments, for a total of \$317,124,112.

More info: Learn about the campaign and how to volunteer at campaign.unlv.edu.

Your Dollars At Work: In the academic land of 10-pound tomes

about philosophies, methodologies, and phraseologies, there is a 32-page book that Amy Johnson thinks everyone should read: *Good Night, Gorilla*. It's one of her favorite picture books, and a read she promotes for kids of all ages. Johnson, a librarian in the Curriculum Materials Library, is also a master's student in the College of Education, studying children's and young adult literature.

Johnson received money from the UNLV Classified Staff Development Fund to attend the American Library Association's annual conference last year. The award is funded by donations from other employees who want to provide professional developmental opportunities for their colleagues. UNLV's Annual Fund matches employee donations dollar-for-dollar.

"The Classified Staff Development Fund allows staff members to add to their skills and overcome what is sometimes a big financial investment in their professional development," Johnson says. "I learned many things that enhanced my job performance and motivated me to continually improve my work."



Funding Gap Adds to Nursing Crisis

By Pete Codella

That there's a nursing shortage in Nevada and nationwide is no great secret. A lesser-known fact is that there's also a shortage of faculty to teach the increasing number of potential students. UNLV has taken steps to turn that around, but the numbers often don't fall in favor of public universities.

Consider that a nurse with a master's degree, which is required for university-level teaching, can earn upwards of \$125,000 in the private sector while public-sector teaching typically pays less than \$85,000. And the nursing shortage also means heavy workloads for both working nurses and faculty. "This is not just a nursing shortage," says Carolyn Yucha, dean of the School of Nursing. "The situation is exacerbated by continued increased demand for nursing faculty."

The solution lies in boosting the number of faculty holding master's and doctoral degrees. In 2001, the Nevada Legislature doubled the enrollment allocations at state nursing schools, and in 2003 UNLV's program shifted to a year-round schedule. The change enables nursing students to graduate four months faster than with a traditional semester schedule, but it's also made it more difficult for students to work while earning their degrees. "That's made scholarship programs even more vital to our students' success," Yucha says.

Educating New Faculty

The boost in enrollment has also stressed faculty resources. To meet the increased class size mandated by the Legislature, UNLV faculty were taking on unusually heavy teaching loads, and finding enough qualified instructors for the clinical training was proving difficult. The new year-round schedule and increases in salary are helping, but it's still a challenge, Yucha says. By presstime, UNLV still had two unfilled nursing faculty positions, and recruitment is a constant for the dean.

"To help combat the shortage of properly educated nursing professors," says Yucha, "UNLV now offers advanced nursing degrees online. Working professionals



Aaron Mayes

Kevin Gulliver, '84 AA, '88 BS and '99 MS Nursing, is helping fill a shortage in faculty. Among his duties is overseeing the clinical studies of students like Mona Jourdan.

can complete online coursework during their off-hours to receive master's or doctoral degrees."

Fellowships

The School of Nursing also has designated graduate student fellowships as a top priority during Invent the Future, UNLV's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, which seeks to raise \$500 million for the university. Private support

of these fellowships will fund graduate tuition, research costs, and a living stipend to attract nursing professionals back to the classroom for advanced education. These stipends may be combined with graduate assistant positions to enable students to focus on their studies rather than pursue outside employment.

More info: Contact Shaun Sommerer at 702-895-5614.

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The Word on the Street

Homeless Men in Las Vegas

by Kurt Borchard, '98 Ph.D. Sociology
University of Nevada Press

"I am homeless. I'm 53, an alcoholic, but I have chronic emphysema. I'm having a hard time breathing. When you get down and out, you can never get back up. ... In [Las Vegas], it's bad to be homeless. There's only one place to go, and that's down, deeper and deeper and deeper ... and you just die out here."

These words are from Jerry, one of the 48 homeless men interviewed by alumnus Kurt Borchard, and recorded in Borchard's book, *The Word on the Street: Homeless Men in Las Vegas*, in which he challenges much of the conventional wisdom about homelessness.

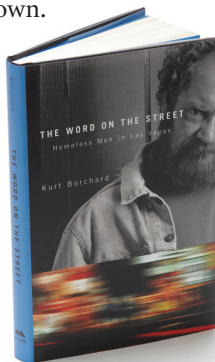
Borchard became interested in his subject when directing a men's transition program in his hometown of Fairbanks, Alaska. "I began seeing shelters as a 'band-aid approach' to homelessness that wasn't addressing the roots of the problem," he recalls.

Most people characterize the homeless as having character flaws, but that ignores the particular social, economic, and political milieu in a community that might exacerbate the problem, he says. Being homeless in Fairbanks is not the same as being homeless in Las Vegas.

When he came to UNLV in 1994, he saw little signs of the issue outside the "homeless corridor" near downtown. "Eventually I realized that Las Vegas' response to homelessness was best understood in relation to its tourist industry. After living here a while, I saw that the spatial arrangement of the city works to make homelessness 'invisible' for the average tourist."

An important part of the book comes from the interviews of 48 homeless men.

"I wanted the voices of homeless men to be prominent because they are so often unheard or ignored," Borchard says. "Even when it comes to basic policy issues on how the city addresses homelessness, homeless men regularly expressed frustration that they hadn't been listened to."



Take, for example, the development of a new central pick-up point for day laborers to end their use of Bonanza Road.

"Several of the men said they wouldn't use it because all the different racial groups once separated on Bonanza would now be lumped together, causing fights."

Las Vegas' growing population is accompanied by an increase in the homeless. "I am hopeful that this research will encourage the city to enact a more humane and charitable approach toward

homeless men. The city's future as a popular tourist destination might depend, in part, on its response."

Borchard, now an associate professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska, Kearney, is continuing his research in Las Vegas and expects his next book to include interviews from homeless women, a

problem, he notes, that prompts reactions different from those stirred by homeless men. "Rarely do you hear someone calling a homeless woman a 'lazy bum,'" he says.

His research has been emotionally challenging at times. "One story that didn't make it into the book: I was riding in a car with a man I had asked to keep a journal for the project. ... We made a copy of his journal for me to study and cite, and he suddenly turned and said to me, 'So, is this journal all I mean to you?'"

"I always tried to remember that I didn't cause the situation these men were in and that my role was to document it. But his question framed what I was doing as taking advantage of him. It was so unexpected that I didn't know what to say, and his sudden reply was 'Nevermind. Your silence speaks volumes.' I only saw him once more after that. I have thought about that car ride for nearly 10 years."



A new book by alumnus Kurt Borchard explores how specific factors in Las Vegas affect the city's homeless.

Aaron Mayes

Student Freedom Revisited: Contemporary Issues and Perspectives

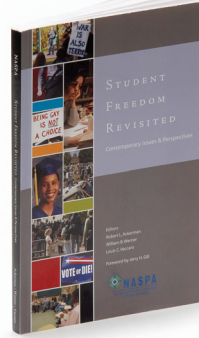
Edited by Robert L. Ackerman, William B. Werner, and Louis C. Vaccaro

NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education)

This compilation of essays explores the issues on today's American campuses that grew from the movement for student freedom in the 1960s.

The issues date to the '60s when student activists put institutions on notice that they wanted their independence from out-dated notions such as in loco parentis, in which colleges assumed some parental duties over students. This collection examines how students have used the freedoms gained since the 1960s, Ackerman says.

The authors of the essays are mostly professionals in student services or institutional presidents, but one is a student, and another is described as "an online activist and anarchist." The volume's editors are Robert Ackerman, professor of educational leadership; William B. Werner, hotel management professor and an adjunct professor in the Boyd School of Law; and Louis C. Vaccaro, who has served as president of several colleges.



Ackerman wrote about "Student Academic Freedom: An Uncertain Future," in which he addresses, among other things, the way the Internet changes the way students learn. Werner discusses

the legal cases that impact student freedoms, including those involving hate speech and the many campus speech codes that have come under legal attack, as well as cases involving religion on campus.

The student contributor, Seth Kujat, a senior at Kent State University, describes his efforts to establish permanent funding for the memorial marking the

tragic May 4, 1970, shooting of Kent State students by Ohio National Guardsmen that resulted in four student deaths.

Self-styled anarchist Aaron Kreider takes a look at the political involvement of today's students, and challenges the common view that students are more apathetic than those of the 1960s. He argues that comparisons generally use the late 60s, when activism peaked, rather than the earlier years of the decade, against which today's student shows up well. He also notes that today's student has far more causes to deal with, and the lack of an overall focus results in less media attention.

Arguments About Arguments

Systematic, Critical and Historical Essays in Logical Theory

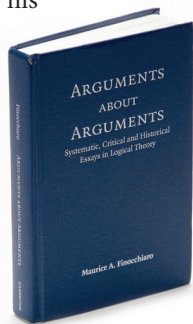
by Maurice A. Finocchiaro
Cambridge University Press

It's not often that a prestigious publisher like the Cambridge University Press recognizes the lifelong achievements of a scholar by publishing a collection of his or her work, but that's what they did with UNLV Distinguished Professor Maurice Finocchiaro.

Finocchiaro, known particularly for his work on Galileo (see *UNLV Magazine*, Fall 2005), has also published widely in the field of argument, a subject that drew him away from his original undergraduate major, theoretical

physics, and into philosophy.

"As an undergraduate [at MIT], one of the problems I was concerned with was the existence of God," Finocchiaro says. "I felt the problem to be of vital importance, as important as anything that was a matter of life and death. ... I tried to learn all I could about the arguments for the existence of God. I wanted to be sure that I knew them all ... that I understood them properly and did not misinterpret them, and that I could evaluate or assess their correctness, worth, or strength."



He started asking these kinds of hard questions in his science classes, questions his professors could not or would not answer; questions such as "What is the relationship between the first and second law of motion?"

He found his intellectual need for answers best served by the philosophy department and courses in logic rather than science. He joined UNLV in 1970 and has since become a prolific writer on the subject. Between 1974 and 2003, he produced the 23 articles that comprise this collection.

Finocchiaro's work stresses, among other things, "the importance of examining objections when arguing in favor of some conclusion, the importance of understanding an argument before one criticizes it, and the importance of practicing what one preaches."

He concludes that argumentation plays a more important role in science than commonly believed. "Logical fallacies are rare, but fallacious reasoning is common," he says, adding "that the technique of deriving alternative conclusions from given premises is a very powerful method, but a very difficult one to master."

The drive to become
a major research
institution was here.

David Ashley offered
his talent for building
strong academic
programs.

The combination may
be just what's needed
to take our university
to new heights.

The Right Mix

STORY BY CATE WEEKS | PHOTOS BY GERI KODEY

It is May and just a week after being named UNLV's eighth president, David Ashley surveys his office at the University of California, Merced. The walls hold paintings by his wife and reflect his love of the outdoors. There's a photo, taken one winter by his son, of California's El Capitan. On the bookshelf is a slide rule from his undergraduate days at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — his was the last class required to use slide rulers rather than scientific calculators.

He especially treasures a piece that a student from Ghana gave him when he was teaching civil engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. The hand-carved sculpture is of one boy helping another climb a tree. "He told me it was an excellent example of project management," Ashley says. "In Ghana there is a saying: if you find a good tree, someone will always help you climb it." The sculpture, too, embodies his view of UNLV: "There are so many ready to help us climb our 'good tree.'"



The search for UNLV's eighth president was swift. Carol C. Harter announced in February that she was stepping down after 11 years. By April, the regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education had assembled a 30-member advisory board and selected a strong, but very different, group of finalists. Among them was Ashley, the number two official at the University of California, Merced. Initially, the regents picked another candidate, who withdrew before the final appointment was made.

During his final interview, Ashley told the committee about the UNLV shirt he'd received during the campus tour. He'd wear it fondly, either at his next business meeting or the next time he mowed the lawn, depending on the outcome of the search. "Literally 10 minutes before I got the call saying the search was on once again, I'd put the shirt in a drawer I reserve for my weekend stuff."

Ashley had come out on top on the strength of his administrative record. During the campus forums, he adeptly fielded questions ranging from the importance of international studies to his views on technology infrastructure. The buzz around him focused on his ability to size up the situation and take calculated risks. At the final meeting of the search committee, several members commented on how Ashley started off quiet but finished strong, growing on them with each encounter.

"Well, I am quiet," he says to account for first impressions. "I've seen excellent presidents who love the stage and can capture a room. I want to listen, to understand, to interact. My style is more about engaging people with ideas and concerns, about engaging individuals."

He's also about gathering data. During the second round of interviews, it was clear that Ashley had done his homework. He had visited the website, read media clips, and talked with colleagues about UNLV. He knew about UNLV's fundraising campaign and understood its drive to elevate its academic programs. A search for a university president is not a competition, he says, "it's about finding the right match. UNLV had to do its part, and I did mine. I had to know that I could serve the university well."

...

Ashley is an engineer specializing in construction planning, so it's a bit odd that an administrative career just wasn't in his plans.

David Ashley

Previous Positions

2001-2006 — University of California, Merced. Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost and Shaffer-George Chair in Engineering

1997-2001 — Ohio State University. Dean of Engineering

1989-1997 — UC Berkeley. Professor and Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering

1982-1989 — University of Texas at Austin. Professor

1977-1982 — Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor

Field

Construction project planning with focus on analyzing project risks, potential cost overruns, and schedule delays.

Education

BS and MS Civil Engineering, MIT
MS Engineering-Economic Systems and Ph.D. Civil Engineering, Stanford University

Personal

Married to Anna, a painter. They have two grown children: Mark, a photographer in Texas; and Kimberlee, a CPA.

Favorite Flick

Z, a 1969 political thriller about the overthrow of Greece's democratic government. "I saw it my freshman year in college with a group of friends. I'd had a pretty sheltered suburban life. The movie was an awakening to social and cultural issues for me. Moments like that are part of the college experience, about growing both inside and outside the classroom."

As an undergrad at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he explored four majors before settling on civil engineering. Summer jobs as a laborer — digging foundations and assisting welders — had opened his eyes to the construction field. A career in research developed from a study-abroad program that took him to both Western and Eastern Europe as well as from campus projects that offered access

to senior faculty. "It can be very hard to explain why research universities are important to students. For me, I lived it. I know how those interactions with faculty outside the classroom so enriched my learning."

In 1977, with degrees from MIT and Stanford, he envisioned a career dedicated to teaching and research. Within a decade, he had gone from assistant to associate to full professor at the University of Texas at Austin. He was racking up publishing credits and winning highly competitive grants from such organizations as the National Science Foundation. Universities from Sweden to South Africa were offering visiting professorships, and his own students nominated him for teaching awards. The university took notice and began grooming him for administration. "It just wasn't what I wanted," he says, so he headed to UC Berkeley, where "the most treasured position is professor."

A couple of years later, though, an early retirement program had eroded the senior faculty, leaving few of the usual suspects to head Berkeley's top-ranked civil engineering department. It was simply "my turn," he says. The challenges of faculty recruitment and program redevelopment were rewarding, but this time one particular duty — evaluating professors — cemented a career in administration. "I'm not trying to be modest here," he says in his soft voice. "I am a good researcher. But, when I had to evaluate my colleagues and their excellent research accomplishments, I realized that what gave me a comparative advantage was that I was a very good administrator."

Ohio State University soon tapped him to be dean of its massive engineering college. In his four years there, he redeveloped curricula and launched programs that boosted student retention to 70 percent from less than 50 percent. He also led a corporate partnership program and tapped into alumni in Asia.

Then, colleagues from the UC system called him back with a rare opportunity. They wanted to build a research university from the ground up in an underserved part of the state and they needed an academic visionary. Was he interested? At Merced, he spent four years hiring faculty, establishing curricula, battling for budget, and building facilities worthy to be at the table along-

side the system's nine other campuses. The school opened last fall with a diverse student body, and nearly half the students were the first in their families to go to college.

His single best day in the job came Sept. 6, the day after UC Merced held its grand opening with dignitaries from across the community and the state. The first day of classes was calm compared with the festivities of the previous day. "What made it so exciting for me was the thought that it was the first of many normal days. Our students were in their classes and our faculty were teaching — it was what we had all worked so hard to achieve."

Just six months later Ashley got a call from the executive search firm charged with recruiting candidates for the UNLV presidency. The opportunity to lead a growing institution was too good to pass up, he says.

...

"I know research," Ashley says. "And I know how to make difficult choices to advance an institution. If you have your staff and faculty doing what you want them to do — being innovative and creative, developing new ideas — there will always be more things worthy of funding than funding available. The tough decisions always go back to that."

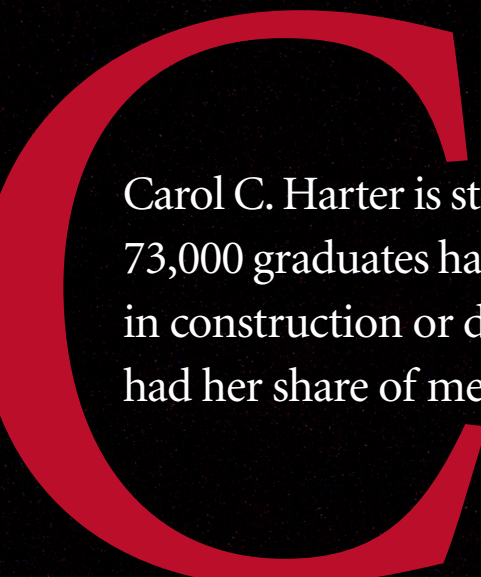
UNLV, he is sure, has its share of tough decisions ahead. He expects to spend his first few months mining for data. "Are UNLV's plans in line with the community's?" he wants to know. "Are its goals too broad for its resources?" His initial impression is that it's time to channel the growth, to find and support the pockets of excellence that will be key to building the university's reputation.

Having worked in the UC system has given him a perspective on how to grow within the Nevada System of Higher Education. No institution can be all things to all people, he says; there's always conflict between providing excellent academic programs and offering the broadest possible access. With clear missions for each campus and each serving as a piece of a whole, the state can do both. The focus should be on strategically increasing the size of the pie, rather than arguing over how to divide it. "If it's just a competition between Reno and UNLV, all you do is split the already

See **Ashley**, page 28



"There will always be more things worthy of funding than funding available. The tough decisions always go back to that."



Carol C. Harter is stepping down as UNLV's president June 30, after 11 years spent for 73,000 graduates have received their degrees under Harter's tenure. At the same time, in construction or design), added 102 new degree programs, and grown 42 percent in had her share of memorable moments. She sat down with *UNLV Magazine* this spring



A PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

focused on elevating the university as a research institution. More than half of UNLV's
ne, UNLV has expanded by nearly 1.2 million square feet (with 700,000 square feet now
t in student population. ¶ Along the way, the university's longest-serving president has
ring to share some of the highlights.



Photos by Geri Kodey and Aaron Mayes

THE HARTER ERA

1995

ENROLLMENT 19,769

HIGHLIGHTS

Carol C. Harter appointed president:

She became the first female president at either of Nevada's public universities and, eventually, UNLV's longest-serving president.



UNLV's research projects have expanded educational opportunities for undergraduates like Archana Nelliott.

ONLY IN LAS VEGAS

For my first few years in Las Vegas, it seemed that my chin was constantly on my chest. Coming from the East Coast culture to the “wild West,” I quickly discovered that things are definitely different in Las Vegas. One of the first UNLV events I attended after becoming president was called a cookout, but it was like no other barbecue I had attended. It was clear that everybody gets dressed up for everything here — well, almost everybody. Halfway through the party, held at an elaborate Las Vegas abode, I see a man wearing nothing but a yellow thong swimsuit. He had noticed that some of the floating candles in the pool had gone out and apparently, having dressed for the occasion, took it upon himself to jump in the pool and relight them. What amazed me more than anything was that no one else seemed to even notice. And I'm thinking, “This is different from upstate New York.”

Although at times I felt like an “outsider” during my first few months in Las Vegas, I truly see myself as a Las Vegan now. My husband Mike and I have come to enjoy the West Coast lifestyle and have developed friendships with many, many people in the community that we hope will become deeper as we have more time

I think the Lied Library is the most important building constructed in my 11 years. ... I saw an opportunity to change the symbolism and show how the university is moving toward the status of a major academic institution.

to pursue them. And now, when out-of-town guests come to visit, I enjoy seeing their chins on their chests and find great amusement in the fact that nothing about Las Vegas surprises me anymore!

THE E-WORD

There was, and continues to be, a problem with funding for higher education in Nevada that has left the two largest Southern institutions with a disproportionately lower share of funding than our Northern counterparts.

The equity issue (or “e-word”) is something that I firmly believe needs to be resolved — so much so that my being vocal on this issue has caused considerable consternation from time to time.

I remember one such occasion when in 2001 I co-hosted a reception for legislators with my colleague presidents Kerry Romesberg from Nevada State College and Ron Remington from the Community College of Southern Nevada. The event was held prior to the start of the legislative session and, because it was held on the UNLV campus, there was a feeling that it was “my show.” One legislator brought up the topic of equity in funding and all three of us took it upon ourselves to address the question with the group.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIES

1996

ENROLLMENT 19,683

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION
Lied Athletic Complex

HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Plan: A communitywide planning retreat was held as part of UNLV's efforts to become a major research university. At the heart of UNLV's goals is the recognition that the university plays a significant part in the economic development and quality of life issues in Southern Nevada.

1997

ENROLLMENT 20,272

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION
Sogg Architecture Building

HIGHLIGHTS

The Honors College established: Elevating the honors program to a full college has helped UNLV attract top students, including several National Merit Finalists. The opportunity to participate in research alongside professors was appealing to biology major **Archana Nelliott** (pictured on previous page). She received the prestigious Barry Goldwater Scholarship in 2005. The May graduate is now pursuing a doctorate at Johns Hopkins.



Rebel golfer Elena Kurokawa

1998

ENROLLMENT 21,124

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION
Paradise Campus; Sam Boyd Stadium

HIGHLIGHTS

Athletics Programs Expand: Rather than cut men's programs, UNLV expands women's programs to keep the university in compliance with Title IX. Women's golf would come in 2001. UNLV won a record six Mountain West Conference team championships in 2004-05 — baseball (regular season and tournament), women's golf, women's soccer, men's swimming, and women's swimming.

1999

ENROLLMENT 21,853

HIGHLIGHTS

Boyd School of Law Opens: The young school has already broken into *U.S. News & World Report's* national rankings for its legal writing, dispute resolution, and clinical training programs. • **UNLV Joins New Mountain West Conference** — Harter selected as the conference's first representative on the NCAA Division I Board of Directors.

Judging from the conversations I had after that event, it was very clear that in certain quarters nobody wanted to hear the “e-word” again.

I must tell you, however, that every UNLV president has had to fight this fight, and every president had better fight it. Until there is equitable funding for UNLV, we will remain at a disadvantage compared to our northern counterparts. The system's budget proposal for the coming legislative session contains a \$10 million enhancement for UNLV that will help, but the work is not yet done. Given the dramatic growth and program development we continue to experience at UNLV, dealing with the “e-word” will certainly help begin to address the issues we continue to face as an institution.

The faculty who come here seem to be attracted by UNLV's ambitions. They don't have to follow the status quo found at more traditional institutions. They have a remarkable influence on the community.

CONSTANT CONSTRUCTION

I often call the campus a construction zone — having built 17 new facilities in the past 11 years and with four more currently under construction. In many ways, the Lied Library is the most important building constructed in my 11 years. I remember when we were discussing the initial plans, it occurred to me that the library's

square footage would be about the same as the Thomas & Mack Center. I saw an opportunity to change campus symbolism and literally demonstrate how the university is moving toward being a major academic institution. I told the architects that the new library should be at least one square foot larger than the Thomas & Mack Center. In fact, the Lied turned out to be several hundred square feet larger, but that one-square-foot story seems to get perpetuated as campus lore, and that is just fine with me.

The library has become a magnificent magnet building that shifted the center of gravity on campus. We now have a wonderful landmark for our academic success just as we do for our athletic successes. One day I went over completely unannounced and there, at the study carrels on the first floor, was the entire basketball team. I thought, “This is how it should be: a proper blend of academic life and great athletics.”

GETTING GREAT FACULTY

Attracting the best and brightest faculty members has always been of great importance to me. And if I can assist in that process, I am always pleased to be able to do so. There have been times when deans ask me to call or visit with potential faculty members they

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIES

THE HARTER ERA

2000

ENROLLMENT 22,243

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION

Stan Fulton Building; Bennett Professional Center; Foundations Building; UNLV Bookstore

HIGHLIGHTS

More than 750 Students Receive Advanced Degrees:

UNLV has steadily been adding to its advanced degree programs. Today, UNLV has more than 6,000 students enrolled in its 100 graduate and professional programs.

2001

ENROLLMENT 23,618

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION

Lied Library; Beam Music Center; Eller Media Softball Stadium; Campus Services Building; Tonopah Hall Expansion; Cox Pavilion; Parking Garage

HIGHLIGHTS

New Library Opens:

Visits to UNLV's main library doubled with the Lied Library. The library has become a primary student meeting place and now attracts nearly 1.5 million visitors annually. • **UNLV Moves Up in Carnegie Foundation Rankings:**

UNLV continues to make headway in efforts to develop as a research university.

2002

ENROLLMENT 24,965

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION

Central Desert Complex; Boyd School of Law Complex; James Rogers Center for Administration and Justice

HIGHLIGHTS

UNLV School of Dental Medicine Opens:

233,424 total Medicaid patient visits have occurred at the school's community practices since they were founded. In addition, students and faculty have provided oral health screenings and education to 25,322 community members, primarily preschool, elementary, and high school students.



The Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Development Center

are recruiting. When the English department wanted to attract Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka to UNLV, they put together a team with myself; professors John Irsfeld, Richard Wiley and Doug Unger; and donor Glenn Schaeffer, who was preparing to fund a creative writing chair. Las Vegas was a very unlikely place for Wole, given his credentials, but the team was committed and they brought him here for a visit. He seemed to appreciate my being an English faculty member and we sold him on UNLV's very unique environment. He recently told the dinner audience before the Toni Morrison lecture that what really sealed the deal was a comment I made at dinner: When Glenn offered us red or white wine, I quipped that I was ambidextrous about wine. It's a good reminder that we can't take ourselves too seriously.

The competition for faculty is keen, and the recruiting process is constant. The faculty here seem to be attracted by UNLV's ambitions. They don't need to adapt to the status quo found at more traditional institutions. They have a remarkable influence on the community through rigorous research and inspired teaching. Many faculty relate directly to the community as resources and as contributors as well. The tremendous value faculty bring to our community cannot be overlooked. So, as president, you must make the time when you see talent.

Our students have developed some wonderfully thoughtful service projects. One of my favorites is the Rebel Service Council, in which students help feed the homeless by donating meals from their own meal plan.

EXPANDING PROGRAMS

UNLV has an amazing way of taking an idea and running with it. You see that play out especially in the growth and success of our graduate and professional programs.

During all my visits and conversations as a candidate for the job here, no one ever raised the issue of starting a law school. It simply wasn't on anyone's radar. Literally, as I was packing some boxes getting ready to move, the then-chancellor called to tell me the legislative session was wrapping up and that an assemblyman named Morse Arberry had just secured \$500,000 for UNLV to study the feasibility of a law school. I asked if it was a serious thing and the chancellor said, "No, probably not."

But upon arriving in Las Vegas and engaging in conversations with key community members, I found that it was much more than just a passing fad and that, in fact, it had been an idea that had been bubbling up for many years. With that knowledge, I knew we had to go forward. We brought in a consultant and the key was to make sure we kept the plans reasonable for Nevada. Once (gaming executive) Bill Boyd came forward with a donation and the legal community got behind the school, it all flowed into place. Just 18 months after the Legislature funded the school, we welcomed our

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIES



Center

2003

ENROLLMENT 26,393

HIGHLIGHTS

Expanding Campuses:

The Shadow Lane campus, in the heart of Las Vegas' medical district, is now home to the School of Dental Medicine and the Biotechnology Center. UNLV has also acquired land in southwest Las Vegas to develop the Harry Reid Research and Technology Park. This fall, the College of Hotel Administration is opening the first international campus in Singapore.



School of Dental Medicine students visit classrooms around the state to teach children about oral health.

2004

ENROLLMENT 27,334

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION

Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Development Center;

Sogg Architecture Building Addition; Central Desert Complex Expansion; Shadow Lane Renovations; Dayton Hall

HIGHLIGHTS

Midtown UNLV Concept Introduced: This a

project will partner with the business community to revitalize Maryland Parkway with neighborhood restaurants, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, and new housing developments. • **Minority Enrollment Sets New High:** In 2004, UNLV exceeded 30 percent minority enrollment for the first time. When President Harter joined UNLV, minority enrollment was at 21 percent; by fall 2005, the number climbed to 31.2 percent.

first class. This school has an accomplished dean and faculty and is already achieving top rankings nationally for its legal writing, dispute resolution, and clinical training programs.

In much the same way, the dental school emerged from a few talks with key legislators and my fellow presidents who decided UNLV was the place to do this. Although the dental school faced more challenges in its development, I believe that the proof of its success is evident. We graduated our first class of students this spring, and the dental school is providing great value to the community through its many outreach programs.

Both of these professional schools were the absolute right things to do for UNLV and for the community.

WHY WE'RE HERE

Let's face it — the students are the main reason we are here doing what we do. Because of my background as a faculty member and in student affairs, I always enjoy the interactions with the students. I have had the opportunity to work with a disproportionately good group of student leaders during my 11-year tenure. Students here always say how at UNLV, much like in Las Vegas itself, there are no natural barriers to what they can accomplish. I find it incredibly interesting how much the image of UNLV mirrors that of the Las Vegas community.

Our students have developed some wonderfully thoughtful

service projects. One of my favorites is the Rebel Service Council, in which students help feed the homeless by donating meals from their own meal plans. They volunteer to make the meals and then deliver them in person. Another student project helped establish a registration drive for bone marrow donors.

And in the classroom, too, they have great opportunities — even as undergraduates — to participate directly with faculty researchers.

In the spring, I usually have casual meetings with new faculty members to talk about their first year here. Our faculty members come from all over the country and have taught at some highly selective institutions. One comment that they always make is that our best students are as good as any they've taught. Now, they also say that the ill-prepared students are below the normal spectrum they've seen elsewhere. That's one reason we are pushing to raise admission standards. This effort is not about closing the door to students, but about ensuring their success in the long run.

I think one of the most touching experiences I have had with students was when I was asked to present a student's diploma prior to commencement because she was terminally ill and most likely would not live to be able to walk on graduation day. I vividly recall that student coming into my office with her family and friends and I donned my full academic regalia while she also wore her cap and gown. We held a special ceremony right in my office and presented her with the

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIES

THE HARTER ERA

2005

ENROLLMENT 28,104

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION
John S. Wright Hall

HIGHLIGHTS

Invent the Future campaign: UNLV's first comprehensive fundraising campaign sets its goal at a half billion dollars. By May 2006, the campaign had raised \$317 million in gifts and pledges. • **Research Dollars Up 48.6%** — Funding for sponsored programs grows to \$95 million, with \$69.4 million slated for research. The largest source of the funding was the U.S. Department of Energy at \$38 million.



Biology professor Stan Smith researches Mojave Desert plants.

2006

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION

Now Under Construction:
Student Union;
Student Recreation Center;
Science Engineering and Technology Building

HIGHLIGHTS

The Black Mountain Institute Formed:

Carol C. Harter will serve as executive director of the "think tank" beginning July 1. See story Page 29.

• **David Ashley Named UNLV's eighth president.** See story Page 16.

diploma. I was so emotional I could barely get through the conferral of her degree, but knew how critical it was that I proceed with the appropriate dignity and joy for her sake.

I know that I will carry the look on that student's face with me for the rest of my life. The joy she showed in accomplishing her life-long goal of graduating from college was so very special. That single event most clearly demonstrated to me the importance of what we do for our students.

QUESTION OF THE DAY

Every now and then I drop in on employees in various departments on campus. One day I stopped in the office for the telephone operators. I asked this very nice woman what the most common question she received was, other than for a particular phone number. She replied, "They ask me who does your hair." I don't think many of my male counterparts have that question asked about them!

What has always struck me about these interactions with the staff — be it when I stop by an office or when we host awards ceremonies for the classified employees — is that their good work truly makes this university run smoothly. I often joke that although faculty would like to believe that all you need is

the faculty member and a student sitting under a tree for the educational experience to happen, that educational experience would not happen without the staff to register that student, to pay that faculty member, and to trim the tree. So, it's clear to me that these devoted employees play just as important a role in the educational experience of our students as any other of our staff.

UNLV has been incredibly fortunate during the past 11 years to have had record-breaking support from its alumni and the community. I often marvel that we have been able to raise more than \$500 million in this time frame.

SUPPORTERS WITH TEETH

I have said many times that UNLV is blessed to have out-

standing support from Nevada's congressional delegation — a group which today includes a former UNLV student body president and Nevada regent in (Rep.) Shelley Berkley. You couldn't ask for a better team of advocates fighting for higher education issues.

One of UNLV's greatest supporters has been Senator — and now Senate Minority Leader — Harry Reid. My husband Mike and I also consider Senator Reid and his wife, Landra, our great friends, and have so enjoyed getting to know them over the years.

In addition to his keen understanding of the indelible links between education and economy, research and economic development, I've always been struck by Harry Reid's personal passion for education and sense of the deep meaning community programs can have for individuals.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIES

One of my favorite examples of this came when the senator toured the new School of Dental Medicine facilities at our Shadow Lane campus. Though he was intrigued by high-tech equipment funded with federal support, Reid was most captivated by the community outreach initiatives. He observed to a group of faculty, students, and guests that the school was already providing support to the underserved in rural areas — support that his own family members, and particularly his mother, were never able to access in the town of Searchlight. It was a wonderfully emotional moment, and a side of the senator that few get to see.

Of course our dental students lightened the moment by presenting the senator with a beautiful set of hinged model teeth — uppers and lowers — just like the ones used in our teaching laboratories. Bob Herbert of the senator's staff told me later that Reid so prized this gift that he personally took it back to his family home in Searchlight. Bob said this was particularly meaningful when you consider the literally hundreds of presentations to the senator each year during his travels. Rarely did a gift so hit home (and go home!) with Harry Reid.

FUNDRAISING

UNLV has been incredibly fortunate during the past 11 years to have had record-breaking support from its alumni and the com-

munity. I often marvel that we have been able to raise more than \$500 million in this time frame — a remarkable feat for any institution, much less one that hasn't even yet celebrated its 50th anniversary. And with the Invent the Future campaign well under way, and with \$317 million already raised toward its \$500 million goal, fundraising has been a major time commitment for me — as it will be for my successor.

Asking people for money is a complex matter. Some willingly give while others may need a bit more attention and hand-holding. I recall two instances — one positive and the other more difficult — that demonstrate that the donor's wishes, even if they don't necessarily match with those of the institution, will ultimately be the deciding factor on whether or not a donor will make an investment in the university.

The university's ambitions and goals can put a president in difficult positions with donors. For example, at the time many universities were cutting their men's sports programs in order to remain in compliance with Title IX, UNLV chose to add three women's sports. A major donor didn't want us to add the women's golf program and, because I couldn't abide by those wishes, the person decided to discontinue major support of UNLV. On a very personal level this

See **Harter**, page 28

JUGGLING ACT

by Michael Harter

A few years ago I was asked to participate on a presidential spouses panel at the American Council on Education conference. It was a opportunity to share with others the challenges faced by male spouses of female presidents — and to tell a few jokes about being assigned to carry Carol's purse in the football locker room.

All jokes aside, though, we discussed the many events that presidential couples must attend. So many times I accompanied Carol to events that were an important part of developing support for UNLV. But what people don't realize is that Carol has also done the same for me — during the more than two decades that I have served as an administrator in Ohio, New York, and Nevada.

Life is much easier now that we're in the same place, but we still face the "juggling" of schedules. At times I have wanted to have a bit more "down time" with my wife, but I have to say that we both became committed to the grand possibility of Las Vegas, especially given the entrepreneurial spirit of so many residents. Although I won't be a "presidential spouse" after June 30th, I will still come home to a president emerita



every night and somehow I don't think either of us will be slowing down much.

Carol C. Harter is leaving the presidency, but not UNLV. She will be the first executive director of the Black Mountain Institute (see story, Page 29) and will continue fundraising activities for the Invent the Future campaign.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIES

Harter

Continued from page 27

decision was deeply disappointing to me. In my view, however, it was vital to the university and to the women here to expand the athletic opportunities we offer, and golf only made sense in this place and climate. In this case, there was a much greater good in creating new women's programs than in succumbing to a donor's wishes, and, incidentally, our women's golfers won the Mountain West Conference title three years in a row! These are the difficult choices one must make as president, but I firmly believe that the best interests of the university must always be paramount.

My biggest surprise in fundraising came from Bill Bennett, a pioneer in the gaming industry. He was known for his philanthropy but hadn't given much to UNLV before. Shortly after my tenure began, he called me and told me he was going to send a car for me (which turned out to be a limousine) so we could meet over lunch.

Ashley

Continued from page 19

limited resources," he says. "If you work as a system, you can create more educational access and more dynamic programs."

By training, Ashley is accustomed to the planning required to get complex projects off the ground. His niche is risk assessment for major construction projects. "It's about capturing all the uncertainties in a project so a 'go' or 'no-go' decision can be made." The work suits his analytical decision-making style, and his ability to sum up the details.

Currently, he's part of a five-person team evaluating a \$5 billion, seven-year expansion of the Panama Canal. They're assessing such factors as the amount of gas the large construction equipment will consume and what soil conditions might hamper productivity. The first attempt to dig the canal was fraught with miscalculations, with more 20,000 people dying from disease and mudslides. "The canal was the project of the century in my field, so it's been particularly exciting to be a part of this," he says. "It's an application of much of the research I've been doing over the last 20 to 30 years."

...

A large part of his job as president will be spent finding others to support UNLV's climb. It's something he discovered an aptitude for while at Ohio State. He joined that university in the middle of a fundraising push much like UNLV's current Invent the Future campaign. At Ohio State he raised \$190 million for

He was very direct and no-nonsense. He made it clear he didn't want to be asked for money, so I certainly didn't bring the subject up. But, I did tell him about the College of Education's work to establish a professional development school. To my surprise, he funded it almost instantly.

So when the college proposed building a new preschool, I thought it might interest him. I brought him a model of the facility, but didn't really make any headway on that occasion. Six months later he called me cussing about a \$5,000 bill he'd received for employee development training from our faculty. He thought it was out of line. I didn't know the details, of course, but I promised him I'd look into it myself.

He replied, "O.K. Now what was that project you were telling me about? How much was that?" After reminding him about the preschool proposal, I told him we needed \$5 million. He didn't even hesitate to say, "You got it." It just floored me. That telephone call cost Mr. Bennett \$4,995,000! ■

endowed chairs, new buildings, scholarships, and support services. Ashley held regular chat sessions with young faculty members to hear about their work and the possibilities they saw for the future. He told their stories to the business community, which could tap into the creative endeavors of faculty while offering students valuable experiences.

"It's not about asking for money," he says, "it's about sharing the story of a university. People will support UNLV — through giving, through volunteering, through advocacy — when they see in it what I see."

UNLV's alumni, he says, will be a vital part of moving the university forward. "The value of the enduring commitment of alumni can't be understated," he says.

That's one reason athletic programs are so important, he adds. Years after leaving Texas and Ohio State, he still seeks out Longhorn and Buckeye football games on TV. In Texas, he also became a fan of women's basketball. Sports have a remarkable way of helping alumni across the country maintain their ties, he says. In the community, especially one with no other "home team," it's a vital way to bring the community in. "A strong athletic program is also especially important for current students. It gives them a focus and a social avenue for their Rebel experience."

...

In mid-June, Ashley and his wife, Anna, saw the arrival of their first grandchildren. Their daughter, Kimberlee, an accountant for a Fort Worth, Texas, aerospace firm, gave birth to twin daughters, Kylie and Samantha. His son,

Mark, also lives in the Dallas area, where he works as a photographer. Rounding out the family are three beagles. "The middle one is named Elvis," Ashley adds. "He's ready for his Las Vegas years."

The Ashleys met at a party in Austin, and found they share a love of the outdoors. They have traveled often to Yellowstone and the Pacific Coast to photograph wildlife, which Anna then uses as studies for her paintings. "She very much loves using her hands and her aesthetic," Ashley says. "I love being active outdoors."

One attraction of coming to Southern Nevada is the access it offers to national parks. With family in the area, Ashley was already familiar with Las Vegas before taking the job. His father, a chemical engineer who invented the Playtex rubber glove, had retired here before his death three years ago. "We've seen more of the community off the Strip than on," he says. "It's a very comfortable place for us."

A decade ago he took up cycling for exercise, a hobby that also allows him to indulge his nature to tinker with mechanical things. A favorite ride winds 80 minutes along the rolling hills near Morro Bay, Calif. Sometimes the scenery lets him escape; sometimes work creeps into his thoughts. "My mind seems to go to the kinds of problems that, if you think too hard on them, you won't see the solution." In the quiet moments, away from the data that usually supports his decisions, he's often found answers to his toughest problems. ■



Red-Hot Rhetoric

New Institute Hopes Cooler Heads Prevail as Artists and Writers Debate Today's Issues

By Erin O'Donnell

The advent of cable news, talk radio, and bloggers has paved the way for an explosion of political discourse in America — all heat and no light, as some say.

The founders of the new Black Mountain Institute at UNLV want to change that by bringing artists and scholars together for public forums and publication on the issues of the day. Unlike think tanks that champion traditionally left- or right-wing positions, Black Mountain Institute wants to get both sides talking to each other. “There are think tanks everywhere, but I’m going to stop using that word because this is a forum. We’re not going to let just any issue of the day come to us for an opinion,” said English professor Richard Wiley, director of the institute’s Forum on Contemporary Culture. “Our efforts

are to discuss political issues in an artistic way.”

The newest of the three “strands” that make up the institute, the Forum on Contemporary Culture joins the existing North American Network of Cities of Asylum and the International Institute for Modern Letters. Together, their goals are to foster ongoing discussion of major contemporary issues, offer refuge to oppressed writers, and provide an avenue for publication.

After she leaves the UNLV presidency this summer, Carol C. Harter will lead the institute as its executive director. In many ways, she says, Las Vegas’ economic development is linked to the university’s intellectual centers and an effort to revitalize the community surrounding Las Vegas.

“Traditionally, we are a disproportionately service-industry town, but the maturing culture of Las Vegas is calling for the problem-solvers and knowledge-creators who will push the city forward,” Harter says. “I’m talking about the engineers and scientists; the designers, artists, and musicians; the business leaders, medical professionals, and lawyers. And as this group

See **Black Mountain**, page 39

History professor Hal Rothman has always been willing to take on challenge after challenge. Long a prolific writer of books and journal articles as well as a gifted instructor, over the years he added radio host, newspaper columnist, and department chair to his bio with hardly a second thought.

But the latest entry was stunning. In December he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), most commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease — the almost-always fatal illness that struck down the famed Yankee first baseman. Rothman spent spring semester researching, teaching, writing, and tending to his off-campus commitments while coming to terms with

his ALS and what it will mean for his future.

He knows the rugged facts. The progressive neurodegenerative disease affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Rothman describes it this way: "Your body turns to Jell-O and your mind stays sharp." According to the ALS Association, patients typically die within two to five years of diagnosis, though 20 percent of patients live more than five. Rothman is determined to be like another noted scholar with the disease. Renowned British physicist Stephen Hawking has lived with the disease for more than 40 years, all the while expanding the body of knowledge in physics.

— Diane Russell

'I'm Not Brave'

History Professor Hal Rothman
on his career, his ALS diagnosis, and his future

■ **Discovering He Had ALS:** I'd been in Europe with my family last summer and in the Middle East. I did all kinds of things. I had a great time watching the Tour de France, climbing the Eiffel Tower, hiking around Israel, swimming off the coast of Cyprus where I visited my good friend (UNLV anthropology professor) Alan Simmons at his dig.

I remember getting a twinge in my forearm at the airport in Paris on my way out. I had just bought too many bottles of duty-free booze, and I thought, "Well, obviously the bag is real heavy. No big deal."

Then I woke up back in the U.S. on the Fourth of July and my right hand didn't work right. My assumption was I had a pinched nerve in my neck.

My friend who is a doctor examined me and then recommended I see a neurologist. I put it off because I figured it would just get better — these things usually do.

About two weeks later my friend called and told me again to see a neurologist. The neurologist sent me to the Mayo Clinic. In November they saw me and were pretty sure it was ALS. The doctors there confirmed it in December.

■ **Before the Diagnosis:** All I knew about the disease was just that Lou Gehrig died of it and that it was unusual. And that there was, and is, no cure.

■ **The Randomness:** Some cases are linked to genetics, but mine isn't. Athletes are over-represented among people with ALS. I've been an athlete all my life. There are other cluster groups, too, including veterans of the first Gulf War. No one knows why this is.

■ **Stem Cell Research:** It is so important. With everybody living longer, everybody is going to face neurological disease in their family whether it's Alzheimer's, ALS, MS, or one of the 200 or so others.

■ **Daily Changes:** Already the range of motion in my right hand is limited, only leaving enough to operate a mouse. I expect I'll be teaching in a wheelchair next semester. There are all kinds of challenges like that, presumably in my future and probably soon. You end up without dignity very quickly. One concern is how I will communicate when I can't speak.

Every day is an adventure. But at the same time every day is a gift because you are still here.

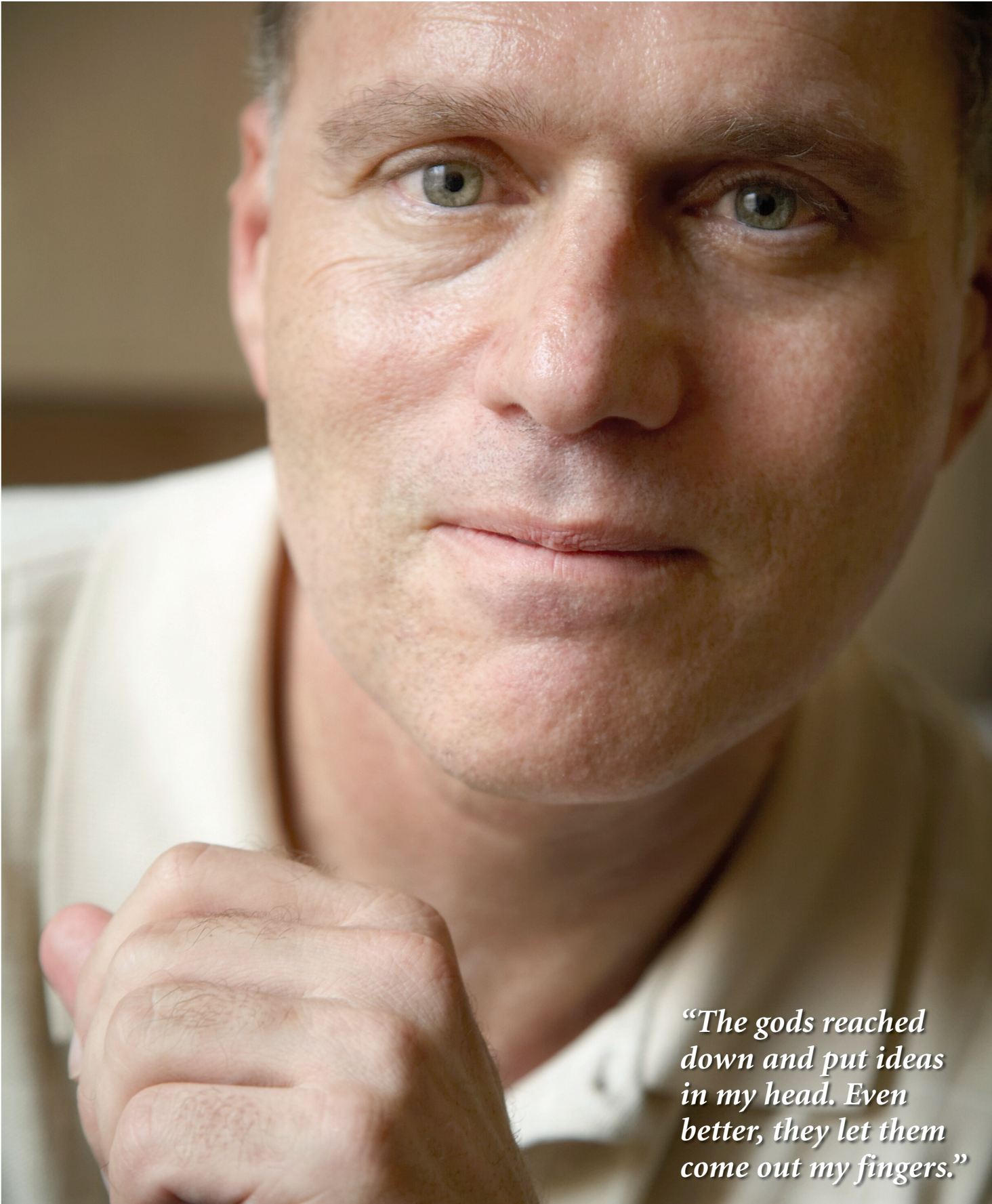
■ **Emotions:** A funny thing about the disease is it seems that once an emotion starts, you can't stop it. If I start to laugh, or if I start to cry, it seems like it doesn't end for half an hour. It's like I have no brakes for anything I feel.

■ **Luck:** Truthfully, I got 47 perfect years. Everything broke my way. That's a hell of a lot more than most people get. The gods reached down and put ideas in my head. Even better, they let them come out my fingers — and at a pretty good clip. Not everybody gets that.

■ **In the Classroom:** On a certain level my favorite class was the survey — you know, the 100-level introductory class for the "great unwashed." All the people are there for the requirement. The objective is to turn them on to the field. That is a lot harder challenge than teaching people who already have selected history as their major.

Most intellectually rewarding, of course, is the work with the graduate students. Being an undergraduate is about learning to answer other people's questions. Being a graduate student is about learning to ask your own. So you are involved with people who have a base knowledge and are trying to formulate questions that will lead them to meaningful answers. And that is pretty exciting stuff.

■ **Teaching vs. Research:** There's no difference between teaching and research. And anybody who says there is is faking it on one side or the other. What we do is create and disseminate knowledge. It takes many



“The gods reached down and put ideas in my head. Even better, they let them come out my fingers.”

Aaron Mayes



Geri Koday

Las Vegas According to Hal

Hal Rothman's gift for pithy quotes has made him a favorite commentator on all things Las Vegas. He's been sought out so frequently by national media — *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and NBC News included — that the *Las Vegas Weekly* dubbed him the "go-to guru for informed perspective on Las Vegas." A couple of our favorite Hal quotes:

■ *"We plane the rough edges off of reality and give it to you as you would have it. Las Vegas does not challenge you. Instead it affirms who you are, an 'I'm OK, you're OK' for the 21st century. (Las Vegas Sun column, March 26)*

■ *"Las Vegas is a place where the past is truly prologue ... Preserving what we were yesterday is not as important as divining what we will be tomorrow." (Boston Globe, Oct. 2, 2003)*

■ *"There's no doubt that our traditions and our future are somehow at odds. We're going to have to renegotiate the boundaries." (Associated Press, Jan. 6, 2003)*

Selected Honors Earned

Named: UNLV's 14th distinguished professor (2006)

Received: UNLV President's Medal (2006), Aldo Leopold Award from the department of environmental studies (2006), Livable Communities Award from the Nevada chapter of the American Institute of Architects (2006), Distinguished Service Award from the American Society for Environmental History (2006), and Harry Reid Silver State Research Award (2004)

Inducted: Nevada Writers Hall of Fame (2004)

Selected Books by Hal Rothman

Neon Metropolis: How Las Vegas Started the Twenty-First Century
LBJ's TEXAS White House: Our Heart's Home
Devil's Bargain: Tourism in the Twentieth Century American West
The Greening of a Nation? Environmentalism in the U.S. Since 1945
On Rims and Ridges: The Los Alamos Area Since 1880

forms, and my favorite has always been interaction in the classroom.

I was never one of those guys for whom students had to repeat what I said to do well. My thing always was, "Agreeing with me and \$3.11 gets you Starbucks. Disagreeing with me with a cogent argument earned you my respect." So it's about teaching people how to think — not what to think. And history is a pretty good medium for that.

■ **His Column in the *Las Vegas Sun*:** As long as I have some way to get the speech out, I'll be doing the column.

■ **His KUNV radio interview show, *Our Metropolis*, which is ceasing production:** It's been a tremendous gig. Hopefully it's done some good in the universe. I hope that somebody's been listening and has learned something from all the ideas they have heard discussed. Some people are dead air, but some people really fill it up.

The most memorable guest was David Brenner, the comedian. He was a tremendous interview because he's basically a stand-up comedian and talking is his way of doing things. He was completely relaxed. I felt like he was interviewing me.

■ **Current Work:** I'm finishing a history of fire management in the National Park Service (*Blazing Heritage: Wildland Fire in the National Park System*) that will be published by Oxford University Press next year. I'm working on and hope to complete by the end of the year a new history of Nevada for college classroom use. The ones we have are fine in their way, but they have two enormous flaws from my point of view. They don't deal with the 20th century and they

don't deal with Southern Nevada. What I've done is written one that gets us up to speed. I hope that people will use it in classes for a long time.

■ **Setting Goals:** The National Park Service will celebrate its centennial in 2016. I want to be the one to write the book. I've been pretty good about setting the bar for myself and making it there. Hopefully, I'll make that one in 2016, too.

■ **Career Choices:** I'd do exactly what I've done. I'm not the kind of person who looks back and says woulda, coulda, shoulda. I wouldn't trade a thing. I wouldn't change what I do or where I do it.

I was lucky to be here at the right time. A particular set of skills and interests I had melded with what was going on here at UNLV and in greater Las Vegas. When you think about it, what is more unlikely than a historian coming to Las Vegas? In that respect it was a strange kind of synergy.

■ **New Experiences:** Here's something important to know: Because of the ALS I'm going to make some of the best friends of my life — people I wouldn't meet otherwise.

■ **Facing Adversity:** The truism in life is that adversity shows character. It does and it doesn't. The thing about adversity is you are faced with it. You've got to deal with it. In a situation like mine, you've got two choices: You can roll over and wait to die, or you can keep doing what you're doing. In my mind, that doesn't take courage. That's a no-brainer. What else would I do?

But I'm not brave. I don't have a choice about this. The brave ones are the ones who chose to stick by me. My wife, my kids, close friends, my graduate students, and the others who bestow upon me the daily kindness of their attention and their help. They have a choice, and they have chosen to stay. They have my undying admiration.

I was always one of those people who was going to make the most out of every day — and I still am. This may kill me, but it will never beat me.



Aaron Mayes

Tim Bavington distills the score from rock songs to create his vivid works, including one that hangs in his mid-century home near downtown Las Vegas' arts district. The past few years have brought five-figure commissions, solo shows, and the purchase of one work by New York City's Museum of Modern Art.

Straight Line to Success: Tim Bavington, artist

By Phil Hagen

Tim Bavington, '99 MFA, is a guy who knows how to turn 40. Just a few months before his May milestone, he reached a height that most artists only dream of: having a painting bought by the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City.

That's a sure way to avert a midlife career crisis. The England-born, Las Vegas-based artist, the self-described "kid in the back of the classroom who was never supposed to amount to anything," has indeed amounted to something.

Showings of his abstract art — vibrant, vibrating, vertically striped paintings with rock 'n' roll titles — had already been wowing gallery-goers and art buyers from San Francisco to Paris over the past couple of years. Bavingtons have landed in some of the top collections in America (from Steve Wynn's to the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art), they've hung next to the likes of Mark Rothko (at the Albright-Knox Gallery in Buffalo, N.Y.), and they've started selling well into five figures.

But it was a painting called "Physical S.E.X." bought by MoMA during last

fall's solo exhibit in New York City's Jack Shainman Gallery that really rocked his world. "MoMA is the top of the mountain," Bavington says. "It's serious business to get in there."

"It's a rigorous process," says Bavington's chief mentor, Dave Hickey, a nationally renowned art critic and UNLV English professor. "I have had friends who have been great painters their whole lives and not gotten in."

MoMA doesn't categorize by region, but it's believed that Bavington is only the second Nevadan — Michael Heizer being the other — to have a work in the

world-renowned collection, which goes back more than a century to Cezanne and the origins of Modernism.

Boosting the Reputation of UNLV's Theory Refugees

There are several layers of significance to all this, from the price of his paintings now flirting with six figures to the confirmation that he's contributed to the vernacular of abstract art. But the chief meaning boils down to this, Hickey says: "He's no longer a young artist. He's an absolutely established American artist."

In 1993, when Bavington moved his freelance career — namely illustrating *The Simpsons* for merchandise related to the TV series — from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, Hickey recruited him to join UNLV's graduate studio. Bavington joined a class in the mid-'90s that sparked an impressive run of successes by Master of Fine Arts students.

Hickey called them the "Theory Refugees," and UNLV was their place of asylum, an environment free of entrenched art-school ideologies. Bavington marvels at the success rate of the dozen or so MFAs in his class — those who went on to make a living as artists, including Yek Wong. "It would have to rival that of any of the major art colleges," he says.

Bavington's MoMA achievement just raised UNLV's stock again. "When one artist does good, it's good for the whole group," says Hickey, who wrote an essay for a new catalog (published by Steidl) surveying Bavington's paintings back to his seminal work.

That style developed during the MFA days, in 1997, when after exhaustive experiments in abstract art, Bavington landed on spray-painted stripes, inspired by geometric-abstract masters Gene Davis and Bridget Riley. He then explored different theories of organizing those stripes, from intuition and chance to architectural systems and information bar codes.

"At the time," Bavington says, "it seemed like it was good enough to get a degree."



Bavington's vivid acrylic on canvas works have been described as "neon in the mist."

Those early works weren't "as electric, as luminescent" as those today, says Mary Warner, who along with Hickey and her fellow associate professor of art, Pasha Rafat, served on Bavington's graduate committee. But she could see that "he was on to something." As his technique evolved, the colors began to look "as if they were light rather than paint."

'A Slippery Step Away from Chaos'

Bavington's breakthrough occurred around 2002, when he began applying "theories of proportional harmony" to his work. While he'd always used mathematics to come up with his proportions, music was now the catalyst. He takes a musical riff or a guitar solo — such as with "Physical S.E.X.," a song by The Darkness — and matches the 12-tone musical scale with the 12-hue color wheel, assigning colors to notes. With a spray gun, he applies the stripes accordingly, skillfully blending and bleeding them to achieve a visual vibration.

This is not about capturing music with paint, nor the "spirit of rock 'n' roll." That his paintings are based on rock songs is merely a musical preference. Mozart could be converted into cool, colorful stripes just as well — "maybe even better," Bavington says.

Unlike music, his stripes come without a narrative; there's no true beginning or end. Viewing a Bavington is up to the individual. And that demand for participation, especially when mentally nudged by those rock 'n' roll titles, makes for some interesting interpretations of his work, which the artist labels as "a nice balance between pop art and expressionism."

L.A. Times critic David Pagel wrote, "Art historians often talk about Pollock in terms of jazz improvisation. Bavington makes you see how rock 'n' roll his paintings are: tough, delicate, and one slippery step away from chaos."

The artist's chosen work environment often dilates the eye of the beholder, too: "I think of Tim Bavington as a kind of bartender," wrote Christopher Miles in *Artforum* (November 2002). "Trained in Las Vegas, America's speakeasy for broad definitions of aesthetic activity, he serves up exotic cocktails on canvas."

Hickey, who once described the stripes as "neon in the mist," believes Las Vegas does indeed have a proper role in the context. If nothing else, the city offers a blank canvas that's not adulterated by the outside "Art World." And Bavington nicely backs up that notion, proving that an artist can hit the jackpot from Vegas — perhaps working here even improves the odds.

That might also help Bavington deal with success, now that it's here. He's used to the freedom the city offers, and perhaps the most valuable prize that MoMA offers an artist is simply more of it.

Not that the weird art kid in the back of the classroom needs any place or thing in particular to ground him. "Tim's a serious artist," Hickey says, "but he doesn't take himself seriously."

Bavington's handling of his MoMA momentum is that attitude on display. "Now, do I get paralyzed when I go into the studio from the weight of my work being given such historic designation?" he says. "My feeling is, it's just art and there's nothing to be afraid of. There's risk involved but it's not going to kill anyone. I can go into the studio and be just as irresponsible as the first time I went into the UNLV studio."

■ 1970s

Susan Thompson, '70 M.Ed. in Secondary Education, has maintained a private practice in marriage and family therapy for 21 years. She also trains other therapists, serves as a management consultant, and presents seminars on practical spirituality, leadership and management training, and human relations skills/awareness. She also is a minister. Her awards include the 1989 Crystal Flame for humanitarianism from the Women's Council of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and an award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Her hobbies include spiritual healing and service, gourmet food, planetary and universal consciousness, clairvoyance, concerts, singing in the Musical Arts Society chorus, and the Red Hat Society.

Steve Hockett, '79 BS Hotel Administration, was elected president of the Club Managers Association of Southern California for the second time. He is only the second club general manager to serve as president twice. For the past 21 years, he has been the general manager of the Oakmont Country Club in Glendale. He lives in Long Beach.

■ 1980s

Ronald M. Gebhardt, '80 BS Hotel Administration, was named publisher of *Resorts & Great Hotels*, which is now in its 20th year. With a distribution of 400,000, it is Borders' top-selling travel guide. It features 270 of the world's finest hotels and resorts. He has more than 20 years of experience in luxury hotel and resort sales and marketing. A certified hospitality sales professional, he served as an associate professor in hotel/resort management at Collin County Community College in Texas. He lives in Winter Park, Fla.

Lois Skripnik Grosser, '80 Bachelor of Fine Arts, owns her own fine arts and graphic design group, the Blue Diamond Design Group, in Rochester, N.Y. She has a son, two daughters, and five granddaughters. Her hobbies include ceramic jewelry design, golf, and photography. She says she is enjoying single life.

David Patterson, '81 BS Hotel Administration, is director of sales at Palm Mountain Resort & Spa in Palm Springs, Calif. He received the award for outstanding sales person for 2005 from the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention and Visitors Authority. In Palm Springs he has worked for the Spa Hotel, Palm Springs Hilton, and Gene

Autry Hotel. Previously, he worked at the Westin Edmonton, the Sheraton Landmark Vancouver, and the Empress Hotel. His hobbies include detailing his car, antiques, maintaining an English garden, and playing with his Shih Tzus. He and his wife, Madelene, have been married 14 years.

Don Ehehalt, '83 BS Hotel Administration, is a casino host at the Venetian Resort Hotel and Casino. He previously spent 16 years working for Four Seasons Hotels.

John A. Gravina, '83 Hotel Management, is a lawyer in Tucson. He is married with three children. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, gambling, reading, and participating in family events. He attended UNLV for a year as part of a national student-exchange program.

Vida Chow, '86 BS Hotel Administration, is director of human resources for the Grand Hyatt in Hong Kong. Her hobbies include yoga.

Michael Hazard, '86 BS Hotel Administration, is a chef in an 1800s artist colony. He lives in Malta, N.Y.

Gary Rehaut, '86 BS Hotel Administration, is the director of food and beverage at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. Previously, he was the director of food and beverage at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. He was executive chef when that property opened. He lives in Ellicott City.

Ed Conway, '88 MS Hotel Administration, is general manager of Sedona Rouge Hotel and Casino. He and his wife, Julia, also own a boutique hotel and spa. In 2000, he opened Greenhorn Creek Resort in Angels Camp, Calif. The couple has two boys: Steven, 11, and Alex, 5. They live in Sedona, Ariz.

Sandy Esterbrooks Hanshaw, '88 BS Hotel Administration, is a national sales manager at the Omni San Diego Hotel. She received the group sales executive of the year award for Omni Hotels based on her overall sales achievement and community involvement.

Paula Eylar, '89 BS Hotel Administration, '97 MBA, is vice president of internal audit for Boyd Gaming Corp., which owns and manages 19 gaming entertainment properties in six states. She has two boys: Ryan, 12, and Aaron, 11.

Janet Foley, '89 BS Hotel Administration, is a furniture, fixture, and equipment purchasing manager for the Procaccianti Group based in Cranston, R.I. She coordinates purchases for renovation projects for existing hotels and new acquisitions for the company's major hotels. She previously spent three months volunteering in Nepal. She and fellow alumna **Sheema Kalianpur Vohra**, '87 BS Hotel Administration, hope to open a café in the Himalayan foothills. They also hope to bring more American tourists to India through a tour operation called Connexions. She lives in Quincy, Mass.

■ 1990s

Christopher E. Bond, '92 BS Hotel Administration, was promoted to executive director of sales for New York-New York Hotel & Casino. He was director of leisure sales for the property since 2004. He is a member of the Travel Industry Association of America and of the International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals. He also participates in the UNLV mentor program.

Paige Michaelis, '93 BS Hotel Administration, works in real estate development. She and her husband, James, have a daughter, Madelyn, and another baby is on the way. She lives in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Ryan Sheltra, '93 BS Hotel Administration, is the general manager of the Bonanza Casino in Reno. He also is president of the Independent Gaming Operators Coalition of Nevada. He and his wife, Kristie, have two boys: Cole, 3 and Jack Ryan, 18 months.



James Smyth, '93 BA Criminal Justice, recently was elected to the board of directors of the law firm Kummer Kaempfer Bonner Renshaw & Ferrario. He began working for the firm as a runner while attending UNLV. He later received his law degree from Washburn University and returned to the firm in 1997 as an associate in its land use and government affairs department. He practices in construction, commercial litigation, real estate, land use, and zoning entitlement litigation matters.

Patrick M. Brophy, '94 BS Hotel Administration, is the executive assistant manager of the rooms division at the Hyatt Regency Rochester in New York. He has worked for Hyatt Hotels, Orient Express Hotels, and Ritz-Carlton. He enjoys tennis and is an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan. He and his wife, Julie, live in Pittsford.

Craig Lane, '94 BS Fitness & Sports Management, '97 MS Kinesiology, received a Ph.D. in kinesiology from Auburn University. He now works as a forensic scientist in Southern California and testifies in court on a regular basis. He enjoys spending time on the Colorado River boating with his wife, son, and daughter. They live in Huntington Beach.

Lori Sabin Siegel, '94 BA Political Science, is an attorney and real estate broker. She and her husband,

We're All Ears

Tell us all about your latest milestone. Submit your accomplishments to the Class Notes section of UNLV Magazine. Or, if you've moved recently, let us know your new address.

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(Class Notes entries must be received by July 15 for the fall issue.)

Brad, have two daughters: Rachel, 5, and Alexa, 3. She says she would love to reconnect with classmates. She lives in Calabasas, Calif.

Stephen Falk, '95 BS Hotel Administration, accepted a position with OTO Development and relocated to Orange County, Calif., to open and manage the new Hampton Inn in Cypress. He will be looking for qualified UNLV hotel grads to join him in the operation. He lives in Irvine.

Wes Conroy, '95 BA Criminal Justice, owns Statewide Resource Inc., a private investigation and process-server company in Austin, Texas. He is a licensed civil and criminal investigator as well as a Texas Supreme Court-certified process server. He is engaged to be married in October. He has two border collies, Emmitt and Oscar. He recently completed restoring a Triumph TR7. He lives in Cedar Creek.

Edward R. Gardner, '96 BS Hotel Administration, has been working at the Washington Mutual Home Loan Center in San Mateo, Calif., since October 2001. He married his wife, Saynur, in 2002; they welcomed a daughter, Shirin, on Jan. 4.

Kim J. Tun, '96 BS Hotel Administration, is the field support manager in the marketing research department of Sprint Nextel. Previously, she was Nextel's area marketing manager for Las Vegas.

Jeffrey Fine, '97 BS Mechanical Engineering, is a licensed professional engineer and owns the consulting company J.S. Fine Engineering Design in Carson City. Previously, he was a senior engineer for GE Energy/Bently Nevada and a mechanical design engineer for a division of Amerda Hess. He and his wife, Deanna, have two daughters: Morgan, 11, and Delaney, 8. He enjoys wood-working, skiing, and traveling.



Jacquelyn M. Oliveri, '97 MS Accounting, has been named chief financial officer at the Providence Center. She is responsible for providing sound

financial strategies to the board of trustees and management team. The center annually serves more than 9,000 adults, children, and adolescents who struggle with mental illness, addiction,

and emotional problems. She previously served as chief financial officer for the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation in Boston as well as for the San Francisco Health Authority. She lives in Providence, R.I.

Veronica Allende, '98 BA Art, visited Japan in November as a participant in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund 2005 Teacher Program. She was one of 200 primary and secondary school educators selected for the program from more than 2,500 applicants. Her three-week visit began in Tokyo with a practical orientation on Japanese life and with meetings with government officials and educators. She then traveled to the city of Taku to interact with teachers and students. She teaches at St. Joseph Catholic School in Stuart, Fla.

Jarvis Marlow, '98 BS Finance, '05 BA History, is the principal owner of Lithium Press, which offers design, print, and publishing in Southern Nevada. He also is a marketing partner in CompiaCoffee.com, a gourmet coffee company. He plans to pursue a master's degree in history at UNLV beginning in August and hopes to one day teach at the community college level. He and his wife, **Valerie Stephens Marlow**, '04 BA Education, are expecting their first child in September. A member of the men's swim team while at UNLV, he swims with former Rebels on the Henderson Southern Nevada Masters Swim Team. He enjoys being a Scout master and documenting pop culture.

Dong Kyu "Nathan" Kang, '99 BS Hotel Administration, attended the San Diego Golf Academy and is now director of operations at Sarabande Country Club in Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla. He also is a PGA apprentice. After graduation he worked at the Bellagio as a pit clerk. Since then, he has served as the assistant general manager at a Best Western hotel, as sales manager for Wyndham, and as an assistant controller at the Holiday Inn Civic Center in San Francisco.

Kyriakos P. Lambros, '99 BS Management Information Systems, is a network security engineer for eBay. He designs and implements operational standards and guidelines for the management of firewalls, intrusion detection systems, monitoring systems, and in-house data collection tools. He also designs new security measures and coordinates their implementation. He lives in Phoenix.

Leaving Gut Reactions Behind: Paula DeSutter, career diplomat

When Paula Adamo DeSutter, '79 BA Political Science and '83 MA Economics, once told a relative about her nascent career in arms control, she was met with some dismay: "She asked me, 'Well honey, don't you like guns?' I had to tell her that it's just the really big ones that I was concerned about." Like nuclear bombs and biological weapons.

Today DeSutter is assistant secretary of state, leading a division of the U.S. State Department charged with evaluating other countries' compliance with arms-control agreements. In March, her job took her to Tripoli, where her team is working with the Libyan government on plans to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction programs. Sweeping sanctions, rather than lengthy negotiations, led to Libya realizing that greater security could be found in abandoning its WMD programs, DeSutter said. "It was a tremendous thing for a country — without regime change — to come to such a decision," DeSutter says. "It's a good feeling when you're able to conclude with a reasonable degree of confidence that a country has eliminated its weapons programs."

Debates over administration policy toward negotiations will be at the forefront in the coming months, she says, as the international community evaluates Iran's nuclear capabilities. She hopes other countries, including North Korea, will follow Libya's example. "The problems of today are too urgent to have 20 years of negotiation with countries that have no intention to comply, ones that are already violating their current agreements," she says.

One Thing Leads to Another

Though a UNLV student government leader in the mid-1970s, DeSutter didn't plot out a career path that would have her grappling with nuclear disarmament. Back before her career in diplomacy, she aspired to be a cocktail waitress because she heard they made a lot of money. Economics professor Thomas White inspired her to turn attention to national issues, beginning with a paper on the effects of the 1979 gas shortage on the Las Vegas economy.

The waitress wanna-be eventually earned two UNLV degrees before going on to earn a master of arts degree in international

Kathy K. Preston, '99 BS Management Information Systems, works for Science Applications International Corp. at Nellis Air Force Base as a desktop publisher and webmaster. She is part of a team that produces *Air Force Operational Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures* and supports the Combined Air and Space Operations Center-Nellis. She also works part-time as a security officer for We Serve Inc., an event staffing company. Her hobbies include watching *Monday Night Football*, reading detective and suspense novels, and going to the movies.

Val Wedler, '99 BA English, moved to Alaska in 2000. He earned an associate's degree in nursing with high honors in 2005 and now manages the nursing department at Frontier Community Services, the fourth largest employer on the Kenai Peninsula. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Kenai Peninsula College, which is affiliated with the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He teaches courses for personal care assistants and certified nursing assistants. He enjoys fishing, hiking, and snowshoeing. He lives in Soldotna.

relations from the University of Southern California. It was the early 1980s, the heyday of arms control. A graduate internship at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency led to a series of senior staff positions and then to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. She later earned a master's degree in national security strategy from the National War College.

"I've been fortunate in that the things I did naturally led to the next thing," DeSutter told a UNLV political science class in November. "I didn't plan it. You develop your skills and keep your eyes open and things tend to work out, but it all started here."

One such skill is an ability to evaluate issues from different perspectives, to leave behind her American gut reaction. In researching Iran's approach to a justifiable war, for example, she found that soldiers readily accepted their orders to walk through minefields to clear the path for other troops, thus assuring their place in the afterlife. "It's a different way of thinking, but that doesn't make it irrational or crazy. People in countries have cost-benefit calculations different from ours. We have to acknowledge that."

She was appointed to her current position in 2002 and has found that personnel issues consume a large portion of her time. "It's important to not only get the right people, but keep them happy — make sure they are empowered within a bureaucratic structure that, like all bureaucracies, suppresses energy and initiative."

Beltway Balance

Despite her career success, she said her most significant accomplishments in life are her children: 16-year-old Rachel and 13-year-old Paul Joseph. She and her husband, R. Joseph DeSutter, a director at the National Defense University, are raising their children in the Washington, D.C. suburb of Reston, Va.

Balancing a demanding career with a family hasn't been easy,



Gerri Kodey

Paula DeSutter worked her way up through staff positions to lead the U.S. State Department division that oversees international compliance with nuclear disarmament agreements.

DeSutter said, but she was lucky: When her daughter was born, DeSutter's mother moved to the Washington area to care for her and later her son while she worked.

"They always had someone who loved them taking care of them, and my mother not only shares my values but she is the source of my values," she said.

DeSutter's visit to Las Vegas was her first in about seven years — she made the trip to attend her 30th reunion with fellow graduates of Western High School.

During her stay she couldn't resist a few pulls on a slot machine. After getting over the surprise that some machines no longer accept coins, she found a numbing comfort in the lights and sounds.

"It was very relaxing," she said. "You don't have to think. You don't think about North Korea, you don't think about Iran."

—Jennifer Lawson and Cate Weeks

Marty Weinberg, '99 BS International Business, married UNR alumna Tara Anne Faber on Oct. 30 at the Paiute Golf Resort. They honeymooned in St. Lucia.

Lorel Zaide, '99 BS Hotel Administration, opened a jazz music record label under the name Rebel Phi Records — named after UNLV and his fraternity. He is featured as the artist/jazz vocalist under the stage name L.Zaide. His debut release received positive reviews and airplay in more than 60 cities in the United States, Europe, and Australia, including

UNLV's own KUNV. He previously was employed by the Mirage in casino marketing. He lives in Chicago.

■ 2000s

Vanessa Collard, '00 BS Hotel Administration, is an account executive at Hermes. She earned an MBA with a focus on marketing from Fordham University in December. She lives in Rye Brook, N.Y.

Stephanie Liggio, '00 BA Communication Studies, is working in sales for a title insurance agency in Harrison, N.Y. She lives in the Bronx.

Tobias Omondi, '00 BS Hotel Administration, is the rooms operations manager at the Grafton on Sunset Hotel in Los Angeles. His hobbies include reading, traveling, hiking, and playing soccer.

William Keola Soon, '00 BS Physical Education, is teaching sixth- and seventh-grade health and physical education at Iao School in Wailuku, Hawaii. He also coaches wide receivers at the Kamehameha Schools in Pukalani. Previously, he taught at Waiakea Intermediate School in Hilo. His hobbies include outrigger canoe

paddling, running, playing basketball, reading, and going to movies. He lives in Wailuku.

Rahul Mark Barua, '01 BS Hotel Administration, plays professional golf in India. After running two small hotels, he decided to follow his dream of becoming a professional golfer. He will also be opening his own restaurant in Bangalore City. He says many hotels are opening in India because of the rapidly growing economy and that he is willing to talk with interested UNLV graduates.

All About Image: Roger Faselt, medical services company owner

To remind himself of how far his occupation has come in a short time, Roger Faselt, '92 BS Radiological Sciences, just thinks about ultrasound machines he lugged about for house calls. The cumbersome machines, weighing about 100 pounds each, resembled a box on a dolly. "I would literally have to disassemble the machine, take it up the stairs, put it back together, do the test, and disassemble it again," he says.

Five years later, Faselt and his back are thankful that the machines have radically changed in such a short time. "Now it's the size of a laptop. I can put it under my arm, and it's more sophisticated."

Faselt founded Quality Medical Imaging in 2001 to serve home-bound patients needing ultrasounds, radiography, and other diagnostic services. As an experienced technician, he'd seen the upset that traveling to a medical appointment could cause, but the mobile tests then available lacked quality.

"Doing a good quality exam can significantly impact a person's health," he said. "If the technician doing a test or X-ray doesn't do a good job, it doesn't matter how good the interpreting physician is."

The son of a schoolteacher, Faselt planned to be an ultrasound and X-ray instructor. Then the entrepreneurial urge struck. "I thought I'd do what I know," Faselt says. He came to Las Vegas in 1989 to work at Sunrise Hospital. Soon he was the supervisor of the radiology department and taking evening courses at UNLV.

Good health care depends upon understanding the field, Faselt says, and the best way to gain that understanding is through education. He credits his study at UNLV as having helped him keep abreast of developments in imaging technology. He also looks to the university's radiography program as a source for employees.

Faselt recently moved into a new office to accommodate the growth in business. The office has a sleek, modern feel that is



Aaron Mayes

upstaged by the sophistication of the equipment used for mobile services. The ultrasound and X-ray machines there cost upwards of \$100,000 each. The cost of the technology can be prohibitive, especially for a new business. But, Faselt adds, more than the bottom line is affected by the choice of technology. "In my mind, you can't think of it just as a business," he says. "There are lives and emotions involved. There are consequences to a medical business that you can't put on a spreadsheet."

—Eric Leake

Kyo-Hyug "Ted" Koo, '01 BS Hotel Administration, a restaurant developer for Pulmuone, one of the biggest food service companies in Korea. He developed eight restaurants in Seoul. He now is pursuing a master's degree in accounting at the University of Texas at Arlington. He lives in Grand Prairie.

Kim Nehls, '01 MA Communication Studies, is working toward a Ph.D. at UNLV in higher education administration. She gave birth to a daughter, Liberty, in October. She and her husband, Cory, also have a son, Grant.

John Paffrath, '01 BS Hotel Administration, was hired as an executive steward at the new St. Regis Hotel and Residences in San Francisco. For four years he worked as a food and beverage

manager at various Hyatt hotels. He lives in San Mateo.

T. Ryan Sullivan, '01 BS Business Administration, is senior vice president and chief financial officer of Alliance Bank of Arizona. Established in 2003, it is one of the fastest-growing commercial banks in the nation. He is a member of the W.P. Carey School of Business Finance Advisory Board at Arizona State University. He and his wife have an infant son. They live in Gilbert.

Antonio Auricchio, '02 BS Hotel Administration, transferred from the Renaissance Westchester where he served as housekeeping supervisor to a position as assistant housekeeping manager at the New York Marriott Marquis. He lives in Mount Vernon.

Melissa J. Burns, '02 BA Communication Studies, is a videographer and editor for DAV Productions in Las Vegas. She began working there as an intern. She plays the bagpipes with the band Desert Skye Pipes and Drums. She also enjoys photography and traveling. She lives in Henderson.

Yoojin "Jeannie" Jung, '02 BS Hotel Administration, is a general administrator for Asiana Airlines and she enjoys traveling. She moved back to Southern California following graduation. She lives in Burbank.

Kevin Nance, '02 BS Hotel Administration, works for the Accor Hotel group in Xian, China. He has worked for hotels in China for the past three years in a variety of capacities.

Marina Vialtsina, '02 BS Hotel Administration, has returned to MGM Mirage as a purchasing manager for Mandalay Bay. While attending UNLV, she was an intern at the MGM Grand. Later she worked in MGM as assistant buyer, buyer, and senior food and beverage buyer. She also helped open the Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel.

D. Casey Freelove, '03 BA Communication Studies, is an on-air radio sports talk show host for Infinity Broadcasting, which operates stations Spike 1140 AM KSFN and 840 AM KXNT. His show, *Freelove and Olson*, was the winner of the best locally produced radio talk show at the Las Vegas Electronic Media Awards in 2004 and 2005. He also serves as co-host of former UNLV basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian's radio show, does traffic reports for KXNT,

and covers UNLV basketball for 1140 AM. And, he works part time as a game spotter for AOL scoring basketball and football games for the sports webpage. His hobbies include watching and talking sports, attending concerts, and going to see comedians.

Grace Herbert, '03 BS Hotel Administration, helped open the Sandia Resort & Casino in Albuquerque as a hotel sales manager. She will be marrying a fellow UNLV graduate in September.

Sylvia Lim, '03 BS Hotel Administration, is a partner with Blink Design Studio, an interactive media design firm.

She consults with clients regarding their marketing and branding strategies.

Frederic Sutter, '03 BS Hotel Administration, is pursuing an MBA at the University of Colorado-Boulder with a focus in sustainable development in tourism. He lives in Lafayette.

Jennifer Eskin Smith, '04 MS Sports and Leisure Services, continued her work as promotions coordinator in the marketing department for the Thomas & Mack Center, Cox Pavilion, and Sam Boyd Stadium following graduation. She is now a catering sales manager for those properties. Her husband, **Zach Smith**,

'00 MS Kinesiology, is director of development for UNLV's University Libraries. They enjoy traveling and dining.

Kristin Hackney, '04 BA Psychology, is involved with cancer research at Oregon Health & Science University. Married with one child, she lives in Oregon City.

Jessica Poole, '04 BA Psychology, teamed up with her mother, Renee, a little over a year ago to open and manage a 12,000-square-foot antique and collectibles mart in the downtown arts district. Not Just Antiques specializes in antique and collectible consignment

and is an eBay drop-off store. A former UNLV homecoming queen, she participates in several fundraisers for nonprofit organizations.

Danny Reed, '04 JD, is an associate at Aminpour & Associates, a mid-size law firm in downtown San Diego. He specializes in personal injury cases.

■ Death

James Kay, '00 BA Finance, died Aug. 25, 2003, following a short illness. He was a store manager for Big Lots in Las Vegas at the time of his death. While at UNLV he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Black Mountain

Continued from page 29

grows in the valley, they will look for the activities that let them be part of the intellectual fabric of the community.”

Dialogue with Broad Appeal

In April, the Black Mountain Institute made its public debut with an appearance by renowned author Toni Morrison. Wiley said the response to Morrison's visit — which drew a capacity crowd of 1,500 to Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall — showed him Las Vegas is thirsty for more intellectual diversions. The tickets were snatched up in 72 hours.

It was a pleasant surprise to organizers who, without a previous event to estimate response, feared a half-empty hall for the only living American Nobel laureate in literature. But, Wiley says, “This town is no different than any other town. It houses people of wildly different political interests.”

The institute will focus on bringing dialogue to the general public and not just other academics, Wiley said. It's about putting a real exchange of ideas back into modern politics, now so dominated by sound bites.

“In today's world, the power of speech is diminished, not just the power of the written word,” Wiley says. “We Americans are a very rigid and entrenched people when it comes to political ideas. There's not a lot of give and take.”

This fall the Forum on Contemporary Culture plans to examine the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by inviting two creative writers — one novelist, essayist, poet, or

playwright from each side. The visiting scholars will spend the year examining the issue in public exchanges and private study, culminating in published works.

Impossible as it may sound to anyone who watches *Hardball*, Wiley said the fellows must be open to the other side's point of view. “They must be willing to discuss an issue and have a temperament that's not unchangeable,” he says.

The forum's issues will be weighty, Wiley says, but don't expect dry lectures. “We don't want it to be mild. It should be dynamic. We're looking for world-class intellectuals, so they'd better be equal at their levels of discourse.”

A Contender with a Strong Pedigree

The project takes its name from the short-lived Black Mountain College in North Carolina, which emphasized the arts in academics, and the landmark of the same name in the southern Las Vegas Valley.

Its roots go back to 2000, when the International Institute for Modern Letters (IIML) was founded by hotel executive Glenn Schaeffer to support emerging writers and combat censorship worldwide. Although it was created first, the IIML was last to join Black Mountain Institute.

Since its inception, the IIML has partnered with Cities of Asylum, which provides safe haven to writers of conscience who have been threatened by their homeland governments. The U.S. program, started in Las Vegas, has grown to include three other cities. Although Cities of Asylum had maintained close ties with UNLV, it operated independently until joining Black Mountain Institute this spring.

With the IIML connections and the

strong international writing program at UNLV, Black Mountain Institute has already attracted top thinkers to its governing board, including Harriet Mayor Fulbright, widow of the U.S. senator who established the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Program. Much like Black Mountain, the Fulbright exchange program was founded to foster understanding of the viewpoints in differing nations.

Henry Louis Gates Jr., director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard University, says that he is excited to be affiliated with an arts- and scholarship-driven think tank. “All of us who are involved expect that the institute will have a significant impact on the life of the mind in this country and abroad.”

Also on the board is Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian playwright, poet, novelist, and critic who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986. A past president of the International Network of Cities of Asylum and himself a former political prisoner, Soyinka until recently held the Elias Ghanem Chair of Creative Writing at UNLV.

He continues to serve as the director of literary arts for the IIML, which will be the publishing wing of Black Mountain Institute. In addition to publishing the works of the institute's scholars, Wiley says the IIML will translate into English literary works that aren't currently available.

Taken together, these efforts help UNLV's quest to become a world-class institution, Wiley says. “It's gone from being an average state university to being a comer, a contender. It's like a big baby that keeps outgrowing its clothes every two months.” ■



1965



2006

A little bit bigger now

The entire graduating class of 1965 and their families didn't even fill the bleachers of the campus's old gymnasium (now the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History). Then 74 bachelor's degrees were conferred.

This year's class numbered more than 5,100, including the first graduates of UNLV's School of Dental Medicine. The university now holds two spring ceremonies, as well as a winter ceremony, in the Thomas & Mack Center to accommodate its growing numbers of new alumni. This year UNLV saw a 22 percent jump over 2005 in the number of graduates.

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