Inside UNLV

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**VPs Take on New Roles in Reorganization**

**BY DIANE RUSSELL**

In a move designed to maximize efficiency, top-level administrators Juanita Fain and Gerry Bomotti recently assumed new duties and titles. The reorganization puts Fain in charge of planning and moves nearly all fiscal and operational responsibilities under Bomotti.

Fain now is vice president for planning, as well as chief of staff. In her vice presidential role she leads activities of the University Planning Council, oversees the office of institutional analysis and planning, and oversees the revision and advancement of the university’s master plan. In the newly created chief of staff role, she provides high-level support in the president’s office and acts as the president’s liaison to many members of both the campus and external communities.

“I’m looking forward to becoming more deeply involved in the university’s planning processes,” Fain said. “Strategic planning is important to any organization, but is particularly critical.”

*SEE REORGANIZATION ON PAGE 2*

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**Show Them The Ropes**

**New Back-to-School Program Rounding Up Volunteers**

**BY ERIN O’DONNELL**

Think back to your first day at UNLV. Did you feel lost or overwhelmed?

Maybe you didn't, but many do — especially new students. Now you can help ease their transition to campus by participating in The Rebel Connection — a new program that encompasses the university’s traditional orientation and welcome week activities, along with some new additions.

Tom Studdert, assistant director for student involvement and activities, said staff volunteers for the program are vital to its success. Employees are asked to attend a rally next month, hosted by President Carol C. Harter, to learn more about ways they can contribute and to start signing up.

“You can volunteer where you are, by wearing an Ask Me! button or The Rebel Connection T-shirt,” Studdert said. “We want faculty and staff to be customer-service oriented.”

The Rebel Connection was developed in part as a response to the successful debut last year of the Ask Me! campaign. Faculty and staff volunteers were stationed in information booths across campus to answer students’ questions during the first few days of the fall and spring semesters.

It was so successful, Studdert said, that employees came to believe that Ask Me! was the only way they could serve during opening week — and that once school started, the service disappeared.

Other activities within orientation and welcome week were becoming segmented, too. And so The Rebel Connection was created to tie it all into a comprehensive program unique to UNLV.

“We want this to be a signature program that everyone at UNLV is going to experience,” Studdert said.
“Thank goodness it’s over” is the typical refrain, expressing relief at the end of another simultaneously wacky, exciting, maddening, and even inspiring legislative session. Because of Nevada’s biennial legislative structure, the participants in this monumental government exercise are a lot like marathon runners: off-seasons are spent training and preparing for the myriad issues and agendas; stamina is needed to pace through the cycle of bill drafts, hearings, and committee meetings; and it all leads to an all-out final sprint to the finish — where the burnt-out and exhausted participants reach deep inside for that extra burst of adrenaline and pure will required to end things on a high.

Both UNLV and the newly renamed Nevada System of Higher Education had many featured players in this marathon, and their Herculean efforts helped push a number of promising initiatives and much-needed projects, critical to the future of our university, across that finish line.

Capitol Visits Appreciated
I was personally fortunate (or unfortunate, depending on your perspective on such things) to have the opportunity to travel to the Legislature several times during the session, and I know that many of you in our faculty and administration were also called upon for your expertise on a wide variety of topics. As inconvenient and nettlesome as these often spontaneously arranged appearances can be, I hope that you see these calls as a sign of great respect for our university community and for your scholarly leadership as experts in your fields. Please know that your service on behalf of our university and our community is tremendously appreciated and pays dividends in the form of more informed governance at every level.

Our legislative team, led by the tireless Marcia Turner, working in concert with the system office, did a tremendous job keeping higher education — and UNLV — at the forefront of the legislative agenda. With so many critical and competing issues on the agenda, some disappointments were inevitable (and if you catch me in the hall griping about what could have been, please understand that I’ll always be disappointed it every one of our goals isn’t met). But with that said, great strides were made on a number of key projects.

Critical Funding Approved
There were some real coups in capital project funding in particular. Not only were the inflation-related costs needed to round out the Science, Engineering and Technology building covered, but the Legislature also honored the extraordinary generosity shown by our private donors by agreeing to fund the balance of the expanded Greenspun College of Urban Affairs building project.

Perhaps the most exciting development on the capital projects front was the realization of funding for the long-planned Student Services addition. This project, which will consolidate services and free up much-needed space in other campus buildings, had been on the capital list for five legislative sessions — that’s 10 full years of waiting. Kudos to our legislative team for bringing this project home!

REORGANIZATION: Some Departments Moving to New Units
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 at a young institution such as UNLV. Because we are growing so rapidly and are faced with many challenges and opportunities, it is critical to have a strategic plan that guides our choices. We also need to pay particular attention to developing ways to accurately measure our performance.”

Fain said she also looks forward to co-chairing the University Planning Council with Kathy Robbins, senior adviser to the president, and to working closely with deans and other vice presidents as they coordinate the strategic plans for their colleges and divisions with the institution’s strategic plan.

As chief of staff, Fain said she is assessing the best way to allocate the resources of the president’s office to maximize efficiency. She said she looks forward to working more closely with President Carol C. Harter, whom she has known since 1980 when Harter hired her to work at Ohio University.

Public Safety and Parking Divided
Bomotti has been on some units that previously reported to Fain, including facilities management and human resources. Because this brings nearly all fiscal and operational areas of UNLV under his direction, Bomotti was vested with the new title of vice president for finance and business.

The public safety department, which had been part of Fain’s unit, now reports to Rebecca Mills, vice president for student life. Mills had overseen the department in the past. However, the parking services office, which had been part of public safety, now is reassigned to the finance and business area.

Committed to Improving Service
Bomotti said the new structural organization is one that suits him. “This alignment that combines the financial and business operations is similar to what you would see at many institutions. It’s one I’ve been familiar with for most of my career,” he said. Bomotti said he has overseen human resource and facilities offices at other organizations and is excited to be involved with them once again. “I’m working closely with Sam (Connally, associate vice president for human resources and diversity initiatives) and Tom (Hagge, associate vice president for facilities management and planning) to make sure I understand their units’ priorities and goals.

“All of us in this new unit are committed to increasing efficiency and improving service,” he said.

Inside UNLV is a monthly publication by the office of Marketing & Public Relations. UNLV is an AA/EEO Institution.
The Staff Dreams Are Made Of

Ken Hughes: Rookie Roofer's Innovation Keeps Us Dry

Ken Hughes doesn’t see the UNLV campus quite the same as everyone else. His workday starts in the dark, and he usually watches the sun rise from several stories up as he inspects or corrects a problem with a roof.

Since Hughes became UNLV’s sole roofer in October 2003, calls about leaks no longer pour in when it rains. His supervisors estimate that the number of leaks has fallen from the hundreds to fewer than 10, and that he has saved the university more than $1 million through new solutions and efficiency measures.

In April, Hughes was named the first-ever President’s Classified Rookie of the Year. The $250 prize honors employees who have been at UNLV for one to five years.

“I was pleasantly surprised to be nominated, and thankful for that, for people to recognize that your efforts are paying dividends on the other end,” Hughes said.

With two decades in the trade, Hughes is no rookie at all; he has managed roofing projects at resorts including Bellagio and Mandalay Bay.

His first month on campus was especially wet, and neglected roofs gave way. “I had 84 calls in one day, and I thought, ‘What did I get involved in here?’” When the rains forced an emergency job at the new Shadow Lane campus, Hughes suggested the university buy its own materials for the work.

“I brought up the idea of being the buyer instead of letting the contractor mark up all of the materials by 30 or 40 percent,” he said. The move saved more than $400,000, said Harold Archibald, executive director of facilities management, in a nominating letter.

Hughes also persuaded the planners of the Science, Engineering and Technology Building that they needed a different type of roof than requested.

“At the time he was a Grade 30 (roofer), successfully debating roofing issues with the mechanical engineers and architects. I was absolutely stunned by his deep and thorough knowledge,” Archibald wrote.

Hughes was soon promoted, and a second roofer has since been hired. Now Hughes oversees bidding and managing roof projects, and he developed a 20-year maintenance plan for all university structures.

“My husband has told me on more than one occasion, ‘I want my wife back,’” because I was so stressed. Winning this award renewed my sense of wanting to be here,” Loomis said.

Loomis has been with the physics department since coming to UNLV in 1993. The faculty and staff keep her busy, she said, but they’re never demanding. “They value the office staff, and that’s why I’ve never left. I’ve had the opportunity to move on, but I’ve chosen not to because I really like the people I work with.”

Loomis also coordinates the arrival of international faculty and researchers. In the process, she’s become an expert on the requirements for work visas and other immigration issues. “There are not many physicists who are U.S. citizens anymore.”

Saundra Pratt: Behind Every Good Dean is a Great Assistant

Saundra Pratt was convinced she wouldn’t win a Classified Employee of the Year award. Not even when people were competing to write her letters of recommendation. Not even at the ceremony, when she didn’t recognize her own description until she heard her name called as the third-place winner.

“That was a shock. I thought the competition was too steep,” said Pratt, executive assistant to the dean of Urban Affairs. “If they’d given me a plaque and a Jamba Juice coupon, I would have been pleased.” (She got the plaque, but had to settle for $500 instead of the juice.)

Pratt came to UNLV 12 years ago and worked in a number of departments before joining the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs in 1999, soon after Dean Martha Watson came on board. She supervises more than a dozen administrative assistants and guides new faculty through their work and orientation.

Her No. 1 duty, she said, is to support the dean. “I think my job is to make her job easier, to keep the little things off her back.”

In her letter of recommendation, Watson praised Pratt’s ability to tap a vast network of campus contacts.

“People are always willing to work with her or help her solve a problem because they know from experience that she will be appreciative of their efforts,” Watson wrote. Pratt said one of this year’s highlights has been participating in the design of a new building for the college, which is now housed in the Central Desert Complex. She attends biweekly meetings with the architects and planners to provide the employee perspective.

“It’s been a privilege for me to represent the classified personnel and make sure our needs are met,” she said.
Alumni Association Elects Officers

The college’s Alumni Association recently elected officers and executive board members. They are Brent Bell, president; Jim Ratigan, vice president/president elect; Gary Sepede, secretary/treasurer; and Pamela Newell-Schaefer and Kenneth Fong, members at large. Douglas Crook remains on the board as immediate past president.

The board and the membership program were created to build affinity for the college and stimulate business alumni participation in university events. A committee is working on plans for a Nov. 5 homecoming mixer on campus prior to the tailgate event at Sam Boyd Stadium.

Enterprising Student Team Takes ‘Rookie’ Honors

A team of students involved in several community service projects won the Rookie of the Year award at the regional Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) competition in Los Angeles. SIFE’s goal is to change the world by involving students who are learning about free enterprise in significant community service activities.

UNLV’s team, which was formed this spring, boasts 39 members. Nine members, led by team president Greg Hafen, participated in the formal competition. Most of the 40 teams in the regional event were from colleges in Nevada, California, and Arizona.

The UNLV team performed service projects with small businesses, with veterans coming into the work arena, and with disadvantaged youth in the Las Vegas community.

SIFE is organized in 40 countries with 1,800 active teams at universities and colleges.

College Recognized in National Publication

The college and its department of educational psychology both received recognition in a special issue of U.S. News & World Report devoted to education rankings.

The college ranked in the Top 100 graduate colleges of education. Additionally, the department of educational psychology placed in the top 20.

Local Engineers Learn About New UNLV Building

Members of the local engineering community recently were the guests at a breakfast meeting focused on the new Science, Engineering and Technology Building.

This informational meeting brought industry personnel up to date on plans for this important facility and invited community involvement in the project. Todd Kenner, president of PB&J, hosted the event and was assisted in his presentation by Clark County Commissioner Chip Maxfield, Assistant County Manager Virginia Valentine, and Las Vegas City Manager Doug Selby, all graduates of UNLV.

NCT Announces Season

Tickets are now on sale for Nevada Conservatory Theatre’s 2005-06 season lineup.

- The Gamanter, Oct. 7-16. In this Freyda Thomas play, young Valere and beautiful Angelique are joyously in love. He must choose, however, between his love for her and his desire for gambling because she’ll have none of it.
- Carnival!, Dec. 2-11, “Love Makes the World Go ‘Round” in this enchanting musical about the love between a carnival girl and a crippled puppeteer who can only talk to her through his puppets. Music and lyrics are by Bob Merrill. Michael Stewart wrote the book.
- Inherit The Wind, Feb. 10-19. This play is based on the famous 1925 Scopes’ “monkey” trial, which pitted the teachings of Darwinist evolution against Christianity in a monumental legal clash. The play was written by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee.
- Wait Until Dark, April 28 through May 7. NCT will wrap up its season with the thriller by Frederick Knott. This is the story of a deadly cat-and-mouse game between a murderous con man and an innocent blind woman.

For single-event or season-ticket information, call ext. 5-2787.

Students Earn Awards

Several students in the college received prestigious recognition during the past academic year. These achievements range from an internship in the Washington, D.C., office of U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, to first place in a regional micro-mouse competition (see photo above), to honor-able mention in the National Science Foundation’s national Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

College Hosts Dinner Of Distinction 2005

The college honored hospitality industry executives for their outstanding contributions to education at its first Dinner of Distinction. The master of ceremonies for the event was Don Snyder, former president of Boyd Gaming.

The event also included a book-signing by special guest Jerome Vallen, founding dean of the college. He recently published a history of the college’s beginnings, The Right Place: An Anecdotal History of the UNLV College of Hotel Administration (2005). In addition, Vallen was honored with the Dean’s Medal of Distinction for demonstrating excellence in hospitality throughout his career.

Following the competition, graduating seniors accompanied their effort to recover from a failed undertaking.

Projects ranging from the grand-prize-winning child car seat safety alarm to a home-building project for Habitat for Humanity to a solar tracking array were among the top winners in the college’s senior design competition.

Following the competition, graduating seniors and the winners of the Harriet and Fred Cox Engineering Design Award were honored at a dinner featuring a keynote address by Todd Kenner, president of PB&J, one of the top engineering firms in the country. Kenner also is the vice chair of the college’s Advisory Board and a past chairman of the Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. Cox Engineering Design Awards, which include a cash prize and a commemorative medallion, were presented to the most outstanding projects in the competition.

Law

Lawless’ Bankruptcy Research Makes National News

Boyd Law School Professor Robert M. Lawless’ research on business bankruptcies made national news in June. Professor Lawless and Harvard professor Elizabeth Warren co-authored an article in the California Law Review that found that large numbers of entrepreneurs use the bankruptcy system, despite official government statistics that say their presence in bankruptcy has declined sharply.

Professors Lawless and Warren found that owners of small businesses annually file an estimated 260,000 to 315,000 bankruptcies. Those numbers are about nine times higher than the government’s official data, which lists only about 35,000 business cases. The researchers conclude that new bankruptcy legislation failed to account for hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs, independent contractors, and self-employed individuals who traditionally have turned to bankruptcy relief as an important safety net in their effort to recover from a failed undertaking.

“It is apparent that entrepreneurs continue to use the bankruptcy system in big numbers. The surprising thing is not so much that they are there but why it took so long for...
someone to notice that the government figures were so divorced from reality,” commented Lawless. Each year, the bankruptcy system provides a critical safety net for hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs. Our findings again suggest that the popular image of the bankruptcy system as full of irresponsible, overspending consumers is myth.”

Lawless also noted the Gordon & Silver, Ltd. Professor of Law. The Kauffman Foundation for Entrepreneurship funded this research.

**Liberal Arts**

**Women’s Studies Awards**

Four UNLV students recently became the first to earn graduate certificates in women’s studies. To earn the certificate they took feminist theory, principles of feminist inquiry, and a reading seminar, as well as two additional courses from a range of disciplines. Many potential students have expressed interest not only in the graduate certificate, but also in a master’s degree, which the department is working to implement before the decade ends.

Last fall, women’s studies chair Lois Helmbold taught the largest graduate seminar yet (19 the first night). It drew students from the colleges of Education and Liberal Arts and the law school; faculty members from CCSN and Nevada State College; staff at Women’s Research Institute of Nevada; and part-time instructors in women’s studies. Several dropped out for electoral activism, applying feminist theory by practicing democracy.

**Women’s Studies Welcomes New Faculty and Staff**

The department of women’s studies has added a new assistant professor, Anita Tijerina Revilla (PhD, social science and comparative education, UCLA, 2004) and a full-time administrative assistant, Gay Sessums (BA, philosophy with honors, UNLV, 2004). The department is also now searching for a tenured associate professor to join UNLV in August 2006.

Nika is located in the McDermott Physical Education Complex, Room 131, and is available for advising by appointment. He can be reached at ext. 5-3170 or joseph.nika@ccmail.nevada.edu.

**Student Life**

**New Web Grading System Successfully Launched**

The full implementation of web grading during spring semester — a semester that saw the posting of more than 47,300 grades — revolutionized the process for submitting grades.

After creative work by members of the student life technology area, faculty were able to submit the grades for all classes online. Formerly, faculty entered grades by hand on paper and submitted them to the registrar’s office; staff there then entered each grade individually into the Student Information System. This process took dozens of people several days to complete.

The positive impacts of this project are many. Students were able to access their grades within 24 hours of posting. This meant students had information about their academic standing much sooner than under the old system. In addition, the project addresses the goal of maximizing the use of resources and enhancing efficiency.

To support faculty in the transition to this new system, staff in the registrar’s office planned and implemented training sessions for faculty and for departmental administrative assistants. They also staffed open computer labs during the week that grades were due so that faculty could receive hands-on assistance.

The success of this project depended upon the efforts of a number of groups and individuals. The deans’ encouragement, faculty cooperation, and technology support were especially appreciated.

**University College**

**College Graduates First Students**

University College made history in May with its first graduating class of 16 students. One of the graduates, Louis Amundson, was spotlighted for his accomplishments as a both a student and a basketball player. The university studies major with areas of study in philosophy and English graduated with a 3.31 GPA.

The college hosted an honors reception at the end of spring semester to recognize 44 students who received scholarships during the 2004-05 school year. And at a student-athlete honors luncheon, awards were presented to numerous student-athletes in various sports.

● SEE ACROSS CAMPUS ON PAGE 6

**Graduate**

**Encourage Your Grad Students to Attend Orientation and Teaching Workshop in August**

Faculty members are asked to encourage graduate students to take advantage of two key events next month.

The Graduate College’s annual new graduate student orientation, which assists incoming students with the transition to graduate education at UNLV, will take place 8:30-11:30 a.m. Aug. 25 in the MSU ballroom. Sign-in and breakfast will be at 8 a.m. Following orientation, a question-and-answer session will be held in the Fireside Lounge.

Students will receive information on college policies and procedures, graduate student funding, professional development programs, handbooks, important forms, and more. A segment of this orientation will be dedicated to important information for graduate assistants (GAs), including contracts, direct deposit, student health insurance, campus benefits, and the Graduate Assistant Loan Program.

Interested students can learn more and register for orientation at graduate.college.unlv.edu.

The two-day workshop “Intensive Introduction to Teaching” will take place 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Aug. 23-24 in the MSU ballroom. Sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) and the Graduate College, this workshop has been redesigned to include shorter daily sessions, additional facilitators, and updated topics. Topics will include course, syllabus, and assignment development; learning styles; assessment; smart uses of PowerPoint; and testing options.

This workshop is open to all fully admitted graduate students and is essential for graduate assistants needing to refresh their teaching skills or learn new ones. Contact the TLC at ext. 5-2293 for more information.
Editor’s Note: During spring semester, a number of regents, university staff and faculty were bestowed upon employees. For a list of many of these awards, go to facultystaffinfo.unlv.edu.

Bob Ackerman (Educational Leadership) and Bill Werner (Hotel Administration), along with Laos Vacca, editor of Student Freedom Revisited: Contemporary Issues & Perspectives, to which each contributed a chapter. The book was published by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Gerald Weeks (Marriage, Family, and Community Counseling) published an article, “The Emergence of a New Paradigm in Sex Therapy: The Integration” in the Journal of Sexual and Relationship Therapy. His promotional statement for a new text was also published on the book cover.

Suzan Slaughter (Harry Reid Center) was program chair for the 34th annual conference of the Nevada Archaeological Association held in April in Tonopah.

William D. Davenport, Jr. (Dental Medicine) was elected to the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Council of Sections Administrative Board at the annual session in Baltimore. He was also appointed vice chair of the ADEA Task Force for Developing Competencies and Foundation Knowledge for the New General Dentist. This project, which evolved from the Foundation Knowledge Task Force he has chaired for the past three years, is a major focus of the recently established ADEA Commission on Change and Innovation in Dental Education.

Linda Lucken (Facilities) was named Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for May in the custodial category. A custodial worker I, she is responsible for the overall appearance of the Lied Library, including restrooms, entrances, and interiors. She assists staff and students with custodial issues.

Patrice Holrah (Writing Center) presented her essay, “The Voices Still Are Singing,” Osage/Ponca Continuum in the Poetry of Carter Revard,” at the Native American Literature Symposium in Minneapolis in April.

Edith Rusch (Educational Leadership) wrote “Institutional Barriers to Organizational Learning in School Systems: The Power of Silence,” which appeared in Educational Administration Quarterly. At the American Educational Research Association meeting in Montreal, she presented the papers “Learning About Learning: The Foundation of Transformational Leadership” and “The Journey to the Next Level of Legitimacy: Accreditation and New Institutional Scripts.” The latter was presented with C. Wilbur.

Erika Engstrom (Communication Studies) and Michael D. Murray (Journalism and Media Studies) presented “Distinguished Scholars: The Contributions of Ed Bliss,” broadcast news author and news writer for Edward R. Murrow and Walter Cronkite, at the Broadcast Education Association annual convention in Las Vegas in April.

Felicia Campbell (English) appeared on Dolans’ Unscripted on CNN-dramatizing gaming behavior. At the Popular Culture Association (PCA) meeting in San Diego in April, she was presented with a plaque in honor of the first presentation of the Felicia Campbell Service Award. The award will be presented annually to the most deserving candidate. In 2004 she received PCA’s Service Award for dedication to the organization and to popular culture studies.

Jeffrey Webbing (Harry Reid Center) and Alex Heindl (Barrick Museum) presented an historical archaeology research paper, “Patt’s Invasion of Southern Nevada: The Highwater Mark?” at the 49th annual meeting of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Sciences, held in Las Vegas. They also presented a paper titled “The Crossroads Site: Desert Training or Desert Strike?” at the 54th annual conference of the Nevada Archaeological Association in Tonopah.

Kyle Wilson (Athletic Training) presented a paper on methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) at the Mountain West Conference Association of Team Physicians and Certified Athletic Trainers in Las Vegas in April.

Patrick Carlson (Educational Leadership) wrote a chapter, “A Community of Professionals: Locally-Based Public School Principals Share Their Craft Wisdom With the World” in Reflective and Interactive Placements: The 25th anniversary publication of the National Archives of Singapore. He also received a grant from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Commission to produce oral histories on the development and evolution of the Clark County School District since the 1960s.

Kyle Ethelbah (Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach) received the Outstanding Community Service Award at the 12th annual Honor the Elders Banquet in May. The Las Vegas Indian Center honored him for his contributions to the American Indian community in the Las Vegas Valley.

Yamila Matinata (Preschool) was named Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for May in the technical category. A five-year employee, she has been head teacher in the Grasshopper (ages 12-18 months) and Heart (ages 30 months-3 years) classrooms. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from UNLV in August and is pursing a master’s degree in early childhood special education.

Larry Ashley (Marriage, Family, and Community Counseling) was named a “Rebel Man” by the Jean Nidetch Women’s Center’s sexual assault facts education (SAFE) team for his accomplishments in fighting sexual and physical violence against women. The award was part of the center’s “Men Rebellng Against Violence” outreach project in April.

Diane Winslow (Harry Reid Center) presented a research paper, “Nurturing Coiling: Defining Basketmaker Culture in Southern Nevada” at the 70th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, held in Salt Lake City.


Brad Eden (Libraries) is the author of 3D Visualization Techniques: 2D and 3D Visualization Resources, Applications, and Future (ALA TechSource, 2005). The book details how information visualization is the next major step for the presentation of information in libraries and on the Internet.

Andrew Nazarechuck (Tourism & Convention Management) recently spent a month teaching at the University of Macau. He taught two courses, gaming issues in Asia and convention & exhibition management. Macau is rapidly expanding its gaming, hotel, and convention facilities. In the next two to three years the city will be adding a number of new casino properties featuring more than 50,000 hotel rooms.

Tom Bean (Curriculum & Instruction) co-presented a research session, “Multiple Test Usage in the Content Area Classroom,” with Nancy Walker of California’s University of La Verne and UNLV doctoral student Benita Dillard at the 50th annual convention of the International Reading Association in San Antonio.

Isabelle Johnson (Enrollment and Student Services) was named Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for May in the administrative category. A four-year employee, she works as an administrative assistant for the associate vice president of enrollment and student services. She previously served as the assistant to the director of undergraduate recruitment and worked at the front counter in the registrar’s office. She is pursuing a degree in counseling.

Linda Blair (Harry Reid Center) and Richard Omdorff (Eastern Washington University) presented a paper, “Clears Circled and Enigmatic Depressions,” at the 70th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, held in Salt Lake City.

Mary Palevsky (Nevada Test Site Oral History Project) received the Southwest Oral History Association’s 2005 Mink Award for outstanding contributions to the field of oral history at its annual meeting in Santa Fe in April. She also presented at the plenary session, “Human Dimensions of Nuclear Weapons Development,” and conducted an advanced writing workshop. Her essay commemorating the atomic bomb’s 60th anniversary will appear in the July/August issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

Submit Your Accomplishments

E-mail entries to: inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu
Items should be no more than 75 words.
Sanford Kicks Off New Era in UNLV Football

By Mark Wallington

New Rebel head football coach Mike Sanford played for the legendary John Robinson at USC in the 1970s and then coached under him with the Trojans in the early 1990s. Now the first-time head coach is succeeding none other than Robinson right here at UNLV.

But make no mistake, UNLV’s football program is now all Sanford.

Since his December hiring, Sanford has quickly and decisively overhauled everything from the coaching staff to the practice regimen to the office letterhead. At the same time, he tackled the not-so-small matter of installing a new offense, defense, and special teams system.

Today, Sanford appears no less positive about the team’s potential than the day he proclaimed his lofty goals to success-starved UNLV football followers at the press conference announcing his appointment.

“I really feel that there is an excitement and expectation around town about Rebel football,” said Sanford, who was considered by many to be one of the hottest coaching prospects in the nation while at league-rival Utah. “We’ve also had a great response from the local high school players and I’d say the recruiting year we had was indicative of that. I believe we have one of the top staffs in the nation. It is a collection of really good people who are also good teachers of the game.”

Sanford said the first order of business was to change the culture of Rebel football.

“We are developing an attitude and ethic on our team where we play hard every play. A lot of what we are doing was a shock (to the players). But it turns out there are a lot of people on this team who just want to win and are willing to do what it takes.”

Defensively, while listed as a 3-4 on the depth chart, the Rebels will show opponents a lot of different looks come fall. But it is an emerging never-take-a-play-off attitude that should most refresh fans.

“Our defense is starting to learn what we expect as far as effort, running around and flying to the ball,” he said. “We need to continue to develop that into the season.”

Sanford also brought down from Salt Lake City his innovative and wildly successful offense, officially listed as the “shotgun spread.” A head coach who will call his own plays, Sanford’s style helped the Utes to two league titles and a Fiesta Bowl victory.

“There is an anticipation surrounding our program because an exciting spread offense is being put in place. There is an attitude of a fresh start. People saw what we did at Utah and are hoping that we can do something similar here. This is a different school and a different program, but we are taking much the same approach.”

Sanford’s Rebels will be put to the test immediately as UNLV plays four of its first five games on the road. The season opener is Sept. 3 at conference foe New Mexico.

“We are looking forward to getting started and even though we have a new offense, defense, and special teams, we have to hit the ground running if we are to win that game in Albuquerque,” Sanford said. “We don’t have the luxury of getting to ease into anything.”

Having waved off a long-range rebuilding plan since his December hiring, Sanford has focused on his personnel in action for the first time during a month of spring practices, said his plan to elevate Rebel football remains on track.

“My expectations are very high and haven’t changed since the day I took this job. Our goals are to win the Mountain West Conference, go to a bowl game, and get ranked nationally.”

About Mike

“This train is moving down the tracks. Either you’re going to get on board or it’s going to run you over.” — Mike Sanford, Dec. 6, 2004

Education:
BS, Physical Education, USC

Family:
Wife Melinda; daughter Lindsay, a Notre Dame grad who recently worked in Washington, D.C.; for Ohio Sen. Mike DeWine; and son Mike, a Boise State grad — and former quarterback — who this summer becomes a graduate assistant coach with the Rebels.

New head football coach Mike Sanford wants nothing less than a national ranking and a bowl-game bid for the 2005 Rebels. The former Utah coach takes over at UNLV from his former USC coach, John Robinson.

Game Time: Get the Rebels’ 2005 schedule online at unlvrebels.collegesports.com.
Click on Football in the menu.
Adviser Gives Students the Tools to Make Multiple Choices

By CATE WEEKS

When you want to reach Rimi Marwah, senior adviser for University College, you might have to play a little phone tag. The busy adviser returns calls between appointments (and often after hours) because she devotes the prime hours of her day to serving students in person. And the student before her always has her full attention. She gave that same attention to Insie UNLV when we asked about her view from the inside of the college’s advising center.

On coming to UNLV: This was my first job out of grad school. Panic was just starting to set in when several job offers came. My adviser sat me down and pointed out that UNLV was a growing school that would probably give me many opportunities. He was right. It turned out to be the best choice I could have made.

Traits of a good counselor: I can’t remember what I had for dinner last night, but somehow I can remember the story behind the student I haven’t seen in two semesters. Students really appreciate that. They sense that they are your No. 1 priority. Once you establish that, they seem to open up to the advice you give them.

Her most difficult days: It’s really hard to see students not succeed to the potential you know they can. You know it’s not because they aren’t bright, but because external factors are interfering with their motivation. On the flip side, I also see students with all the talent and passion and drive they need to succeed, but not the funding.

Why she chose advising as a career: I’m naturally drawn to helping others. Originally I thought I wanted to work as a counselor in public schools because coming from another country (England) I had so many adjustment issues myself. But in graduate school I found my niche with college students. I really enjoy helping all students make a successful transition to university life.

Misconceptions about advising: As a field, it’s seen as an auxiliary function to learning. The learning that happens through the advising process can be just as amazing as the learning that happens in the classroom. I had one student who was nearly a 4.0. She was a perfectionist and just couldn’t figure out exactly what she wanted to do. Her issues weren’t that complicated, but to her they were insurmountable. Simply having a safe place to process her thoughts without being judged brought her some clarity so she could move forward in her education.

On the success of University College: The power of peer-to-peer conversations are amazing — we’ve grown so much just from students talking to each other and saying, “Hey, did you know you could do this over at University College?” It’s been the experience of a lifetime for me, personally and professionally. I mean, how amazing is it to start a college from the ground up? Of course, we’ve had our hardships along the way, but we’ve all learned so much in the process.

What you might not know about University College: Only 12 out of 124 credits required for a university studies degree are taught in the college. University College students must succeed in all the same classes that students with other majors are taking. You’d be amazed at the ways that students are integrating learning from all sorts of disciplines into their capstone projects. One student is an English and Spanish major — she’s writing a bilingual children’s book.

Interesting things she’s heard from students: One woman told me she couldn’t do well in school because she was being followed by the mob. I must say, I got a little paranoid myself after talking with her. Another student wanted to know how to become an AT&T operator.

A proud UNLV moment: After 9/11, many students of Middle Eastern and Asian backgrounds came to the advising center because they needed to vent and figure out how they should react. Because I have an Asian background, they felt I could understand cultural differences and family pressures. Some of these same students later formed the Indian Subcontinent Association for students and asked me to be their faculty representative. I was very much honored.

What surprises her after 10 years of advising: I’m still blown away by students who tell me, “Just pick a major for me.” I barely know anything about them so I’m amazed that they would ask me to make such a big decision for them. What I’ve come to realize is that it’s the voice of frustration. They’re overwhelmed and need tools to make the decision for themselves. That’s what advisers do: provide those tools for self-discovery.

Employees Get Great Deal on MS Software

UNLV employees now have easy and free access to the newest Microsoft programs. Under a new agreement the university will save about $20,000 a year and campus users will save time previously spent on purchasing paperwork. Employees can also load the software on their home computers for a nominal fee.

The agreement covers Mac and PC upgrades on Word for word processing, Excel for spreadsheets, and PowerPoint for presentations. PC users can also upgrade their operating systems to Windows XP and get updates on the Access database program.

In addition to the cost savings, the new agreement will streamline the process of buying and maintaining software. Previously, departments had to purchase individual licenses using the LPO process before the office of information technology could install or upgrade software. In 2003 and 2004, purchasing and disbursements processed paperwork for more than 5,000 licenses.

“Once licensed, employees will be able to access the software on their home computers, especially in an environment where offices frequently exchanged or relocated computers,” said Lori Temple, vice provost for information technology.

The agreement makes it easier for employees to keep their software up to date both in the office and at home. Temple said, “It is easier to share documents with colleagues when everyone has the same versions. Otherwise, users can lose formatting, design features, and sometimes content.”

Keeping software current also makes it easier for the computer help desks to troubleshoot problems.

Employees who work from home can access the same software upgrades by contacting the Computing Resource Center. For $10, the center will issue a CD that allows for two installations on home computers.