Inside UNLV

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Managing Your Information
Learn how to use the EQUUS System to update your directory information and make other changes. Page 2

Legislature Funds Many Requests
Get more details on the record capital improvement funding and other noteworthy achievements. Page 3

Inside UNLV
News & Information for UNLV Insiders
SEPTEMBER 2005

TECH SAVVY
Canning Spam
New system proves reliable at blocking unwanted e-mail
By Mamie Peers | DT

Tired of wading through e-mail messages offering questionable medical products or a way to get rich quick just by providing your bank account information? The office of information technology’s new spam-filtering program helps you reclaim your Lotus Notes inbox. The easy-to-use Proofpoint anti-spam software should cut the amount of time employees waste sorting through unwanted messages.

The system, which was introduced in July, is already getting rave reviews. When budget officer Georgia Stergios came back from 10 days off in August, she didn’t need to delete the 79 spam messages sent to her; Proofpoint managed it for her. “My inbox is so much easier to approach in the morning,” Stergios said. “No more messages from bogus Pay Pal, Target, or Citizens Bank senders.”

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More Info: Learn how to manage your spam through Proofpoint at ccs.unlv.edu or attend the Computing Resource Center’s spam seminars in the third week of September. The schedule for the 30-minute sessions is posted on the site above.

Get Taken for a Ride
Free shuttle connects campus and lots
By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

The thought of finding a parking spot the first few weeks of school is enough to send shivers down any employee’s spine, even on a hot August day. This year, though, staff and students can hop on free air-conditioned shuttles to get from their cars to convenient drop points around campus.

“The Ride” shuttle program, a joint effort by CSUN and UNLV parking services, was introduced Aug. 22 and is a vital part of the university’s strategy for addressing parking needs as enrollments soar and major new buildings take shape.

“UNLV is becoming like many major urban universities, where parking is pushed away from the core to perimeter lots,” said Ted McDowell, director of parking services. “Our growth is only going to accelerate the trend away from door-to-door parking.”

This summer, construction of the new student union, the new recreation center, and the Science, Engineering and Technology Building cut into some favorite lots near Maryland Parkway and behind Beam Engineering. At the same time, a new lot was built off Naples Street near the Campus Services Building. The net loss of about 1,100 spaces, or just under 9 percent of the total, off Maryland Parkway and behind Beam Engineering. At the same time, a new lot was built off Naples Street near the Campus Services Building. The net loss of about 1,100 spaces, or just under 9 percent of the total.

‘The Ride’ Shuttle Pilot Program
UNLV/CSUN’s shuttle program features 21-passenger buses on two routes.

Main Campus Route: These shuttles wind through the Thomas & Mack lots and then circle the campus clockwise entering the interior along key access roads. Pickups are scheduled approximately every 8-10 minutes, but may vary depending on weather and traffic conditions.

Thomas & Mack Express: This shuttle circulates through the Thomas & Mack parking lots, dropping riders off near the Student Services Complex. It takes approximately four minutes to circle the lots.

Hours: Through Sept. 16, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays. Starting Sept. 19, 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fridays. Service is year-round, but on an abbreviated schedule during semester breaks.

Bus Details: The 21-passenger shuttles are air-conditioned and marked with university logos. All are equipped with wheelchair lifts.

Get more details and view a map of the shuttle route at parking.unlv.edu/shuttle.

Get Connected
And help welcome students to campus just as those folks did last year. Rebel Connection, the event designed to welcome and orient students to campus, continues through Aug. 31. On Aug. 30 you can listen to live music at the 11 a.m. Rebel Welcome at the Alumni Amphitheater or attend the Comedy Lounge at 8 p.m. in the MSU ballroom. The final event will be the annual Premier UNLV celebration at 5 p.m. Aug. 31 on North Field. There will be fireworks and the traditional lighted formation of the name UNLV.

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New Year, New Challenges at UNLV

By Carol C. Harter
UNLV President

The start of a new academic year is always exciting as we welcome new and returning students to campus, engage in new programs and research projects, and celebrate our shared school spirit with a host of events. But this year finds us at a particularly interesting moment in the life of the university, with great transformation and opportunity on the horizon.

Following approval by the Board of Regents over the past year, a number of key degree programs will be offered this fall — including the Ph.D. in chemistry, doctor of physical therapy, master of public health, and master of science in aerospace engineering. The addition of these programs and others will help UNLV continue to grow, both in diversity of academic offerings and in research opportunities to address issues affecting our community and our state.

Several new units coming online are also transformational, designed to deepen and strengthen our partnerships with community, as well as with other agencies. These include our School of Public Health; the Center for Health Disparities Research, started with a $1.23 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The new student union, student recreation centers and Science, Engineering and Technology Building currently under construction will not only physically transform campus, but will also help to enrich campus life and opportunities for learning, discovery, and community engagement. Progress never comes without some pain, however, so we hope that you will be patient and understanding of some interruptions to typical campus walking and parking routes.

Other transformational projects will take greater shape this year. For example, the Clark County public works department has begun a comprehensive study of traffic patterns surrounding the university as part of the Midtown UNLV initiative. This effort will be followed later in the year by a plan for form of active traffic testing to assess the impact of potentially narrowing Maryland Parkway. Campus forums focusing on the Midtown UNLV initiative are also being planned, with more information to come soon.

When we talk about transformation and progress at the university, we can usually all agree that the single greatest impediment to reaching our goals is money — having the resources to realize our plans. As we all can attest, our future at UNLV is limitless — and will doubtlessly be filled with amazing discovery, strong economic and social development, and the accomplishment, brightest students seeking out their world-class education right here on our campus. We are already well on the way to attaining this dream — but the vision to get there extends beyond what state support can provide.

On Sept. 15 at the annual state of the university address, we will formally announce the public launch of UNLV’s first-ever comprehensive campaign. Many of you have been involved in the preliminary planning and cornerstone gift phase of the campaign over the past four years, and we are deeply appreciative of your efforts.

The campaign is an ambitious effort to expand private support at every level of the university — for scholarships and student-centered opportunities, for endowed professorships and faculty development, for special programs, new equipment, and even buildings. This support can help catapult UNLV into the category of a true perennial, and strengthen our role as a community resource.

Your leadership as members of the UNLV community will play a part in this success. It is hoped you will take this occasion to find new ways to get involved. Please join us for the state of the university address on Sept.15 as we celebrate our vibrant past and look toward an exciting future together.

For the Record

The Inside Guide to Managing Your Employee Information

Update your campus directory information by Sept. 9

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

Add this to your back-to-school to-do’s: Verify the information listed for you in the Employee Query and Update System (EQUUS), also sometimes called the Employee Self Serve system.

This online database contains your personal contact information, including work and home addresses, pay rate, tax withholding information, and tenure status. If the contact information listed in EQUUS is wrong, it will be wrong in both the printed and online employee directories.

The deadline for changes to be made in time for this year’s printed directory is Sept. 9.

A common misconception on campus is that individual contact information for the directory is automatically updated when, for example, an employee changes offices on campus. Employees must notify human resources of changes either through EQUUS or by filling out the personal data sheet available from the human resources office.

“We hope that every employee will double-check their directory information as the semester gets under way,” said Matt Garland, salary administration manager, noting that many employees aren’t aware of EQUUS’ other features.

What Else EQUUS Can Do

New Direct Deposit Service. This fall pay-roll services is adding direct deposit screens so users can sign up or change their account information themselves. The program will also expand so that users can direct their pay to several accounts through EQUUS. This service makes it very easy for employees to sign up for direct deposit from their home or office computers,” said Debbie Jones, an associate dean.

Hate Your Given Name? If those on campus know you by a nickname, you can enter that on the personal information screen. Just note that the

Getting Into the EQUUS System

To log into the system, find the EQUUS “quicklink” at facultystaffinfo.unlv.edu. You’ll need two key pieces of information to access your information — your employee ID and PIN numbers. Your employee ID number is printed on your paycheck stub and available from your department’s administrative assistant. If you cannot remember your PIN, call human resources at ext. 5-3504 to have it reset.

nickname will replace the first name in the directory, so don’t enter the term of endearment your significant other calls you.

Add Your Cell Phone. The office information screen has a field for your cell phone. This will not be printed in the directory but will be available to your department’s administrative assistants should they need to track you down.

Going on Sabbatical? The alternate address screen is handy for faculty on sabbatical or who leave for their summer research. Once you return, just click “no” in the “Use alternate address?” field and mail will be sent to your main address.

Lost Your Pay Stub? Print copies of past pay information (pay stubs) and W-2 forms from EQUUS. This feature is frequently used around tax time and when employees are applying for mortgage loans.

What You Can’t Do

No, you can’t give yourself a raise. Areas on EQUUS that can’t be changed by users are indicated as “inquiries” and include pay rate, hire date, tax withholdings, and job title. That last one is somewhat misleading and actually refers to your classification (i.e. “manager” or “director”) rather than your exact title.

You also can’t add or change your own degree information, which includes verification. Human resources will make these changes once you provide the appropriate college transcripts.

If the information in an inquiry screen is incorrect, call human resources at ext. 5-3504.
**Legislature Comes Through on Many UNLV Funding Priorities**

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Substantial construction funding, raises for employees, and a provision allowing universities to hold on to more of their research dollars were among the items that made the 2005 legislative session a successful one for higher education in Nevada, according to the university’s chief lobbyist.

Marcia Turner, UNLV’s director of governmental relations, said several items stand out as important victories for UNLV and for the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE).

“Receive legislative support for capital improvement funding has to be considered the highlight of this session as far as UNLV is concerned,” Turner said.

**Record Funding**

With Chancellor (Jim) Rogers leading the charge and tremendous support from the governor and Nevada legislators, the NSHE was able to secure a record level of capital improvement funding for programs throughout the system,” Turner said.

A total of $91.8 million will be spent on capital improvement projects at UNLV this fiscal year and next, said Gerry Bomotti, vice president for finance and business. The Legislature allocated $63.9 million, which includes repair and maintenance funding, from state capital improvement funds. The remainder will come from funds generated by UNLV, Bomotti said, adding that much of the money is the direct result of President Carol C. Harper’s successful fundraising efforts.

Among the UNLV projects to receive funding were Greenspun Hall, which will be home to the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. The Legislature supported this project with an allocation of just under $34 million for the project, which will be combined with a generous donation of more than $26 million from the Greenspun family, Turner said. This partnership will help ensure a successful arts program.

**Continued Growth**

A few of the fledgling businesses where patrons could see something other than Strip-style entertainment. But that year Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall opened its doors. It along with Judy Bayley Theatre, which opened in 1972, was the nucleus of what would become the Performing Arts Center.

Over the years, the two facilities have been host to a variety of performances — some traditionally classical, some not — ranging from plays starring students to performances by violinist Itzhak Perlman, cellist Yo Yo Ma, the amazing National Aerialists of Taiwan, and the comedic Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

**30th Season**

And, as the PAC begins its 30th season, titled “Our Greatest Performances,” things show no signs of slowing down.

Concerts by such diverse groups as the Russian National Orchestra and Rockapella will be complemented by performances by the Ailey II dance troupe and by Broadway (and Cher) star Bebe Neuwirth.

On top of that, the College of Fine Arts will present plays ranging from the musical Carousel; to the Scoops “monkey trial” play, Inherit the Wind; and Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream in the Bayley.

All those events don’t include performances slated for the PAC’s Black Box Theatre or the College of Fine Arts’ Doc Rando Recital Hall or intimate Paul Harrah’s Theatre.

Audiences can expect such diversity and volume of programming to continue as the PAC enters its fourth decade a success story closely associated with its operation.

**Continued Growth**

“As both our campus and our city continue to grow, you will also see continuing growth in the arts at UNLV,” said Henley, director of artistic programming and production.

“Just think about the changes that are going on both on and off campus. The Las Vegas we see today is not the Las Vegas we will see in another 10 or 20 years. Our city is just starting to look like it will later this century.”

Henley often travels to other cities and takes note of the arts offerings available there. Las Vegas and UNLV hold up well in comparison, he said.

“Such an exciting time to be here. The arts at UNLV are just on the brink of a potential that is vast,” said Henley, whose first connection to the PAC came when he was a UNLV undergraduate and performed in a production of The Threepenny Opera. “We are going to be an incredible artistic resource for Southern Nevada in the years to come, just as we have been for the past 30 years.”

The PAC’s development will continue to be fueled by growth in the College of Fine Arts, said donor Jeff Koep, who also oversees the PAC.

“Our college has nearly tripled its enrollment in the last 10 years,” he said. “I believe it will continue to grow, which automatically means an increase in the arts at UNLV. I am particularly excited about one facet of the arts that is relatively new to UNLV — entertainment engineering.”

“Entertainment engineering is, just as it sounds, a melding of two distinctly different disciplines, Koep said. “We see entertainment engineering used all along the Strip, whether it’s in a Cirque du Soleil performance or the dancing waters at the Bellagio.”

UNLV, Koep said, is in a unique position to be a leader in this relatively new field.

“Not too many universities have launched entertainment engineering programs,” he said. “And the Strip will provide our students the best technical laboratory in the world.”

Currently, UNLV, through both the College of Fine Arts and the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering, offers a minor in entertainment engineering. Koep predicted that a major in the field will be available by the end of this academic year.

**New Competition?**

Both Koep and Henley agree that plans for a new multimillion-dollar performing arts venue downtown will not hamper the PAC’s continued development.

“I know that Southern Nevada is large enough to support more than one successful performing arts center,” Koep said, adding that the other center’s mission may be somewhat different from that of the PAC. “For instance, if it brings in Broadway road shows for somewhat lengthy runs, that’s different from anything we’re doing.”

As more art — be it theater, dance, music, or visual art — is available in Southern Nevada, the appetite for such offerings will only grow, Henley predicted. “I think the patron is going to be the winner,” he said, adding that with multiple performing arts centers, fans will be able to indulge their tastes more often.

“It will be important for the two centers to coordinate their schedules somewhat,” Henley said, pointing out that for both centers to present a major symphony orchestra on the same night would be foolish.

**Concert Hall Improvements**

Continuing a successful arts program at UNLV, however, requires improving its performance venues. Lori James, director of finance and guest relations, has witnessed the PAC’s development since 1980 when she first worked there as an usher while still a high school student.

“We’ve had a couple of major renovations to Ham Concert Hall, beginning with the redecoration of the lobby in 1999. That changed the entire atmosphere in the lobby and made it a much more inviting place. “We’re expecting a similar positive reaction to our latest change in the concert hall; just last month we installed new, more comfortable seats in a lush Rebel red.”

Koep said he does not believe that UNLV’s emphasis on expanding its research programs bodes ill for its arts programs.

“Some of the traditional research institutions such as UCLA and Michigan also have tremendous arts programs,” he said.

Henley agreed, asking, “What great research university doesn’t have great performing arts? Look at the websites of the great research universities and you’ll find the arts well represented there.”

“Besides, without the arts, you don’t have well-rounded students — or a well-rounded community.”

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**THE REBEL LIFE**

**Bravo! Encore! Encore!**

**PAC celebrates 30th anniversary**

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Thirty years and still going strong. Back in 1976, UNLV’s Performing Arts Center, which celebrates its 30th season this academic year, was one of the few places in town where patrons could see something other than Strip-style entertainment.

But that year Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall opened its doors. It along with Judy Bayley Theatre, which opened in 1972, was the nucleus of what would become the Performing Arts Center.

Over the years, the two facilities have been host to a variety of performances — some traditionally classical, some not — ranging from plays starring students to performances by violinist Itzhak Perlman, cellist Yo Yo Ma, the amazing National Aerialists of Taiwan, and the comedic Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

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**Ballet Flamenco Jose Porcel will perform Sept. 28 as part of the Performing Art Center’s season of “Our Greatest Performances.”**

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**Marketing & PR**

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**Inside UNLV | Page 3**
New Faces

Editor's Note:
Here, in place of the usual “Across Campus” section, we’re presenting “New Faces,” profiles of a random sampling of some of UNLV’s newest employees. As the new academic year begins, take a minute to learn about some of your new coworkers. “Across Campus” will return next month.

BUSINESS
Wenli Wang
Computers and fine arts sound like polar opposite fields of study, but not to Wenli Wang. In fact, there’s an interdisciplinary aspect to nearly every stream of research she pursues.

“One of my research interests is information technology and performing arts, and Las Vegas is definitely the top site for my field studies,” said Wang, an assistant visiting professor of management information systems. She comes to UNLV from Emory University in Atlanta, where she spent five years as an assistant professor in decision and information analysis at Goizueta Business School.

Wang doesn’t see using a computer as the antithesis of physical activity. Rather, she invests how people can use technology to understand their own bodies and their physical movements for mind-body fitness.

Economics is also central to Wang’s work. Her past research has focused on the design of online auctions such as eBay, particularly how introducing fixed prices can benefit both sellers and buyers in auctions.

Although Las Vegas’ rich scope of arts and entertainment played a part in her decision to come to UNLV, Wang said the MIS program itself was the biggest factor.

“It is the warmth, care, and research quality of the faculty members that attracted me the most.”

EDUCATION
Kathleen Krach
Kathleen Krach spent two years working as a school psychologist in the Atlanta area after completing her doctoral degree at Texas A&M in 2003. Now, she is embarking on her teaching career as an assistant professor of school psychology at UNLV.

Among her major areas of interest and research are bilingual education and working with children from multicultural backgrounds.

“A school psychologist who works with bilingual or multicultural children needs to understand the impacts that diverse backgrounds and previous educational experiences from other countries have on academic and social behavior,” she said.

“This includes researching educational systems from other countries, understanding common traditions, and being aware of cultural attitudes toward psychology, education, and medicine.”

This year Krach will supervise school psychology students who work in both clinical and school-based settings conducting psycho-educational assessments.

She said she was attracted to UNLV for her first faculty position by the rapidly growing size and reputation of the educational psychology department.

“All of the current faculty members in this department are excellent researchers and are working with me to develop a comprehensive research agenda,” she said. “Also, the College of Education has a strong relationship with the local school district, providing great research opportunities.”

ENGINEERING
Daniel Cook
Engineering has traditionally been the realm of those who build bridges and rockets. Today that list has grown to include roller coasters, sports venues, and increasingly complex Las Vegas attractions, and UNLV is positioning itself to be at the forefront of the new wave.

To that end, this year the College of Engineering has hired its first faculty member dedicated to the field of entertainment engineering and design. Assistant professor Dan Cook comes to UNLV from Virginia Commonwealth University where he taught joint classes in mechanical engineering and sculpture.

“Artists need to be more technical and engineers need to be more creative to be successful these days,” Cook said. “That’s what I want to teach my students.”

The university has been offering courses in entertainment engineering for a few years. It will be Cook’s job to further develop the program, an interdisciplinary effort between engineering and the College of Fine Arts that will focus on technologies aimed at the entertainment industry.

Graduates could be responsible for the next breathtaking effects in Cirque du Soleil shows or the latest theme-park rides that combine elements such as motion simulators and animatronics.

Cook’s background is in metallurgical engineering and materials science and engineering. He has also held postdoctoral positions at the University of Grenoble in France and the University of Greenwich in England. Before joining Virginia Commonwealth, he worked for Reynolds Metals Co. in Virginia.

FOUNDATION
Phil Hilliard
Development officers for the UNLV Foundation have a new resource in their quest to identify potential donors to the university.

Phil Hilliard joins the foundation this year as manager of prospect research. It’s his job to investigate the interests of corporations, foundations, and individuals and determine their potential for giving to UNLV. Since 1995, the UNLV Foundation has raised more than $214 million for the university.

He comes to Las Vegas from Washington, D.C., where he worked for a nonprofit organization that did research for the Department of Homeland Security. “My focus was on researching vulnerabilities and threats to the nation’s critical infrastructures such as agriculture, transportation, and banking.”

That may sound like a long way from university fundraising. But with homeland security, his research specialty was telecommunications and information technology, giving him a firm grasp of electronic research methods that will be useful.

And Hilliard said he’s well-versed in resources available to help the development staff target its fundraising efforts where they can be most productive.

“The energy and optimism of UNLV and the UNLV Foundation were very appealing,” Hilliard said.

Hilliard’s wife, Tyra, also starts a new position with UNLV this fall as associate professor of tourism and convention administration.

GRADUATE
Manuela Dokie
After living “all over the world” for 25 years, Manuela Dokie is ready to stay put for a while.

Originally from Germany, Dokie married a military man and also worked for the U.S. Army. Their last stop was El Paso, where Dokie was a research coordinator at the University of Texas, El Paso, for eight years.

When her husband retired from the service and they decided put down some roots, Las Vegas looked like the place to be. Not only does she have family in nearby Barstow, Calif., but also Dokie said she was drawn by the university’s

FINE ARTS
Robert Benedetti
For more than four decades, Robert Benedetti has lived the double life of an academic and an actor/producer. Now he is eager to share his expertise with theater students at UNLV.

“After 30 years teaching acting and directing, I took a 15-year sabbatical in the movie industry,” Benedetti said. “I was fortunate enough to win several Emmys, a Peabody, and other awards and make enough money to return to teaching in my golden years.”

He has also directed theater productions across the United States and appeared in such stage roles as King Lear and Falstaff, while his TV acting career included a stint on Hill Street Blues, L.A. Law, and Cheers.

As a producer, Benedetti won television’s top prize for two acclaimed HBO movies — Miss Levers Boys (1997) and A Lesson Before Dying (1999). The latter starred Don Cheadle, his former student at the California Institute of the Arts where Benedetti was dean of the School of Theatre.

Benedetti said the faculty is what attracted him to UNLV first and foremost. He was also drawn to the program’s creative focus and relationship with the Nevada Conservatory Theatre, he said.

“I have a real emotional need to share what I have learned about the art of theater and film, and to experiment in order to learn more,” he said. “I hope to become a better teacher than I was in the past time around by focusing more on individual students and their potential.”

Professor Robert Benedetti, left, talks with actors Timothy Hutton and Elizabeth Pena on the set of Alfredo Ames: Tailor Within. He acted in the movie and served as executive producer.

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momentum as a research institution.

“I want to be part of the growth and cutting-edge environment that the UNLV research community and administrators have accomplished over the past few years,” Dokie said. “UNLV provided me the opportunity to join an excellent team of research administrators who share the same passion for the work we do.”

She joins a three-person team of senior research administrators. It’s their job to help faculty members submit proposals for externally funded projects, including those for research, education, and training.

After an award is made, they may also negotiate contracts and provide support by submitting modifications, extensions, and renewals through the life of a project.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Chad Cross

Chad Cross might be new to the UNLV faculty, but he’s no stranger to campus. Cross has been a statistician in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s office at UNLV since 1999.

“My intention had always been to return to academia full time after working with the federal government for a few years,” said Cross, director of the epidemiology & biostatistics program. “When this faculty position in the School of Public Health became available, I became excited about the potential of the school and working with the faculty within it.”

His goals include beginning a rigorous public health research program to attract top graduate students and making the School of Public Health the state’s premier research program.

Cross never truly left the classroom, however, whether as a student or a teacher. His long and varied resume includes teaching positions at four other universities, and he taught part-time in UNLV’s environmental studies department while at the EPA. He has five degrees spanning research interests from applied statistics to wildlife studies and even counseling.

“I decided to take a few classes in counseling to become a better teacher,” he said. “I discovered that I really enjoyed the program, and so I pursued and completed a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy. The training has opened up completely new areas of research interest for me, such as substance abuse and trauma.”

LIBRARIES

Amiyon Johnson

As an employee of the Las Vegas Clark-County Library District, Amiyon Johnson opened the world of books to young readers. Now she wants to show teachers how to spark a lifelong love of reading.

Johnson came to UNLV this year as a library technician in the curriculum and materials library. Her primary role is to hire, train, and supervise student workers. She’s also pursuing a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in children’s literature. She plans eventually to teach the subject at the college level.

“Libraries, especially the children’s department, are the perfect combination of working with kids and helping them love the literature,” Johnson said.

Although she earned a bachelor’s degree in education, Johnson didn’t go straight into teaching. She became a nanny for a while and even cared for singer Marie Osmond’s children. Johnson also worked in a few bookstores before landing in library work.

At the library district, Johnson started in school outreach, visiting campuses to share the library’s resources with children. (Her top three children’s book recommendations: Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems, Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes, and Strega Nona by Tomie dePaola.) She spent another couple of years at the Henderson District Public Libraries as a teen specialist before coming to UNLV.

In just the short time she’s been here, Johnson said, her experience of working on campus has been overall encouragingly positive. “It’s so refreshing when you’re working hard in your job and also working hard in your education, to have people understand that.”

HONORS

Maria Jerinic

From New York City to rural New Mexico, Maria Jerinic has always sought out the chance to work with honors students. “I like the intellectual climate,” said Jerinic, a visiting assistant professor in the Honors College. “I like to foster a love of learning for the sake of learning.”

Jerinic will teach three sections of English for honors students — a truly interdisciplinary bunch. She said she enjoys helping advanced students make connections outside of their academic or research niches because she knows it can be difficult for them to find each other at a large university.

It can also be a challenge to convince future scientists and researchers that they need good communication skills as much as the liberal arts majors do.

“I tell my students that they all need to learn to read well and communicate themselves,” Jerinic said. “It may seem like you’re just studying a short story, but you’re also developing critical thinking skills.”

Jerinic taught part time in the English department before receiving the full-time honors appointment this year. She came to Las Vegas a few years ago when her husband, Michael Pravica, joined UNLV as an assistant professor of physics. Both had previously taught at New Mexico Highlands University.

HOTEL

Tyra Hilliard

Meeting and event planning was Tyra Hilliard’s first career. Now, as an associate professor of tourism and convention administration at UNLV, she’s helping others learn about this booming business. But in between, she took a detour into law.

Hilliard started out planning meetings and working in convention and visitors bureaus. Law school came next, but then so did something unexpected.

While she was practicing law in Atlanta, she had an opportunity to teach a hospitality law class at Georgia State University, the school from which she had earned her law degree. “I realized then that I enjoyed teaching more than anything else I was doing, so I made the move into full-time academia.”

At Georgia State her department chair suggested she would have a lot in common with a previous chair — Patti Shock, now chair of UNLV’s department of tourism and convention administration.

Hilliard went on to other academic posts, most recently at George Washington University, where she was an assistant professor and director of the International Institute of Tourism Studies. But she stayed in touch with Shock, and when the opportunity to come to Las Vegas arose, she jumped at it.

“The idea of working with her and the other faculty in a program of this caliber was an opportunity I just couldn’t pass up,” Hilliard said.

“The meetings industry is a relatively young field. My goal at UNLV is to help the industry develop, grow, and mature through teaching, service, and research.”

The move to Las Vegas was a family affair. Hilliard’s husband, Phil, also is starting a new job as manager of prospect research for the UNLV Foundation.

LAW

Elaine Shoben

A pioneer in legal education has joined the faculty of the Boyd School of Law. Elaine Shoben was the first woman to serve as editor-in-chief of the law review at Hastings College of the Law, and she was among the first significant wave of women to enter law teaching.

“There were many challenges when the great majority of the students and faculty were men who were unaccustomed to the changes brought by the dramatic growth of women in the profession,” Shoben said. “I lived through many of the growing pains as the profession changed, but I am proud to have been a part of the transformation.”

Her areas of research include employment law, remedies, and torts. Shoben said she has a special interest in experimenting with new forms of instruction and in examining the role of legal education in shaping the character of the profession.

Shoben, who is married to Ed Shoben, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, has been a professor at the University of Illinois for the past 30 years. At UNLV she is the Judge Jack and Lulu Lehman Professor of Law.

“It is truly remarkable what the law school and its dean, Dick Morgan, have accomplished in so
short a time,” she said. “I remember expressing skepticism that the small group who started the school could get it up and running as quickly as they planned, but they did exactly that. Now, just a few years later, the school is attracting considerable attention for its success.”

PURCHASING Anthony Nicollella

If you ask Anthony Nicollella, a college campus is somewhat like a military base. They both cater to young people, as students or recruits. They have their own versions of classrooms, dining commons, dorms, and sports fields.

“Attitudes may be a little bit different, but over-all there are more similarities than differences between the two,” said Nicollella, new contract administrator for UNLV’s purchasing and contracts department.

Nicollella recently retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel after 21 years in the U.S. Army. His last post was Fort Irwin, Calif., where he was acquisition commander for the National Training Center. He also served as the Army liaison officer to the C-17 program at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and contracting officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency in Huntsville, Ala.

At UNLV, he’s responsible for preparing complex bids and requests for proposals for goods, services, and construction projects. It’s also his job to make sure the university’s contracts comply with legal and insurance requirements and university policies, and to resolve any disputes with vendors.

Nicollella said his transition to civilian and university life has been a smooth one. But he will always cherish his two-plus decades in the Army.

“I met a lot of wonderful people and got a chance to travel all around the United States and Europe,” he said. “It was definitely a great experience for my family and me. It made me who I am today.”

SCIENCE Daniel Proga

In popular culture, “black hole” has become synonymous with oblivion. But a handful of researchers have learned that the intense energy created at the lip of a real black hole can actually push matter away. And it’s teaching them more about efficient forms of energy.

Daniel Proga, a new assistant professor of physics at UNLV, helped develop the black hole wind theory in 2000 as a National Research Council fellow at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. The theory showed that gas gets extremely hot as it circles the drain of the black hole’s event horizon in an ever-tightening orbit, finally disappearing in a blast of energy called accretion of materials.

“The most energetic systems known to humans are things like quasars and centers of galaxies, and they’re all powered by accretion,” Proga said. “It’s the most efficient way to produce radiation.”

Proga spent the last year as a researcher at Princeton University. UNLV’s physics program already has an excellent reputation, Proga said, and he hopes to continue building that, with the public as well as within academia. One of his goals is to start a lecture series on popular topics in astrophysics.

“I want to continue to do research and I’m keen on starting teaching,” said Proga, a native of Poland. “I want to get involved in something that will move forward everything I’ve been doing so far.”

With a foot each in the worlds of astronomy and physics, Proga said he’s eager to show physics students where the disciplines meet. “Astronomers tell stories and wave their hands,” he said. “To train a astronomer, it takes more than teaching a good mathematician or physicist. You have to be a good storyteller.”
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Brent Mungas (Kinesiology) had a manuscript, “Will Caltech Work as an Engagement Model for Undergraduate Research,” published in Athletic Therapy Today and another manuscript, “Heads Up for Soccer Coaches—When You Need to Know,” published online at Contemporary Pediatrics.

Krista Muis (Educational Psychology) received the best student paper award for her dissertation in Canada this year. The dissertation is titled “Feminist Studies and Mathematics Problem Solving: Examining Relating in the Context of Self-Regulated Learning.” She received the award from the Canadian Society for the Study of Education at its meeting in London, Ontario, in May.

Jeffrey Wedding, Linda Blair, Susan Slaughter, and Diane Winslow (Harry Reid Center) presented a paper, “A Mixed Bag: Prehistoric Research Results in Nevada and California Along the Kern River 2003 Expansion Pipeline Route,” at the 7th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Salt Lake City in April.

Anthony Nazareth (Tourism & Convention Management) conducted a one-week executive management course in April for the Nevada Gaming Commission on the island of Saipan, located in the Northern Marianas Islands. More than 40 managers from nearly every Saipan’s major properties participated. The program was coordi- nated by Northern Marianas Community College, whose president, Tony Guerena, is an alumnus of the UNLV Hotel College, and by Yoshimi Kodama, sales manager of Aquasport and also a UNLV alumna.

Amy K. Clima-Komba, Joanne L. Henry, and Linda Stetzenbach (Harry Reid Center), along with Gary M. King (Dartling Marine Center, University of Nevada,槥), presented a paper, “Sampling Methodologies for Monitoring Outdoor Culturable Airborne Fungi from Five Locations on Hawai‘i,” at the 105th gen- eral meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Atlanta. In addition, Stetzenbach, Klima-Komba, and King pre- sented “Analysis of Culturable Airborne Bacteria from an Altitude Gradient on Kilauea and Mauna Loa Volcanoes (Hawai‘i).”

James Cladziel (Harry Reid Center) wrote an article, “Cadal Ffin Mercury as a Predictor of Fish Muscle-Mercury,” which appeared in the journal Ecotoxicology this summer. He also wrote “Sources and Concentrations of Hg and Se in Compartments within the Las Vegas Wash During a Period of Rapid Change,” which appeared in Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.

David Hassenzahl (Environmental Studies) was invited by the Society of Toxicology to serve as a guest panel- ist on “Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA): Bridging Components Along the Exposure-Dose-Response Continuum” at its July conference in Washington, D.C. He is one of 24 experts invited to advise the society as it develops standards and prac- tices for probabilistic risk assessment.

Patricia Cruz, Linda D. Stetzenbach, Amy K. Klima-Komba, and L. Stevens (Harry Reid Center), along with Victoria A. Castro and C. Mark Ott (Health, Physical Education, and Environment laboratory, Johnson Space Center), and Duane L. Pierson (habitatibility and environmental factors office, NASA, Johnson Space Center) presented a paper, “Enhanced Detection of Fungi in the Spaceship Environment,” at the 10th gen- eral meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Atlanta.

Darrel Pepper (Mechanical Engineering) co- author Xiuling Wang presented a paper on emergency response at the International Conference on Energy, Water, and Environmental Protection in Dubrovnik, Croatia. He also presented a paper (co-authored by Wang) on model- ing and control of the Dynamic Security Engineering Conference held at the University of Rome.

Xin Hu (Engineering), and Kevin Houser and Dale Tiller (University of Nevada, Las Vegas, College of Bioinformatics) received a Technical Talent Award from the Illumination Engineering Society of North America for their paper, “Tuning the Fluorescent Spectrum for the Trichromatic Visual Response: A Pilot Study.” This award recognizes innovation and significant publication in new lighting applications published in LEUKOS, the journal of the Illuminating Engineering Society.
state-of-the-art facility for the faculty and students who are part of the college, she said.

Student Services Addition

Another project that UNLV officials were thrilled to receive funding for was the addition to the Student Service Building, Turner said. That project, which had been on the capital improvement funding request list for nearly a decade, received $9 million. UNLV has committed to providing another $1 million toward the $10 million project, Bomotti said.

Funding in the amount of $15.8 million was allocated for additional construction costs associated with the Science, Engineering and Technology Building. Additionally, the Legislature agreed to consider awarding another $14 million to the project during the 2007 session to cover furniture, fixtures, and equipment, he said.

"Another legislative decision that is very positive for UNLV is one allowing us to use state funds for the lease-purchase of facilities — something that has not been possible in the past," Bomotti said. "This may prove particularly useful to the university as it pursues the Midtown UNLV project."

Other Successes

Other important successes at the Legislature, according to Turner and Bomotti, included:

> Employee raises — Employees received a 2 percent cost-of-living raise July 1 and will receive a 4 percent cost-of-living raise July 1, 2006. "I think this shows our legislators’ appreciation of state employees," Turner said.

> Grant funding — Changes will allow UNLV to keep more of the indirect cost recovery funds associated with federal grants. Before the Legislature acted, UNLV was allowed to keep only 75 percent of those funds. Beginning in fiscal year 2006, universities will be allowed to keep about 94 percent. That number drops to 92 percent in fiscal year 2007. However, Bomotti said, the expectation is that it will increase to 100 percent in fiscal year 2008 and then remain at that level.

> Dental School — Lawmakers allocated more than $3.6 million, which, when combined with tuition and fee revenues, will fund the addition of the fourth year of students to the dental program, bringing it to its full enrollment of 300 students.

> Nursing programs — More than $175,200 will help fund the cost of summer classes for nursing students at UNLV. "This is tied into the state’s continuing efforts to ease the nursing shortage here in Nevada," Turner said. The Legislature also allocated $771,497 to fund a Ph.D. nursing program. Currently, it is difficult to find enough qualified professors to teach nursing students, she said, explaining that this program is intended to help rectify that situation.

Although the 2007 Legislature will not convene for another 17 months, Turner said it’s not too soon for her and other system lobbyists to begin preparing.

"I am really looking forward to continuing to work with our UNLV and NSHE legislative teams and with Nevada’s lawmakers between now and the next session," she said. "And, as quickly as things move, February 2007 will be here in the blink of an eye."

> Legislature

Continued from Page 3

Summer on Campus

Summer at UNLV is anything but dull. In addition to the usual classes, there are a variety of special events. Two of those this summer were events for high school students, the Las Vegas Music Festival (above and right) and the Summer Advanced Gifted Education (SAGE) Academy (bottom photos). The music festival drew 120 students from around the world to the UNLV campus for two weeks in August. Professional musicians from the Juilliard School, the Eastman School of Music, and the New York Philharmonic worked with the lucky teens. SAGE, sponsored by the Honors College and the Division of Educational Outreach, brought 31 of Clark County’s most gifted high school students to campus for three weeks. The students participated in three courses, creative writing, international relations, and Shakespeare’s stage.