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Inside UNLV

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Canning Spam
New system proves reliable at blocking unwanted e-mail

By Mamie Peers | OIT

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.”

Understanding The Digest
Proofpoint rates messages based on the likelihood that the message is spam. The original subject lines of these messages are preceded by a percentage rating such as “100% spam…” You can then set your preferences to quarantine messages tagged as spam and manage the system using the spam digest, which is sent periodically via e-mail.

All Lotus Notes users by default receive the digest, but this doesn’t mean that spam is being blocked from your inbox. You will continue to receive the digest as well as the individual messages until you request that the system block unwanted messages.

To block spam, follow the instructions at ccs.unlv.edu.

Once you’ve told the system to block spam, scan your inbox regularly to ensure that Proofpoint has not quarantined a message you want to read. Messages in quarantine are automatically released to your inbox. Proofpoint features also let you block specific domain names and e-mail addresses. This is handy when you’ve subscribed to an e-mail list you no longer want to receive.

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.

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 Tad 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 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 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.

Get Connected
And help welcome students to campus just as these 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 Amphitheatre 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.

Get Taken for a Ride

‘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 6:30 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.
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 on line 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.

If you’ve been away from campus for any length of time this summer, you’ve probably also noticed that the physical signs of transformation are everywhere. The inclusion of construction fencing and earth-moving equipment, as well as omnipresent orange traffic cones (which some have joked ought to be our state symbol in Nevada), herald the development of some eagerly anticipated new facilities.

The new student union, student recreation center, 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 routines.

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 the beginning of active traffic testing to assess the impact of potentially narrowing Maryland Parkway. Campus forums focusing on the Midtown UNLV initiative are also in the planning stages, 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 achievement, job opportunities that 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 already 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 next era and strengthen our role as a community resource.

Your leadership as members of the UNLV community will be critical to the success of this campaign, as it is to all of the transformative efforts occurring on campus. As university ambassadors in the community, all of us play a part in it. And the more 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.

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 omission 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 payroll services is adding a direct deposit screening process 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, associate director.

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 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 the summer. Once you return from afar, just click “no” in the “Use alternate address?” field and mail will be sent to your main address.

Lose 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 by an “inquiry service only” message, so don’t attempt to change, for example, your job 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 correct this information once you provide the appropriate college transcripts.

If the information in an inquiry screen is incorrect, call human resources at ext. 5-3504.

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.

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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 Acrobats 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 Cheers) star Belinda Carlisle.

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. And, as those who don’t include performances slated for the PAC’s Black Box Theatre or the College of Fine Arts’ Doc Rond Recital Hall or intimate Paul Harlyn Theatre.

Audiences can expect such diversity and volume of programming to continue as the PAC enters its fourth decade a campus that is 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,” say those in charge 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. “This is 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 dean 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’m 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 multimegadollar 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 much more inviting place.

“We’re expecting a similar positive reaction to our latest changes 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 bores 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, adding, “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.”

Ticket Information: UNLV faculty/staff get ticket discounts. Call ext. b-2787 or go to unftickets.com.
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 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 investigates 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 in 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.

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 roles on Hill Street Blues, L.A. Law, and Cheers.

As a producer, Benedetti won television’s top prize for two acclaimed HBO movies — Miss Livers Boy (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, 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 the last time around by focusing more on individual students and their potential.”
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**

Amy Johnson

As an employee of the Las Vegas Clark-County Library District, Amy 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 English from California State University, Northridge, she started her career as a librarian. “I wanted to combine my love of reading with an emphasis in children’s literature. Now she teaches a hospitality law class 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 associate 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.

**NEW FACES**

**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.

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**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...
a few years later, the school is attracting considerable attention for its success.

UNLV’s new chair of psychology specializes in the study of mathematical cognition: how people learn math, how they do it in their heads, and why so many have trouble with it. “With schoolchildren in the U.S. showing very mediocre mastery of the math and science curricula, I think it’s important for us to understand as much as possible about how people do math,” Ashcraft said. “It would also be tremendous if we could discover the kinds of unfortunate experiences that set the stage for math anxiety, since it can follow some people.”

Ashcraft comes to UNLV after 30 years as a professor and department chair at Cleveland State University in Ohio. He’s looking forward to further developing his department’s two young Ph.D. programs in clinical and experimental psychology.

Las Vegas’ warm climate was alluring, too, after Cleveland endured its snowiest winter in 10 years. But as temps here topped 110 for weeks in July, Ashcraft reflected on the trade he’d made: “My wife and I were ready to live in a warmer climate, and it’s helping them learn more about efficient forms of energy created at the lip of a real black hole can actually push matter away. And it’s helping them learn more about efficient forms of energy.

“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 do it with a group 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 astronaut, it takes more than training a good mathematician or physicist. You have to be a good storyteller.”

PUBLIC SAFETY

Bruce Taylor

While training at a California police academy for his job with the Riverside County sheriff’s department, Bruce Taylor was struck by the assignment of a fellow trainee. He worked not for a local government, but for the University of California, Riverside. “That sounded interesting,” he thought. “I would like the environment, and it’s not as fast-paced.”

Taylor spent three years with the sheriff’s department, then he and his wife started thinking about coming to Las Vegas. As luck would have it, he saw that UNLV was hiring officers. He joined the university police in July.

After just a few weeks on the job, Taylor said the campus setting suits him. “It’s a big difference. It’s more of a confined area, and that’s a little more comforting.”

Law enforcement has been a second career for Taylor. In 2002, he capped two decades of service in the Navy, retiring as a chief petty officer. He spent his last five years in the service working alongside the Marines at California’s Camp Pendleton, driving a hovercraft.

At UNLV, Taylor said he’s looking forward to taking advantage of the grant-in-aid program, which offers low tuition rates to employees. “School is going to be a must once I get off training,” he said. “I perked up my ears at orientation when I heard about that benefit.”

PURCHASING

Anthony Nicolla

If you ask Anthony Nicolla, 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 overall there are more similarities than differences between the two,” said Nicolla, new contract administrator for UNLV’s purchasing and contracts department.

Nicolla 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.

Nicolla 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.”

SCIENCES

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 helping them learn 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 do it with a group 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 astronaut, it takes more than training a good mathematician or physicist. You have to be a good storyteller.”

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Algerian Hart

“It’s hard to imagine Algerian Hart ever runs out of enthusiasm. Part coach, part motivational speaker, and ever an educator, he peppers his language easily with words like “ecstatic” and “champion.”

“I want to help create an environment that fosters value in diversity, student success and empowerment, and discipline in scholarship,” Hart said about his new position as an assistant professor in University College.

Diversity is a focus for Hart, who comes from Seattle Pacific University. “I was attracted by the opportunity to better my career, and by the value and priority given to diversity at UNLV,” he said, adding that the climate was especially inviting after a decade in the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to teaching and coaching track and field, Hart was also active in community outreach programs in the Seattle area that promoted diversity and tolerance. He was executive director of Game Time, a nonprofit group founded by former pro football player Derek Sparks that helps young people overcome social problems to achieve their goals.

Coming to UNLV means overcoming a bit of lingering rivalry for this former college athlete. “I am very ecstatic to be a part of the Runnin’ Rebel fam- ily, although I was a staunch enemy as a student-athlete of Long Beach State during the good old Big West Conference days,” Hart said.
**Brent Mungas** (Kinesiology) had a manuscript, “Wilt Catlinne Work as an Ergonomist,” accepted for publication, published in *Athletic Training: Therapy Today* and another manuscript, “Heads Up for Soccer Refs: When You Need to Know,” published online at *Contemporary Pediatrics*.

**Krista Muis** (Educational Psychology) received the 2011 Student Supervisor of the Year Award for her work in Canada this year. The dissertation advised by Stipek is titled “Computational Models and Mathematics Problem Solving: Examining Relational Understanding 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 Weddmg, 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 70th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Salt Lake City in April.

Andrew Nazarechuck (Tourism & Convention Management) conducted a one-week executive management course in April for the tourism industry of the island of Saipan, located in the northern Marianas Islands. More than 40 managers from the island's major properties participated. The program was coordi- nated by Northern Marianas Community College, whose president, Tony Guererra, is an alumnus of the UNLV Hotel College, and by Yoshimi Kodama, sales manager of Aqua Resort and also a UNLV alumnus.

Amy Y. Klima-Comba, Joanne L. Henry, and Linda Detztenbach (Harry Reid Center) continued, along with Gary M. King (Darling Marine Center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas) the preparation of methods for Monitoring Outdoor Culturable Airborne Fungi from Five Locations on Hawaii,” at the 105th general meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Atlanta. In addition, Detztenbach, Klima-Comba, and King pre- sented “Analysis of Cultivable Airborne Bacteria from an Altitude Gradient on Kilauea and Mauna Loa Volcanoes (Hawaii).”

James Cadzziel (Harry Reid Center) wrote an article, “Cauld Fins Mercury as a Predictor of Fish Muscle-Mercury,” which appeared in the journal *Fish and Fisheries* 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,* and a paper with collaborators from Northern Arizona University and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

**Ride**

Continued from Page 1

spaces available last fall, will be off- set by unused parking, primarily in the Thomas & Mack lots.

During peak usage times last year, we had more than 3,200 empty stalls around campus,” McDowell said. “It is expected that more than 600 spaces will be empty at any given time this fall.

CSUN purchased the fleet of five new buses for $285,000. Former CSUN President Henry Schack originated the plan for the buses, which were purchased through the UNLV administration have since worked together on the operations plan. Annual operating costs of about $350,000 will be funded through institutional and general improvement fee funds as well as other nonstate funds.

**Schedule announcement**

The shuttle system is being developed to accommodate the varying hours of the student body and to drop riders within a short walk of their offices or classes. The initial passenger shuttles will run 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays. Starting Sept. 19, the system will be extended Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The system is being staffed by four full-time drivers, a full-time shuttle specialist, and 12 student drivers. All drivers must obtain commercial licenses, a five-week process that includes a written exam and driving test. They must also have a physical exam and pass a pre-employment drug and alcohol screening.

The system will operate year-round, with abbreviated schedules during downtimes. “We expect ridership to fluctuate dramatically between peak and trough,” notes McDowell, who previously oversaw a shuttle system at the University of Arizona. During peak times, three buses will run the entire campus route, while one bus will circle the Thomas & Mack lots, dropping passengers off near the Student Services Complex. The fifth bus will be kept in reserve for servicing Maintenance and Operations and passing every 8-10 minutes, with the entire route taking 24 minutes. The shuttle’s clockwise route avoids speed bumps and left-hand turns onto busy streets, McDowell noted.

Because this is a new system, we expect to make some adjustments to our routes and timing in the next few months,” he said. “We will rely heavily on rider feedback to further develop the service.”

In the next few years, McDowell hopes to extend the service to the eastern edge of the campus. “Once the route is established, parking ser- vices will evaluate the needs for infrastructure enhancements, such as shelter and signage,” says McDowell. “Once the shuttle program to serve the campus, UNLV has been able to draw from the model of successful programs.”

“We’re hopeful that the system will be as well used here as it is on so many other campuses.”
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.

Legislature
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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.”