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Inside UNLV

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Inventors Wanted

Fundraising Campaign
Aimed at Fueling Progress and Discovery

By Lori Bachand | UNLV Foundation

Invent the Future — the university’s first comprehensive campaign and the largest fundraising effort in Nevada history — had been moving through its planning and quiet phases since 2002. That silence ended Sept. 15 when President Carol C. Harter launched the public phase of the campaign — along with its $500 million goal — in her annual state of the university address.

Harter’s announcement formalized the seven-year campaign, which seeks to secure unprecedented support for student and faculty opportunities, research, programs, and facilities. Invent the Future also focuses on widening the circle of people involved with the university, which in turn will help strengthen UNLV’s public profile, academic reputation, and ability to impact economic development.

“This campaign will have widespread, long-term impact on our students, faculty, and alumni,” said Harter. “It will bring our university to a new level of academic excellence, and strengthen our role as an engine for economic diversity and innovative research. That translates over time to tremendous opportunities for future members of the campus community, but will also bring added value and prestige to the degrees of today’s graduates.”

More Than the Money
Invent the Future will raise sustainable private funds for UNLV — something that has become increasingly important as public universities across the nation find year after year that state monies are making up smaller percentages of their budgets. That is true for UNLV, where direct state support in 2003 was only 32 percent of the university’s overall budget — a reduction from 41 percent in 1994.

The effects of the campaign extend beyond financial impact, according to John Gallagher, vice president for development and executive director of the UNLV Foundation. “This campaign is all about people,” Gallagher explained. “It is about students, faculty members, alumni, and all of those who support and take pride in UNLV. The campaign will help all of these people be more productive and more involved. A campaign of this magnitude is a sign of UNLV’s growing maturity, and our aspirations are high. This effort will help in many ways as we pursue our common goals.”

How You Can Invent the Future
UNLV’s Invent the Future campaign is not about giving. The campus community has direct opportunities to become involved in UNLV’s first comprehensive campaign. Participate in the following ways to help your university invent the future:

> Reach out to your former students. Invite alumni to campus as guest speakers, mentors, or volunteers. One of the campaign’s goals is to increase and broaden overall alumni participation with the university.

> Be your neighborhood’s UNLV ambassador. As an insider, you can provide positive and accurate information to the community and prospective students about the quality of education and research activities at UNLV. Additionally, your advocacy helps enhance the value of a UNLV degree.

> Learn more. Find out how UNLV plans to invent the future for students, faculty, and staff, and for the community. These aspirations are the cornerstones for why UNLV is working to raise $500 million. Go to campaign.unlv.edu for more information.

> Involve yourself, your students, and your staff with the life of the campus. Programs like the Rebel Connection, family weekend, and homecoming help UNLV raise its public profile and involve more people in the life of the university.

> Contribute to your program of choice — any program, any amount. UNLV faculty, staff, and emeriti contribute thousands of dollars every year to support programs such as the Holiday Card Tree scholarship fund, memorial and tribute gifts to the UNLV Libraries, and the Annual Fund, which provides campus unrestricted dollars where the need is greatest.

More Inside:
> President Harter on Invent the Future, page 2
> Campus Community Campaign Committee, page 2
> What the funds can do in your area, page 4
> See Rebelmail, Page 3

Rebelmail: It’s the Official Way to Communicate Directly with Students

By Mamie Peers | OIT

Need to e-mail your students a notice about a canceled class or a last-minute extra-credit opportunity?

The old-school way to reach your students: collect personal e-mail addresses via a slip sheet on the first day of class. The official way: use the university-issued e-mail accounts that all students are expected to check frequently.

One of the campaign’s goals is to increase and broaden overall alumni participation with the university.

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Tech Savvy

Rebelmail: It’s the Official Way to Communicate Directly with Students

This means students must either regularly check their Rebelmail accounts or set up those accounts to forward the messages to accounts they prefer to use.

It also means that employees should only send e-mail messages to students through the university-issued address, said Cam Johnson, Student Computing Support Center manager.

“Your might be thinking. ‘But I don’t think students know they have Rebelmail,’ and you’re right,” Johnson said. “Some students don’t even know Rebelmail issues them a free e-mail account once they are admitted. That’s why we’re asking faculty and staff to help us promote Rebelmail to students.”

> See Rebelmail, Page 3

Reaching All Students

Need to get a message out to all students? The office of information technology (OIT) and campus groups have developed a new tool for distributing general information to all students.

The weekly e-newsletter, sent out under the RAVE (Rebel Announcements Via E-mail) system, contains current events and general announcements.

For details on how to submit to the system, visit facultystaffinfo.unlv.edu.
From The President

By Carol C. Harter | UNLV President

We will celebrate UNLV’s 50th anniversary in 2008, and I have recently read a manuscript of Professor Gene Moehring’s book, commissioned for the anniversary. I was struck by the phrase: “I read it as a student — I read it as a professor — I read it as a leader.”

The book is about UNLV, the campus where I have had the honor of serving as President since 1996. It is about how UNLV came to be, the story of how it has been transformed from an initially tiny campus to a place where more than 30,000 students are enrolled. It is about the people who have been part of this journey, the campus community, the donors, the faculty, and the staff — those who have supported UNLV from its earliest days.

The book is called “Invent the Future,” and it is about the campaign that has been underway for the past several years to raise funds to support the university. It is about the goals for the campaign, the strategies for achieving them, and the progress that has been made.

The book is also about the legacy that we have inherited from those who came before us, and the ones who came after us. It is about the vision that we have for the future, and the role that everyone in the campus community can play in making it a reality.

I urge you to read the book, and I encourage you to contribute to the campaign, to support the goals for the university’s future. Together, we can make UNLV a great university, and we can create a legacy that will be remembered for generations to come.

From such inauspicious beginnings came the very first fundraising drive, in 1955. “The Porch Light Campaign,” wherein senior students from local high schools called on community members during the university’s 20th anniversary, raised about $50,000. The effort provided the means to acquire land and to leverage state funds for the first building (which you now know as Maudie Frazier Hall) along a dusty stretch of dirt road called Maryland Parkway, as our campus opened in 1957.

Less than 10 years later, President Donald Moyer created the Land Foundation, an active group that through the ‘60s and ‘70s acquired more than 164 acres of land for UNLV.

During the 1980s, the university launched its first-ever capital fund and created what is now the UNLV Foundation. Several gifts valued at more than a million dollars for scholarships, building funds, and other programs also were raised during this period.

Supporting UNLV’s Academic Goals

In 2002, the university began planning for the campaign, using the Extending the Agenda plan to outline where private funds could help achieve and maintain a margin of excellence in teaching, research, and service to students and community.

The faculty and staff are embarking upon a comprehensive campaign, and not simply a capital campaign, means that the purpose — to move UNLV to the forefront of our fundraising priorities — said Kathy Robins, chair of the university’s planning goals. “All gifts given to the university between Jan. 1, 2002, and Dec. 31, 2004 will be counted toward the campaign’s success. Some gifts will produce immediate results — like the More Than Meets the Eye Annual Fund support of the Classified Staff Development Fund or scholarships funded through the annual Holiday Card Tree campaign. Other donations, such as bequests, will come years from now, as donors commit to UNLV’s program of choice in their estate plans.

The fundraising effort transitioned into its second stage, known as the “quiet” or “nucleus” phase, in 2004 as donors, including Jim and Beverly Rogers, the Greenspun family, William S. Boyd, and the Orthodontics Education Co., came forward with significant commitments. By the time the campaign was publicly unveiled, more than $263 million had been raised.

At the same time, the university began to see increased giving by alumni and local businesses. Faculty and staff support grew, too, in 2004-05, campus employees gave 68 percent more to their programs of choice than the previous year.

“There are many ways in which all of you in our university family make contributions to our advancement every day and every way — and we hope you continue to do so as you speak to neighbors, friends, students, and colleagues about UNLV. You are our true ambassadors, and we trust you will become involved in this campaign in any of the multiple ways you are able and willing to do so.”

The college of education, for example, has started what is being called the “Porch Light Campaign” wherein students from local high schools call on community members during the university’s 50th anniversary, raising what is now the UNLV Foundation. Several gifts valued at more than a million dollars for scholarships, building funds, and other programs also were raised during this period.

Record Levels of Support

The past decade has brought record levels of support from the community and our alumni — more than $490 million in gifts and pledges to support academic excellence on every front. At the same time we have seen dramatic increases in the number of individual gifts from alumni and the community, and have engaged hundreds of new donors.

Indeed, each decade in UNLV’s development has produced beneficiaries without whom we would be a markedly inferior university today.

We all stand on the shoulders of those who toiled before us, committed to raising the level of giving because we all know will not be enough to fund creating the premier metropolitan research university we are all striving to create here in Southern Nevada.

As we announce the Invent the Future campaign, our first comprehensive fundraising effort, we remember that Nevada is indeed young — an almost frontier-like state in countless ways. But unlike the centuries it has taken to develop many prestigious Eastern universities, Nevada’s rapid rise in sophistication and entrepreneurship has far outpaced the slower development of major universities and their private fundraising activities in other parts of the country.

We are here today a few years away from raising what we hope will be the largest number of private dollars of any public institution in the state of Nevada to date: $500 million.

We will celebrate UNLV’s 50th anniversary in 2008, and I have recently read a manuscript of Professor Gene Moehring’s book, commissioned for the anniversary. I was struck by the phrase: “I read it as a student — I read it as a professor — I read it as a leader.”

The book is about UNLV, the campus where I have had the honor of serving as President since 1996. It is about how UNLV came to be, the story of how it has been transformed from an initially tiny campus to a place where more than 30,000 students are enrolled. It is about the people who have been part of this journey, the campus community, the donors, the faculty, and the staff — those who have supported UNLV from its earliest days.

The book is also about the legacy that we have inherited from those who came before us, and the ones who came after us. It is about the vision that we have for the future, and the role that everyone in the campus community can play in making it a reality.

I urge you to read the book, and I encourage you to contribute to the campaign, to support the goals for the university’s future. Together, we can make UNLV a great university, and we can create a legacy that will be remembered for generations to come.
As the UNLV community settles into another academic year, keep in mind that educational opportunities on campus aren’t just limited to stu-
dents. There are many chances for staff development and training, and for the first time they’ll all be coor-
dinated by the newly formed staff development office within human resources & diversity initiatives.
The consolidation will improve communication of upcoming semi-
nars and make it more convenient to register for training. To show employees the scope of avail-
able training, the office distributed its inaugural “Staff Development Opportunities” handbook to employ-
ees in August. The book pulls together schedules for training offered by units all across campus.
“We developed the handbook because we noticed that many depart-
ments across campus offered training, but there was no single source for employees to see what was offered to them,” said Hilary Bockstanz, director of staff development and employee relations. “The handbook is a one-stop reference that will enable employees to better plan their sched-
ules and take advantage of the many training sessions offered.”
Among the seminars offered this fall are:

**Human Resources Survival Series** — New this year is the Human Resources Survival Series. These seminars take participants through the entire hiring process, from decid-
ing what classification of staff is needed to recruit, salaries, and contract preparation. There’s even a workshop devoted to preparing employees for dealings and perfor-
ance standards.

Jodee Langer, office manager for the department of mathemat-
ics, has already taken advantage of the I-9 training course in the series. “The systematic training provided by human resources is a convenient and concise way for employees to maintain and improve performance and achieve optimum levels of effec-
tiveness, efficiency, and service. The training format is professional, prac-
tical, pressure-free, and participant-
friendly. I’m looking forward to tak-
ing additional classes.”

**Professional Development** — The professional development semi-
nars offer career-building classes on everything from managing meetings and communication tips to conver-
sational Spanish and workplace eti-
quette. These seminars also stress the importance of diversity awareness on campus. Seminars will explain how cultural awareness contributes to students’ educational experience as well as to employee morale. It also will provide information on how to detect and prevent sexual harass-
ment in the workplace.

**Focus on Your Financial Future** — These seminars help you maximize your benefits, including managing your health-care claims and prepar-
ing financially for retirement. You can also learn the intricacies of life insur-
ance policies and get help developing investment strategies. There’s even a seminar that can help you protect yourself from identity theft.

**Finance and Business** — These sem-
inars will help you sort out the myr-
iad forms involved in the day-to-day operations of the university, includ-
ing understanding accounts payable, processing travel expenses, navigating payroll, and properly using interde-
partmental requisitions (IDRs).

**Health and Safety** — The Health and Safety program offers training on many aspects of campus safety, includ-
ing asbestos awareness, fire safety, hazardous materials training, and emergency preparation. Much of the information is also useful at home.

**Information Technology (IT)** — The IT seminars are designed to help you get the most out of Access, Excel, Word, and PowerPoint, whether you’re a beginner or an advanced user. Workshops devoted solely to developing a greater sense of pride of Lotus Notes e-mail are also offered.

**State-Mandated Training** — Four of the six classes required by the state of Nevada for supervisors of classi-
ﬁed staff are currently offered, with plans to include all six by the spring semester. “Having state supervi-
sory training on campus is so much more convenient for employees who would otherwise have to ﬁght traf-
ic at the state building,” said Odalys Carmona, executive assistant for the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, who has taken several classes. “The variety of training offered not only helps new employees do their jobs, but also enables experienced staff members to continue to improve and become better leaders.”

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**Rebelmail**

Continued from Page 1

Rebelmail Education Campaign

University-issued accounts have been available to students since 1984, with about 10,500 students actively using their accounts. With the new policy making the accounts an offi-
cial means of communication, how-
ever, the office of information technol-
y and many campus units worked together to develop an education cam-
paign targeted at nonusers.

They branded the e-mail service as Rebelmail and posted information on Web pages for current and prospective students. Signs, bookmarks, and tables around campus this fall point students in the right direction for activation and use of the account. Within three weeks of the semester opening, 3,500 new users had activated their accounts. Faculty and staff can help by encouraging students to visit Rebelmail.unlv.edu. At this site, stu-
dents may activate their accounts, log in, and learn how to forward messages to another account, block spam, and change passwords. The new e-mail policy is also posted on this site.

Johnson added that the more fac-
ulty and staff use Rebelmail to com-
municate with students outside the classroom, the more widely it will be adopted by students.

Get Your Students’ E-Mail Addresses

The easiest way for faculty to access student e-mail addresses is through the class roster feature inside the Web grading system. Another way for groups to access accounts is to request a focus report through the student enrollment and financial ser-

vices website at financialaid.unlv.edu / Faculty/Staff/workorder/focus.asp.

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**Lotus Notes**

Lotus Notes’ new domain: Is your e-mail address a mouth-
ful? On Oct. 10, the Lotus Notes domain name will change to be shorter, university-affiliated, and much easier to remember and dis-

tribute. Campus e-mail addresses will change from the naming con-
vention yourusername@ccmail.
nevada.edu to the much simpler firstname.lastname@unlv.edu.

Will I have to order new busi-
ness cards? Not until the old ones run out. You will receive messages sent to your old address for many years. If you do want to order new cards with your new address note, reprographics is prepared to fill the orders (visit relebe copy.ath.cx).

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**Our Name In Lights**

The Rebel Connection activities that welcomed new and returning students to campus for the 2005-
06 academic year concluded with the traditional Premier UNLV cele-
bration on North Field. The fes-
tivities included fireworks and the annual formation of the name UNLV by students holding flashlights.
Getting Your Priorities Straight

Wondering what great things the university’s Invent the Future campaign will bring to units around campus? Here are just a few of the fundraising priorities for the campaign. To learn more about the aspirations of the campaign, visit campaign.unlv.edu.

Athletics
New Facility Will Boost Athletic Recruitment

The proposed Academic Athletic Administration Center will be a tre- mendous recruiting tool and center for donors and friends of the university. To be located in the existing cor- ner of the Rebel Football Facility, the center will house administra- tive offices and the Student-Athlete Support Services Center. The center will offer greater access to academic counseling with ample computer and tutorial labs.

It will also house the Rebel Athletic Fund and the first dedicated facility for the UNLV Athletics Hall of Fame, which consists of 71 individuals and 10 teams.

“This facility will honor our stu- dent-athletes from the past, present, and future,” said UNLV Athletic Director Mike Hamrick. “It will give UNLV an opportunity to provide our student-athletes the best resources to succeed on and off the field.”

Business
Increasing Scholarships Vital to Retaining Best Students

The College of Business has experienced tremendous growth, but student-support funding hasn’t kept pace; less than 2 percent of the students in the college receive business scholarship support.

“The College of Business has a growing need for scholarships that will help us attract and retain the best and brightest students,” said Dean Richard Flaherty.

The college particularly needs undergraduate and graduate student support in the form of annual and endowed scholarships, fellowships, and study-abroad programs, he said. Financial support and internship programs connect community members with students they’ll be work- ing with in the future. Likewise, students will be able to gain real-world experience, beyond the walls of the classroom.

“In today’s changing business environment, our students must be prepared as functional members of the business community,” said Dean Flaherty. “This support from the local business community can help us prepare our students for what they’ll face when they graduate,” Flaherty said.

Fine Arts
Film Studies Hopes for New Home

UNLV’s burgeoning film studies department has outgrown its home in University Hall and hopes to build a new and fully equipped home. The department currently has more than 400 students spread out over cam- pus. In addition to faculty offices, classrooms, and seminar space, the facility will include commercial-size sound studios, a digitization center, and everything else needed to prepare graduates for the highly competitive field that awaits them.

“It puts the students in a posi- tion to be very attractive to employers when they graduate,” said Shaun Gerstenberger, director of the environ- mental and occupational health program at UNLV. “With the ana- lytical capabilities (they gain from working with) the center, they’ll have the opportunity to discover new things and become a driving force in lead poisoning research.”

The center, which is part of the School of Public Health, plans to take a leading role in educat- ing citizens about the hazards of environmental lead and in imple- menting educational campaigns directed at high-risk populations. The center will also be able to ana- lyze and identify potential sources of lead in the home such as lead- based paints, soil, dust, or hobb- ies that may contribute lead to a child’s environment.

Honors
Keeping Top Students in State

The Honors College expands, undergraduate student support becomes an even greater funding pri- ority. In addition to rewarding stu- dents for their exemplary work in the classroom once enrolled, the funds also help recruit talented students.

“Our goal is to attract the top stu- dents in Nevada to stay in state and enroll in the Honors College,” said Dean Stephen Rosenbaum. “We must have adequate scholarship support in order to attract them, and we must have sufficient program support to provide the best education for these students. A good foundation of support will enhance our reputa- tion, attract more top students to the Honors College, and help educate Nevada’s best.”

Additional support will increase undergraduate assistanceships, pro- vide expenses for students who need to travel for research and presenta- tions, and allow more opportunities for students to participate in study- abroad programs.

Hotel
INNovation at the Center of College Development

The Harrah College of Hotel Administration INNovation Village will be the center of research in the world of hospitality and gaming.

“INNovation Village will provide the hospitality and gaming industry with a setting unique in the world,” said Stuart Mann, dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. “We will be able to provide a venue for both commer- cial and noncommercial research and development projects related to this critical global industry. UNLV is excited to be able to provide such a significant impact on the future.”

The plans call for building the proposed village next to the Stant Foundation Building and include a state-of-the-art hotel and conference cen- ter, a freestanding restaurant, and the possibility of hotel-condo style resi- dences. Its 100,000-square-foot academic building will serve 4,000 students and 100 faculty members and will contain labs for gaming, food, and nutrition science; teaching kitchens; and a dedicated space for interdisciplinary research.

Support for this venue will ensure that the college continues to attract top-tier undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the finest teach- ing faculty in the industry.

Law
Students Need Practice Arena

A moot court auditorium will extend the educational offerings of the William S. Boyd School of Law by providing a facility for stu- dents to gain practical experience. Through the moot court program, law students have the opportu- nity to hone their litigation skills through simulated client counseling, advocacy, and appellate writing in a variety of legal settings.

“The moot court auditorium will complete the physical facility of the law school,” said Dean Richard Morgan. “We need excellent facil- ities to have an excellent law school, and the addition of this facility will provide us that.”

Through moot court programs, students compete nationally against students from other top law schools. Success in the program will provide exposure for the Boyd School of Law and increase the already high reputa- tion of the school.

In addition to housing the moot court program, the auditorium will also serve as a meeting place for classes and to host lectures by distin- guished guests.

Liberal Arts
Assistantships Offer Dual Benefits

Resources for an endowed named fellowship will help UNLV attract top graduate students while helping
Dental
Technology Gives Students, Researchers an Edge

One of the blessings of starting a new school is that often it means the students learn with the newest technology. UNLV’s School of Dental Medicine is at the forefront of health-care technology with its paperless environment — patient records, textbooks, and research materials are all stored electronically. But private support is needed to help the school maintain its technological edge with the latest databases and equipment.

Technology is also crucial to the school’s expanding research programs. Funds will be needed to equip labs so that faculty can continue their vital work in such areas as oral cancer treatment and prevention.

“Research is a vital component to dental education and is important for the advancement of knowledge of oral health care,” said Patrick Ferrillo, dean of the School of Dental Medicine. “Using an electronic patient-care record system, the School of Dental Medicine will be able to analyze oral health care needs of the local community and conduct research that will help meet some of these needs.”

Dr. Louisa Sanders works with dental student Lisa Bienstock. The School of Dental Medicine is counting on the comprehensive campaign to provide funds to allow the school to continue providing its students with the latest technology.

Libraries
Putting the Rarest Collections in Researchers’ Hands

The proposed Digitization Center will give unprecedented access to documents securely preserved at UNLV Libraries. A digital exhibition of different types of historical materials, manuscripts, and architectural drawings will be easily accessible to educators at all levels and can be used to increase the knowledge and understanding of Nevada’s history.

“Digitization allows libraries to bring their most unique, rare, and specialized collections out of our archives and puts them into the hands of researchers and students all over the world,” said Dean of Libraries Patricia Iannuzzi. “Through digitization, previously unpublished original letters, photos, maps, and other materials are made available to students to allow them to become researchers.”

Support will also aid UNLV’s participation in The Westerners Digital Library, a regional project that provides centralized access to digital resources from academic libraries in six Western states.

Sciences
Making Sure Research Doesn’t Run Dry

Located on a 10-acre site in North Las Vegas, the Center for Urban Water Conservation is working to help our desert community cope with its limited water resources under extended drought conditions.

Under the direction of biological sciences professor Dale Devitt, undergraduate and graduate students are conducting research throughout the state addressing critical water management issues.

With continued support, Devitt hopes to add 20 acres to the current...
Spotlight On Accomplishments

Submit Your News

E-mail entries to inside.unlv.edu. Items should be no more than 75 words.

The Rebel Life
UNLV Hosts Academic Freedom Conference

Several high-profile cases regarding academic freedom have surfaced on campuses around the country this past year, including here at UNLV. What’s become clear is that not everyone agrees on or even understands what this liberty means or how it is applied, abused, and protected within academe.

On Oct. 14 a panel of national experts will attempt to debate and clarify the issues during a one-day conference sponsored by the William S. Boyd School of Law and the UNLV Faculty Senate. This is the first public event, a roundtable discussion attended by the public, faculty, staff, and students is encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion.

The keynote speaker will be David Rabban, professor of law at the University of Texas at Austin and legal counsel to the American Society of University Professors (AAUP). Other panelists will include W. Lee Hansen, professor of economics at

More info: For more information about the event, please visit inside.unlv.edu.

Oct. 15 Lecture Explores International Criminal Courts

Former South African Constitutional Court Justice and war crimes prosecutor Richard Goldstone will discuss the prosecution of human rights violators during an Oct. 15 presentation titled “International Criminal Courts: Peace v. Justice.” The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be held at 10 a.m. in the Tam Alumni Center. The event is sponsored by UNLV’s Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution.

Drawing on his experience as the former chief prosecutor for the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, Goldstone will explore the inherent tensions in prosecuting human rights violators and the challenges that come with pursuing more recriminatory approaches.

Goldstone served in the most influential courts in South Africa, including nine years as a justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, which he was entrusted with the task of supervising the country’s transition into democracy.

Previously, he served as chairperson of the Standing Commission of Inquiry Regarding Public Violence and Intimidation.

Following the main presentation, a panel discussion will be moderated by history professor Tom Wright, author of an upcoming book on state terror and national identity in Argentina and Chile. Other panelists will include:

- Judge Lawman Raquel Aldama, author of numerous articles about human rights viola-
tions in Guatemala
- Professor Christopher Blakesley, author of books on terror-
ism and human rights
- Nobel Prize winner and English professor Wole Soyinka, former political prisoner in Nigeria

More info: Call the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution at ext. 5-0490.
Found in Translation

UNLV Translates Banned Albanian Book

by Holly Ivy DeVore | for Marketing & PR

Literature has always been a part of Pirro Dollani’s life. Not surprising considering the lifelong learner’s varied past as a library director, an instructor of literature, a professional writer, and a translator in his native Albania.

Lately, when the eight-year UNLV employee is not fulfilling his duties as a management assistant III in the film department, he has been immersed in literature while relying on his linguistic skills as an English-Albanian translator.

Three of his translations have been published this year, including one with ties to UNLV — Coffeehouse Days. The book, by renowned Albanian author and political exile Ismail Kadare, was released by Rainmaker Editions, which is affiliated with the nonprofit International Institute of Modern Letters, co-headquartered at UNLV.

“Ismail Kadare is a big name in Albanian literature. It was an honor that the International Institute of Modern Letters asked me to translate Coffeehouse Days into English from Albanian,” Dollani said. “It was written many years ago and banned by the communist government in Albania, like some of Kadare’s other writings.”

Kadare, who has been a candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature and was recently honored with the inaugural Man Booker International Prize in Literature, signed the 125 copies of the limited edition, collector book. Enclosed in a cover made of metal, it is available for $780.

Hobby Becomes Side Job

Dollani, who in 1994 left the poor Eastern European country of Albania (located between Greece, Serbia, and Montenegro) to accept a scholarship to study library sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and then moved to the Las Vegas Valley with his family in 1995, recently translated two other books into Albanian: Reading Turgeniev and Albanian Virgin by William Trevor and Alberman Virgin by Alice Munro.

He describes translating as a hobby that began when he first started learning foreign languages.

“I view my translating as a bridge to bring literature to Albanians, and also a way of giving it to the country,” Dollani said. For example, his most recent translation project is that of UNLV professor Hart Wegner’s book-length manuscript, Farewell to the Word, an excerpt of which had been published in Philological Papers.

Taking Advantage of Employee Educational Assistance Benefits

In addition to working full time and translating, Dollani has spent hundreds of hours in university classrooms as a student. He took advantage of the employee-education benefits at UNLV to earn a bachelor’s degree in English with honors and a master’s degree in education.

He has passed the high value that began on education to his two children, who were his motivation for remaining in the United States after his studies in Illinois.

“When I decided to stay in the United States, which (coincided with) the communist government of Albania collapsing, it wasn’t for me. I decided to stay here for my kids, to give them greater opportunities,” he explained. “My son just earned a master’s degree on the University of Illinois and has been hired in a dream job. My daughter graduated with a bachelor’s degree in communications at UNLV and now works in Los Angeles. Both of my kids are doing excellently, and I am proud of them.

“For me, staying here was a sacrifice because I had several professional opportunities in Europe. But the personal sacrifice has been worth it.”

Educational Assistance Benefit for All Employees

Pirro Dollani took advantage of UNLV’s educational assistance benefits for employees to earn two degrees. Learn more at hr.unlv.edu/Benefits.

Cross Campus

Continued from Page 5

site, which would expand research greenhouses and test plots, and allow more students to get involved. The center also educates local residents about the need for water conservation and involves them in water-saving strategies.

“One of the goals of the center is to provide a hands-on experience for undergraduate students,” said Devitt. “We find that students who actually touch science rather than just read about it become more passionate about pursuing careers in the field.”

The center’s research into satellite technology and management techniques will also benefit restaurateurs throughout the Southwest by decreasing irrigation requirements and operational costs.

Student Life

Well-Rounded Rec Center

While student fees will pay for the new Student Recreation Center, private support is needed to enhance the overall opportunities for students. The 184,000-square-foot center, which broke ground this summer just west of the residence halls, will be the hub for all student wellness needs.

“The center will be great for students who want to work out between classes or just have long breaks and need somewhere to go and unwind,” said UNLV freshman Kim Black. “I like how the university is working beyond academics to enhance the total college experience.”

The facility will offer a full-service workout area, including the most advanced weight and cardio equipment; rooms for fitness classes; indoor and outdoor pools; equipment rentals for outdoor recreation; a full-service juice bar and bistro foodservice capabilities; a full-size indoor jogging track; and sport courts that will house intramurals such as racquetball, basketball, and volleyball. Its Rebel Wellness Zone will provide students with a comprehensive approach to physical, mental, and emotional wellness.

University College

‘Know-It-All’ Advisers Needed

Support of advising is among the top priorities for University College. The need for well-trained academic advisers is perhaps most acute in that college, which serves students who have not yet declared a major as well as those whose interests and goals cannot be satisfied with a single program.

Advisers for the college must have knowledge of all the colleges and programs at UNLV in order to serve the varied paths of majors and to help undecided students determine an academic program. Their work is pivotal to the student’s long-term success, said Anne Hein, director of advising for the college.

“The objective for advisers is to help students define their goals, not only academically, but also in terms of their futures,” she said. “The role of advisers is reaching beyond that of class schedulers, as they are increasingly getting students involved in internship and other programs that will make them prepared to enter the job market.”

Urban Affairs

No Debate Over Benefits of Re-establishing Program

Re-establishing UNLV’s award-winning debate program will do more than complement programs in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. While the program particularly benefits students taking courses in argument, rhetoric, and interpersonal communication, it also provides excellent pre-professional preparation for students in all fields, said Tom Burkholder, chair of the communications studies department.

“It provides a co-curricular program that can strengthen both student interest and competence in communication and prepare them for a variety of careers in which skills such as clear communication, critical thinking, and persuasion are important,” he said.

The program is also an excellent way to promote competitive debate throughout the Clark County School District and bring top high school students from throughout the nation to campus.

UNLV’s original debate team ranked among the top 20 in America from 1983-1989.
I Want Your Job!

When we asked Inside UNLV readers a while back whose campus job they would like to have, many of you said you wouldn’t trade your own for any other. Some, however, had a notion that other jobs sounded a little more fun or a tad more interesting.

The Harry Reid Center’s Kathy Lauckner (at right and immediately below) thought the UNLV mascot’s job might be more entertaining. Inside UNLV arranged for her to spend some time with Hey Reb! She accompanied him around campus while he accosted a student wearing a T-shirt from the University of New Mexico (immediately below) and visited with students on the mall (below center). Hey Reb! even temporarily lost his head for Lauckner, letting her try on his duds. Lauckner’s verdict: The outing was fun, but the outfit is too heavy, too hot, and whatever Hey Reb! is paid probably isn’t enough.

(At left and above) Melissa Closek, a budget officer for the Division of Student Life, spent time with Peter Michel, who heads the special collections section of the Lied Library. She said she came away thinking that Michel’s job was even more interesting than she had anticipated. She said the visit, which included viewing the library’s valuable 1 millionth volume, rekindled her interest in obtaining a library science degree. Michel said he benefited, too, as Closek’s enthusiasm and interest were contagious.