Inside UNLV

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Extramural Funding Hits New High

Research Dollars Up 48.6% to $69.4 Million

By Sue DiBella | Research and Graduate Studies

UNLV received more than $95 million in total extramural funding in fiscal year 2005 — with nearly $69.4 million supporting research, according to recently released figures from the office of research and graduate studies.

The new figures represent an increase in extramural funding of $21.6 million over fiscal year 2004, reflecting a nearly 30 percent rise in one year. Research funding climbed 48.6 percent, or $22.7 million, during the same period.

The dramatic increases in funding are attributable to a number of factors, according to Paul Ferguson, vice president for research and graduate studies. Funding acquired by the UNLV Research Foundation increased substantially in the last year, as did the average award value.

Commitment to Scholarship

“We are seeing remarkable increases in these figures, which are significant indicators of UNLV’s growth in sophistication as a research institution,” Ferguson said. “They also serve as a measure of the strength of our faculty, their dedication to research, and our institution’s commitment to supporting the scholarly endeavor.”

Ferguson notes that this commitment is evident in the university’s efforts to offer improved and proactive research services and to support the colleges by providing greater numbers of graduate assistantships. It is also demonstrated in the reallocation of increased funding from indirect cost recovery to faculty start-up packages, laboratory and office renovation, and matches on federal grants.

Rising levels of federal research funding help to support the university’s efforts to offer improved research services and to support the colleges by providing greater numbers of graduate assistantships.

Invent the Future

$3 Million Donation Funds Moot Court Program

By Gian Galassi | Public Affairs

A $3 million donation last month from longtime UNLV benefactors Joyce Mack and the Thomas family will establish the Thomas & Mack Moot Court Complex at the Boyd School of Law. The complex will support the school’s appellate advocacy training programs and provide a large, high-quality venue appropriate to serve as a host site for judicial proceedings by state and federal courts, including the Nevada Supreme Court and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

“The Thomas and Mack families have enjoyed a close association with UNLV since its inception, and we are especially pleased with the growth and success of the Boyd School of Law,” said Tom Thomas. “Its legal clinics are recognized nationally and provide critical services to members of our community. We applaud Dean Richard Morgan’s efforts in attracting such an esteemed and capable group of professors and staff. The next step in the maturation of this law school is the construction of a very special facility: a moot court room where students can learn and practice the skills necessary to effectively operate within our legal system.”

Rees Associates Inc., a leading architectural firm for courthouses, is designing the 6,000-square-foot facility. The complex will include a fixed-bench courtroom and a 180-seat auditorium in which legal education, legal argument simulation activities, and court hearings can occur. Several administrative offices will also be included in the design.

The structure will be built east of the law school and is scheduled to be completed by August. UNLV President Carol C. Harter thanked Mack and the Thomas family for their continued support of UNLV and the Boyd School of Law.
Get Involved in Campus Life

This fall semester has been fueled by many milestones — from the launch of the university’s Invent the Future campaign to the kickoff of the Performing Arts Center’s 30th anniversary season and our 11th university planning retreat, where many of you shared thoughts on a whole host of issues facing our future. You’ve probably also noticed that work is progressing on the Science, Engineering and Technology Building as well as our new student union and student recreation center. With all of these efforts framing our future, and the academic semester rapidly coming to a head, it seemed like the perfect time to remind you all of some upcoming opportunities to get involved in the life of our campus.

**Faculty Breakfasts**

These are some of my very favorite events each year — a chance for us to sit down and talk about the issues on your mind, and to catch up with and learn from colleagues we might not get to see as often as we’d like. This semester’s first faculty breakfast was held last month, but there is still opportunity to attend the next session, 8:30-10 a.m. Nov. 7 at the UNLV Foundations Building in the Blasco event wing. Please RSVP by calling ext. 5-0953.

**Barrick Lecture Series**

Now in its 25th year, the Barrick Lecture Series has brought many nationally and internationally renowned speakers to campus. Acclaimed legal analysts Catherine Crier and Jeffrey Toobin will explore the very timely topic, “The New Supreme Court: What’s at Stake?” at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9. I encourage you to join us for what is certain to be a provocative presentation and discussion. Tickets are available through the Performing Arts Center box office. Call ext. 5-2787 for more information.

**Winter Commencement**

As you know, there is no day more meaningful in a student’s life than graduation. I look forward to commencement ceremonies each year as some of the most significant, exciting, and inspirational times in the life of a university. It is a great way to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and present to the community the best and brightest products of our efforts. Although spring commencement typically gets the greatest fanfare from the community, as campus has grown so has the winter ceremony.

I know that it is incredibly meaningful for students to have their teachers and mentors with them as they graduate, and I would ask that you plan to join us at 4 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Thomas & Mack Center. I think you’ll find the experience to be both moving and rewarding.

**Invent the Future – Together**

The October edition of Inside UNLV featured a great deal of information about the launch and goals of our first-ever comprehensive campaign, titled Invent the Future. This campaign is designed to take UNLV to a new level of excellence in all facets of the institution by raising awareness, community engagement, and participation, as well as funding. A Campus Community Campaign Committee has been formed, which will serve as a conduit for information throughout the campaign.

Watch for campus forums and open house sessions to be announced in the coming months and for many opportunities for you to get involved in this critically important effort.

**Freedom Forum**

University of Texas law professor David Rabban delivers the keynote talk during the Academic Freedom Conference that took place last month on campus. Rabban also serves as legal counsel to the American Association of University Professors.

Clint Richards, chair of the UNLV Faculty Senate, said the conference was important because “despite the critical importance of academic freedom, its purposes, limits, and differences from freedom of speech are not always clearly understood.”

The conference gave members of the UNLV community a chance to hear national experts speak on these issues and to have questions answered, he said. The event was sponsored by the William S. Boyd School of Law and by the Faculty Senate.

**Moot Court**

Continued from Page 1

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Where’s the Money? Research Services Can Help

Like many researchers, Mark Rudin wasn’t very successful in his first attempt at obtaining a research grant. “It was a learning experience,” he said. “Fortunately, with each grant application, I got a little bit better at understanding the process, and things began to click.”

Rudin’s early grant-writing experiences have made him more attuned to the needs of new principal investigators (or PIs) and have prepared him for his current role leading UNLV’s office of research services. He hopes the office minimizes the learning curve for individual researchers as much as possible.

Here, he shares his insights on research services’ goal to proactively reach out to the research community.

Years at UNLV: 12 (10 in the health physics department and two in his current position)

His unit’s role on campus, the short version: We’re here to help researchers be successful at conducting their research and at acquiring grant funding.

The long version: As part of the Division of Research and Graduate Studies at UNLV, our offices help the PIs locate, apply for, and obtain grant funding. Through the office of sponsored programs, we help PIs get through the intricacies of the grant process — from finding potential funding sources to working with other campus support units, such as grants and contracts financial services. Research services also houses the office for the protection of research subjects, as well as laboratory animal care services. These offices work to ensure that research activities involving human subjects and animals meet federal compliance standards. All of the offices are designed to provide efficient and contemporary support services to the university research community.

The small stuff: We also track down the answers to some of the day-to-day administrative questions for PIs so that they are able to focus on their research. Our goal is to remove the hurdles and frustrations.

Success stories: We continue to partner with several other support service offices on campus, such as disbursements, purchasing, and human resources, to address the challenges that PIs face. For example, we worked with disbursements recently to develop a system for the payment of human subjects involved in research. The new system is flexible enough for the PIs, but still has all the right steps to ensure accountability.

Pilot Processes: We’ve established a pilot program in the College of Sciences that involves embedding a research administrator within the college. This allows us to build better, more personal relationships with the PIs and enables us to bring our services directly to the PI’s doorstep.

Advice for those new to research: One look at an NIH (National Institutes of Health) grant application can send people running in the opposite direction. PIs naturally have questions about grant preparation, and they can be assured we are here to help answer those questions.

The big picture: UNLV has all the right variables in place to advance to the next stage of development as a research institution. The faculty are conducting sophisticated research, mentoring students, and bringing in substantial research funding. We’re building infrastructure to support the research endeavor and finding new ways to serve the research community. As we continue to strengthen our reputation as a nationally recognized research university, it’s my goal to continue valuing the small victories as well as the big ones. It’s very gratifying to me to help a PI obtain a grant or solve a problem. That’s why our office exists.

Lucrative Lingo
Funding for the university comes from a number of sources. Here are a few terms often used:

Extramural funding (also known as total sponsored program funding) — Includes grants funding for all types of programs and projects, including public service, student support, equipment, and conferences. The term ‘research funding’ refers specifically to extramural grants that support academic research, scholarly endeavors, or creative activities.

Tuition and fees — This figure includes all tuition and fees paid by undergraduate, graduate, professional, and special students. Fees are funding such things as the construction of the new union and student recreation center, improvements to technology, and the Rebel Recycling program.

State appropriations — The Nevada Legislature and governor approve general and earmarked appropriations for UNLV as part of the state’s bienn- ial budget. General funds are derived from an enrollment-based formula.

Capital appropriations — These funds come from the Nevada Legislature and are earmarked for capital building projects. Funds for building projects also often come from private gifts.

Gifts — Private donations made to the university. UNLV is currently in a comprehensive campaign to raise $500 million for needed projects. Funding also comes from investments and sales by educational departments and auxiliary units, including athletic and entertainment venues.

> Funding
Continued from Page 1
build UNLV’s reputation within the higher education community, Ferguson added, bringing enhanced distinction to all university programs.

The largest source of federally sponsored funding for fiscal year 2005 was the U.S. Department of Energy, which provided grants totaling more than $38 million. The colleges of Sciences and Engineering continue to be the recipients of the largest amounts of sponsored projects funding.

“Significant, consistent gains in federally funded research are an essential component of the progress being made in the College of Sciences and at the university as a whole,” said Ronald Yasbin, dean of the college. “Research dollars bring state-of-the-art scientific equipment to campus and enhance our facilities, improving our ability to attract and retain the best faculty and students in Nevada and across the nation.”

Additionally, this funding, accompanied by the outstanding research results produced by UNLV faculty, stimulates private support from individuals, corporations, and foundations eager to enhance UNLV’s prominent national and international research efforts,” he said.

Faculty are also pleased with the growth in funding. To Michelle Chino, director of the Center for Health Disparities Research and a faculty member in the School of Public Health, the increases demonstrate that the university is “forward-thinking, evolving, and creating a dynamic learning environment for students.” Chino and Mary Guinan, interim dean of the School of Public Health, received a $12 million grant from the National Institutes of Health in FY2005 to build the university’s capacity to conduct health-disparities research in Nevada.

“Research is a time-intensive, often costly endeavor that requires specialized skills and dedication,” Chino said. “Grant funding not only supports the faculty performing research, but also validates the research project and lends credibility to the institution. Granting a research award is a funding agency’s way of saying, ‘This is an important project, and you are capable of doing a good job.’”

Employees share on-the-job perspectives

Mark Rudin, senior associate vice president for research services

The Inside View

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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
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<th>Research Funding</th>
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Across Campus

Libraries
Reference Question? Instant Message a Librarian
Library patrons can now use their favorite instant messenger to chat live with a UNLV librarian. Launched in June, instant messaging uses software through Yahoo!, Messenger, AOL, Instant Messenger (AIM), and MSN Messenger to exchange text-based information between two or more people in real time. Whether you need answers to basic reference questions, such as information about library locations or hours, to check fines, or Internet access within the building, or more scholarly solutions to specific research subjects, such as in-house texts or online databases to use, instant messaging is the latest in information evolution. UNLV is one of just a handful of universities worldwide currently using a live system.

To get instant messaging, simply set up a screen name through Yahoo!, AOL, or MSN. Once your screen name is set up, you can log in and chat with a librarian. What makes instant messaging unique is that it allows patrons to chat from any computer, anywhere. Even if you use a computer without instant messaging software, you can log in by the Web-based version through the links provided on the Libraries’ chat reference service page at www.library.unlv.edu/ask/chat.

The service is available weekdays 9 a.m.-6 p.m. to UNLV students, faculty, staff, and alumni; CCSN students, faculty, and staff; Desert Research Institute staff; Southern Nevada residents, and visitors.

Business
Nevada Hall of Fame to Induce New Members
Robert Lewis, Jerome D. Mack, and Del E. Webb have been named as the 2006 inductees to the Nevada Business Hall of Fame. A dinner event to honor the inductees is scheduled for Feb. 16 at the Bellagio Resort and Casino. The College of Business is presenting the dinner in association with Deloitte.

The Nevada Business Hall of Fame honors top business leaders who have significantly contributed to the economic prosperity of Nevada and who have brought positive recognition to the state. The inductees emerged as the top candidates from a pool of numerous nominations submitted to the nominating committee and the college’s Executive Advisory Board.

Previous inductees include such prominent Nevadans as William S. Boyd, Hank Greenspun, William F. Harrah, Howard Hughes, Irwin M. Jacobs, Lomita L. Melamed, William “Si” Redd, Jim Rogers, Glenn Schaeffer, Parry Thomas, James A. Tiberi, Claudine Williams, and Stephen A. Wynn. Thomas, J.A. Tiberti, Claudine Rogers, Glenn Schaeffer, Parry F. Harrah, Howard Hughes, Irwin Boyd, Hank Greenspun, William S. Boyd, and Del E. Webb have been named to the hall of fame’s Executive Advisory Board.

The Nevada Business Hall of Fame’s Executive Advisory Board is currently comprised of prominent Nevadans as William S. Boyd, James A. Tiberi, Claudine Rogers, Glenn Schaeffer, Parry F. Harrah, Howard Hughes, Irwin Boyd, Hank Greenspun, William S. Boyd, and Del E. Webb. The College of Business is presenting the dinner in association with Deloitte.

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Education
College Partners with Homeland Security
The Center for Workforce Development and Occupational Research has partnered with the U.S. Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) to develop a specialized “Train-the-Trainer” program for security professionals. The program is designed for training managers and professionals within three target venues: hotel and casinos; large shopping malls; and large audiences special events.

The program supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, integrates ODP training goals and objectives with an understanding of the special response considerations faced by security personnel in these three venues. The course includes seven modules:

- Terrorism Overview
- The Security Professional’s Homeland Security Role
- Terrorist Threat Delivery Options
- Improvised Explosive Devices Recognition Training
- Terrorist Threat Detection — Susicious Items Indicators and Suspicious Person Indicators
- Critical Infrastructure Exercise
- Incident Scene Management

In addition, individuals may become certified as trainers for this course by completing a “facilitation training” module. In September and October, 250 security professionals completed the course. The course is now being offered nationwide in cities such as Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Atlanta, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Orlando, Phoenix, Seattle, and Dallas- Ft. Worth.

Engineering
Transportation Research Center Receives Federal Funding
The Transportation Research Center was selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation to host a federally funded University Transportation Center (UTC). The Transportation Research Center will receive $500,000 per year for at least the next five years through the federal transportation bill. That will be matched with support from other sources.

The UNLV will be one of about 40 UTCs in the country — and the only one in Nevada. UTCs are designed to advance U.S. technology and expertise in the many disciplines comprising transportation through the mechanisms of education, research, and technology at university-based centers of excellence. The UNLV center will focus on safety, risk analysis, and infrastructure management.

Accreditation Renewed
The College of Engineering received renewed accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology for its programs in mechanical, electrical, computer, and civil and environmental engineering. For the first time, this computer engineering program is accredited separately from the electrical engineering program. The next accreditation visit will be in 2011. The college’s program in computer science was separately and previously accredited and will go through the renewal process again in 2007, as will the construction management program.

Fine Arts
Upcoming Arts Events
The Nevada Conservatory Theatre is proud to present Larry Shue’s The Foreigner Nov. 11-20 in the Black Box Theatre. A group of deaf characters must deal with a stranger who, they think, knows no English in this Obie Award-winning comedy.

In a warm, brilliant start to the Las Vegas holiday season, Texas native and Broadway star Buckley sings favorite show tunes and holiday classics. Noted for his magical, elegant performances, distinguished pianist Ax returns to Las Vegas and unites with dazzling clarinetist Stoltzman, whose talents as a captivating recitalist have catapulted him to the highest ranks of international acclaim.

For information, call ext. 5-2787.

Graduate
Reception to Recognize Doctoral Candidates
The office of research and graduate studies and the Graduate College will host a reception honoring summer and fall 2005 doctoral candidates at 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dec. 19 in the Fireside Lounge in the Moyer Student Union.

Since spring 2004, this reception has been held to recognize the accomplishments of graduating doctoral candidates and their respective doctoral committee chairs. At the event, Paul Ferguson, vice president for research and graduate studies, will review proper hooding protocol and practice the tradition with the candidates and their advisers in preparation for the doctoral committee chairs at commencement later that day.

Doctoral candidates who have completed their degree requirements and who are scheduled to graduate in December should attend with their major advisers, who will be hooding the candidates. Doctoral candidates should bring caps, gowns, and hoods to the reception. In addition, department chairs, faculty, and guests of students are encouraged to attend this prestigious event.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the college’s associate dean, Harriet Barlow, at harriet.barlow@unlv.edu.

Health Sciences
ASDA Chapter Wins Multiple Awards
The School of Dental Medicine’s chapter of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) received a number of awards at the organization’s annual session in September. Awards received included the most improved chapter, outstanding layout design for the UNLV ASDA Impressions newsletter, outstanding student legislative involvement for the chapter’s Legislative Grassroots Network, and the Political Action Committee, and a second-place finish in the ASDA/Crest healthy smiles 2010 community service award competition.

Additionally, fourth-year student Sara Sutherland was named delegate of the year for the ASDA region 10.

White Coat Ceremony
The dental school held its fourth annual white coat ceremony on Sept. 9. This year’s event featured the class of 2009. UNLV President Carole J. Haley, Robert Thalgott, president of the Nevada Dental Association; and keynote speaker Dr. Karl Haden were among the special guests in attendance.

The class of 2009 includes 75 entering student doctors selected from a total of 2,187 applicants. The white coat ceremony was the final event in a weeklong series of orientation events.
School Admissions Test credentials in the law school’s history. It also has the highest percentage of minorities, 27 percent. The 151 students in the first-year class were selected from a pool of 2,456 applicants, a 12 percent increase in the applicant pool over the record set last year. Most of the students are in the full-time program, 30 of them in part-time programs. In the part-time program, students are in the first half of the course. The class is evenly split between men and women, and 77 percent of the students are Nevada residents. Again this year, UNLV graduates make up a significant portion of the entering class.

Liberal Arts

History Strengths Outreach

The history department continues to serve UNLV and the community in a variety of ways. For example, the Las Vegas Women Oral History Project, supervised by women’s historian Joanie Goodwin and staffed by current and former history graduates, has already produced 30 oral histories of women in Las Vegas’ gaming and entertainment industries. These include prominent women such as hotel executive Claudine Williams as well as others who worked as dealers, dancers, waitresses, and maids between the 1940s and 1980s.

As the project developed, two more series were created: community builders and pioneers. Graduate students and community leaders have worked with Goodwin to preserve the stories of individuals such as Nellie Housley, Florence McClure, and others.

At the same time, the department’s public history program has served the university and community in other ways. In 2002, program director Andy Kirk helped create Preserve Nevada, a statewide organization dedicated to saving historically significant structures. Preserve Nevada works with state preservation offices in Carson City, and the history department provides office space and administrative support. In 2004, acting department head and current deputy director is UNLV doctoral student Michelle Turk.

This group has compiled a “most endangered structures list” that includes the Las Concha Hotel Lobby on the Las Vegas Strip. In its first few years, Preserve Nevada has been credited with convincing the media and the public that historic preservation is a legitimate aspect of civic planning and community life.

Sciences

College, CSUN Host Lecture on Stem Cell Research

The college is an active and enthusiastic leader in public programs for the campus and the Southern Nevada community. Its teaching and research activities have a direct and significant impact on the quality of life in Southern Nevada.

On Nov. 21, the college is joining in the conversation to host a lecture and panel discussion on embryonic stem cell research. The featured speaker, Dr. John Gearhart of Johns Hopkins University, is recognized as one of the foremost researchers and authorities on this subject. He has testified before Congress, foreign governments, and international organizations. A panel discussion will follow, involving individuals representing divergent views on this important subject. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the MSU Ballroom.

For more information, call the dean’s office at ext. 5-3487.

University College

Major Exploration Fair Scheduled Nov. 8

The college is in the center of the UNLV campus for the ninth annual Major Exploration Fair Nov. 8 and 9. The college has already recruited representatives from many fields to attend this year’s fair, which takes place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union. Students and community members are encouraged to attend the fair to learn about the wide range of degree options available at the college.

For more information, call the dean’s office at ext. 5-3487.

Orthodontic Residents Begin UNLV’s New Program

The first class of orthodontic residents began their residency program this fall. Only 16 out of 120 applicants were admitted to the two-year certificate program. The program was awarded initial accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation at its summer meeting.

Honors

Research Reception for Honors Students

Administrators, faculty, and 20 honors students came together for the fall 2005 college poster session reception, the largest such event in college history. Honors students presented the first stages of their theses projects. Research projects centered on such issues as fusion in balance (dance), policy analysis of post-9/11 immigration laws under the presidency of a Russian leader in public programs, and space exploration.

Law

Welcomes New Class

The faculty and administration of the Boyd School of Law welcomed its first-year students this semester with a weeklong orientation program that focused on Anthony Lewis’ classic book Gideon’s Trumpet. The book tells the story of the 1963 U.S. Supreme Court case, Gideon v. Wainwright, which established that the right to counsel in criminal cases extends to those who are not able to pay for an attorney.

The entering class was welcomed by Vince Consul, Nevada State Bar Association president; Bryan Scott, Clark County Bar Association president; Barbara Buckley, executive director of Clark County Legal Services; and federal defender Franny Forsman. They spoke about Gideon’s Trumpet, the importance of the right to counsel, and the crucial roles played by lawyers.

This entering class is especially strong, with the best undergraduate grade point average and Law School Admissions Test credentials in the law school’s history. It also has the highest percentage of minorities, 27 percent. The 151 students in the first-year class were selected from a pool of 2,456 applicants, a 12 percent increase in the applicant pool over the record set last year. Most of the students are in the full-time program, 30 of them in part-time programs. The class is evenly split between men and women, and 77 percent of the students are Nevada residents. Again this year, UNLV graduates make up a significant portion of the entering class.

Urban Affairs

Environmental Studies Thesis Posters Presented

The department of environmental studies held its annual senior thesis poster presentation and reception on the Marjorie Barrick Museum campus. Poster presenters included Deanna Morrell, recipient of the James E. Deacon scholarship, and Denie Rasmussen, recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award.

In the senior thesis course taught by department chair Helen Neill, environmental studies students conduct original research under the supervision of a content advisor, who is either a faculty member or a member of the professional community, and present their findings via visual presentations. Students tackled a wide range of topics related to Nevada, including correlation between xeniscoping and home property values, minimizing ozone pollution, habitats of native animals, desert cleanup and restoration, Yucca Mountain, the endangered structures list, and the history department.

In addition, a new program bringing enthusiasm and understanding to the academic adviser role was established, with Beth Hart and Leah Mayer coming together a diverse group of freshmen to meet with the diversity committee. The program encourages students to create a learning community in campus activities and offers team-building exercises and strategies for surviving the challenges of team-building exercises and strategies for surviving the challenges of college. It also focuses on how to benefit from academic opportunities.

Counseling Receives Grant

The department of marriage, family, and community counseling received a $15,000 grant from the National Institute of Addiction Professionals, Kovac, and the University of Nevada Las Vegas. The grant was awarded to support the student organization of Addiction Professionals, in which students are required to participate. The grant will be used to fund a graduate assistantship in problem gambling. In related news, on campus the Student Organization of Addiction Professionals, under the leadership of president Shawna Goodwin, is working to become a member of the American Psychological Association (APA). The group is also working to establish a chapter of the national organization, the National Association of Addiction Professionals. 

Inside UNLV | Page 5

Across Campus
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“We want all faculty and staff who come into contact with prospective students to be familiar with the changes so that any information they provide is up to date,” said Kristi Rodriguez, director of undergraduate recruitment.

“Our office has been working diligently to get the word out to prospective students and high school guidance counselors so that everyone is prepared for this change,” she said.

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For fall semester 2006 and summer sessions 2006 and 2007, students must apply by Feb. 1. For spring semester 2007, students must apply by Oct. 1. The changes (detailed in the chart) are part of the plan implemented by the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education to gradually increase admission standards until a 3.0 GPA is required of incoming freshmen for fall 2010.

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Give Us a Break: Campus Winter Closure Ahead

Winter break, a concept pioneered at UNLV last year proved so popular with employees that it will return this year — with the campus closing for all but essential functions between Christmas and New Year’s Day.

As a result, most employees will be off work for 10 days beginning Saturday, Dec. 24, and continuing through Monday, Jan. 2.

Essential services, such as police services, will continue throughout the break.

“UNLV employees were highly supportive of last year’s winter break and indicated they wanted to see it continued,” said Larry Hamilton, director of human resources administration. “Cabinet considered the proposal and decided to continue winter break this year.”

Employees who participate in winter break will be off four days that normally would be workdays, Dec. 27-30. The other six days either fall on weekends or are “replacement” days during the break.

Details such as these should be worked out in advance between employees and supervisors, he advised. While it is anticipated that most employees will choose to participate in winter break, employees have the option of working if that is their preference, Hamilton said.

Employees who opt to work during the break also talk to their supervisors so that the details of what work they will do and where they will work can be decided, he said.

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“We’re trying to provide some flexibility so that winter break works well for everyone,” he said. “The goal of winter break was that it would be good for employee morale,” Hamilton said.

“Employees say it’s working.”

Holiday Card Tree to Raise $5,000 to Support Students

By Regina Bacolas | UNLV Foundation

Employees have a chance to help students who require financial assistance by contributing to the UNLV Faculty Club scholarship endowment fund through the Holiday Card Tree.

The annual campaign for the fund is a long-standing tradition at UNLV. Since 1967, students have benefited from the generosity of current and retired faculty and staff.

Donors are recognized on a custom holiday greeting card sent to the campus community in early December.

The goal is to raise $5,000 in support of outstanding students like Gabriella Gonzalez (hotel administration) and Bradley Schaeck (engineering), who are this year’s recipients of the UNLV Faculty Club scholarship. Contributions for this drive also count toward reaching the goal of Invent the Future, the university’s first comprehensive fundraising campaign.

Look for information about how to give to this year’s Holiday Card Tree scholarship campaign in your mailbox this week in November. Donors can return the form attached to the flier or contribute online at foundation.unlv.edu.

More info: For the Holiday Card Tree campaign, call Deborah Young, the UNLV Foundation’s director of scholarship and tribute giving, at ext. 5-2818. To learn how you can help Invent the Future campaign, go to campaign.unlv.edu.

Employees Strive to Keep Nowlin’s Memory Alive

In honor of Dr. Thomas P. Nowlin’s memory and his commitment to education, colleagues of the former chairman of clinical sciences at the School of Dental Medicine have come together to create a scholarship endowment fund.

Dr. Nowlin died March 5, was integral in the development of the school, according to Dean Patrick Ferrillo.

“He contributed to the philosophy of what we were trying to achieve here — the integrated curriculum, the team concept. We are still working to make sure that Tom’s vision of teamwork and integrated curriculum do not go away,” said Ferrillo, who had known Nowlin for about a decade.

“He cared about the next generation of faculty and the students, and it is important to give the scholarship to someone who has the same career path and characteristics as Tom. Tom was committed to academics, committed to student doctors.”

More info: Contact Zach Smith at ext. 4-2507. To learn more about donations toward scholarships and university programs, visit foundation.unlv.edu.

Scholarship Details

Employees are establishing the Dr. Thomas P. Nowlin Scholarship Endowment Fund to honor the former chairman of clinical sciences at the School of Dental Medicine.

Once $30,000 is raised, the scholarship will be endowed, which means it will be awarded to students year after year, explained Zach Smith, director of development for the dental school. The amount of the scholarship award will depend on the total amount of the endowment.

Reaching the minimum $30,000 goal would provide a scholarship of between $1,000 and $1,500 annually, Smith said, adding that money raised beyond the goal will provide for larger awards.

“To date, donors to the endowment fund include UNLV School of Dental Medicine faculty and staff, corporate partners, state and national dental organizations, and friends and colleagues of Dr. Nowlin — including a significant number of donations from colleagues at the Health Science Center at San Antonio, his former place of employment,” he said.

Keep students in mind when making your endowment. The Dr. Thomas P. Nowlin Scholarship Endowment fund is a long-standing tradition at UNLV. Since 1967, students have benefited from the generosity of current and retired faculty and staff.

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Cutting Consumption

UNLV’s Center for Energy Research teamed up with a consortium of partners to build a Zero Energy Home. The home combines state-of-the-art, energy-efficient construction and appliances with commercially available renewable energy systems such as solar water heating and solar electricity. Produced by the home is fed back into the utility grid. At left, Bob Boehm, engineering professor and center director (on the right), discusses the project’s construction with a visitor.

Over an 18-month period, engineering students and faculty will monitor the energy performance of the home compared to a traditional model next door.

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Santos Marquez wanders the halls armed with a walkie-talkie, ready to spring into action. She is one of six custodians on the day shift at UNLV charged with responding to daily clean-up emergencies. She also trolls some 100 women’s restrooms on campus a day — stopping at least twice at the high usage restrooms — to make sure they’re stocked with the necessities.

But cleaning up after the thousands of people on campus primarily is done after hours. The 140 custodial workers and administrative staff work swing and graveyard shifts, with a few on hand over the weekend. The crews go through $260,000 a year in paper products and cleaning supplies.

Not surprisingly with so much building space to cover, their job is tough, says Arch Archibald, executive director of facilities. “We appreciate it when employees and students take a moment to make sure the trash made it into the trash can and any soap they spilled is wiped off the sink — just like your mother always told you at home,” he says.

Archibald suggests that all special cleaning requests be called into the facilities help desk at ext. 5-4357.