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Inside UNLV

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Improved E-mail Communication

New software now allows you to send e-mail to students in a particular department.

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New Faces

Meet three new coworkers who are bringing their expertise to campus.

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Favorite Gifts

Which colleague had a star named after her? Coworkers share memories of the best gifts ever received.

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Inside UNLV

News & Information for UNLV Insiders

DECEMBER 2005

PLI Makes Mark in Community

Public Lands Institute Fosters Research, Education, and Outreach

By LaNelda Rolley | Public Lands Institute

After just two years of sweat and perseverance, UNLV's Public Lands Institute (PLI) has evolved from a good idea to a vital component in the stewardship of Nevada's public lands.

At the same time, the PLI is offering UNLV students and faculty unique learning and research opportunities. Working in conjunction with federal agencies, students and faculty from seven colleges and five divisions are providing expertise to environmental projects worth millions of dollars.

"We knew going into this effort that the benefit to the federal agencies and the university would be significant," said Nancy Flagg, institute director. "The federal agencies, operating together as the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership, gained immediate access to faculty and staff with expertise in subject areas that affect federal land management. In turn, the university opened the doors for faculty, staff, and students to become more engaged in local conservation programs, research, and educational activities."



Outreach programs, such as this farm festival, provide an opportunity for UNLV's Public Lands Institute to educate youngsters to be future stewards of Nevada's public lands.

Bringing Together Federal Agencies

The Public Lands Institute began as a university initiative in April 2004, when Peg Rees, associate vice president for research and outreach, learned the federal land management agencies in Clark County needed a mechanism to jointly implement projects funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land

Management Act of 1998.

Southern Nevada is surrounded by seven million acres of public land, which includes eight conservation and recreation areas plus 19 wilderness areas. There are four federal land agencies to manage them: the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

The federal act requires the BLM to sell certain federal lands in Southern Nevada and acquire environmentally sensitive lands. It also allows for the

proceeds from the sale of public lands to help fund:

- Capital improvements at Lake Mead, Red Rock Canyon, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and other federally managed recreation and conservation areas.
- Development of parks, trails, and natural areas in Clark County.
- Conservation and environmental education initiatives on federal land.
- Restoration and conservation of Lake Tahoe.
- The Clark County School District

- The Southern Nevada Water Authority

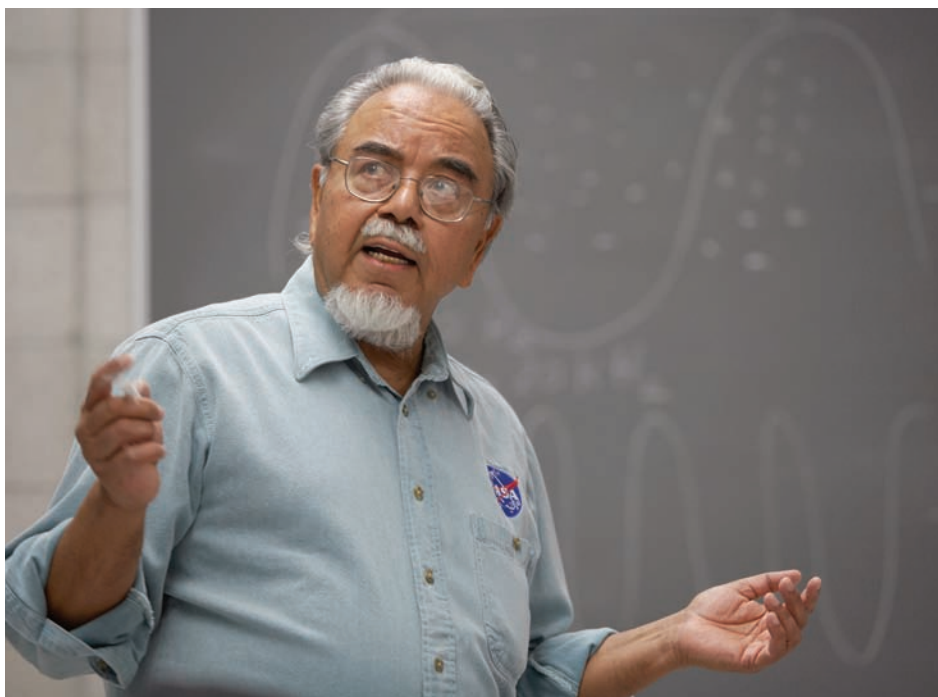
Boosting Research Opportunities

The institute's staff of 28 are focused in three broad program areas: education, research, and community engagement. Through its education programs, the institute enriches the knowledge of children and adults through direct interaction with the natural world. Flagg cites as an example the Discover Mojave Outdoor World program,

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- > **PLI Volunteer Program Wins National Award**, page 2



Math professor Satish Bhatnagar and his family have established an endowed scholarship for math students. They say it's their way of giving back to UNLV.

Family Philanthropy

Longtime Math Professor and Family Establish Scholarship

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Satish Bhatnagar's family has witnessed the value of a UNLV education from several angles: as faculty, as students, as graduates, and now as donors.

Originally arriving with plans to stay only one year, Satish has spent the past 31 years teaching math to thousands of UNLV students. During that time three of his own children, including son Avnish, earned degrees here.

Witnessing the impact a UNLV education can have on students, the father and son decided in 2002 to

start a scholarship for mathematics students in the College of Sciences.

Satish, who is an associate dean of the College of Sciences, said he started the scholarship as a way to give back to UNLV. "I feel attached to the people, ideas, and the institution."

Life's Lessons

Growing up in India, Satish learned the value and importance of higher education from his father; a lesson he, in turn, passed on to his children.

Avnish, who graduated from UNLV in 1989 with a degree in mathematical sciences, now works for the Computer Sciences Corp. as a contractor for NASA. "In our home, my

> See **Scholarships**, Page 3

Renewable Energy Research Buzzing with Potential

Former President Bill Clinton recently energized (pun intended) a packed house at the Nevada Development Authority's annual dinner with the suggestion that our state is uniquely poised to lead the nation in developing renewable energy technologies. The instant response was, "Why not?"



Certainly the climate, geographic features, and population growth in our state make it an ideal test bed. In addition to the entrepreneurial attitude found in our region, there are also high economic stakes for the construction and hospitality industries, along with many others whose financial futures are increasingly linked with the cost of doing business — with an ever-rising percentage of that cost dedicated to power.

Though the latest buzz surrounding this idea of Nevada as a renewable energy capital has been loud, the idea is not new. One needs to look no further than our campus to find leading work in hydrogen fuel, solar energy, wind, and hydroelectric power. Many of our faculty members have long been engaged in groundbreaking work in these areas.

For example, Robert Boehm, director of the

College of Engineering's Center for Energy Research, recently received the 2005 Rudolf W. Gunnerman Silver State Award for Excellence in Science and Technology, in recognition of his work on solar power and other renewable energy sources. Under Boehm's leadership the work of the center has grown tremendously, with more than \$8 million in research funding received over the past five years.

Our congressional delegation — and particularly Sen. Harry Reid — has recognized the need to develop renewable technologies here in Nevada. More than \$35 million in federal research grants over the past three years have been secured for renewable energy research at UNLV. In addition, the current energy and water appropriations bill includes \$27 million for energy efficiency and renewable energy work on campus — for production of biofuels, hydrogen, hybrid solar lighting, and more.

To fully realize the vision for Nevada as a renewable energy leader, these technologies must be applied at the practical level for business and consumer use. One current example of this is a wonderful public-private project of our Center for Energy Research, called the Zero Energy Home (a project contracted by the National Renewable Energy Lab). Two identical homes were built side by side in a new subdivision in southwest Las Vegas — one

using traditional power and one employing energy-producing technologies and energy-efficient construction, such as solar paneling and specially insulated windows and walls, to such an extent that there is net zero energy use. Partnering with Pinnacle Homes, Nevada Power, and others, our researchers have set up a living laboratory wherein real-life conditions are monitored and analyzed. The energy benefits realized, weighed against costs of the new technology, may truly make this the home of the future.

Another example is a UNLV Research Foundation-sponsored hydrogen storage project, teaming Clemens Heske and other researchers with hydrogen experts from Ford, General Motors, other automotive corporations, and oil companies, to resolve pressing safety and mileage issues to further the use of hydrogen in automobiles in the future.

Projects like these, involving the private sector and engaging the consumer, will go a long way in demonstrating the practical potential for renewable energy application. As a university community, we must seek out and cultivate these partnerships. Local business and civic leaders should also capitalize on these opportunities, knowing that together we can power a strong economic future for Southern Nevada.

'Get Outdoors' Gets Outside Recognition

By LaNelda Rolley | Public Lands Institute

The idea of facilitating collaboration and volunteerism between government agencies may seem like a daunting task to the weak of heart. But for Donna Grady, it is where her passion lies and her talent shines.

Grady joined UNLV's Public Lands Institute last December as project manager of the Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program.

Before coming to UNLV, Grady was a program and marketing director for a non-profit organization aimed at providing low-income seniors with affordable prescription drugs. Grady also managed the AmeriCorps/VISTA and Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP). The techniques she acquired for recruiting volunteers of all ages and backgrounds have proven invaluable to recruit, train, and recognize volunteers on public lands.

The interagency volunteer effort began informally in 2001 among the volunteer coordinators at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service. The

agencies turned their early successes into a proposal for a formal interagency program, which was funded in 2004 through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

"Adding Donna's expertise into the mix has allowed the program to advance to the next level of success," said Peg Rees, executive director of the Public Lands Institute. "She facilitated a coordinated effort known as Get Outdoors Nevada and has worked hard to establish the crucial community connections to recruit new volunteers from service groups, businesses, the university, and youth organizations."

Volunteer Rolls Growing

In one year alone, Get Outdoors Nevada gained nearly 600 new volunteers. The program now includes 2,400 volunteers who have contributed 160,000 volunteer hours in fiscal year 2005 to clean up and restore Southern Nevada's public lands, saving the federal government more than \$2.7 million dollars this year. In recognition of these impressive accomplishments, the program was recently



Donna Grady of UNLV's Public Lands Institute talks to some children during a farm festival at Horseman's Park.

awarded the 2005 National Take Pride in America Award for the best federal volunteer program.

"The volunteers exceeded our expectations, which led to the program exceeding our goals," said Grady.

"People were eager to get involved and do something positive for the community. We've been able to establish a strong connection with a growing network of community volunteers in a relatively short period of time."

> Public Lands

Continued from Page 1

which introduces Clark County children to such activities as bird watching and fishing. "These students are learning to value and enjoy the outdoors but are also transferring that knowledge into the classroom with their science lessons," she said.

Such programs frequently have research components. For example, Lori Olafson, Gregg Schraw, and Michelle Weibel of educational psychology are studying the effects that outdoor programs have on environmental knowledge and attitudes in inner-city youths. They are also studying how participation in outdoor programs affect classroom behavior.

Other research projects run the gamut from desert tortoise monitoring and archaeological site assessments to littering laws and invasive plant management.

The institute's research efforts are designed to help UNLV reach its goal of being a premier research institution through multi-disciplinary research, Rees said. "We focus on projects that will further our understanding of natural and cultural resources," she said. "We also want our research to enhance decision making and adaptive land management, inform the public, and improve public lands stewardship."

Long-Lasting Effects

As Rees, Flagg, and their staff look back over the past year, they see their

mission more clearly today than when it was initially developed — to be fully engaged in strengthening the national fabric that is essential for the protection, conservation, and management of public lands.

The institute's community engagement activities are likely to have significant impact, Rees said. "Collaborating with groups of people is when you'll have a long-lasting, positive effect on the community."

The institute and its federal and non-profit partners together have already received national recognition. During the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation in August, the Southern Nevada Lands Partnership, of which the institute is a partner,

was honored for its multi-agency approach to the conservation and enjoyment of Nevada's public lands.

In September, a program administered by the institute received the 2005 Take Pride in America National Award for being the best federal volunteer program (see story above). In October, the Take Pride in America Program awarded the institute a certificate for its contribution to the nationwide effort through the Southern Nevada Take Pride in America Program.

"The national acknowledgement points to the value our university can bring to community partnerships," said Flagg. "It also highlights the fact that the Public Lands Institute has had a great impact on cooperative conservation efforts in a short period of time."



Homecoming Happenings

(At left) UNLV's marching band struts through campus the evening before the homecoming game. (Below) Blue Man Group imitators perform at the Rebel Variety Show as part of the homecoming week celebration.



> Scholarships

Continued from Page 1

father always emphasized pursuing higher education, although we were not pressed into a particular field," he said. "He always encouraged me and taught me that education extends outside the classroom."

In 2000, Satish set up two awards each in five different institutions in his hometown of Bathinda, Punjab, India, to honor his father, mother, and grandfather. The awards are given to high school students and recognize academic excellence.

His interest in setting up a scholarship at UNLV was intensified after talking with now-retired professor Gary Jones, a colleague who had introduced an award in the department of political science. Satish learned that this particular award would no longer be given after Jones left UNLV. He liked the idea of giving back to the university, but wanted something more permanent.

"I want to promote a discipline that has given me so much," Satish said. "Math is the only profession I have ever had since 1961. Math and UNLV have given me so much. As you grow, you feel indebtedness to your profession."

Endowing A UNLV Scholarship

Satish approached John Gallagher, vice president for development and executive director of the UNLV Foundation, about endowing a scholarship. A scholarship may be endowed with a minimum of \$25,000. The gifts that make up the endowment principal are invested in perpetuity, and after two years, the interest generated is available to make scholarship awards.

"The family's support of this scholarship speaks to how deep Satish's dedication is to his students," said Gallagher, adding that the scholarship is a meaningful way

to honor Satish's commitment to education that will last well beyond his years at UNLV.

The Bhatnagar Scholarships were first awarded this year and are named for Satish's father. They are given annually to a top math major and top math minor.

As a former UNLV student, Avnish recognized the benefits of providing student support. At the same time he appreciated the excellent instructors he had in the honors program. "There was definitely a need for a scholarship in the department," said Avnish. "As an alumnus of UNLV, I want to maintain a connection with the university, and helping endow a scholarship is one way to do that. It was even more special to establish the scholarship with my father." Even today, there are very few scholarships in math and physics.

In his line of work Avnish knows first-hand the value of having an education in math and computer science. "This scholarship is a way to encourage others to pursue this field of work," he said.

Ron Yasbin, dean of the College of Sciences, applauded the Bhatnagars for their contributions. "Avnish now contributes his time and energies as an alumnus, and this scholarship is a wonderful example of how a member of the UNLV faculty, with the added support of his family, can build an endowed scholarship in just a few years."

Satish hopes to extend the scholarship to other disciplines — particularly English and curriculum and instruction. His daughters, Archana and Anubha, each received a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction.

i More info: The UNLV Foundation is the university's private fundraising unit. Learn more at foundation.unlv.edu.

Direct Deposit:

Don't Leave for Break Without It

Get your paycheck on time and without hassle by enrolling in direct deposit. Sign up by Dec. 10 and you won't have to trek back to campus to pick up your check during winter break.

Direct deposit is now open to all employee types, including part-time instructors, graduate assistants, student workers, and casual labor employees (with the exception of Thomas & Mack casual labor). This convenient service ensures your pay is automatically deposited in your designated account by the opening of business on payday.

The payroll services office also recently expanded the program to allow you to split your pay among multiple accounts.

i More info: Signing up is easy either online or with a paper form. Learn how by visiting payroll.unlv.edu or calling ext. 5-3825.

Tech Savvy

New Tool Allows Departments to Target Student E-mails

By Mamie Peers | OIT

E-mailing students in particular departments just got easy. In November, the office of information technology introduced a new campuswide software application to simplify communicating with any department's students. It's called SEND, which stands for Student E-mail Newsletters from Departments.

Rick Bold, assistant dean for undergraduate programs in the College of Business, said, "SEND greatly improves our ability to communicate with students. Now, we can notify targeted groups of students of important, relevant information about such things as scholarships, deadlines, and college events."

"Prior to SEND, I had to submit a focus report request to Student Enrollment Services to get an up-to-date list of students, copy the e-mail addresses into an e-mail, and then send a message. Now all I do is log into SEND, type my e-mail message,

click submit, and my message, along with everyone else's from the College of Business, is compiled into an easy-to-read newsletter for students."

The newsletters are delivered into students' Rebelmail accounts (@unlv.nevada.edu) no more than once a week. "Since UNLV is sending official communications through Rebelmail," explained Bold, "we should encourage students to check the account as often as they would their personal accounts."

SEND is an extension of a program introduced last spring called RAVE, Rebel Announcements Via E-mail. The next phase of development is for the university to purchase listserv software that allows faculty and staff to target student e-mails based on any criteria in the student information system, said OIT's Lori Temple.

i More info: Visit ccs.unlv.edu/cns/send/home.asp to learn how to use the SEND e-mail system.

Inside UNLV

Got An Idea?

Inside UNLV welcomes comments and suggestions. Please e-mail inside.unlv@cmail.nevada.edu or drop a note to Inside UNLV at mail code 1024.

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President Carol C. Harter

requests that faculty and classified and professional staff join her at...

UNLV's Annual Holiday Reception

WHEN: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 4:30 to 6:00 pm

WHERE: Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History

Business

Business Plan Competition Open to All Students

Nevada undergraduate and graduate students will have a shot at a \$20,000 grand prize in the second annual Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition.

Slated for the spring, the competition encourages students to act on their entrepreneurial spirit and ideas while teaching them the process of creating a business — from conception to implementation.

In all, more than \$100,000 in prizes will be awarded.

In addition to the cash awards, the experience, exposure, and prestige that accompany participation make it an outstanding student opportunity. UNLV, UNR and Sierra Nevada College have agreed to participate so far. The competition can serve as a catalyst for bringing higher education together with the business community.

The competition is open to all faculty-sponsored, full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at any of Nevada's universities or colleges. Participating teams will fine-tune the art of brainstorming and crafting a business plan; gain access to networks of successful entrepreneurs, lenders, and investors; and share in teambuilding opportunities.

For more information, go to www.unlv.edu/projects/bplan.

Education

College Forms Partnership with Prep Academy

A new collaborative partnership will give elementary education majors the chance to serve as apprentice teachers at the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy.

The Beauchamp Apprentice Teacher Program is a fully funded three-year initiative that will allow the students to teach alongside peers

and experienced teachers in Agassi Prep elementary classrooms. They will also work in the counseling department and in the specialty areas of literacy and physical education.

The 15 inaugural apprentices teach collaboratively with lead teachers from 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. each school day. Through this intensive field experience, apprentices will log more than 1,200 hours in the classroom before beginning their first year of teaching. The experience also provides a mechanism for teachers to share planning, management, and instructional strategies.

The presence of two teachers in each classroom provides the elementary students with more individualized and small-group instruction, allowing teachers to explicitly meet the needs of each learner. In addition, faculty from both UNLV and Nevada State College provide program support and routine professional development opportunities for the program.

Aimee Boucher, an apprentice teacher and UNLV graduate student, said she is thrilled to have this opportunity. "This will give me experience far beyond what is available in the traditional practicum and student teaching and will make me more ready for my own classroom next year," she said.

Engineering

College Helps Cut Costs of Lighting Up the Strip

Cutting energy costs for the bright lights of Las Vegas Strip hotel/casinos could be one of the results of a research partnership in the electrical and computer engineering department.

Professor Paolo Ginobbi; Blake Gover, chief engineer for Yesco Electronics; and graduate student Diana Lopez will spend the next year improving "light emitting diodes," also known as LEDs. This type of lighting is used in everything from digital clock displays to massive out-

door signage.

Goals of the project, which is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy, include:

- Reducing the power consumption needed to operate the LEDs.
- Increasing the life span of the individual LEDs.
- Maintaining the color uniformity throughout the life of the LED.

Today, the average LED begins to fail after 3,000 hours of use. The research team is striving to increase the life span of an individual LED to 100,000 hours.

YESCO (Young Electric Sign Company) is the oldest company in Las Vegas producing LEDs. It produces custom signs and displays for companies throughout the West and South.

Project Improves Undersea Vehicles Operations

Under the guidance of professor Sahjendra Singh, electrical and computer engineering graduate students are improving the swift maneuvers of aquatic vehicles. Students Aditya Simha and Mukund Narasimhan are developing biologically inspired controls for bio-robotic autonomous undersea vehicles, which are used to detect mines and enhance search and rescue operations.

Their work involves developing an adaptive control system for maneuvering the vehicles in the dive-plane by the upward curving of dorsal fins.

The Office of Naval Research is sponsoring the project. UNLV is completing the research in conjunction with George Washington University.

Fine Arts

NCT, PAC December Line Up

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre is proud to present *Carnival!* Dec. 2-11 in the Judy Bayley Theatre.

"Love Makes the World Go 'Round" in this enchanting musical about the relationship between a carnival girl and a crippled puppeteer who can only communicate through his puppets. Based on the book by Michael Stewart with music and lyrics by Bob Merrill, *Carnival!* promises to be great holiday fun for the whole family.

Don't miss two exciting offerings from the Performing Arts Center this month: "An Evening with Betty Buckley" on Dec. 3 and pianist Emanuel Ax in concert with clarinetist Richard Stoltzman on Dec. 6.

For more information, call ext. 5-2787.

Graduate

Doctoral Student Enrollment Jumps 34.5 Percent

The number of graduate and professional students enrolled at UNLV climbed to more than 6,000 this fall from approximately 5,500 in fall 2004. The doctoral student full-time equivalent enrollments (FTE) increased by 34.5 percent from 433 in fall 2004 to 582 in fall 2005. This indicates a significant increase in the number of Ph.D., Ed.D., D.M.A. (musical arts), and D.P.T. (physical therapy) students. "As UNLV continues to build its reputation as a premier metropolitan research university, enhancement of graduate enrollment, especially at the doctoral level, remains integral to the institution's progress," said Paul Ferguson, vice

president for research and graduate studies. "We are pleased to see this fall's increases, and we will continue working with the colleges to support programs of the highest quality for the increasing number of students."

Master's student FTE has remained relatively steady, with an increase of 1.2 percent. The total number of professional students increased with the addition of another class in the School of Dental Medicine. Professional students include 477 in the law school and 309 in the dental school.

Hotel

PGA Donation Makes Golf for Business Program Available

UNLV's Golf: for Business and Life program is within putting distance, thanks to a generous donation by the Professional Golf Association Foundation.

The PGA Foundation made a generous monetary donation to the college, earmarked for the Golf: for Business and Life program at UNLV. The donation was made on behalf of PGA pros and UNLV alumni Chad Campbell and Chris Riley and will provide financial security for the UNLV program.

Through classes taught by PGA professionals, students will get the opportunity to blend a hobby and popular sport with professional networking. The program improves the golf skills of college students while helping them understand how to use the sport for professional development.

The current session of the Golf: for Business and Life class is being taught at the Las Vegas National Golf Club.

In September, Stuart Mann, dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration; professor Jim Busser; and Chris Cain, director of the professional golf management program, presented Ernie Ellison, director of the PGA Foundation, a plaque of gratitude at the PGA Fall Expo in Las Vegas.

Law

Justices Transform Court into Learning Opportunity

One of the classrooms at the Boyd School of Law was transformed into an appellate courtroom Oct. 10-12 when a panel of the Nevada Supreme Court heard oral arguments at UNLV.

In each case a losing party appealed to the court arguing that the trial court judge had made a mistake that required reversal and new trial court proceedings. Justices A. William Maupin, Mark Gibbons, and James W. Hardesty heard multiple cases on each of the three days, ranging from murder convictions to commercial disputes to more technical procedural problems.

Students enrolled in several law classes, including lawyering process, criminal law, and civil procedure, attended arguments. They were excited about the opportunity to see the highest Nevada court in action, and to watch a variety of appellate lawyering styles.

After almost every oral argument, Maupin, Gibbons, and Hardesty stayed on the bench to answer students' questions. The wide-ranging

Health Sciences

UNLV School of Nursing Partners with Area Hospitals

The School of Nursing and three local hospitals are launching an innovative clinical teaching model to provide training to approximately half of the university's undergraduate nursing students.

University Medical Center, Valley Hospital, and Desert Springs Hospital have joined with UNLV in the Home Hospital Project. Each hospital assigned a member of its nursing staff to work with eight UNLV students in the first semester of the four-semester nursing program.

This fall, students are spending one day a week in these hospitals; in future semesters they will spend two days per week as they complete other clinical rotations on medical-surgical, critical care, pediatric, and obstetrical units.

The program offers benefits to the students, the hospital, and UNLV, according to nursing department administrators. Administrators expect that:

- Students will improve their skills more quickly because they will not have to orient to a different facility each semester.
- The hospitals may find that students who train there eventually apply for jobs after graduation and advance quickly through the orientation program.
- UNLV will need fewer clinical instructors. Such instructors are difficult to find because of the national nursing shortage.

Dean Carolyn Yucha and faculty members Rosemary Witt and Susan Kowalski will evaluate the program over the next two years to determine whether students assigned to a "home hospital" experience less anxiety and stress and improved academic performance, including their performance on standardized tests and licensing exams.





Coffee and Conversation

Professor Yu Xu of the Division of Health Sciences speaks with UNLV President Carol C. Harter during a recent faculty breakfast. Among the topics Harter discussed with faculty was the plan to ask the Board of Regents this month to speed up the increase in admission standards at the two universities. The board already has approved increasing the required GPA to 3.0 in 2010. UNLV and UNR plan to ask that the admission standards be changed in 2007 in order to enhance student success and control enrollment growth.

topics included the court's workload and use of law clerks, advice on how to approach law school, and the judges' assessments of the strengths and weaknesses of the practicing bar. In many of their answers, the justices emphasized the importance of writing skills for all lawyers, and advised future lawyers to do as much writing as possible as undergraduates and law students.

The justices impressed the students, not only because of the high quality of their judicial work, but also because of their generosity in transforming their court calendar into a wonderful learning opportunity for the law school.

Liberal Arts

WRIN Research Projects Enhance Student Learning

The Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) serves the entire state with programs of research and education. In addition to the research roundtables on gender and a guest lecture series, WRIN currently has three defined research areas:

- The National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership program, in partnership with the Rutgers University Center for American Women and Politics, offers a leadership institute for college women each summer with follow-up sessions throughout the year.
- The Status of Women in Nevada study follows dozens of indicators of health, education, employment, and civic engagement in order to understand the evolving status of women over time. This project is a collaborative effort with the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, D.C., and the Nevada Women's Fund.
- The Las Vegas Women Oral History Project collects and preserves the narratives of women leaders in business, politics, and organizations in Southern Nevada. Approximately 50 interviews will have been completed by the end of 2005.

Undergraduate and graduate students are central to every research project undertaken by WRIN. From academic research to educational outreach, students have used their

classroom knowledge to practice archival skills, oral history training, grant writing, statistical analysis, and long-range planning with the variety of WRIN programs.

The research projects as well as faculty and student scholarships are naming opportunities for UNLV's Invent the Future campaign. WRIN has been inventing new forms of research and education at UNLV since its approval by the Board of Regents in 1999. Its academic home is the College of Liberal Arts.

Libraries

Centennial Exhibit Opening

An extensive exhibit on the history of gaming in Las Vegas opens next month in celebration of the Lied Library's fifth anniversary.

"A Centennial Celebration of Gaming in Las Vegas: Documenting Yesterday for the Benefit of Tomorrow," chronicles the 100-year history of gaming in Southern Nevada using the unique materials from the UNLV Center for Gaming Research and other special collections of the Libraries.

Commissioned for the 2005 Global Gaming Expo (G2E) — the world's largest gaming industry convention — the exhibit was created by the Center for Gaming Research. Its display at the Lied marks the first time this colorful history of Southern Nevada will be on view to the public.

Although founded as a train stop, not as a vacation resort, Las Vegas eventually achieved universal acclaim as the world's leading gaming and entertainment destination. Over the last hundred years, Las Vegas and Clark County have seen many pioneering developments. From the earliest saloons with faro tables to the soaring towers of the Las Vegas Strip, the city has provided the most exciting gaming venues of the day for its visitors.

The Center for Gaming Research, part of the Libraries, has long been a vital resource for gaming scholarship and the examination of gaming history in Southern Nevada. It houses the largest English-language collection of books, periodicals,

government documents, and manuscript collections of gaming-related materials in the world. The center's online resources can be found at gaming.unlv.edu.

Sciences

Studying the Earth and Global Climate Shifts

An invaluable piece of equipment is helping geosciences professors better understand important climatic changes in the world.

Matt Lachniet and Ganqing Jiang, have received funding from the National Science Foundation to study global climatic changes using carbon and oxygen isotopes. This funding brings a mass spectrometer to the UNLV campus that will foster collaborations between faculties across disciplines at UNLV.

Important climatic changes are driving a growing need to predict the future behavior of the global environment. Since the beginning of the last century, the level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the earth's atmosphere has increased approximately 20 percent, along with a global temperature increase of 1°C and a sea level rise of 20 to 40 centimeters.

Predictions of our future world climate will be viable only when we possess a thorough understanding of the many physical, chemical, and biological processes that operate in this complex system. Two major elements, carbon and oxygen, may hold the key. Changes in atmospheric CO₂ and O₂, the degradation of the sea level, variations in photosynthesis, temperature shifts, and altered levels of precipitation can be revealed by different isotope ratios of these two elements.

The mass spectrometer allows these scholars to convert carbon and oxygen molecules into ions, separate them according to atomic mass, and sequentially record the individual ion current intensity to obtain an isotope ratio. Lachniet and Jiang are examining isotopes of Quaternary speleothem carbonates and sedimentary rocks dating back 600 million years to the late Neoproterozoic Era.

The mass spectrometer will also provide research opportunities for

undergraduate and graduate students in the sciences.

Student Life

RebelCard Program Expands to Off-Campus Businesses

The RebelCard, UNLV's identification card, is a "smart card" that supports a variety of functions — from buying food and books to making Xerox copies. Now, the card can be used at several off-campus locations as well as here at UNLV.

Alex Herzog, associate director of RebelCard Services, and his staff have worked recently to enhance the program, making it a more valuable service to employees and students.

Students, faculty, and staff can deposit dollars, known as RebelCash, on their cards to be used at a variety of locations. Nearby off-campus businesses that accept RebelCash include:

- Along Maryland Parkway: 7-Eleven, Chipotle, Jack in the Box, Rebelbooks, and The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf.
- On Paradise Road: Joe's New York Pizza and CVS
- On Flamingo Road: Jack in the Box.

RebelCard Services will continue to add businesses to the RebelCash service. This new feature has been well received; cardholders have spent more than \$10,000 at these locations since Aug. 1.

On campus, users have purchased an average of more than 500 Jamba Juices a day, washed and dried 21,792 loads of laundry in the residence halls, bought more than 36,000 cups of coffee at the Book 'N Bean, and purchased 4,622 Pepsi products from 20 card-equipped vending machines on campus.

Students, faculty, and staff can activate their RebelCards in MSU, Room 160.

Urban Affairs

Journalism School Studies Changes in LV Newspapers

Stephen Lacy, an internationally recognized scholar in newspaper and media economics, visited the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies in September. The Michigan State University professor worked with faculty and students in recording the historic joint operating agreement reconfiguration between the *Las Vegas Sun* and the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

A former director of the journalism program at Michigan State, Lacy also will confer with journalism faculty about the school's plans for accreditation.

Social Work Awarded \$2.2 Million for Training Program

The School of Social Work has been awarded a \$2.2 million contract by the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services to provide curriculum development, research, and training opportunities for all child welfare personnel in Southern Nevada.

The School of Social Work and Boyd School of Law are now offering a cross-disciplinary graduate degree. The dual juris doctorate/master of social work (JD/MSW) degree program is designed so that students can complete it in four to five years.

Spotlight On Accomplishments

Submit Your News

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

> **John A. Mercer** (Kinesiology) had the manuscript "Technical Note: Quantifying Muscle Activity During Running in the Water" published in the *Aquatic Fitness Research Journal*. Co-authors were kinesiology graduate students David Groh, David Black, and Angela Gruenenfelder.

> **Sandy Kijanka** and **Amanda Owens** (Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach) presented "Academic Success and Cultural Enrichment Project: Advising that Addresses the Needs of First Generation and Limited English Speaking Students — Project Results" at the National Academic Advising Association meeting in Las Vegas in October. Their session was sponsored by the ESL and International Student Advising Commission as a featured session.

> **Harvey Wallmann** (Physical Therapy) had a manuscript published in the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research* titled "Surface Electromyographic Assessment of the Effect of Static Stretching of the Gastrocnemius on Vertical Jump Performance." Co-authors on the manuscript were **Wes McWhorter** (Physical Therapy) and **John Mercer** (Kinesiology).

> **Susan Meacham** (Nutrition Sciences) served as a session co-chair and presented an invited paper at the third International Symposium on All Aspects of Plant and Animal Boron Nutrition in Wuhan, China, in September. Working on the paper with Meacham were chemistry graduate student Sarah Ziegler, chemistry alumna Kyler E. Elwell, and **Stephen Carper** (Chemistry). The presentation was titled "Boric Acid Inhibits Cell Growth in Breast and Prostate Cancer Cell Lines."



> **Bill Holcomb** (Kinesiology) had a manuscript published in the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning* titled "Is Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation an Effective Alternative to Resistance Training?"

> **Stephen Rosenbaum, Dolores Tanno**, and **Stan Miloykov** (Honors) participated in a panel presentation at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference in St. Louis in October. They discussed how honors students experience the transition from high school to college.

> **Mack Rubley** (Kinesiology) co-authored the manuscript "Effect of an 18-Day Stretching Regimen, with or Without Pulsed, Shortwave Diathermy, on Ankle Dorsiflexion after 3 Weeks" in the *Journal of Athletic Training*. His co-authors were J.B. Brucker, K.L. Knight, and D.O. Draper.

> **Kathy Espin** (Communication Studies) served as a panelist for WriterFest 2005, a writing seminar held by the Las Vegas branch of the National League of American Pen Women, in October.

> **John Massengale** (Kinesiology) recently presented "The Filming of the History of Physical Education in the United States: the Western Society Connection" at the 50th annual conference of the Western Society for Kinesiology and Wellness (WSKW) in Reno. In addition, he recently published the paper "Credentials, Certification, and Licensure: A Sport Law Perspective" in the WSKW's *Western Society Review*.

> **Kyle Ethelbah** (Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach) served as one of the marshals of the second annual Hispanic International Day Parade of Nevada in downtown Las Vegas in October. He also recently was elected vice president of the National Educational Opportunity Centers Association (NEOCA) at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The purpose of NEOCA is to help educational opportunity centers (EOCs) and similar programs aid disadvantaged students and pre-student populations in obtaining a quality education. UNLV's adult educational services program is known as an EOC project.

> **Patricia A. Markos** (Marriage, Family, and Community Counseling) and Kenneth McCurdy (Gannon University) presented "Assessing the Effectiveness of Sandplay in Counselor Supervision" at the Association for Counselor Educators and Supervisors National Conference in Pittsburgh.



> **Martin Dean Dupalo** (Political Science) was selected as chairperson of the Las Vegas Community Development Review Board, which is charged with making funding recommendations involving more than 90 non-profit organizations that provide community services such as homeless shelters and senior and child care. He has served on the board four years. In April he was awarded a presidential National Point of Light Award for founding and managing a food donation program for a downtown homeless shelter.

> **Gabriele Wulf** (Kinesiology) had a manuscript, "Increased Movement Accuracy and Reduced EMG Activity as the Result of Adopting an External Focus of Attention," published in *Brain Research Bulletin*. The lead author was UNLV alumna Tiffany Zachry ('05 MS Kinesiology). Co-authors are **John Mercer** (Kinesiology) and Neil Bezodis of the University of Bath.

> **Geetha Sendhil** and **Keith Rogers** (Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach) have earned the Project Management Professional (PMP) credential. There are approximately 170 PMPs in Las Vegas and 110,000 globally. A seven-year employee, Sendhil worked at systems & applications and the Harry Reid Center before moving to the center in 2003. She is the center's director for information technology. A UNLV employee of more than six years, Rogers serves as the center's deputy executive director for operations.

> **Brent Mangus** (Kinesiology) had a manuscript accepted for publication in the *Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research*. Titled "Investigation of Vertical Jump Performance after Completing Heavy Squat Exercise," the manuscript was co-authored by kinesiology alumnus Masai Takahashi, **John Mercer** and **Bill Holcomb** (Kinesiology), **Wes McWhorter** (Physical Therapy), and UNLV exercise physiology alumna Roxanne Sanchez. Mangus also had a manuscript, "Heads Up for Soccer Injuries! What You Need to Know," published in *Contemporary Pediatrics* with co-author Michael Koester, an athletic training alumnus.

New Faces

Get to know some of your colleagues who recently arrived on campus.

Fine Arts

John Ricco

Serving as chair of the editorial board of *Art Journal*, a quarterly publication devoted to contemporary art, theory, and criticism, assistant professor of art history John Ricco has access to the most recent work of leading artists and writers and is able to share this knowledge with his students.

Before coming to UNLV, Ricco taught undergraduate courses in 20th-century and contemporary art history and graduate seminars in critical theory for six years in the School of Art at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. While there Ricco received an Outstanding Faculty Award, a universitywide distinction based on student nomination and voting. His first book, *The Logic of the Lure*, published in 2002, presents a theory of queer social ethics.

"I was attracted to UNLV because of its goals in terms of growth and development, and the aspirations to distinguish itself as a research institution," said Ricco. "Support of faculty research is strong, and the school's accommodation of new initiatives also was particularly appealing."

While at UNLV, Ricco hopes to accomplish many goals, including:

- Completing his second book.
- Establishing a graduate program in art history and critical visual theory.
- Contributing to the continued growth of the MFA studio art program.
- Developing collaborative and interdisciplinary projects with colleagues across campus.

Ricco currently serves as a member of the Committee for an Inclusive and Just University, which assesses UNLV's efforts in meeting its goal of inclusion, justice, and civility.



Health Sciences

Deborah Keil

Deborah Keil, associate professor of clinical laboratory sciences, investigates a variety of environmental and occupational chemicals that impact the health of Nevada residents in one way or another. She recently studied long-term immunological consequences following the exposure of babies in the womb to perfluorinated compounds, such those found in Scotchgard- and Teflon-coated cookware.

Keil intends to use these studies to provide an educational platform for mentoring undergraduate and graduate students. She plans to expand her research studies on environmental chemicals to address gaps in toxicology risk assessment, such as children's developmental health and the development of autoimmune disease.

In addition to perfluorinated compounds, recent toxicants studied include perchlorate, JP-8 jet fuel, trichloroethylene, DEET, and pyridostigmine bromide. "In addition to hazard identification, I also have interests in modeling methods applicable to immunotoxicology data," Keil said. "This area of study is valuable for quantitating exposure levels of hazardous chemicals that may pose a threat to human health."

Keil comes to UNLV after three years as a research toxicologist with the National Institute for Safety and Health in Morgantown, W.Va. Prior to that, she taught immunohematology to graduate clinical laboratory sciences students while also developing a successful research program in immunotoxicology at the Medical University of South Carolina.

"I came to UNLV because it encourages an environment supportive of excellence in teaching and research," said Keil.



Libraries

Lateka Grays

Friends and colleagues can often influence our career decisions—as was the case for Lateka Grays. While attending college, she worked in a public library. Although she always intended to pursue a master's degree in business administration, her colleagues from the public library persuaded her to get a degree in library science.

"I really enjoyed working in an academic library because of the interaction with students and faculty," said Grays. "I also liked being able to conduct business research, specifically in the hospitality industry."

Grays comes to UNLV after working in the Goizueta Business Library at Emory University in Atlanta. Before that, she was the library supervisor at the Conrad N. Hilton College at the University of Houston while earning her library science degree from the University of North Texas.

In May 2000, Grays visited the Hong Kong Polytechnic University's School of Hotel and Tourism Management. While there, she served as a consultant to its resource center in order to help improve its services and collection organization to better meet the needs of students and faculty.

She decided to come to Las Vegas because she wanted to get back into hospitality librarianship. Her primary responsibility here is to support the research needs of the teaching faculty in the Harrah Hotel College.

"I hope to continue to build upon the level of service already established by the UNLV Libraries for the Hotel College by collaborating with faculty and students to offer new services and continuing to enhance the hospitality research collection," said Grays.



Toss the Ties, Skip the Scented Soaps

Employees Share Memories of Their Favorite Gifts

Compiled by **Diane Russell** | Marketing & PR

Gifts. As much as most of us complain about buying them when we've procrastinated and suddenly find ourselves shopping at the last — and inevitably most inconvenient — minute, we admit that we enjoy receiving them. Sometimes, it's not a purchased gift at all that assumes a special place in our memories. It can be a gift of the heart or an action or incident that wasn't intended as a gift at all.

Here, several UNLV employees share recollections of their favorite gifts.

One of my favorite presents was a high-spirited beagle puppy that I received on Christmas when I was 12. I wanted to name it "Puck" after the Shakespeare character from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. However, my father — who had never read the play — absolutely refused. He thought the name sounded lewd. So I settled on the name "Tam Lin" from the Scottish ballad. My mother, of course, then went around cursing, "that Tam dog!"

— *Douglas Hill,*
Senior Adult Theatre Program

During the last full year of his life, my dad felt the end approaching and wanted to spend his "special" money to buy me a memorable Christmas gift. As a new homeowner I wanted something for my house, in particular a dishwasher. He wanted to buy me something that would last and said no. I finally decided that some tools would be very helpful. His eyes lit up when I suggested it to him as he "collected" tools, many of which he never used, but still enjoyed having. He spent hours pouring over catalogs and taking me through stores to pick the perfect selection of both power and regular tools for me. I couldn't have picked a gift that gave him more pleasure to buy. Now every time I use a tool, it makes me happy being reminded what a great dad he was and remembering the joy it gave him to choose each one.

— *Shelley Heaton,*
UNLV Libraries

One of my favorite presents came from my grandmother. She bought me a pink 10-speed bike for Christmas when I was only 9 years old. I rode that bike like I was training for the Olympics!

— *Marissa Blas,*
College of Engineering

The best gift I have ever received was from my parents: two wonderful sisters.

I do not remember if I viewed them as "great gifts" when they were born, but as an adult I know they are my greatest gifts. Thank you, Mom and Dad.

— *Margaret Louis,*
School of Nursing

My favorite present of all time is a My Little Pony that my brother gave me for Christmas when I was 9 years old. He is now 37 and I am now 32, and I still have it. It is one of the few things in my life I will never let go of. I treasure this even more now that he is in Iraq fighting on the front lines. I know no matter what happens in our lives I will always have my pony to keep him close in my heart.

— *Angela Corr,*
Thomas & Mack Center

Technically, I had been legally blind without my glasses since I was 2. Three years ago for our 14th wedding anniversary, my husband surprised me with Lasik eye surgery. I now have 20/30 vision.

— *April Reckling,*
Educational Outreach

I used to always buy flowers and place them on my kitchen table. They reminded me of my mother and how the two of us would go flower shopping. Last year I lost both my parents and was not feeling very "flowery." Then one day I found flowers in my refrigerator with a note attached. It was from my daughter, Aida, saying it was time for flowers again. It went on to say how much she appreciates me and that "I know all the flowers in the world can't tell you how much I love you, but I'd buy them all just to know you're happy." I keep the note in my desk.

— *Maria Ines Figueroa,*
Geoscience Department

The greatest presents that I have ever received are my three wonderful children, Nicholas, Natalia, and Luka. They have taught me the true meaning of love.

— *Michael Pravica,*
Physics Department

For our 10th anniversary, my husband contacted the International Star Registry, and had a star named for me.

— *Scianna Augustine,*
School of Social Work

My favorite gift was my Brother p-touch extra label maker. It reminds me of a Seinfeld episode, and I now "look" so much more organized.

— *Kenneth E. Fernandez,*
Political Science Department

One of the best gifts I received was a watercolor picture drawn by my stepson, Sean, when he was 7. Sean had a traumatic relationship with his natural mother. When he would return from visits with her he would be angry, distant, and sometimes hurtful toward me. Although those times were hard, I never berated his mother and always told him to pray for her to get better. Then he made that picture for me for a Mother's Day present. When he gave it to me, it was the first time he called me "Mom," the first time he said, "I love you," and the first time he told me he was happy that his daddy found me. That is why this "favorite gift" is, for me, the greatest gift of all — because it represents his love for me, his new mommy. He is now 20 and newly married. He will always be my son and I have a reminder of when I was finally his mom.

— *Kathleen A. Norton,*
Purchasing Department



Several years ago, money was pretty scarce with my niece. She was just finishing her senior year in college, and had a lot of student loans looming. We made an agreement to have a "handmade" Christmas between us that year. On Christmas Eve, she gave me a scrapbook of pictures and her remembrances of various times we had spent together over the past 20-plus years. Each page had a picture (many of them long ago forgotten by me!) with carefully written script on pages she placed in the scrapbook. At the end, she wrote that the times we spent, the memories we made as uncle and niece, and the love we shared as a family (and she specifically included my partner, Dusty, as part of that family) were her most precious gifts and all she ever hoped for. The best gift I've ever received and the best reminder of what's important.

— *Phil Burns,*
Office of Student Conduct



I had just turned 4 and was counting down the weeks from my November birthday to Christmas — the best time of the year. My mother was busy preparing for the holidays. One day she asked me to draw the most beautiful lady I could imagine. I took the task seriously and drew the following with great care: a big circle head with long hair, two eyes (one significantly larger than the other), a vertical line for a nose, a crooked smile, and two uneven stick legs — no arms, no body; the legs came straight down from her head. Fast forward to Christmas Day... a life-size, hot pink stuffed felt doll with long, black yarn hair was sitting in the armchair next to the tree. She matched my picture perfectly. Part of the fun that day was trying to come up with a fitting name for this one-of-kind creation; Penelope Wilhemina Hug-Me certainly speaks to the whimsical and nurturing aspects of my mother. Decades later, I can see why that gift still resonates with me. It made me feel incredibly loved, talented (what an artist!) and worthy of special attention; all of the good stuff that parents hope to instill in their kids. Mission accomplished, Mom.

— *Elaina Bhattacharyya,*
Nevada Small Business Development Center

I was 16 or 17 and working part time in the accounting department of a Sears in Dayton, Ohio. One of the women there, Betty Lou, was like a second mother to me. Once Christmas was nearing I happened

to mention that I had always wanted a cross necklace and was hoping to receive one this year. When the holidays were over Betty Lou asked me if I had received the necklace and I said no. The next day I came into work and found a small package inside my desk drawer. I opened it and began to cry. Betty Lou came over and told me that she had received this necklace when she was a little younger than I and wanted to pass it onto someone. I shall pass the necklace on to my niece this Christmas and hope that someday she will have a daughter and pass it on to her.

— *Barbara Hermes,*
Professional Golf Management Program

Several years past, I spent Christmas with my brother's family at Plattsburgh Air Force Base in New York. In addition to serving in the military, my brother worked as an EMT. He was called on a stormy Christmas Eve to transport a woman experiencing labor difficulties to a hospital. Asked, I tagged along. My brother and his partner called ahead to the Lake Champlain ferry to have the final ferry of the night wait for them. Near midnight we approached the dock and found that the ferry had departed. The challenge then became to drive the patient quickly but safely over icy roads. She made it to the hospital and we learned later that she had delivered a healthy baby. It was a great gift.

— *Martin Dean Dupalo,*
Political Science Department

(Below) Officer Robert Ljungquist patrols the Maryland Parkway crosswalk and writes citations to those who fail to stop for pedestrians. (At right, top) Police cruisers are now equipped with video cameras that provide improved security and, if necessary, evidence. (At right, bottom) The Department of Public Safety is now home to the campus lost and found.



(Above) Public Safety provides security at approximately 300 special events each year. UNLV Lt. Dustin Olson, left, and Lt. Joe Ojeda of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, coordinate security at a football game. (Below) The “Enduro” motorized trail bikes are able to go where both bicycles and motorcycles cannot.



Campus Beat

Community Policing Model Takes Hold

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Changing the culture of a department or institution is never easy, but that is exactly what UNLV Chief of Police Jose Elique set out to do when appointed to head the public safety department in June 2000.

“We had to effect a culture change from strict enforcement to a more service-oriented philosophy using the community policing model,” Elique said.

The benefit of the community policing philosophy is that UNLV police are more accessible and the concerns of the campus community can be more readily addressed, he said.

One change made to help the officers become more accessible was the addition of alternative patrol vehicles to the department’s fleet. These include equipped golf carts, “Enduro” motorized trail bikes, and battery-powered mini-vehicles. These vehicles enable the officers to do most of their patrolling on campus where cars are not allowed, thus making the officers more accessible to the campus community.

In keeping with that philosophy, the department also has established high-visibility foot patrols in heavily populated areas of campus and at much-used pedestrian crosswalks adjacent to campus, such as the one on Maryland Parkway near Einstein’s Bagels.

Public Safety also implemented a residence hall liaison officer program in 2002. Teams of officers regularly interact with hall residents and administrators, thereby establishing a police presence in



Campus involvement, such as participating in the homecoming parade, is part of the community policing philosophy.

the residence halls and a rapport with students and administrators. Officers now are able to work directly with the residential life coordinators to efficiently identify and resolve problems.

“Other than the increase in officers and resources, the biggest difference from when I first arrived is the dramatic change in perception the campus community has toward our police officers,” Elique said. “Comments about the police are much more positive.”

The department of public safety offers numerous services to the campus community, including the following:

- Bicycle registration
- Fingerprinting services
- Special event security
- Emergency call boxes
- Notary services
- Police report copy services
- Lost & found program

More info: Visit the department of public safety website at studentlife.unlv.edu/public-safety.html