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Inside UNLV

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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.

The Public Lands Institute (PLI) has evolved from a university initiative in April 2004, when Peg Rees, associate vice president for research and outreach, learned the value and importance of education initiatives on federal land. “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.”

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

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.

More Inside:

PLI Volunteer Program Wins National Award, page 2

Family Philanthropy

Longtime Math Professor and Family Establish Scholarship

By Shane Bevill | 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
Reneeable 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灵感 comes from the state’s rich geology, which includes vast reserves of uranium, coal, and geothermal resources. In a speech to the Nevada Business Roundtable and the Nevada Association of Companies, Clinton said, “Nevada has tremendous potential for renewable energy.”

“With our abundant natural resources, Nevada has a unique opportunity to become a leader in the renewable energy industry,” said Clinton. “We need to invest in innovative technologies and move forward with bold, ambitious plans to ensure a sustainable future.”

The state’s Energy Innovation Center, established in 2011, is already working on developing new technologies and partnerships. The center’s research focuses on areas such as solar, wind, and energy storage.

In addition to its research efforts, the state has implemented several energy efficiency programs, including the Nevada Energy Efficiency Standards Act, which requires all new buildings to meet strict energy efficiency standards. The state has also set a goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020.

Nevada’s renewable energy potential is not limited to traditional sources like wind and solar. The state is also exploring new technologies such as geothermal and hydropower. The Nevada Power Authority is currently developing a geothermal project in the Ruby Valley that could produce enough energy to power 30,000 homes.

The state’s commitment to renewable energy has not gone unnoticed. In 2015, Nevada Power was awarded the Nevada Energy Efficiency Leadership Award by the Nevada Energy Efficiency Association for its efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite these efforts, Nevada still lags behind other states in renewable energy adoption. According to the American Council on Renewable Energy, Nevada ranks 44th in the country in terms of renewable energy production.

However, the state is making progress. In 2016, Nevada Power announced plans to build a 150 MW solar project in Fallon, making it one of the largest solar projects in the state. The project is expected to be completed in 2018.

Nevada is also working to expand its renewable energy portfolio. In 2017, the state’s renewable energy portfolio reached 20 percent, up from 14 percent in 2013. The state’s renewable energy targets are set to increase in the coming years, with a goal of 30 percent by 2030.

In conclusion, Nevada has the potential to become a leader in the renewable energy industry. With its abundant natural resources and supportive policies, the state is well-positioned to lead the nation in developing innovative technologies and moving forward with bold, ambitious plans to ensure a sustainable future.
**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 Bhatnagar’s dedication in setting up Scholarships. “Arvind 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, Archna and Anubha, each received a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction.

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

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**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.

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.

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**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, 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.

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

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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
Across Campus

Business

Business Plan Competition Open to All Students

The UNLV College of Business 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 set out on their entrepreneurial spirit and ideas while teaching them the process of creativity — 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 for entrepreneurship to 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 have the chance of building and crafting a business plan; gain access to networks of successful entrepreneurs, lenders, and investors; and share in the outstanding opportunities.

For more information, go to www.unlvcup/projects/blpain.

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.

Practice teachers at the Andre Agassi ship will give elementary education with Prep Academy investors; and share in teambuilding and leadership skills that accompany participation while teaching them the process of teaching and will make me more familiar with the traditional practicum and student teaching and will make me more ready for my own classroom next year,” she said.

Engineering

College Pays New Cost of Lighting Up the Strip

Cutting energy costs for the bright lights of Las Vegas Strip hotel/casino complexes 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 outdoor signage.

Goals of the project, which is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science:

• 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 10,000 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 swiftness of autonomous underwater vehicles that search for deep mines 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 puppet.

Based on the book by Michael Merrill, Carnival! promises two 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.

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 584 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. “The UNLV continues to use the sport for professional development, thanks to a generous donation from the Nevada Golf Management program, presented Ernie Ellision, director of the PGA Foundation, a plaque of gratitude at the PGA Fall Expo in Las Vegas.

UNLV’s Golf: for Business and Life program 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 Cale, 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.

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 their electives.

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.

• There may be financial benefits to the hospital staff, who may 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 it is assigned to a “hoch” classroom provides the elementary anxiety and stress and improved academic performance, including their performance on standardized tests and licensing exams.

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Law

Justices Transform Court into Learning Opportunity

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

In each a 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.

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Coffee and Conversation

Professor Yu Xin of the Division of Health Sciences speaks with UNLV President Carol C. Harter during a recent faculty breakfast. Among the topics he 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 has already approved increasing the required GPA to 3.0 in 2018. UNLV and UNR plan to ask that the admission standards be changed in 2017 in order to enhance student success and control enrollment growth.

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 (GGE) — 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. The School of Social Work has

undergraduate and graduate stu- dents 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 borrow and book to making Xerox copies. Now, the card can be used at several off-campus locations as well as 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:
  • 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.

Over the last hundred years, Las Vegas has been inventing new forms of research and education at UNLV. 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.

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Studying the Earth and Global Climate Shifts

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

Matt Lachniet and Gaqing 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 collaboration 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, levels 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 sedimen- ary rocks dating back 600 million years to the late Neoproterozoeic Era.

The mass spectrometer will also provide research opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to 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 fac- ulty 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 pro- vide curriculum development, research, and training opportunities for all child welfare personnel in Southern Nevada.

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

**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, associate professor of art history John Ricco has access to the most recent wave of leading artists and is eager 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 11 years in the School of Art at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. While there Ricco received an Outstanding Faculty Award, a university-wide distinction based on student nomination and voting. He has published in *Art Journal*, *Art in America*, *The Art Bulletin*, *Logic of the Late Modern*, and *Genesis 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.

**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 perchlorinated compounds, such as 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 perchlorinated compounds, recent toxicologists studies include perfluorooctanoic acid, PFAS 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 quantifying 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 and graduate clinical laboratory sciences students while also developing a successful research program in immunotoximology 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 her 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.

“Everyone is building a strong foundation of what we must do in order to fulﬁll the future of hospitality and tourism education,” Grays said. “It is important to build a foundation that will be sustainable in the future.”

Page 5 E | Inside UNLV
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 procrasti- nated and suddenly find ourselves shopping at the last — and inevitably most incon- venient — minute, we admit that we enjoy receiving them. Sometimes, it’s not a pur- chased 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 “spe- cial” money to buy me a memo- rable Christmas gift. As a new homeowner I wanted something for my house, in particular a dish- washer. 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. He “collected” tools, many of which he never used, but still enjoyed hav- ing. 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.

— Shelly Heaton, UNLV Libraries

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

— Marissa Blais, College of Engineering

The best gift I have ever received was from my parents: two wonder- ful 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 Louise, 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 mat- ter 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 wedding anniversary, my husband surprised me with Lasik eye sur- gery. I now have 20/30 vision.

— April Rucking, 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 shop- ping. Last year I lost both my parents and was not feeling very “floral.” 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 Figueras, Geosciences Department

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

— Michael Pravica, Physics Department

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

— Sciana 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 relation- ship with his natural mother. 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 pic- ture 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 dad found me. That is why this “favorite gift” is, for me, the great- est gift of all — because it re- presents his love for me, his new mom. 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

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 sig- nificantly 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 accom- plished, Mom.

— Elaina Bhattacharyya, Nevada Small Business Development Center

Several years ago, money was pretty scarce with my niece. She was just fin- ishing 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 spe- cifically 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

Several years past, I spent Christmas with my brother’s fam- ily 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 difficul- ties 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
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.

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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 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

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

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