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Inside UNLV

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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News & Information for UNLV Insiders JANUARY 2006

Second Annual MLK Celebration Jan. 19
The legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. will be celebrated at UNLV on Jan. 19 with a speech by Bruce S. Gordon, NAACP presi- dent and chief executive officer. The free event will take place at 12:15 p.m. in the MSU ball- room. This is the univer-
sity’s second celebration honoring the slain civil rights leader. “UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and stu-
dents,” said Sam Connolly, asso- ciate vice president of human resources and diversity. “We are committed to maintain-
ing a campus environment that values these differences. One of the ways the university can enrich the larger community is to acknowledge the differences that have separated us in the past as we forge strategies for the future. By highlighting Dr. King’s work and exploring current challenges on how UNLV can promote an inclusive, welcoming, and affirming community, we hope to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of all members of our community.” The event is cosponsored by the local and UNLV chapters of the NAACP, the Urban Chamber of Commerce, and the MGM Mirage.

Casting Call Goes Out for Students Who Shine
The office of marketing & pub-
ic relations is looking for well-
spoken students with a positive story to tell about their UNLV experience — everything from academics to campus life. The stories collected will be used primarily in recruitment material.

Do you have a student or two in mind who you think really shines — someone who would excel at spreading the good word about UNLV? If so, please ask the students to contact Shannon Stevens at ext. 5-5863 or send them to studentlife.unlv.edu/call.htm.

Prepare for New Students
More than 1,500 new students are expected to join the campus community when the spring semester begins Jan. 17. Get involved by:
• Attending the university welcome ceremony at 10 a.m. Jan. 12 in the MSU ballroom.
• Wearing your “Ask Me” button and name tag.
• Answering questions and giving directions.
• Encouraging students to attend orientation sessions and welcome activities.

Ed Outreach Classes Available to Employees at Bargain Prices
By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR
Want to conquer that fear of pub-
lic speaking or dance the tango? Do you have an interest in fine Italian cooking or floating through the Grand Canyon?
The UNLV Division of Educa-
tional Outreach, which cele-
brates its 40th anniversary this year, offers these and hundreds of other courses, often at a discount for UNLV employees and their spouses.
“UNLV is committed to plan-
ning and providing a diverse array of programs designed to meet the diverse needs of lifelong learn-
ers,” said Richard Lee, vice provost of Educational Outreach. “We are truly here to improve lives through outreach education.”
The division traces its roots to 1966 when Dwight Marshall became the first dean of continu-
ing education. The first class was a building inspection course taught by Bill Adams, then Las Vegas city manager.

Today, the division offers approx-
imately 1,200 classes a year to more than 50,000 participants, and serves as the university’s main point of access for nontraditional students, particularly adult and part-time learners. Some come for profes-
sional development — the para-
legal certificate program has been particularly popular — and oth-
ers want to explore interests out-
side work. The natural sciences and travel programs are perennial favorites. In recent years groups have visited the Grand Canyon, California wine country, Kenya, China, and Great Britain.

Educational Outreach students prepare to float through the Grand Canyon.

Community Engagement
Through services that cross the usual boundaries of time, place, and academic disciplines, Lee said, Educational Outreach extends UNLV’s resources to the growing Southern Nevada community to assist in such community needs as economic diversification.
Kristine Fisher, executive assist-
tant to the vice provost of academic affairs, has been taking both fun and

Professor Finds Connection to Community
By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR
Though his courses take him as far afield as Mexico and Kenya, geosciences professor Steve Rowland has found a greater connection to the community by teach-
ing the non-traditional students in Educational Outreach.

Rowland has taught natural sci-
tific and travel courses for Educational Outreach since 1979. The courses have taken him throughout Southern Nevada, to the Grand Canyon by raft, and abroad to Kenya and Africa.

The natural history and exploring trips are so popular because many Southern Nevadans have come from other places, according to Rowland. The trips provide a great way for them to learn about their new environments while meeting people with similar interests.

Rowland said he thinks it’s important for UNLV to connect with the wider Las Vegas community and that Educational Outreach is an effective way to do that.

“When I lead a continuing education trip, I interact with people from the community whom I would not otherwise interact,” he said.

“Educational Outreach is a mechanism for me to not only teach people about geology, it is a way for me to enrich the lives of my neighbors, and vice versa.

Professors are too often perceived as being aloof and not engaged with the community. Teaching Educational Outreach courses is one way I become more engaged."

Here in Southern Nevada, geologic history is so inter-
esting and so well exposed that it is easy to teach people the basics of how the region evolved; he said, “We try to help our par-
ticipants learn as much as they are will-
ing to absorb about the geology, desert flowers, and other natural history, without being excessively pedantic.” Rowland said, “There’s no quit at the end of the day.”

And an added bonus of his educational outreach courses is a captive audience of sorts. “The participants in these classes actively want to be there,” said Rowland, who has taken those enrolled in his classes to places as diverse as Death Valley and the former Soviet Union. “In a traditional credit-class situation, there are always some students who would rather be somewhere else.”

One of his more memorable courses took him to Kenya. “Our group was in a beautiful game park overlooking the Serengeti Plains,” he said. “There was a huge Acacia tree in front of the lodge, and I gave a talk to our group about the ecology of the Serengeti Plains as they sat under that Acacia tree, with the African savanna as my backdrop. It doesn’t get any better than that.”
Across Campus

Business
Wells Fargo CEO to Speak
Dick Kovacevich, chairman and chief executive officer of Wells Fargo & Co., will speak about business ethics as part of the Wells Fargo Distinguished Speaker Series at 10 a.m. Feb. 2 in the auditorium of the Beam Music Center. The free event is open to all faculty, staff, and students.

Kovacevich became president and CEO in 1998. In 2001 he was elevated to chairman. He serves on the board of directors for Target Corporation and Cisco Systems and is a member of the Federal Reserve’s Federal Advisory Council.

The series provides a forum for dynamic national business leaders to address students and faculty. The presentations are intended to help students bridge the gap between the classroom and the business world. Through the program, both students and faculty will be better equipped to integrate practical experience into their base of business knowledge.

Education
Psychology Education Group Meets at UNLV
The inaugural meeting of the Southwest Consortium for Innovations in Psychology in Education brought nearly 100 people to the campus in November.

Hosted by the department of educational psychology, the conference centered on the theme “Student Beliefs: Motivation, Cognition, and Epistemology.”

Participants, including faculty and graduate students from across the nation and from abroad, were encouraged to present research currently in progress or to address areas of difficulty that researchers face. The conference provided new encounters and graduate students with opportunities for legitimate participation in conversations about difficult, cutting-edge research problems.

Researchers from universities in the Southwest, including UNLV, Arizona State University, the University of New Mexico, and the University of Oklahoma, formed the consortium. The goals are to establish and support research partnerships among area universities and to focus scholarly attention on innovative theory, research, and practice related to teaching and learning issues of particular relevance to people living in the Southwest. The consortium is especially interested in providing support for graduate student research by providing a venue to work with national and international scholars.

Engineering
ASCE Hosts Fourth Annual Career Fair
UNLV’s chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers hosted the fourth annual Engineering Career Fair in November. More than 35 engineering firms, private consulting firms, and public agencies participated. Civil engineering students and ASCE officers John McAvoy and Camille Calimlim organized the event.

Club adviser and civil and environmental engineering professor Tom Piekota said the fair “was a benefit for all participants. It gave students a chance to informally talk with employers. It afforded faculty the chance to discuss hiring needs with each of the agencies represented. And it was an opportunity for alumni to visit the university.”

Student Ingenuity Exhibited at Senior Design Competition
An automatic plant watering system took top honors at the fall 2005 senior design competition hosted by the College of Engineering.

The WATS (Water According to Soil) system was the invention of seniors Houston Osemwegie and O’Dealya Price, both of the electrical and computer engineering department. They received $2,500 for their project. Engineering professor Robert Schill served as faculty adviser on the project, while engineering professor Bill O’Donnell was the faculty instructor.

Other projects included a home security robot, an auto accident avoidance system, and a solar water distiller.

Students prepare all year for the fall senior design competition hosted by the College of Engineering. The WATS (Water According to Soil) system was the invention of seniors Houston Osemwegie and O’Dealya Price, both of the electrical and computer engineering department. They received $2,500 for their project. Engineering professor Robert Schill served as faculty adviser on the project, while engineering professor Bill O’Donnell was the faculty instructor.

Graduate
Graduate Assistantships and Funding Increase
The number of graduate assistantships offered at UNLV has grown significantly in the last several years, as has the amount of funding for the positions. UNLV offered 913 graduate assistantships this year, representing a 77 percent increase over 1999-00. Of these, 529 were state-funded assistantships, reflecting an increase of 27 percent for the same period.

Graduate assistantships are funded by faculty and researchers, who may be interested in providing support for their research. The graduate assistantship program is one of the many programs at UNLV that provide financial support for graduate students.

The 20 students who comprise UNLV’s first class in the doctor of physical therapy (DPT) program are now more than half way through the first year of the rigorous three-year program. They began their studies in June. The DPT program is the only one of its kind in the region.

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Law

Teams Fare Well At Moot Court Competition

The team of students Michael Giles, Christian Hale and Tom Mulkey, coached by professor Peter Bayer, won second place in the competition and will advance to the final competition in New York City, along with a team from the University of Utah. Additionally, this team won the award for the second best brief in the region. Giles was recognized as the second-best oralist, while Hale was awarded fourth-best oralist. The team of students Peg Samples, Jackie Gilbert, and Brandon Kemble, coached by Terrill Pollman, the Ralph Denton Professor of Law, came home winners in match-ups that pitted them against 12 other teams. The competition this year was sponsored by the Bar Association of the City of New York and the American Bar Association.

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Educational Outreach
Continued from Page 1

professional development classes for 10 years. She said they offer her an opportunity to expand her knowledge and to network with other professionals. “I believe in lifelong learning, and many times learning in a less formal setting is the most rewarding because I am motivated by the topic and not the grade,” she said.

Fisher earned a certificate in business management, which she said helps her manage her office and employees more effectively. She also takes a yoga class because it helps her better manage her hectic life.

“I really enjoyed the business management courses because of the diverse group of students and the fact that many of the instructors worked in the business field. I had the benefit of learning from their experience,” Fisher said.

Educational Outreach assists individuals, businesses and industries, professional organizations, and government agencies in meeting their learning objectives and needs through conferences, non-credit and credit seminars, and courses and workshops, as well as via distance-learning modes.

“The division has an increasingly important role on behalf of a university that envisions itself as an engaged university,” Lee said. “We offer a broad range of services and launch programs that are responsive to the needs of the community.”

Expanding Programs
Two years ago, the division moved to its own facility at the Paradise Campus, which includes 12 classrooms and three computer labs. Lee said having the stand-alone facility makes it easier to schedule classes that are convenient for their students. As the division continues to expand, plans call for offering international programs as well as more programs via distance education. Expanding programs offered to businesses and organizations and offering courses at more locations also are in the plans.

“There will be an even greater demand for education in the future,” Lee said. “Education pervades all aspects of life. You can't be successful in any profession without some sort of continuing education.”

How to Register for an Educational Outreach Course
• All full-time academic faculty and professional staff members and their spouses are entitled to a 50 percent discount on most of the non-credit educational outreach courses. They must present their RebelCard when paying for the course.
• All full-time classified employees are entitled to a 50 percent discount on most of the non-credit educational outreach courses. An application must be completed for each non-credit continuing education course, and a representative from human resources must sign the form. Forms may be downloaded at http://hr.unlv.edu/forms or obtained from the human resources office.
• To receive the 50 percent discount, all faculty/staff members must apply in person at the Educational Outreach offices on the Paradise Campus.
• Registrations are not processed without payment.

More info: Visit edoutreach.unlv.edu

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

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