Inside UNLV

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Academic Computer Replacement Begins

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

At last, a systematic computer replacement program. For many years, those people responsible for campus technology have wanted to have a plan in place to replace faculty and staff computers in a systematic fashion every three or four years. The Academic Computer Replacement Program is allowing that to happen in the academic units on campus.

Funded by the provost’s office with newly allocated state funds, the program will provide $500,000 a year to replace old and outdated computers. Lori Temple, vice provost of information technology (CIT), worked with faculty and staff in the academic areas to determine a fair and consistent process to implement the program.

At the program’s inception there were approximately 1,400 full-time faculty and staff within academic affairs eligible for the program. The departments and colleges submit an inventory list to CIT, with all the computers ranked in priority order by the deans and school directors. CIT then compiles a master list of computers that meet or fall below the minimum computer standards and ranks them in priority replacement order.

Minimum computer standards include ease of use connecting to UNLV campus network, ability to adequately run standard installations and software applications, availability of replacement parts from trusted vendors, and two- to three-year functionality and expected period of usefulness.

Black Mountain Expands UNLV Horizons

In the announcement to campus of my intention to step down from the presidency, I referenced the fact that although I will be leaving my current office, I will absolutely not be retiring from UNLV.

In fact, plans are rapidly evolving for an exciting new project I will be privileged to lead—one that holds great promise for both our university and for the entire community.

The Black Mountain Institute, formally approved by the Board of Regents during their March meeting in Reno, will be a “think tank” and unique seat of discussion for major global issues—but in a way distinguished from many similar institutions as Hoover, Brookings, and Shorenstein, which base their work on clear political affiliations, and largely upon the opinions of journalists and pundits. The Black Mountain Institute will bring together artists and scholars of varying cultural points of view for public forums, article writing, and other pursuits.

Black Mountain Legacy

The idea for the Black Mountain Institute evolved from the spirit of the legendary Black Mountain College in North Carolina. Established in 1933, Black Mountain College was fundamentally different from other colleges and universities of the time. It was owned and operated by the faculty and was committed to democratizing higher education. The Black Mountain Institute will seek to recreate the structure to build a small faculty comprised of visiting scholars, writers, and artists with an interest in the discussion—and reconstruction—of modern global issues from various points of view.

This work, which could result in multidisciplinary scholarly writing and publication as well as public discussion, will be developed at BMI under the umbrella of the Forum on Contemporary Cultures. Issue “themes” for such work could range from exploration of the divide between western European and eastern Islamic cultures, to the cultural and sociological (as well as scientific) implications of space exploration, for example.

The North American Network of Cities of Asylum (NANCA), dedicated to providing refuge and opportunities for persecuted and dissident writers, will also be an integrated part of the BMI.

Support from Scholars

A distinguished group of scholars has already emerged in support of this important work, including Harriet Fullbright, former executive director of the President’s Committee on Art and Humanities, as well as celebrated authors Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Russell Banks, who also currently serves as president of NANCA. It is fitting—and very exciting—that the first public offering from the Black Mountain Institute will be a lecture by Toni Morrison, America’s only living Nobel Laureate in Literature. Her April 6 appearance at Ham Hall is an extraordinary, rare opportunity to hear from one of our greatest living authors.

A host of unique opportunities for students, faculty, and members of the community will doubtlessly emerge through the work of the Black Mountain Institute. These may one day take the form of a formal curriculum, a special certificate, or degree programs.

Although specific programming is still in the early development stages, one thing is certain—the institute will have tremendous potential to further position UNLV on the national and international stage, and to help center creative intellectuals in our community. I have no doubt that the Las Vegas Valley, world renowned for architecture, entertainment, and increasing cultural significance, will provide a perfect venue to assist the history and meaning of many modern global issues.

Online Ads Provide Buyer and Seller Forum

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Have a used car or old weight bench to get rid of? Looking to buy a rocking chair? Use the UNLV classified ads website.

The free service allows UNLV employees to post classified ads and to view classified ads posted by other employees. Ads from businesses, students, and members of the general public are not accepted. Marketing and public relations staff members approve the ads before they are posted.

Sarah Hrusceky of campus computing services purchased a freezer for her daughter using the UNLV classified ads. She also got a free pool table from an employee who no longer had use for it.

The purchasing process is simple, Hrusceky said. She called the person who was selling the crib, discussed the price, and finalized the deal.

Hrusceky, who checks the ads weekly, said she likes buying from the UNLV classified ads because more than likely she will know or know of the person who posts the ad. “I feel comfortable shopping for the ads because these days there is always a privacy concern.”

Doris Hartigan, who recently retired from student enrollment and financial services, had posted an ad for a cabin for rent at Big Bear. She echoes Hrusceky’s comments, saying, “I have used other classified ads and the concern is that if you have someone come to your house to look at an item, you are letting a complete stranger into your environment.”

Do note, however, that the ads are posted on a public website, so responses could potentially come from someone not affiliated with UNLV.

The UNLV classified ads are easy to use and can be searched like most other websites.

Equipment Discounts Available

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

Planning a big get-together or a weekend getaway this summer? Take advantage of UNLV Outdoor Adventures.

“Lots of people think we’re just for students, but faculty and staff receive the same discounts that students do,” said Heidi Erpelding-Welch, coordinator of Outdoor Adventures and club sports.

Equipment Rental

Employees can rent everything from tents and canoes for camping to volleyball sets and extra coolers for backyard barbecues. Rates are significantly cheaper than commercial shops and can be found on the Outdoor Adventures website.

Rentals are first-come, first-served, however, so reserve your equipment early during busy times of the year, such as long weekends.

“Our staff is here to help people select the right equipment and learn how to use it,” Erpelding-Welch said. “We also can recommend trip locations and provide maps.”

Trips

Outdoor Adventures sponsors daytrips and overnight excursions throughout the year. Trips are planned for all levels—from beginning hikers to backcountry pros. Perennial favorites are the Black Canyon canoe trip and Arizona Hot Springs day hike.

A new program this summer will allow participants to bring children for the first time. “We’re planning the excursion to include family-friendly hikes as well as activities for some kids busy.” Erpelding-Welch said.

Contact Outdoor Adventures in person at the McDermott Physical Education building, Room 318; online at www.unlv.edu/studentlife/employeebenefits; or call ext. 5-3582. The rental shop is generally open to 6 p.m. weekdays or by appointment.

Accessing the UNLV Classifieds

The UNLV classified ads are on the faculty/staff page under the “Benefits & HR” section. There is also a graphic in the right column that will take you directly to the ads.

To access the ads, you have to register for an account. When registering, you will be required to select a username and password and to provide your name and e-mail address. A username or password is not required to search the ads.

To access the ads for a set period of time. Before the ad expires, you will receive an e-mail asking if you want to renew the ad. If you want to renew the ad, it is important to click on the link that is provided.
After Hours

Marching to the Beat of His Own Drum(s)

UNLV Custodian Moonlights as Jazz Drummer

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

If you see a man riding around campus on his cart smiling, waving, and slapping the steering wheel as if it were a drum, it’s almost bound to be custodian Earl “Sonny” Thompson.

Though Thompson enjoys his job, doing custodial work definitely is his “day” job. His real passion — one he has pursued his entire life — is music.

One of the highlights of being with The Four Tops, whose hits include “I Can’t Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)” and “Reach Out I’ll Be There,” was working with The Four Tops, he said, helped teach him one of life’s most important lessons — the value of discipline. “If your shoes weren’t shined or if your bow tie was crooked, you were docked $20,” Thompson said. “Being disciplined will either make or break you (in the business).”

If his designation as employee of the month back in November 2004 is any indication, he brought that discipline with him when he joined UNLV in 2001.

Thompson said he loves his job because he gets to interact with people from all walks of life, but after hours, it’s back to his first love.

“Next to God, music is the most important thing in my life,” he said. He can often be found jamming with his own band — The Chosen Few Band & Show, which plays soul, rock-n-roll, blues, and other genres. He tries to infuse that band with discipline, too. “I expect my band to be on time and to be sharply dressed, although there are no fines,” he said laughing.

Start ‘Em Young

Thompson came by his musical talent naturally: his grandfather was a drummer for 60 years.

“I loved the sound of the drums and watching my grandfather play them,” he said. “I loved that I could beat on things without getting in trouble.”

In addition to his grandfather, Thompson had another stabilizing influence during his formative years. Bruno Locko was his school band teacher for 10 years. “Bruno taught me how to read music and to be a better musician, but he also taught me about life and how to be a better person.”

At 13, Thompson started Sonny & The Seven Souls — his first band.

“That was my first job,” he said. “We were paid $50 to play at the school hop.” It was such an exhilarating experience that his band began playing at local lawn parties.

A couple years later, Thompson started playing professionally with Little Gas & The Soul Survivors. He played weekend shows from New York to Chicago with the band for 12 years.

Chance Encounter

While working as a custodian on Capitol Hill for the U.S. Senate, a weekend trip in 1982 led to a chance encounter. Thompson was talking to a woman at the Ball’s ticket booth in Atlantic City when a member of The Four Tops overheard the conversation. “The group happened to be looking for a drummer,” he said.

A jam session led to Thompson filling in for that weekend’s show and then an invitation to play at Ball’s in Las Vegas the following weekend. Thompson toured with the band for a year, playing throughout California, at Lake Tahoe, and in Las Vegas.

In 1988 he settled in Southern Nevada. He’s been with The Chosen Few for 15 years and has no plans to stop playing — a promise he made to his dying grandfather. “I came into this world drumming and I’m going to leave this world drumming.”

Donations Can Honor Colleagues

By Regina Vazzari | UNLV Foundation

UNLV employees can pay tribute to their colleagues while helping students fulfill their dreams of a college education.

When Maureen Matteson-Kane retired from the School of Nursing in 2004, fellow faculty commemorated her commitment to the profession and to teaching by donating in her honor to nursing programs.

“I respected how Maureen always shared her expertise and was willing to help other faculty,” said Kevin Gulliver, one of the donors.

A UNLV alumna (’84 AA, ’87 BS, and ’97 MS Nursing), who now lectures in the School of Nursing, Gulliver said that having known Matteson-Kane as both a student and as a colleague increased his appreciation of her contributions to the school.

“I know her as being one of the most supportive and inspiring people in both ways,” he said. In 2002, when Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies Jim Deacon announced his retirement, his friends both on and off campus honored his more than 40 years of commitment to UNLV by setting up the James E. Deacon Scholarship Fund.

“Honoring outstanding colleagues such as professor Deacon by establishing a scholarship in their name is a great way to begin recognizing the accomplishments of retiring faculty and staff,” said environmental studies chair Helen Neill, who headed the committee to honor Deacon.

“I am thrilled that we were able to raise more than $25,000 from faculty, staff, former students, family, and friends to establish a scholarship endowment in Jim’s name,” Neill said. “I would encourage others on campus to consider doing this as well to honor retiring faculty and staff while at the same time raising much-needed funds for UNLV students.”

Tribute and memorial contributions can be made through outright gifts, estate plans, and endowments. The funds can be used for scholarships, fellowships, professorships, research, and special programs in perpetuity. The gifts also will help UNLV succeed with its $500 million Invent the Future campaign.

More Info: To learn about tribute and memorial giving, including how to make a gift through payroll deduction, contact Deborah Young, director of scholarship and tribute giving, at 5-2618 or deborah.young@unlv.edu.

> Hiring

Continued from Page 1

activities, university programs, and campus recreation, as well as the student union.

In all, they need to hire 58 people — 30 for professional positions, 28 for classified spots. When you consider that Strong’s unit currently has 29 professional and 39 classified employees, you realize what a challenge this presents.

But Strong said she is confident that addition to meeting with student life, she will hire two to three candidates on campus each day for interviews this month and next.

Search Process

Strong said every one of her professional employees is heading at least one search committee. Back in June they hammered out the details of the search process for professional employees.

That process entails:

• Advertising the positions in a variety of places to ensure a breadth of good candidates that represents the campus’ diversity — and advertising in a way that makes it clear the unusual number of job openings is the result of existing new projects rather than the fallout of a mass exodus of employees.

• Screening all resumes for minimum-qualification stage.

• The associate vice president reviewing recommendations from the search chairs and determining which candidates should move forward.

• Scheduling candidates for 30-45- or 90-minute phone interviews. Following the interviews, the candidate list is trimmed.

• Scheduling remaining candidates for another phone interview, an on-campus interview, or an interview at a national student affairs conference. But before the candidates are invited to campus, three reference checks must be completed, the search must be certified with the human resources department, and the candidate must complete a pre-employment document.

• Conducting on-campus interviews with the finalists, ranging in length from a day to a day and a half, depending on the level of the position the candidate is seeking. All candidates meet with students in addition to meeting with student life employees.

• And, finally, making offers to successful candidates who will fill positions from the director’s level down.

“Conducting this kind of rigorous search will pay off in the long term,” said Mills. “Because we will get the kind of enthusiastic, student-focused employees we need to make our programs successful.”

And, Strong pointed out, going through the process this year will come in handy next year when hiring for the new student recreation center begins.
Education

Nationally Recognized Scholar Lectures
School-based health intervention was the topic when Thom McKenzie, a leading expert, recently spoke at UNLV about environmental barriers to physical activity. McKenzie, a professor of exercise and nutritional sciences at San Diego State University and an adjunct professor of pediatrics at the University of California, San Diego, has authored more than 100 scientific papers and seen his research funded by the National Institutes of Health for the past 15 years.

The College of Education and the department of sports education leadership sponsored his campus presentation. He also presented a community lecture sponsored by the college, the department, the American Heart Association, the Clark County Health District, Partners for a Healthy Nevada, and Nevada Action for Healthy Kids.

Business

Governor’s Cup Cash Prizes Go to Student Entrepreneurs
Boasting one of the largest cash pools for such an award in America, the Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition encourages students of Nevada colleges to act upon their ideas and talents to build tomorrow’s businesses. The competition finals and awards gala will take place April 26 at Green Valley Ranch.

Student teams and their faculty advisers compete in undergraduate and graduate divisions for prizes valued in excess of $100,000 with $20,000, $10,000, and $5,000 going to the first-, second-, and third-place winners respectively. In addition, cash awards are offered to the semi-finalist and finalist teams and their faculty advisers.

Participants gain access to networks of successful entrepreneurs, lenders, and investors; learn team-building and business planning skills; and benefit from media exposure.

The competition encourages the development and commercialization of ideas and technologies being discovered in universities. To bridge the gap between technology and the marketplace, the competition encourages multi-disciplinary teams with members from both technical and business disciplines.

With a vision for promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and with underwriting support from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, Nevada academic, business, government, and technology leaders in collaboration with their counterparts in Arkansas and Oklahoma conceived the Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup. These leaders envisioned that first-class competitions in each state would communicate a message to students that innovations leading to thriving home-grown businesses are valued and will be recognized.

Across Campus

Project Clothesline
Faculty, staff, and students participated in Project Clothesline last month as a way of honoring and remembering people who have been victims of domestic violence or breast cancer. Participants decorated shirts that then were hung on a clothesline near Pida Plaza. The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center sponsored the event, which was funded in part by a grant from the Las Vegas affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The UNLV Performing Arts Center presents “Vamps: An Evening with Bebe Neuwirth” April 22. Neuwirth, star of stage and screen, Tony Award-winner for Chicago and Emmy Award-winner as Lilith on Cheers, debuts in Las Vegas with a unique program of songs by Kurt Weill (composer of The Threepenny Opera) and John Kander and Fred Ebb (composer and lyricist of Cabaret, Kiss Of The Spider Woman, and Chicago).

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre main season presents the Broadway and Hollywood hit Wait Until Dark by Frederick Knott April 28 - May 7. This thriller tells the story of a deadly cat-and-mouse game between a murderous con man and an innocent blind woman.

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre also presents three original plays as part of the Playwrights Festival: Jayme McChlan’s Ragg’man, April 6-9; Stan Waring’s Pluck the Rose, April 13-16; and Ross Howard’s dark comedy The Loggerheads of Lambhuna Drive, April 20-23.

For more information, call ext. 5-2787.

Graduate

Nevada Stars Doctoral Recruiting Program Developed
The Nevada Stars Graduate Assistantship Program (NVStarsGA), a new program to advance recruitment of top doctoral students, is being established by the Division of Research and Graduate Studies. The program, which will address NSHE strategic directions identified by Chancellor James E. Rogers, will provide up to 10 NVStarsGA assistantships, each offering an enhanced stipend and benefits package to doctoral students enrolling for the first time this fall.

The graduate assistants will serve as research team members and will assist faculty in nationally competitive research programs in disciplines deemed of high priority to Nevada, such as biomedical and health sciences, engineering, radiochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry/biochemistry, education, and environmental sciences.

“As UNLV seeks to expand economic development opportunities in fields of importance to the state of Nevada, it is critically important that the university continue to support research in those areas,” said Paul Ferguson, vice president for research and graduate studies. “The Nevada Stars program seeks to provide that support by enhancing recruitment of the most academically talented doctoral students to serve as graduate assistants. We are providing strong stipend and benefit incentives necessary to make UNLV more competitive in attracting these students.”

The NVStarsGAs will receive tuition, fee waivers, and an enhanced stipend and benefits package valued at $24,000 for the academic year, renewable for a second year with demonstration of excellent academic progress.

Expansion of the program, including increasing the number of assistantships offered, will be explored in requests for funding in the next biennium.

Honors

Thesis Projects Presented
Students in the Honors College shared information about their Honors thesis projects at the college’s spring poster session in March. Overseen by faculty from foreign languages, mechanical engineering, management, English, biology, and journalism & media studies, the projects included:

• A translation of some works of contemporary Spanish author Fernando Macias Garcia
• A study of the effects of unsteady flow on performance of an offterp strip for high temperature heat exchanger
• An examination of performance appraisals
• Latin literary identity and the American legenary
• Gender-specific effects of slow drying in the desert moss Syntrichia caninervis
• Sustainable fashion: alternatives to waste, sweatshops, and pollution in the fashion industry.

SAGE Academy to Bring High School Students to Campus
The Summer Advanced Gifted Education (SAGE) Academy, co-sponsored by the Honors College, Las Vegas World Affairs Council, and the Division of Educational Outreach, will take place July 24 through Aug. 11.

The program reaches out to gifted
Much of their work emphasizes human adaptations to arid environments, both past and present, using microarchaeology and isotope analysis. Their goal is to understand how humans have adapted to and interacted with their environment in the past, and to explore the implications of these adaptations for contemporary society.

Health Sciences

Study: Dance Improves Balance in Older Adults

A research study conducted as a joint venture among the School of Nursing, physical therapy department, and the dance department has found that dance classes can improve balance in older adults. The ultimate goal of the study is to address balance impairments, an area of interest for falls, a major cause of morbidity and death in older adults.

The study measured balance, cognition, and levels of depression in individuals participating in a jazz dance class. The participants were assessed before and after the 18-week program, and showed significant improvements in balance, cognition, and depression measured three times during the 18-week period.

Developed and led by researchers from the College of Health Sciences, the study was supported by a $20,000 grant from the Center for Excellence in Women's Health, a research center for women's health in Las Vegas. The study was led by researchers from the College of Health Sciences, including Dr. Patricia Alpert, associate professor of nursing, and Dr. Steven Roberts, associate professor of physical therapy.

Liberal Arts

Anthropology Expands Research Programs

The department of anthropology and ethnic studies continues to expand its research programs. In particular, the archaeology component is engaged actively in fieldwork in Alaska, New Mexico, Nevada, and the Near East.

Each year, the archaeology component is engaged in a diverse range of research projects, focusing on topics such as prehistoric human behavior, paleoecology, and the dynamics of human-environment interactions. The department has a strong commitment to outreach and engagement, and its research is often informed by collaborations with local communities and organizations.

The faculty and students are dedicated to understanding the past and its implications for the present, and to contributing to the broader understanding of human history and culture.
Tech Savvy

Think Before You Click: OIT Launches Security Campaign

Use caution when down-loading, opening items

By Mamie Peers | OIT

Don’t open that e-mail! Do you know the sender? Do you feel confident it’s a legitimate e-mail rather than a scam or a Trojan horse? Or do you need to do some more checking? Those are the kinds of questions folks in the Computing Resource Center want you to ask yourself — and with good reason. More than 750 faculty and staff members have been victims of security-related computer complications since the center’s help desk began tracking security calls 16 months ago. They experienced their computers running slow, not starting up, or running as if controlled by an invisible force. In some cases, the machines had been taken over by cyber criminals who were using the computer to destroy systems connected to the Internet. Other employees have inadvertently divulged private information to “phishing” cyber criminals. Such problems frustrate users while costing the university thousands of dollars in repairs and loss of productivity. Worse, the security problems can also put student and personnel data at risk.

Plan of Attack

But the office of information technology is taking action. This month it launches a computer security campaign aptly named Think Before You Click.

As wireless access on campus becomes widespread, and as more personal devices are attached to UNLV’s network, it is vital that users learn the best methods for protecting their computers. This will help protect student data, prevent the spread of malicious software, and avoid breaking copyright infringement regulations.

The campaign’s goal is to educate faculty and staff about what to consider before clicking on links, attachments, downloads, pop-ups, and music files. Employees will:

• Receive information in their mailboxes explaining security risks.
• Have the opportunity to visit educational booths in the Lied Library and in the dining commons, where technicians will distribute anti-virus CDs, answer security-related questions, and discuss issues in more detail.
• Receive invitations to panel presentations hosted by faculty who have experienced security-related problems and the technicians who resolved the issue.

A Cautionary Tale

Security issues can hit even the savviest computer users. Take English professor John Irsheld as an example. At home, he installed a wireless system, firewalls, and antivirus software. But this past December, a virus on his UNLV desktop machine left him without a computer for six weeks.

“I didn’t get any campus e-mail and missed some meetings because of the problem. Several weeks of paper-only activity was a little frustrating,” he added.

He encourages employees not to be lax about security issues at work. “Don’t think that just because we have university security systems in place that you won’t get attacked,” he warned. “I’ve had a security problem three times in the 25 years that I’ve worked with computers. The first time I got a virus from a floppy disc. Another time I got a virus in an e-mail that sent chapters from a book I was writing to everyone in my address book. The chapters were even e-mailed to a friend in Germany with whom he hadn’t corresponded in years. ‘It was nice to hear from people who received the virus, but it was a little embarrassing,’” he said.
Colleagues Weigh In On Important Presidential Traits

Compiled by Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

What traits should UNLV’s next president possess? In an online poll, Inside UNLV asked readers to weigh in with their opinions. We received a number of answers, some of which have been edited for length. Some of your responses were:

A new president must have extraordinary visionary and leadership skills to continue — or rather to make faster — a trajectory so that UNLV becomes a research university of national and international reputation.
- Pradip Bhowmik, Chemistry Department

The two most important traits our next president should possess are: 1) communication skills and 2) humor.
- Wendy Urbaniaik, Campus Housing

Proven leadership at a growing institution (must be charismatic, smart, and thoughtful); must put students first; and must be able to delegate — build strong supporting cast to handle many operational issues.
- Darrell Luty, Campus Computing

Should be willing to meet all new employees. I worked for a well-known company in Chicago. The company president took the time to do this. I was so impressed. I have never forgotten this.
- Duna Robertson, University Libraries

Experienced visionary leader, ethical, and strong-willed.
- Christine Wallace, College of Engineering

I think the new president should be a charismatic communicator and leader. He or she should demonstrate terrific planning skills and understand management of the intricacies and details involved in implementation of diversified programs.
- Walter E. Goldstein, Biotechnology Center, Shadow Lane campus

Student-centered in philosophy and practice; respectful of faculty and good at listening and responding to issues on campus and in the community; fair-minded; approachable.
- Vicki Holmes, English Language Center

Someone who is able to connect with and focus on students in the way that Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), does. He often remembers individual students and makes students feel like they are partnering with him on the future of the campus.
- Julanna Omsby, Women’s Research Institute of Nevada, received undergraduate degree from UNIBOC

Understanding that UNLV has taken great strides in its first 50 years with notable advancements under President Harter’s leadership, we stand at an important point in the university’s development, poised for another major advancement in quality and reputation, if only we can attract the right visionary president. The new president should be an accomplished fundraiser — fundraising involves both private sector donations (development) and research grants; be able to articulate the need for a world-class university in a world-class city; come with a vision of what it takes to become a world-class university; and be able to attract top people into his/her staff and delegate authority for day-to-day operations.
- Stephen Miller, Department of Economics

The ability to listen to “unpopular” views and/or the “truth” about situations without going into “cover-up” mode. The ability to actually communicate with faculty and staff, not just do pronouncements “from on high.”
- Peter Griston, University Libraries

I feel that we need a president who has a vision for technology on this campus and its relation to other campuses locally and nationally. We need someone who has a plan for keeping, improving, and expanding technology and technology resources on this campus.

I would say the next president of UNLV should be both a good manager and an entrepreneur.
- Chris Stream, Public Administration Department

Above all, the next president must have a strong commitment to quality (highly ranked via external benchmarks), double-blind reviewed research publications. This is critical if we are to think of UNLV as a high-level research institution. In this modern information age, the quality of faculty publications posted on their websites is the first thing that potential high-quality recruits for faculty positions look at.
- Michael S. LaTour, Department of Marketing

Our next president should have experience and understand the importance of internationalizing the campus if we want to become a premier urban institution in this global economy. Internationalizing the campus would include such things as promoting study abroad by domestic students, international student and scholar exchange, faculty exchanges, foreign language training, and international linkages.
- Kristen Reza, Office of International Students and Scholars

Traits next president should possess — same as two main traits best exemplified by President Harter, namely: 1) bold, ambitious vision for the future of UNLV (Midtown UNLV, Invent the Future capital campaign, Lied Library); 2) administrative support for enhancement of research at UNLV, especially in science and engineering.
- Ronald Gay, Chemistry Department

I believe that the most important quality a university president should possess is an understanding that they are leading an academic institution — not a business. Too often, individuals are selected to lead colleges and universities based on their expertise in business; perhaps on the mistaken belief that the “business model” will create a more efficient, streamlined institution. Academic institutions are not supposed to be efficient or streamlined and the efficiency of the business world is antithetical to the often messy, fuzzy, and convoluted process of debate, discovery, and enlightenment.
- Melise L. Leech, History Department graduate student and part-time instructor

Give classified staff more significance and voice in UNLV policies that affect classified employees. Have an open door policy, not fearful, hesitant, or avoiding controversial issues.
- Michelle Sanders, English Department

A university president needs to be a “people person” — a professional administrator who has worked at the faculty level of a research university and who can understand the importance of having less lines of communication in the university administration and more faculty governance.
- Kathy Lautner, Harry Reid Center

I think we need a president who is a “people person” and is “technology focused.” Although these things seem like opposites it is possible to find a person who has strengths in both areas. This person also needs to continue developing working rapport with the K-12 education system and other NSHE entities; to work with the city, county, state, and federal entities to ensure UNLV’s continued importance in Nevada; and to continue to develop capital campaigns and UNLV Foundation activities.
- Daryl Privott, Shadow Lane campus

Career Advice

A representative of U.S. Customs and Border Protection talks to one of the participants in last month’s Career Day. Organized by UNLV’s office of career services, the event drew 202 employers — the largest number to participate in a UNLV Career Day since the events of Sept. 11, 2001. More than 1,400 students attended the event along with 300 non-campus job seekers. Among the companies participating for the first time this year were Nike, which was a popular stop among the students.

Wanted: One President Who Can...
Getting Down and Dirty for Science

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

Classified and professional staff: go ahead and admit it. When you first joined UNLV and heard about a professor flying off to some exotic locale for research, a little part of you thought: "Sounds like a great vacation."

Inside UNLV wanted to capture moments showing the breadth of a professor’s duties. We rather randomly fell upon geoscience professor Brenda Buck. Little did we know what lengths — and not just geographically — she goes to in pursuing her career.

“I’ve eaten rats, dogs, and insects. I camp out for days with no bed or shower. The weather is always horrible. It’s just exhausting,” she said.

So why does she do it? “I love the science and the discovery. I have to know why things are the way they are.”

Still, she could do without the kidnapping incidents. As we wrap up a photo session, Buck nonchalantly mentions an encounter with Bedouins who tried to buy her from the escort assigned to her by Jordan’s royal family. At the end of the heated exchange, the guard explained that the Bedouins wanted blond babies from her.

On an expedition in Southern China as a graduate student, Buck was among a group of researchers held at gunpoint by locals demanding a ransom. Officials from the Chinese university they were working with returned to the site to negotiate their release. “It was a week of tension and about a day of real fear,” she said.

Her adventures back on campus are tame by comparison, but they don’t offer much downtime. She teaches one or two courses each semester and oversees a half dozen student-researchers.

She keeps tabs on several labs and is working with geoscience professor Patrick Drohan to design facilities in the Science, Engineering and Technology Building now under construction.

Finding funding for her projects also gets scheduled on the well-worn paper calendar she totes everywhere. Private dollars, like those being raised through the Invent the Future campaign, have provided project seed money, often covering travel expenses that are difficult to fund.

"The opportunities I’ve had through private funding have led to grant awards from peer-reviewed sources and invitations to present at major conferences," she said. "One thing seems to spiral out of another."