The 2014 Department of Police Services’ Awards Ceremony Honors UNLV’s Finest

On April 10, 2014, UNLV officers, their families and friends, and esteemed members of the community gathered together to celebrate the many accomplishments of the department’s police and civilian staff. Turn to page 2 to see a scrapbook of the event and find out more about this year’s major award winners!
The ceremony began with the presentation of the colors by the UNLV Police Honor Guard and a performance of the National Anthem by the UNLV Police Vocal Ensemble. Opening remarks were given afterwards by UNLV Acting President Donald Snyder and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Juanita Fain. Colleagues had the opportunity to celebrate over dinner, and awards were then presented by UNLV Police Chief Jose A. Elique and Assistant Chief Sandy Seda.
Among this year’s award honorees were UNLV PD’s most senior member of the team, Sergeant Ernie Castillo, who received a 25-Year Service Award; Police Services Commendation Award winners Officer John Garner and Reserve Officer James Potter, who provided exemplary service during the soccer riots at Sam Boyd Stadium on July 3, 2013, by personally protecting individuals under attack there; Deputy Dispatch Manager Gina Schneider, who received the Civilian Police Employee of the Year Award; and Detective Supervisor Stanley Berry, who received the prestigious Lieutenant Rochelle Sax Police Officer of the Year Award.
All in a Day’s Work:
UNLV PD Serves the Greater Las Vegas Community Through Its Mentoring Program

Detective Supervisor Stanley Berry plays Santa, delivering gifts to local elementary students with the assistance of Officer Paul Velez.

While UNLV’s police officers are dedicated first and foremost to the safety and security of the campus, they quite often go out of their way to serve the community at large as well. From participating in Raul Elizondo Day, Nevada Reading Week, and Police Awareness Day to giving youth group tours and donating their time and goods to charities, the Department of Police Services’ efforts reach far and wide across the valley.

Still, no impact is felt so significantly throughout the city than that resulting from the police department’s largest community outreach effort of all, the UNLV Police Services Mentoring Program. Since March 2009, UNLV’s finest have dedicated hundreds of hours to serving at-risk youth at Diaz Elementary, Neal Elementary, Paradise Elementary, and other schools.

The UNLV Police Services Mentoring Program provides a wide range of services to assist Vegas students. Officers regularly present on bullying and cyberbullying, safety, gangs and graffiti, and law enforcement careers to raise student awareness and create a forum for the discussion of important issues. They guide reading and writing comprehension activities as well as class projects (such as the creation of an imaginary city) to promote education, instill confidence, and boost students’ self-esteem. They also serve as field trip chaperones to courthouses and participate in graduation ceremonies, career fairs, and parades to support the students’ ambitions and achievements.

The beneficial impact the police have on the students’ lives is tangible on many levels. “The children ... try to do better when I’m there,” said Officer Stephani Preston, one of the mentors. “They try to study harder, read better, and behave. They (also) talk to me about ‘things.’”

For instance, when a female elementary student approached Officer Preston and disclosed that the bullying she was enduring was so traumatic, it was causing her to be unable to eat and made her want to stop attending school, Officer Preston personally intervened, arranging and attending a
Officer Stephani Preston is a familiar face to many of the students participating in the mentoring program.

Another mentor, Detective Supervisor Stanley Berry, also witnessed firsthand proof of the positive effect the mentoring program has. He couldn’t have known, when working with a male student in the program, that the boy’s father was a former parolee Detective Supervisor Berry assisted years prior. However, when that man approached Detective Supervisor Berry and thanked the detective for steering his child in the right direction — a better example than he himself was able to provide — Detective Supervisor Berry saw the fruits of his labor within the mentoring program and beyond with his own eyes. “The mentoring program definitely (makes) a difference in the lives of these (students),” he said.

But the mentoring program is no one-way street. Officers gain invaluable insight from their mentees that help them more thoroughly understand the challenges and demands kids face today, which ultimately enables the officers to perform their jobs better. “(Students) always have good questions, and we have very good discussions,” Officer Preston said. “I listen to the children, and they have taught me just as much (as I’ve shared with them).”

Building a relationship of mutual education and admiration is essential to the success not only of the mentoring program, but the entire community, as these children will soon enough transform from students to employees in Las Vegas and beyond. Officer Preston recalled how fulfilling attending a graduation of her mentees was. “At least 100 children personally greeted me by ‘Officer Preston,’” she said. “Having the children like me, as a police officer, is a very good thing. They will hopefully grow up to like, trust, and work with the police.”

The UNLV Department of Police Services is happy to provide outreach of all kinds to local schools and beyond, dependent upon staff availability. Please contact us via the information listed on the last page to schedule an officer for your organization/event or to find out more about our services.
It's a given that most people coming to college are going to do their best to enjoy many of the newfound freedoms that come with being on their own, often for the first time in their lives: staying out late, eating whatever they want, maybe skipping a class or two. For the most part, liberties like these are innocent enough, and if they’re not indulged in too liberally, they bear little consequence.

Sometimes, however, newfound freedoms come to involve alcohol, and many students have little awareness of how dangerous it can really be. Unlike eating pizza every weekend or pulling an all-nighter to finish a term paper, just one misstep involving alcohol can change a person’s life overnight. Consider the following facts and figures as cited directly from the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence:

- Each year, more than 600,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking.
- 95% of all violent crime on college campuses involves the use of alcohol by the assailant, victim, or both.
- 90% of acquaintance rape and sexual assault on college campuses involves the use of alcohol by the assailant, victim, or both.
- Every day, 36 people die and approximately 700 are injured in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. Drinking and drugged driving is the No. 1 cause of death, injury, and disability of young people under the age of 21.

On top of this, new concoctions and methods of consumption are changing this already risky game, threatening to increase the number of assaults, accidents, and deaths related to alcohol. Here’s what you need to know about today’s drinking scene.
Caffeinated alcohol

One all-too-easy way to lose track of how much alcohol you’ve consumed is by combining it with caffeinated energy drinks (like mixing vodka with Red Bull) or buying items that are prepackaged that way. Drinks such as Four Loko, Joose, Max, Core High Gravity, and Moonshot have all shown up on the Food and Drug Administration’s radar, and their makers have all been issued warning letters demanding safer product reformulations, according to CNN’s “FDA Calls 7 Caffeine-Alcohol Drinks Unsafe.”

Why such seemingly drastic measures? Because, as the Center for Disease Control’s fact sheet on caffeine and alcohol points out, while caffeine has no effect on how alcohol is metabolized by the body, it masks alcohol’s effects, making it difficult for drinkers to determine how intoxicated they really are — which can easily lead to binge drinking. When the impact of the caffeine wears off and the alcohol’s side effects are truly felt, many find out the hard way that they consumed more than they could tolerate, blacking out or experiencing other hazardous alcohol-induced health issues. So when it’s party time, the energy drinks should be left behind.

Smoking alcohol

Whether it’s to get buzzed more quickly or to be able to “drink” without consuming the calories of alcohol, inhaling drinks is growing more popular. While there are a variety of ways to turn alcohol into smoke (or “vapor”) and “vape” it much like one would do with the smoke of an e-cigarette, the problem is that “smoking” alcohol is considerably more dangerous than the traditional method of consumption.

Turns out it’s much more difficult to gauge the effects of alcohol vapors while smoking them because they reach the bloodstream more quickly, having bypassed the digestive tract, according to Dr. Deni Carise in “Inhaling Alcohol Vapor Puts You at Risk of Overdose” by CBS’ Michelle Castillo. And the more swiftly one grows intoxicated, the more likely the possibility of overdosing becomes — especially considering that alcohol inhalation bypasses the body’s primary mechanism for preventing alcohol poisoning: vomiting.

This is one instance where cutting corners and calories can cost you much, much more than you ever bargained for. You’re better off drinking moderately (if you’re of legal age to) — the old-fashioned way.

Eyeballing

While you may on occasion see a server on the Strip do it or stumble upon someone’s homemade YouTube video featuring the trick, the pouring of vodka into an eye — or “eyeballing,” as the trend is commonly called — is nothing to take lightly. Just ask Melissa Fontaine or any other student whose vision has been permanently damaged thanks to this stunt.

Although eyeballing appeals to some because of the misconception out there that alcohol can be absorbed more swiftly through the mucus membranes of the eyes, professor and ER consultant Robin Touquet indicated in Barbara Davies’ “Drinking’ Neat Vodka Through Your Eye for a Quick Buzz?” that because the eye isn’t built with a digestive lining to aid in the absorption of alcohol like the stomach does, little more will happen beyond ocular injury such as inflammation, the clotting of blood vessels, and sometimes even irreparable corneal and sclerotic scarring that can permanently damage one’s vision. So don’t buy into the hype — and don’t try to drink with your eyes.
**Neknominate**

What do you get when you combine drinking games and the Internet? One result is Neknominate, a fad that’s responsible for the deaths of at least five people so far this year, according to “Neknominate: ‘Lethal’ Drinking Game Sweeps Social Media” by CNN’s Peter Wilkinson and Isa Soares.

Thought to have started in Australia, Neknominate quickly spread via social media to the U.K. and Ireland, finally reaching Canada and the U.S. around February 2014, based on the appearance of news stories in both countries around that time. Dubbed “Neknominate” from the combination of the slang term “neck” (for “chugging”) and “nomination,” according to Tom Sykes’ “The Internet’s Deadly ‘Neknomination’ Drinking Game,” this “game” mutated from the swift downing of large quantities of alcohol and a dare to outdo the nominator into something much more serious. It now incorporates the consumption of outrageous combinations of alcohol alongside other items, such as dog food, insects, and even toxic engine oil.

While binge drinking is dangerous enough in and of itself, leading to blackouts, alcohol poisoning, and more, what makes Neknominate especially perilous is the addition of other lethal substances to the mix, all in the name of a silly dare. While it may be tempting to join in if you see a friend Neknominating on Facebook, it’s simply not worth risking your life over.

**Knowledge is power**

The more you know about the types of drinking dangers out there, the more you can educate others about them and avoid them yourself. Below is information to help you achieve those goals.

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**More Information**

“*Alcohol, Drugs and Crime*” by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

“*Neknominate: ‘Lethal’ drinking game sweeps social media*” by Peter Wilkinson and Isa Soares, CNN
http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/18/world/europe/neknominate-drinking-game/

“The Internet’s Deadly ‘Neknomination’ Drinking Game” by Tom Sykes
http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/02/03/the-internet-s-deadly-neknomination-drinking-game.html

“Drinking’ neat vodka through your EYE for a quick buzz? It sounds insane, but countless young people are risking their sight in this new craze” by Barbara Davies

“Inhaling alcohol vapor puts you at risk of overdose” by Michelle Castillo

“Fact Sheets — Caffeine and Alcohol” by the Center for Disease Control
http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/cab.htm

“FDA calls 7 caffeine-alcohol drinks unsafe” by the CNN Wire Staff
This summer, the UNLV Department of Police Services will debut its very own Facebook page to engage with today’s college community in new ways online. The page serves as a home to several important features, such as up-to-date police news and events, pictures and videos of the campus community, crime alerts, emergency announcements, crime prevention tips, etc. It will also be a place for members of the community to interact with the department and each other, ask questions, comment, and relay concerns regarding campus safety and crime.

While the department’s Facebook page does serve many functions, please be aware that it is not a tip hotline. To report an emergency or crime in progress, please dial 9-1-1 immediately. If you wish to report a tip or recent crime, please call 3-1-1 or our main telephone number, (702) 895-3668.

An announcement will be sent out to the campus once the UNLV Department of Police Services’ Facebook page has gone live. Don’t forget to hit the “Like” button once it does!

### UNLV Police Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laptop Registration Event</td>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. 28</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Sep. 3</td>
<td>SU by Info Desk</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>SU by Info Desk</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>SU by Info Desk</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>SU by Info Desk</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>SU 209</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>SU 209</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>SU by Info Desk</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>LLB Lobby</td>
<td>8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebel Roundtable Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>SU by Info Desk</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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The UNLV Department of Police Services is pleased to announce that Officer Bill Sigarroa was promoted to the rank of police detective on March 10, 2014. Detective Sigarroa served as a detective-in-training for 10 months prior to receiving this well-deserved promotion. Detective Sigarroa previously served on the Merced County Police Department’s S.W.A.T. team and acted as a community liaison with local elementary school children and their parents. He has an associate degree from San Diego Mesa College.

A familiar face to many on campus, Officer James Cesaria was rehired to the UNLV Department of Police Services on January 21, 2014. Officer Cesaria is a 20-year veteran police officer of the New York City Police Department. He received his law enforcement training from the New York City Police Academy. Welcome back, Officer Cesaria!

Courtland Smith was hired by the UNLV Department of Police Services as a police officer on February 13, 2014. Officer Smith joined the department after serving as a corrections officer for the Nevada Department of Corrections for one year. He received his law enforcement training from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Academy and the Nevada Department of Corrections Academy. He holds a B.S. in fitness and sports management from UNLV, where he also served as the UNLV Men’s Gymnastics Team captain.

On April 21, 2014, Officer Daniel Malloy joined the UNLV Police Department after serving for seven years as deputy sheriff of Lincoln County, Nevada; two years as a corrections officer with the Nevada Department of Corrections; and six years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He received his law enforcement training from the Southern Desert Regional Academy and his B.S. in public administration from UNLV in 2010.

The UNLV Department of Police Services is proud to announce Dispatch Manager Sandra Barfield’s recent success within the professional community. A devoted member of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), the largest and oldest association for public safety communications professionals in the world, Barfield was recently promoted to the position of chapter president for the state of Nevada. In this role, she will serve as chairman of the Chapter Executive Committee, establish objectives for the year, preside over all chapter meetings, and announce committee appointments.
The UNLV Police added civilian Raegen Pietrucha to its team on February 3, 2014. In her role, she prepares and reviews print and digital publications and assists in community outreach and crime prevention education efforts. Raegen received her M.F.A. in poetry from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and her B.A. in English from University of Arizona. She writes, edits, publishes, and consults on professional and creative bases.

The UNLV Department of Police Services bid farewell to Information Technology Project Manager David Javier, who was with the department for eight years. He previously served in the private sector as well as at public organizations such as the U.S. Navy and Hampton University.

**Still Want to Learn More?**

Just take a look at some of the people talking about UNLV’s finest in the media!

**“Patrol Pups” by Adwoa Fosu**

**“Southern Nevada Colleges Report Low Levels of Serious Crime” by Las Vegas Review Journal**

**“UNLV Police: Get Audi Here!” by Ian Whitaker**

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**UNLV Police Chief**
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**Assistant Chief**
Sandy Seda

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Police Fax Lines:
General: 702-895-3600
Police Records & Administration: 702-895-2685

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