Inside UNLV

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Ashley Era Begins at UNLV

Engineer Eager to Build Academic Programs

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

This month, David Ashley begins his tenure as UNLV’s eighth president. He recently sat down with Inside UNLV to share his first impressions of the university, how it can grow, and what his top priorities will be this year.

On his first month: My early days as a Runnin’ Rebel will be spent learning about UNLV and meeting as many people as possible. I need to better understand the culture and desires of UNLV before I make decisions that may be irreversible. (The list of meetings to schedule in the next few months is extensive. Ashley’s calendar will include appointments with cabinet and staff members, Faculty Senate leaders, Classified Staff Council, Planning Council, Dean’s Council, student government leaders, the Rebel Yell Editorial Board — and that’s just some of the on-campus groups.)

Lessons from others: The external demands on a president are tremendous, and absolutely essential to moving a university forward, but, you can’t lose sight of your internal audiences — the students and the faculty and staff. Not communicating well on campus is an area in which I’ve seen a number of presidents get in trouble — I’ll be sure to take that lesson seriously.

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Can-Do Attitude Gets the Job Done

Student Facilities Head Chosen Top Professional Staff Member

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

James “Mac” Hayes says he doesn’t need recognition. A job done well is reward enough. Whether other people notice isn’t particularly important.

Too late, Mac. Somebody noticed.

Hayes, the executive director of student life facilities, was selected as the 2006 President’s Professional Staff Member of the Year.

The 13-year employee and former Army colonel was cited for his unfailingly positive attitude, hard work, and ability to mentor and lead by example.

Hayes, who is spearheading construction of the new student union and student recreation center for the Division of Student Life, said he was taken by surprise when told he would be receiving the honor. He had no idea he had been nominated by six of his employees.

Not only do his employees speak well of Hayes, so does his boss, Rebecca Mills, vice president for student life.

“Mac’s contributions to the university over his time here have been remarkable,” Mills said. “He has the most wonderful ‘can-do’ attitude and student-centered spirit; it pervades all that he does. He encourages his colleagues, and he works tirelessly to make the university a better place.”

West Point Grad

Hayes, a 1966 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, first came to UNLV in 1982 to head the university’s Army ROTC program. After three years here, he moved to his next assignment — commanding a battalion of the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Ky. Then he moved to an assignment at his alma mater.

When it came time for the Vietnam veteran to retire from the Army after 27 years, he headed right back to UNLV.

Hayes, who earned a master’s degree in educational counseling from Duke University in 1973, said that his years at West Point and at UNLV had convinced him his second career should be in higher education.

“While I was working here with the ROTC program (Former Education Dean) Dale Andersen was a mentor to me. When I was in the transition phase I came out and got his wise counsel. He suggested the doctoral program in educational leadership as a way to get started here.”

So in 1993, Hayes began both studying at UNLV and working — first as a graduate assistant and then as associate director of the McDermott Physical Education Complex. He was to finish his coursework and oral exams for his doctoral degree, but a series of family illnesses and deaths prevented his completing his thesis.

Over the years, Hayes became a permanent employee and a fixture in the McDermott Complex until he moved into supervising all student life facility operations. He currently works directly for Mills focusing on project management and space and master planning.

Why Retire?

Although he could retire at any time, Hayes says he has no immediate plans to do so.

“I’m in the best of all possible worlds. I like coming to work every day, and as long as I like to do that, I’m going to continue.”

Today he’s working closely on the union and recreation center construction projects and has another — the expansion of the Student Services Complex — about to move forward.

“They are beautiful, state-of-the-art buildings,” he said of the union and rec center. He added that he thinks the union, the first phase of which will open in time for the start of fall semester, will be an immediate hit with faculty, staff, and students.

“One of the benefits that we’re not used to on campus is that we’re now going to have space for programming,” he said. “We always talk about the interface of faculty and students. Now we’ll be able to have that in a place that is nice and people like to come to.”

He enjoys being part of a team that is accomplishing its goals, he said. He works closely with employees from Mills’ division as well as with folks on- and off-campus, including those from planning and construction.

“We certainly see progress,” he said. “That’s about as rewarding as you can get.”

High Praise

Meanwhile, the staff members who wrote the nominating letter for Hayes — Tim Robitz, Yvette Bell, Adam Leonard, Kelsey Harmon Finn, Kyle Thomas, and Marc Hum — can’t say enough about how hard he works and what an example he sets.

“His ability to mentor, coach, and teach has been an incredible asset to the Division of Student Life,” they wrote in their letter. “Mac has an unblemished record of unselfishness and work ethic toward his position and other overall development of the division and the students.

“New colleagues and young professionals have described Mac’s leadership as affirming, encouraging, and inspiring. He has the ability to push his ‘team’ to do their very best while reminding us that we are here for the students.”

Academy Helps Young Faculty Balance Workload

By Leora Baron | TLC

Twenty-one UNLV junior faculty members recently participated in a new program designed to help them teach more effectively and efficiently.

The Regiment’s Academy, which took place at the Granlibakken Resort in Lake Tahoe last month, originated as a proposal by the Teaching and Learning centers at UNLV and UNR. UNLV participants were joined by 38 colleagues from the state’s other higher education institutions.

The academy is based on the assumption that tenure-track junior faculty members and need to identify ways in which to balance the competing demands of teaching, research, and service.

Participants reviewed reading on teaching and learning and also discovered how to use a variety of teaching methods, assessment/evaluation approaches, technology, and other tools.

Without critical reflection and analysis, faculty members tend to teach as they were taught; yet these may not be the most effective ways for many of their students, according to Leora Baron, director of UNLV’s TLC.

Tools For Effective Teaching

Modeled after a similar, highly successful ongoing program through the University of Missouri System, the Regiment’s Academy is structured to provide participants with tools for effective and efficient teaching so that they can devote the necessary attention and time to scholarly activities, Baron said.

Deans and department chairpersons were invited to submit nominations of qualified faculty.

Selected to participate were: Paul Battaglio (Public Administration), Deborah Boehm (University Studies), Mary Bondmass (Nursing), Gregory Borchard (Journalism), Jai-Lin Chen (Nutrition), Michelle Chino (Environmental & Occupational Health), Daniel Cook (Mechanical Engineering), Michelene Elekonich (Biological Sciences), Jorge Grossmann (Music), Rebecca Guindice (Management), Algerian Hart (Geoscience), Clark Kincad (Hotel Management), Shuzhi Qian (Mechanical Engineering), Kathryn LaTour (Tourism & Convention Administration), V. Nicholas LoLordo (English), Adam Simo (Geoscience), Anne Stevens (English), Sheri Studtke (Nursing), Renee Van Norman (Special Education), and Keith Svoch (Educational Psychology).

The NSHE, the provost, and private donors underwrote the cost of the program.
By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

The 2006 President’s Classified Employees of the Year have all made successful inter-departmental transitions over the last several years and continue to serve the UNLV community, while the President’s Rookie of the Year made an impact as a student and continued his success as a full-time employee.

They all work hard, love what they do, and make a difference. Find out what sets them apart.

**DeeAnn Savilla**
President’s Classified Employee of the Year; $1,000 prize and annual parking permit
Administrative Assistant, School of Dental Medicine
Years at UNLV: 15

DeeAnn Savilla wasn’t in the inaugural class of the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, but she was an integral part of helping its 71 graduates obtain their degrees. Without Savilla, the process would have been a heck of a lot harder.

After working as an administrative assistant in the Graduate College for nearly 11 years, Savilla moved over to the dental school in November 2002 before it even had faculty, students, or a curriculum.

“It has been an amazing journey to see all this grow before my eyes,” she said. “All our efforts came together at graduation. It’s why we are here and what we have worked for — seeing our student doctors become competent and professional dentists.” Savilla is praised for her attention to detail and for seeking additional responsibilities. “Nowhere is her attention to detail more evident than in the preparation of our accreditation self-study document,” wrote William Harman, executive associate dean, in his nominating letter. “DeeAnn managed all phases of this extensive, two-year project. To do this under normal circumstances would be a remarkable accomplishment. However, as a new institution, our timeline was considerably shorter than routine accreditation processes.” In addition to her administrative assistant responsibilities, Savilla developed and assumed the registrar role. Dental students come to her for a number of services, including registration issues, verification of student status, and degree lists. In 2005, the dental medicine students honored Savilla with the first UNLV police recruit to earn a coveted title in the police academy: Police Honor Graduate.

As with many in law enforcement, Murphy does not seek the spotlight. “There are many unsung heroes who work here at UNLV,” she said. “From my fellow coworkers who put in exhausting long hours, risking their lives to keep the campus safe; to the custodial workers who uncomplainingly put in long hours doing hard physical labor; grounds workers who brave the swirling summer temperatures to keep our campus looking fantastic; office workers bravng carpal tunnel and working late hours to meet those last-minute deadlines; parking employees who brave temps higher than the worst summer heat; and many others, all of whom do their utmost to make this university the best place to work and go to school. “I am extremely appreciative and feel very lucky that someone noticed me among all the wonderful people here.”

UNLV Police Lt. Dustin Olson praised Murphy in his nominating letter. “I would place myself in the position of a student, staff, faculty member, or any member of the local community that calls upon Officer Murphy for assistance and essentially places their trust in her hands to protect and serve them,” he said. “I cannot think of another public servant that would be more proficient, fair, moral, compassionate, and deserving to assist me or my loved ones.”

**Gay Sessums**
3rd place President’s Classified Employee of the Year; $500 prize and a plaque
Administrative Assistant, Women’s Studies Department
Years at UNLV: 10

Throughout Women’s History Month in March, employees who subscribe to UNLV Info received a quote of the day. Gay Sessums, an administrative assistant in the women’s studies department, was the one that researched, selected, and posted the daily thought pieces by women. Although sending out the quotes isn’t in her job description, Sessums took an extra initiative to educate, inform, and engage the UNLV community in Women’s History Month.

Although it has experienced substantial growth, the department never had a full-time administrative assistant before Sessums arrived nearly two years ago. Since then she has reorganized the department so that it functions better, while assisting new hires and existing faculty and students. Lois Helmbold, chair of the department, is especially thankful for Sessums’ ability to work with faculty from across campus whom the department relies on to staff various committees. In her nominating letter, Helmbold wrote, “As chair, I emphasize how much more difficult my job would be (and was in earlier years) if I could not rely on Ms. Sessums’ competence, initiative, pleasant manner of dealing with all comers, and great sense of humor.”

In addition to her work-related responsibilities, Sessums completed her bachelor’s degree in philosophy with several honors in 2004 and has had an article accepted by a national student journal in philosophy. “I talk to so many people every day who deserve this honor just as much as I do and I look forward to cheering for next year’s winners,” she said.

**Denise Murphy**
2nd place President’s Classified Employee of the Year; $750 prize and a plaque
University Police Officer
Department of Public Safety
Years at UNLV: 17

Three years ago Denise Murphy was stuck at her desk. Buried under a mountain of paperwork, she wanted once again to have interaction with people. An opening for a police officer offered the human contact she craved, and her coworkers encouraged her to apply.

Murphy, who worked in the human resources department for 14 years before switching careers, received honors as a new officer. She distinguished herself as the first UNLV police recruit to earn a coveted title in the police academy: Police Honor Graduate.

As with many in law enforcement, Murphy does not seek the spotlight. “There are many unsung heroes who work here at UNLV,” she said. “From my fellow coworkers who put in exhausting long hours, risking their lives to keep the campus safe; to the custodial workers who uncomplainingly put in long hours doing hard physical labor; grounds workers who brave the swirling summer temperatures to keep our campus looking fantastic; office workers bravng carpal tunnel and working late hours to meet those last-minute deadlines; parking employees who brave temps higher than the worst summer heat; and many others, all of whom do their utmost to make this university the best place to work and go to school. “I am extremely appreciative and feel very lucky that someone noticed me among all the wonderful people here.”

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**Jason Wasden**
President’s Classified Rookie of the Year; $250 prize
Program Officer, School of Dental Medicine

Years at UNLV: 4.5

For most students, working on campus offers a way to pay their way through school. Jason Wasden not only earned money for his schooling, he also made a significant difference at the School of Dental Medicine.

While working on a bachelor’s degree in business administration with an emphasis in management, Wasden built the school’s infrastructure for purchasing, accounts payable, and receiving. In his nominating letter, Interim Dean Richard Carr wrote, “For a start-up institution, purchasing and development of this infrastructure is a major task — one of the most important in getting the program established and functional.”

Now a program officer for the dental school, Wasden’s responsibilities include writing and implementing policies and procedures and making sure the school complies with federal and university guidelines.

Wasden said he enjoys watching students better their lives while they contribute to the community. “I have seen first-hand how the student clinics benefit the community,” Wasden said. “Since the student clinics benefit the community, I want to see all this grow before my eyes,” she said. “All our efforts came together at graduation. It’s why we are here and what we have worked for — seeing our student doctors become competent and professional dentists.” Savilla is praised for her attention to detail and for seeking additional responsibilities. “Nowhere is her attention to detail more evident than in the preparation of our accreditation self-study document,” wrote William Harman, executive associate dean, in his nominating letter. “DeeAnn managed all phases of this extensive, two-year project. To do this under normal circumstances would be a remarkable accomplishment. However, as a new institution, our timeline was considerably shorter than routine accreditation processes.” In addition to her administrative assistant responsibilities, Savilla developed and assumed the registrar role. Dental students come to her for a number of services, including registration issues, verification of student status, and degree lists. In 2005, the dental medicine students honored Savilla with the first UNLV police recruit to earn a coveted title in the police academy: Police Honor Graduate.

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Business

College Fares Well at Entrepreneurial Competition

Two students from the MEP program took top honors in the second annual Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup Competition. The statewide event promotes entrepreneurial education and showcases UNLV as a business-savvy institution.

The competition helps students realize that when they come up with a good idea, they can make it work, said Janet Rupley, interim director of UNLV’s Center for Entrepreneurship. “That’s what putting a business plan together is all about. And our students came up with not only exciting ideas, but incredibly feasible ideas as well.”

Six UNLV teams competed in the finals competition. Students John Lynn and Jon Canio took first place in the graduate category for their plan called FantasyHigh.com, which creates customized websites for sports teams at no cost. Second place in the graduate category went to Theresa Hatch, Greg Fisher, and Ashley Sander. The undergraduate team from Fred Borchmeyer, which provides the knowledge and resources to help small businesses outsource manufacturing and marketing, earned a third-place win — from initial design assistance to shipment arrival at their customer’s door and all the steps in between.

In the undergraduate category, David Kellen’s product, Safe Ride Entreprises, took second place. The plan includes developing a seatbelt ignition interlock that prevents a vehicle from starting until the driver’s seatbelt is fastened. Kellen, who graduated in May, plans to market the idea. “We’ll be trying to find investors who are interested in helping us. The exposure from this competition has been great.”

Education

Diversity Evident at Student Research Symposium

More than 30 posters highlighting the work of undergraduates and doctoral students were displayed at the college’s first student research symposium, which took place during spring semester. The experience offered students an opportunity to be on the planning side of a research conference while learning to network and build bridges across the campus community.

Family literacy, economic development in Southern Nevada, child development, and immigration studies were among the many topics.

Keynote speaker Mark Rudin, who now is interim vice president of research and graduate studies, emphasized the importance of research to the mission of the university and praised the college for hosting a graduate student research symposium. Six graduate students organized the event: Amy Morris (Educational Psychology), Michelle Duggan (Educational Leadership), Jeff Wilson (Educational Leadership), Nicole Smith (Sports Education Leadership), Christie Carmack (Special Education), and Midea Sas (Curriculum & Instruction). Next year, the event will expand to include paper presentations and roundtable discussions.

Scheduling the event before the UNLV Graduate and Professional Student Association’s (GPSA) 2011 American Educational Research Association (AERA) conferences provided students with an opportunity to promote their presentations and receive constructive feedback from faculty before presenting at larger conferences.

Engineering

Minority Engineering Program Honors Top Students

The Minority Engineering Program (MEP), headed by professor Eugene McGaughey, honored its top students during its 15th annual luncheon at the end of spring semester.

Sixty guests attended the event that recognizes the academic and intellectual achievement of the MEP students. The luncheon also recognizes administrators, faculty, MEP board members, and other community partners for their support. A.C. Hollins Jr., who has 33 years of experience as a U.S. Department of Energy contractor, was the featured speaker.

Certificates recognizing outstanding academic achievement were awarded to students who scored a grade point average of 3.0 or better and were enrolled in 12 or more credit hours during spring or fall semester. U.S. Sen. Harry Reid sent certificates of recognition to each recipient.

Additionally, the student with the highest GPA in each class received a plaque. Freshman Arinze Usowhie, sophomore Juan Plata, junior Arrielle Mathis, and senior Nesley Orochena earned this year’s honors. Alvin Morris was named outstanding MEP student based upon his academic performance, leadership, participation in activities, and willingness to help others.

The MEP program began in 1989 under McGaughey’s direction and currently has an enrollment of 160 students.

Graduate

New Graduate Student Orientation Set for Aug. 25

All new graduate students are encouraged to attend the college’s orientation 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Moyer Student Union. Graduate students should attend this event in addition to their departmental orientations.

The orientation will provide new graduate students with information to ease the transition into studies at UNLV. Among the topics to be addressed are funding opportunities, benefits, policies, and resources for graduate students.

Students will have the opportunity to obtain materials and talk to representatives about financial aid, student health insurance, computing resources, libraries, the graduate assistantship program, graduate student associations, and other topics.

Another event of interest to graduate students is the “Two-Day Intensive Introduction to Teaching,” set for July 25-26. The two-day program is designed to prepare graduate students to teach at the university level.

Law

Students Succeed at Advocacy Competitions

Students from the Boyd School of Law fared well this past academic year in various interscholastic advocacy and lawyering skills competitions.

Each summer the law school selects students to become members of the Society of Advocates (SOA), an honorary co-curricular student organization whose members represent their schools in competitions. During fall semester, the society sent two teams to the National Moot Court Regions

Across Campus

25 Down, 25 to Go!

Former UNLV President Leonard “Pat” Goodall, left, presents a 25-year pin to Les Ratchko, director of reprographic/design services. Others joining the 25-Year Club this year were William Robinson, Kari Cobum, Larry Chin, Ranel Erickson, Cathe Kelly, Diane Smith, William Thompson, Nancy Master, James Reitz, Donald Bell, James Selser, J.M. Stitt, and Skip Swerdlow.

Honors

Spring Medallion Ceremony Held

The second season concludes with Bertolt Brecht’s epic drama The Masks of Rioclora, performed in the Black Box Theatre.

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In December, acclaimed playwrights at UNLV’s Center for Entrepreneurship. The orientation will provide new graduate students with information to ease the transition into studies at UNLV. Among the topics to be addressed are funding opportunities, benefits, policies, and resources for graduate students.

Students will have the opportunity to obtain materials and talk to representatives about financial aid, student health insurance, computing resources, libraries, the graduate assistantship program, graduate student associations, and other topics.

Another event of interest to graduate students is the “Two-Day Intensive Introduction to Teaching,” set for July 25-26. The two-day program is designed to prepare graduate students to teach at the university level.

Law

Students Succeed at Advocacy Competitions

Students from the Boyd School of Law fared well this past academic year in various interscholastic advocacy and lawyering skills competitions.

Each summer the law school selects students to become members of the Society of Advocates (SOA), an honorary co-curricular student organization whose members represent their schools in competitions. During fall semester, the society sent two teams to the National Moot Court Regions
in Phoenix. There, the teams won the second- and third-place awards for best brief. Two students won awards for best oralist, Michael Giles placed second and Christian Hale, fourth. Finally, one team won second place overall, securing an invitation to the final rounds of the competition in Chicago.

In the spring, SOA sent two teams to compete in San Francisco and the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Regionals. Not only did both teams advance to the semi-finals of the regional championship, but both teams also won cash prizes for having the second- and third-best briefs in the entire western region. In addition, SOA competed and won an award for best fifth-best memorial in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

Finally, the SOA’s client counseling team of Jerrold Creed and Stacy Perez-Roe won the ABA Client Counseling Competition Regional (which was hosted by the Boyd School of Law) and ultimately went on to place third in the nation.

Liberal Arts

Jordanian Professor Joins UNLV Through Fulbright Program

A professor from Jordan will be teaching foreign language at UNLV during the upcoming academic year as part of the Fulbright Language Teacher Assistant (FLTA) program. This is the second year in a row that UNLV’s department of foreign languages has had a FLTA participant. Currently, the department is the only FLTA host in Nevada.

Designed to introduce scholars of lesser-taught languages to American university life, the program has expanded recently to all 50 states. Mahmoud Ezzat Abu Nawas will be teaching introductory and intermediate Arabic language courses, as did the 2005-06 participant, Maryam Al-Ashour of Kuwait.

New Professor Joins Foreign Languages

Professor Margarita Jara, who specializes in Hispanic linguistics, joins the department of foreign languages. Jara, who is researching aspects of the Spanish spoken in Lima, Peru, earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. She will teach courses in linguistics and computer-assisted language learning.

Study Abroad Opportunity Funded

The Sigrid Sommer scholarship fund has been established at UNLV for study abroad with the University Studies Abroad Consortium program in Lüneburg, Germany. The scholarship honors Sommer who served more than 20 years as Germany’s honorary consul in Las Vegas.

Libraries

Oral History Collection Continues to Grow

In Las Vegas’ centennial in 2005 put a spotlight on the history of Southern Nevada. The Oral History Research Center, located in the University Libraries’ special collections section, is all about the history of the area. Established in 2003, the center conducts and collects interviews of individuals who provide first-hand knowledge of various historical topics related to the region. Directly Wheat conducts interviews, trains other interviewers, and oversees all projects. She describes this method as the best — and sometimes only — way to gather and preserve certain kinds of information.

The center began with the Boyer Early Las Vegas project; more than 100 interviews cover a broad range of people who were in Las Vegas during the “early days” in Las Vegas. Currently the center is collecting the oral history of UNLV in preparation of the university’s 50th anniversary in 2007.

Some projects involve smaller groups of people whose experience revolves around a specific area of interest such as “Living to Dance” and “Las Vegas Showgirls.” For a more somber project, White is training individuals to interview any remaining Holocaust survivors in the area as well as second-generation family members of Holocaust survivors.

The campus is participating with the Blue Diamond History Committee whose members have been trained to collect the histories of their gypsum mining community. This enthusiastic group has been awarded grants to support and expand their efforts. There is discussion about developing projects with the Culinary Union Local 226 and with Boyd Gaming — two different aspects of the tourism industry.

Visit the Oral History Research Center at UNLV online at library.unlv.edu/oral_histories/index.

Sciences

College’s Website Highlights Teaching, Research, and Service

A revised college website is available at sciences.unlv.edu. Dean Ron Yabsin said users will find useful the new information and links contained on the site.

“The website highlights the many teaching, research, and community service activities of our faculty, staff, and students and promotes these accomplishments to a wide audience, including prospective students, current students, university colleagues, alumni and donors, Nevada residents, the general public, and anyone interested in the world of science and mathematics,” Yabsin said.

Improvements and additions include such features as electronic versions of the college newsletter and updated information on facilities and laboratories, research centers, and community services.

College Recognized for Efforts to Combat Cheating

UNLV received praise from the Virtual College Network for its efforts to deal with the national problem of classroom cheating. UNLV was featured in a May article in the New York Times which called “Colleges Chase As Cheaters Shift To Higher Tech.”

CNN also visited campus and prepared a news story on the topic. “If they didn’t like the test, they didn’t have to do it,” said an exasperated Sciences Dean Ron Yabsin, “they’d all be ‘A’ students.”

He was not the only one upset by the camera phone-cheating episode, which occurred in 2003. Honest students suggested they police one another, by being exam proctors. They helped develop the test-monitoring program that is now used on campus.

Amanda M. Souza, a third-year undergraduate who heads the proc- tor program, said her classmates had mixed reactions to the student monitors. “The ones that aren’t cheating think it’s a great idea,” she said. “You always see students who are really well-prepared covering their papers. But the ones that aren’t prepared, probably don’t like us.”

University College

Third Class Graduates

The college graduated its third class in May, generating 38 new alumni for UNLV. All the graduates — 21 women and 17 men — completed a senior capstone project. Some of the diverse capstone topics were:

• “The Demise of an American City: Oral Histories of Those Displaced by Hurricane Katrina”
• “Gaming Technology: Implementation: Internet Casing and In-Room Gaming”
• “A Place for Me: Senior E-Housing Facility”
• “Childhood Obesity: An Epidemic”
• “Immigration: A View of the Issue Through Research, Observation, and Participation.”
• “A Place for Me: Senior E-Housing Facility”

Telma Lopez was chosen as one of UNLV’s “Outstanding Graduates” and recognized at spring commencement for her exceptional work as a student.

Urban Affairs

Faculty and Students Receive Recognition

Faculty and students were recognized for their achievements at the col-lege’s annual scholarship and awards reception in May. Faculty receiving Outstanding Service Awards were Gary Larson (Journalism and Media Studies) and Joel Lieberman (Criminal Justice). Outstanding Teaching Award recipients were Timothy Fannham (Environmental Studies) and Mary Hausch (Journalism and Media Studies). The Outstanding Research Award was given to Randall Selden (Criminal Justice).

Twenty-two graduate and under-graduate students received Greenspun College of Urban Affairs Scholarships for the 2006-07 academic year. Also recognized were 35 students who received individual departmental and school scholarships and awards.

Students Receive Research Projects at Annual Reception

Nine students presented the results of their research at the annual students poster symposium held by the department of environmental stud-ies in May. They conducted their research under the supervision of faculty member Timothy Fannham and content advisors from campus and outside agencies, including the Southern Nevada Water Authority and National Park Service. Research topics ranged from measuring mercury concentrations in canned tuna to cost-benefit analysis of anaerobic digestion of cattle manure on dairy farms. Professor emeritus James E. Deacon introduced the scholarship award names for him.

In addition to student awards and scholarships, history professor Hal Rothman was presented with the Aldo Leopold Award. Department chair Helen Neill also was recognized for her six years of service as chair.

Hotel

UNLV Singapore to Open Next Month

UNLV Singapore, the university’s first overseas campus, will officially open its doors next month, with a grand opening celebration set for Aug. 2. The center, which will be co-directed by Jerrold Creed, will be located at the National Library of Singapore (pictured above), a prestigious building comparable to the U.S. Library of Congress. The state-of-the-art facilities feature a “virtual learning environment” with the latest in education technology.

The campus will offer a bachelor’s degree program in hotel administration and hospitality management. UNLV Singapore is offering the college’s upper division courses, which include hotel administration, hospitality marketing, food and beverage management, and hotel law. Students may also earn an executive master’s degree in hospitality.

Assistant professor Andy Nazarechuk will serve as dean of the campus, and Audrey McCool and Ken Teeters will join the faculty in upcoming year. UNLV Singapore is accepting online applications for its first classes, scheduled to begin in September. Around 200 students are expected to enroll in this fall semester.

For information about online enrollment, visit www.unlvs.edu.sg.
Without ever leaving Oklahoma, eight Cherokee Nation students earned master of hospitality administration degrees this spring from the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration.

Distance education, specifically compressed video technology, made it possible for the students to earn their diplomas in two years and a half by attending class in either of two cities, Tahlequah or Catcossa. These weren’t online courses; students participated in live classroom interaction.

“I used taking live video classes because I’m a procrastinator with the online classes,” said student Stephanie Meeder. “I work full time and have three kids at home, but I could not miss a class. I knew my professors were looking for me on the television screen every day.”

Occasionally, nature made it impossible to attend class. At various times, tornadoes, floods, blizzards, and frozen rural roads prevented students from reaching the education centers.

“Getting Started

“IT all started in 2002,” Dean Stuart Mann recalled, “when the Cherokee Nation approached us with their request to provide education services to them. After a few initial meetings, the Cherokee Nation provided a non-revocable gift to UNLV in the form of a memorandum of understanding to outfit a classroom at Beam Hall. That compressed video classroom has been used since to provide distance education courses to students from the Cherokee Nation who enroll in our program.”

The Cherokee Nation chose UNLV as a partner in this program in large part because of the Hotel College’s reputation.

“It is very important to us to provide higher education to our people and retain them in our nation,” said Doyle Paden, Cherokee Nation director of leadership development in education. “It is one of our focuses to develop a high quality gaming industry at the Cherokee Nation, and provide top-notch professionals to work at our hotels and casinos.”

As part of the process several Hotel College faculty members became the first professors on campus to learn and use WebCT technology. That meant converting materials they use in a classroom setting into some sort of digitally transmittable format.

Then, in the fall of 2003, the Hotel College began delivering a minimum of six credit hours of graduate-level course work on compressed video, and a number of additional courses. The following fall, at no additional cost to the Cherokee Nation, the college faculty started providing professional seminars on topics in gaming and hospitality management.

The expansive coursework made it possible for diligent students who received good grades to complete their degree in less than three years.

A Successful Venture

Graduating student Brenda King, left, one of eight students from the Cherokee Nation to earn a UNLV degree via a special distance education program, talks with Karl Mayer, professor of tourism and hotel administration, during a visit to campus for May commencement ceremonies.

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Deserved Recognition

Spring commencement brought with it a number of deserved honors. (Below) For some, it was time to celebrate. (Right) President Carol C. Harter, right, presents the President’s Medal to history professor Hal Rothman, center, while Provost Ray Alden assists.

> Ashley

Continued from Page 1

What makes faculty great: You can find spec- tacular researchers who believe they don’t have to teach anymore. And you can find wonderful teachers who really thrive as educators. But in a research university, you have to be both. You have to be committed to your field and advancing knowledge in that field, but also committed to stu- dents in the classroom.

Diversity: Nevada is becoming an increasingly diverse state, and UNLV needs to be at the forefront in providing educational access, as well as harness- ing the opportunities. Our campus should embrace ethnic, cultural, social, and intellectual diversity as key to our state and national leadership — we can and should be the most important institution in the state for realizing the full potential of our diverse community.

Where his interest in construction engineering came from: As a little kid I always had kits to build electronic things. My father was a chemi- cal engineer, so I spent a lot of time in his labora- tory. I also worked summer jobs as a construction laborer. I loved to watch physical and mechanical things evolve.

Engineering stereotypes: Yes, I am an engineer and have heard the jokes and the generalizations. I find the stereotypes endearing, but not always accurate. Having a sense of humor is essential to me; just don’t expect me to start telling jokes.

Top priorities: As quickly as possible I need to understand the top positions now open and how they function at UNLV in particular. An interna- tional search for the executive vice president and provost will be my top priority. Current vacancies include executive vice president and provost; vice presi- dent for research and graduate studies; vice president for institutional diversity; and deans of Education and Dental Medicine.

UNLV’s next provost: It has to be someone who understands research universities and what kinds of resources are required to support faculty activi- ties. It has to be someone who values the mix of teaching and research and can cultivate the careers of faculty. I’m also certain that it has to be someone who came up as a faculty member. That mix is not as widespread as you might expect. I’ll be careful and thoughtful in making a permanent appointment.

What he learned during the presidential search process: There’s real ambition on the academic side. There is a genuine belief that UNLV can grow and thrive as a research university. I see a strong foundation in the planning that has already occurred. What’s next on that? I need to know whether or not the university’s strategic plan is fresh, whether it’s consistent with the most current thoughts in the community and on campus.

How you improve a university: It all starts with getting the best faculty and exceptional graduate students, and the competition for them is fierce. Attracting them will require us to make invest- ments in focused areas. By doing that, over time, we will elevate the university as a whole. If we spread the resources too thinly, we’ll undermine our growth and our ability to achieve excellence.

How to decide what to focus on: You have to get buy-in across campus, and that comes from a compre- hensive planning and engagement process so individuals understand the whole picture. It’s not about creating the haves and have-nots, but rather, about pursuing areas where investments yield bene- fits to the reputation and stature of the entire univer- sity. As a new president, I’ll have a unique opportu- nity to re-engage people in the process for determin- ing where UNLV will grow; it’s an exciting time.

Congratulation messages: They all start out with: “I know you must be inundated by e-mail…”

Most surprising thing faculty and staff will find about him: I’m very approachable, and I’ll be interested in what you’re doing.

Faculty governance: I come from the University of California system, where there is a well-respected shared-governance process with faculty and staff. Consulting with the faculty about matters that impact academics is critical. The faculty have the primary role in defining the quality of our aca- demic programs and the faculty we hire and pro- mote. The administration, viewed collectively, has the chief responsibility for managing our resources so that we can best deliver our research and instructional programs.

On media relations: I do have to be careful of what I say. After Christina Littlefield (of the Las Vegas Sun) reported that I wanted to read Who Moved My Cheese, I got three copies as gifts.

What he’ll bring to UNLV: I have a granite table that seats about six people. It’s traveled with me from Berkeley to Ohio to Merced. I used to teach a summer course for Swedish students every other year. I used the stipend from my first course to buy office furniture including this table. My wife has had her eyes on it for the dining room table, but it’s never made it there.

What keeps him up at night: In general, too many undone things. But right now, nothing — I’m in that new-job stage where I see almost endless possibilities.
Since it opened in 2001, UNLV’s Lied Library has become a mecca for those who thirst for coffee or hunger for knowledge. During fiscal year 2004-05, nearly 1.5 million people passed through its doors. If you add in University Libraries’ three branches — the Architecture Studies, Curriculum Materials, and Music libraries — that number grows to almost 1.7 million. (The Law Library is part of the Boyd School of Law rather than being part of University Libraries.)

Among its 122 full-time workers, University Libraries employs 17 who are of particular interest to faculty members — the subject liaisons. They teach students how to use information resources when invited to classes by faculty members, offer individualized research assistance, and help develop the libraries’ collections. Faculty are encouraged to contact their liaison. Those unsure of their liaison can call ext. 5-2191 or visit library.unlv.edu/about/biblio.

University Libraries’ collection now exceeds 1.3 million volumes spanning everything from books and journals to hotel ashtrays in the gaming section of the special collections department. Patrons can use the libraries’ computers or bring their own. Approximately 800 wired drops are available. And, if you have wireless capability, you’ve hit the jackpot. Lied Library is wireless throughout, including in the popular Book N Bean.

The library uses radio frequency identification and a Digital Library Assistant from 3M to scan whole shelves of books. The scan is then checked against the master catalog to ensure that all items are in the right place.

(Above) Nancy Ochoa demonstrates how the Lied Automated Storage and Retrieval (LASR) system works. LASR provides high-density storage for items that are used infrequently. The items are quickly retrieved by robotic crane. Without the compact storage such items probably would have to be stored off campus. (Left) Senior Suzanne Fayle, an English major, finds a quiet corner to study. The five-story, 302,000-square-foot library, which opened in January 2001, received awards for its architecture. The building was designed by Wells/Pugsley Architects of Las Vegas and Leo A Daly Architects of Omaha, Neb.

(Left) Cheryl Taranto, music liaison and head of the Music Library, displays an oversized volume of the works of composer George Crumb. (Below) History major Kelly Kerrigan studies at the Lied Library’s popular Book N Bean. It, like the rest of library, has wireless capability.