Inside UNLV

Cate Weeks  
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Shane Bevell  
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Diane Russell  
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*, diane.russell@unlv.edu

Leora Baron  
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

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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.

UNLV President David Ashley speaks with student life employee Peggy Sondahl during a visit to campus when he was still a candidate for the post.

On UNLV’s students: When I visited during the search, (incoming CSUN Vice President) Mari Nakashima took me on a tour of campus. She was so enthusiastic it was infectious. Interactions like that keep me focused on why universities exist — to serve students. We’re here to give them the best opportunities to grow both inside and outside the classroom.

More info: The Rebel Connection website rebelconnection.unlv.edu contains up-to-date information regarding activities. In August a special section for faculty and staff will include a volunteer sign-up form, a list of frequently asked questions, and a request for materials.

Faculty Encouraged to Join Welcome Events

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Starting college can be overwhelming for a new student. Get a parking permit, pick up a Rebel Card, and find classrooms might be on the typical to-do list at the start of the semester.

When there are questions, where should students go?

Rebel Connection will provide the answers. It ties all the welcome week and orientation activities into a comprehensive program unique to UNLV. This year’s activities include Ask Me! booths, a pancake breakfast, and Premier UNLV, the university’s annual celebration to mark the start of the new year.

“We can simply wear an Ask Me! button while walking around campus and answer students’ questions during the first few days of the fall and spring semesters,” Gittens said. “Faculty and staff can also volunteer at events such as the pancake breakfast, grab-n-go breakfast, and Premier UNLV. Or, they can ask questions and interacting with students.

Those new to campus themselves needn’t worry that they don’t have enough experience to participate. The Rebel Connection Committee offers an optional training session to help volunteers feel more comfortable answering frequently asked questions and interacting with students.

The Rebel Connection was developed in part as a response to the success of the Ask Me! campaign, which debuted in 2004. The campaign was developed to serve students and create a warm, welcoming environment that was student friendly.

Fireworks traditionally light up the night at Premier UNLV.
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 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 assistant 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 nonstop 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 both 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, Yeette Kell, Adam Leonard, Kelsy Harmon Finn, Kyle Thomas, and Marc Hume — 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 Regent’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 need more time and need to identify ways in which to balance the competing demands of teaching, research, and service.

Participants reviewed research 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 Regent’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.

Departments and department chairs were invited to submit nominations of qualified faculty. Selected to participate were: Paul Battaglio (Public Administration), Deborah Boehm (University Studies), Mary Bondmass (Nursing), Gregory Borchardt (Journalism), Jia-Jin Chen (Nutrition), Michelle Chino (Environmental & Occupational Health), Daniel Cook (Mechanical Engineering), Michelle Elekonicz (Biological Sciences), Jorge Grossmann (Music), Rebecca Guidice (Management), Algerian Hart (Geosciences), Clark Kincade (Hotel Management), Shuzhi Qian (Mechanical Engineering), Kathryn LaTour (Tourism & Convention Administration), V. Nicholas LoLordo (English), Adam Simo (Geosciences), Anne Stevens (English), Sheri Studtke (Nursing), Renee Van Norman (Special Education), and Keith Svoch (Educational Psychology).

The NSHE, the provost, and private donors underscored the cost of the program.

Summer Sessions at the Teaching & Learning Center

UNLV’s Teaching & Learning Center is offering a number of workshops for full- and part-time faculty this summer. Among the offerings are:

• "WebCampus (Vista) Basics" — A special mini-course on using UNLV’s new online course management system.
• "Teaching/Faculty Portfolios" — How to document your teaching accomplishments for career development.
• "Writing Assignments in All Courses" — Tools and techniques to efficiently integrate writing assignments into your courses.

A full listing of the TLC’s summer workshops is available online at: tlc.unlv.edu.
By Shane Bevill  |  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.

**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 firsthand how the student clinics benefit the community,” Wasden said. “Since the school opened its doors, we have seen patients who would never have been able to afford a dentist.”

Now the UNLV graduate is enrolled in the state’s certified public manager program. “I fully intend on continuing my education for the rest of my life,” he said. “I know that my career path lies in higher education. I love dental education and the people.”

In a nominating letter Ellen Herrick, assistant dean of finance and administration, cited Wasden’s graduation and continuing education: “Mr. Wasden is an outstanding example of ‘excellence through education.’”

**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 Student Advocacy Award from the UNLV chapter of the American Student Dental Association.

Savilla planned and implemented an ID/badge system, which she now manages. She also began photographing events and activities and organized them for yearbooks, online alumni sites, and future alumni reunions. Savilla is humbled by the honor. “It was an unexpected surprise,” she said. “Never in a million years did I think that I would be chosen or even nominated. It’s nice to know that you are appreciated.”

**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 sweltering summer temperatures to keep our campus looking fantastic; office workers braving carpal tunnel and working late hours to meet those last minute deadlines; parking employees who brave tempers 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 it upon herself to initiate, educate, and 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 I have to deserve this honor just as much as I do and I look forward to cheering for next year’s winners,” she said.
**25 Down, 25 to Go?**

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

**Honors**

Spring Medallion Ceremony Held

Honors Dean Carol C. Harter and alumna Tondra De, who will begin work on her doctoral degree at UCLA this fall, spoke at the spring medallion ceremony honoring the college’s graduating class of 51 students. Honors Dean Steven Rosenberg and deans from the other colleges presented the student medallions.

A partial list of the universities and programs to which graduating honors students have been admitted include:

- University of Wisconsin-Madison Ph.D. program in anthropology (full fellowship)
- Johns Hopkins School of Medicine MD/Ph.D. program (full tuition)
- Carnegie-Mellon Information Networking Institute (full scholarship)
- Arizona State University department of mathematical sciences Ph.D. program
- UNR medical school
- UNLV’s Boyd School of Law

Two honors students, an anthropologist and a biology major, also were winners of the Lied Library undergraduate research prizes for their honors thesis projects.

**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 Regional

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**Fine Arts**

**NCT Announces Fourth Season**

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV recently announced its 2006-07 season. The main season will open in October and continue through May. The schedule includes a world premiere, a staged reading, three full-length plays, and two staged readings.

- *The Coraline Project* will be presented at the Moyer Student Union on Sept. 21 at 7 p.m.
- *The Great Gatsby* will be presented at the Moyer Student Union on Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.
- *The Glass Menagerie* will be presented at the Moyer Student Union on Nov. 23 at 7 p.m.
- *Twelfth Night* will be presented at the Moyer Student Union on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.
- *A Glass Menagerie* will be presented at the Moyer Student Union on Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.
- *Language, Open Thread* will be presented at the Moyer Student Union on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.
- *The Producers* will be presented at the Moyer Student Union on March 7 at 7 p.m.
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* will be presented at the Moyer Student Union on April 12 at 7 p.m.
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* will be presented at the Moyer Student Union on May 16 at 7 p.m.

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**Business**

**College Fares Well at Entrepreneurial Competition**

UNLV students once again 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 Runge, interim director of the Student Research Symposium. “That’s what putting a business plan together is all about. And our students came up with not only exciting ideas, but incredible feasible ideas as well.”

Six UNLV teams competed in the final 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 Teresa Hatch, Greg Fisher, and Addison Smith for their team called Berkeley Sourcing Group, which provides the knowledge and resources to help small businesses. The team was awarded money to start the business.

The Minority Engineering Program took home the top prize in the undergraduate category. David Kellen’s product, Safe Ride, was awarded $2,500. The product, which is intended for mature audiences, is a satirical take on the life of a 21-year-old, according to Moises Kaufman, professor of playwriting at the Playwrights’ Rep.

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**Education**

**Diversity Evident at Student Research Symposium**

More than 30 posters highlighting the work of graduate and doctoral students were displayed at the college’s first student research symposium, which took place during spring semester.

The experience offers 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 bike safety were among the many topics.

Keynote speaker Mark Rudin, now who 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), Jeffrey Jeff Wilson (Educational Leadership), Jeff Wilson (Educational Leadership), Nicole Smith (Sports Education Leadership), Christia Carmack (Special Education), and Mieda Sax (Curriculum & Instruction). Next year, the event will expand to include paper presentations and roundtable discussions.

The Minority Engineering Program Headed Top Students

The Minority Engineering Program (MEP), headed by professor Eugene McGaugh, 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 earned 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 Usowihie, 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 McGaugh’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 assistants program, graduate student associations, and other topics.

Another event of interest to graduate students is the “Two-Day Intensive Introduction to Teaching,” set for 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Aug. 22-23. Sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Center and the college, this workshop offers information on teaching styles, course syllabus, and assignment development; assessment; effective uses of PowerPoint; testing options; and more. It is essential for graduate assistants teaching for the first time and for those needing to refresh their skills.

The Graduate College is delighted to welcome its students at orientation and share important information about the graduate studies experience,” said Mark Rudin, interim vice president for research and graduate studies. “We would like to encourage all faculty and staff to urge new graduate students to attend these events. I believe the students will find the information — and the opportunity for networking — extremely valuable.”

To register for these events or obtain other orientation information, visit graduatecollege.unlv.edu.

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**Across Campus**

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**Fine Arts**

NCT Announces Fourth Season

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV recently announced its 2006-07 season. The main season will open in October inside the Judy Bayley Theatre with Noel Coward’s comedy Private Lives.

In December, acclaimed Shakespearean director James Edmondson will direct the bard’s Twelfth Night.

In February, Tennessee William’s A Glass Menagerie, a classic of modern theater, will open with a guest star in the role of Amanda.

Next is Bertolt Brecht’s epic drama Mother Courage and Her Children. This play will be performed in the Black Box Theatre.

The main season closes with the 1999 version of the musical You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown, based on the Charles M. Schulz comic strip. Pums.

The second season, which is intended for mature audiences because of subject matter and language, opens in September with The Laramie Project, a drama developed by Moises Kaufman and the members of Tectonic Theatre Project about the kidnaping and beating of 21-year-old college student in Wyoming in the late 1990s.

The Playwrights’ Rep follows at the end of October and into November with two plays from the MFA playwriting program. The second season concludes in April with the premiere of the play that won the Saretz National Playwriting Competition, Richard Sewell’s The Marks of Rickets. Gwyneth and Robert Weiss established the competition in honor of Mark Rudin, now who is interim vice president of research and graduate studies.

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Across Campus

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 campus, which is housed in the National Library of Singapore (pictured above), will host a combination of world-class facilities designed to attract students from across the globe.

University College
Third Class Graduates
The college graduated its third class in May, generating 38 new alumni for UNLV. All the graduates were pre-law, with 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 Environment and History Facility”
• “Childhood Obesity: An Epidemic”
• “Immigration: A View of the Issue Through Research, Observation, and Participation.”

Students Reveal Research Projects at Annual Reception
Nine students presented the results of their research at the annual student poster reception held by the department of environmental studies in May. They conducted their research under the supervision of faculty members Timothy Farnham 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.

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University Libraries

College of Urban Affairs Scholarship Awards
The college announced the winners of the 2006-07 scholarship awards, which included 35 students who received individual departmental and school scholarships and awards.

Student News

Research

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Spotlight On Accomplishments

E-mail entries to inside.unlv.edu. Items should be no more than 75 words.

Donna Coker (Student Counseling and Psychological Services) was named classified employee of the month for April in the administrative category. One of her primary duties is putting students at ease when they come to the office seeking assistance. An administration assistant II, she has worked at UNLV for four years. She originally worked in the custodial services department.

Irene Ruhyo (Environmental Studies) spoke at a meeting sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in Portland, Ore., in April. She spoke about the importance of regulating the disposal of non-used pharmaceuticals, including the environmental impact, intentional and unintentional poisonings, threat, patient behavior and compliance, prescription prices, and the impact of international donations.

Patricia Lofton (College of Business) was selected as classified employee of the month in the technical/service category for May. A machine operator who copies paperwork for the College of Business, she has worked at UNLV since Sept. 10, 2001.

Michelle Tusan (Instructional Media & Public Relations) published by the University of Illinois press as a volume in the History in the Communication series. Starting in the mid-nineteenth century, a cohort of female editors and journalists created a new genre of political journalism they proclaimed to be both “for and by women.” This book-length study of the women’s press explores how women came to have a voice in British political culture through the medium of print journalism.

William Queen (Public Safety) has been promoted to the rank of police sergeant. His new responsibilities include assisting in the supervision of general patrol duties. He joined the department in 2004 after having worked as a police officer in Covington, Tenn. He retired from the U.S. Navy after serving 20 years.

Scott Page and Amanda Brandt (Harry Reid Center) presented a poster at the 2006 Devil’s Hole Conference titled: “Water Level Trends in Yucca Mountain Boroholes: 2001-2005, with Barometric Effects Case Study.”

Bill Magnotti (Lock Shop) was chosen classified employee of the month for April. A locksmith I, he has worked at UNLV for two years.

Erika Engstrom (Communication Studies) appeared on the April 20 episode of Jeopardy!


Jason Nibert (Custodial Services) was chosen as classified employee of the month in the custodial category for April. A custodial supervisor II, he has worked at UNLV since 1996.

George Stelluto (Music) received the Administrator of the Year for the Interstate 15 and Interstate 80 landscape and aesthetic corridor plans and also an award of merit in planning for the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) landscape maintenance study. Both projects were funded by NDOT grants.

Martin Dean Dupalo (Political Science) was selected as the city of Las Vegas Citizen of the Month for April. The award was given primarily in recognition of his self-founding and managing, with several other UNLV faculty members, an independent food donation program to assist several local nonprofit organizations during the past year.

Darlene Unruh (English) recently received the 2005 Liz Carpenter Award for the best scholarly book about Texas and women for her book Katherine Ann Porter: The Life of an Artist. The award was presented at a luncheon in Austin, Texas, attended by historians. More than 50 books were considered for the award. Carpenter, 85, is press secretary for former first lady Linda Bird Johnson.

Salvador Villanueva (Custodial Services) was named classified employee of the month in the custodial category for May. A custodian I, he has worked at UNLV since 1998.

James Cizzielli and Yixin Wei (Harry Reid Center) presented a poster at the 2006 Devil’s Hole Conference titled “A Study of Select ‘Bomb-Pulse’ Isotopes in Yucca Mountain Rock, Soil and Seep.”

Kristen Young (Office of International Students & Scholars) chaired a panel discussion at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators annual conference in Montreal, Canada. The session was titled “Don’t Get Hacked! Hacking Prevention and Response in International Education” and included presenters from Teachers College, Columbia University; University of Kansas; and Michigan State University.

Pat Olds (Accounts Payable) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for May. An accounting assistant IV, she describes her main duties as researching and processing invoices. She has worked at UNLV 14 years.

Video Technology Takes UNLV to Cherokee Nation

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 and a half years by attending class in either of two cities, Tahlequah or Catoosa. These weren’t compressed video, and a number of students participated in live classroom interaction.

“I enjoyed taking live video classes because I’m a procrastinator with online courses; students participated in live classroom interaction. It was easier to keep up when I had the opportunity to see the professor face to face,” said student Matthew Johnson.

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 master’s class into a form some of digitally transmittable format.

Then, in the fall of 2003, the 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.

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.

“Don’t even know our own classmates at the other Oklahoma site,” she said. “Dr. Sammons put us in a group with students from UNLV as well as from the other Cherokee Nation site,” Meeder said. “We had to use e-mail and WebCT to work together and finish our projects. It was a wonderful experience.”

Tech Savvy

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.
David Ashley

Previous Positions
2001-06 — University of California, Merced. Executive vice chancellor and provost and Shaffer-George Chair in Engineering
1997-2001 — Ohio State University. Dean of Engineering
1989-97 — UC Berkeley. Professor and chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering
1982-89 — University of Texas at Austin. Associate professor and professor
1977-82 — Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Assistant and associate professor

Field
Construction project planning with focus on analyzing project risks and potential cost overruns and schedule delays.

Personal
Married to Anna, a painter. They have two grown children: Mark, a photographer, and Kimberlee, a CPA. Kimberlee gave birth to twin daughters in June.

What's he really like?
For that question we turned to someone who would know — Stephanie Peterson, his assistant for four years at the University of California, Merced: “His engineering background does influence his personality and his work style. He’s well-organized and very down-to-earth. He seems to lead without you ever realizing that you’re being led.”

More info: For more on President David Ashley’s background, visit president.unlv.edu or read the summer issue of UNLV Magazine online at magazine.unlv.edu.

What makes faculty great: You can find spectacular 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 students 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 harnessing 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 chemical engineer, so I spent a lot of time in his laboratory. 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 international search for the executive vice president and provost will be my top priority. Current vacancies include executive vice president and provost; vice president 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 activities. 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 investments 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 comprehensive 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 benefits to the reputation and stature of the entire university. As a new president, I’ll have a unique opportunity to re-engage people in the process for determining where UNLV will grow; it’s an exciting time.

Congratulations 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 academic programs and the faculty we hire and promote. 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.
More Than Just Library Books

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

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 Payle, 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.