Coming of Age

New preschool facility is a center of learning for students of all ages
Jim Zeiter ’87 BS Business and Finance is a member of the Board of Trustees for the UNLV Foundation. He leads this year’s efforts to raise $1.4 million in unrestricted funds for UNLV.

When I was an undergraduate student, I knew that my affiliation with UNLV would extend long beyond my days of classes in Beam Hall. Today, as managing partner of Insight Holdings and the father of two young boys, I appreciate why higher education is important to our economy, our community, and our future. I choose to invest my time and support in UNLV and I invite you to join me.

This spring, students from our Rebel Ring Phonathon will reach nearly 25,000 alumni to share personalized updates on their colleges and programs. When one of our students calls your home, strike up a conversation. Ask about your former professors. Share your college experiences. Learn how you can make a difference at UNLV.

These students will explain how you can help fund priority issues in your college or program of choice. Please consider carefully how you will invest in your alma mater, and make your pledge for annual support.

For more information about the UNLV Foundation and the Rebel Ring Phonathon, please call (702) 895-3641.
10 Fruitful Research
Oddly enough, the fruit fly is helping researchers uncover the effects of stress on human brain development.
By Caryn Key

12 Adopting A Cause
The Center for Urban Partnerships is fostering hope for Nevada's hardest-to-place children looking for a home.
By Gian Galassi

16 Preschool Comes of Age
New Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center is a place of discovery for preschoolers as well as UNLV students and researchers.
By Diane Russell

22 Nevada Knockout
Alumna's risky pageant performance leads to her becoming the first Nevadan to win the Miss Black USA crown.
By Laurel Fruth

DEPARTMENTS
2 Message from the President
3 Campus News
6 University People
7 Books & Music
20 Alumni News
24 Class Notes
30 Calendar of Events
32 Timeline
A Renewed Commitment

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the campus, the Southern Nevada community, the Board of Regents, and the chancellor for their recent support of my contract extension. I was grateful for the unanimous vote by the board to extend my tenure as president to 2008, which will enable me and my leadership team to continue advancing the mission of our growing institution. Although I am naturally delighted by this development, I must note for the record that I believe this affirming vote of confidence is chiefly attributable to the recent accomplishments of the university as a whole. As a result, I share this achievement with the entire campus and those in the community who have so generously contributed their time and resources to promote the success of UNLV.

I also appreciate receiving the feedback provided by those who participated in my evaluation, which is an integral part of the contract renewal process. The input of faculty, staff, students, donors, and community leaders into the evaluation is invaluable and has produced some very useful information about our challenges and our strengths. I feel it is important that I share this feedback with the university’s key stakeholders, as it offers some significant insights into both what we have accomplished and what lies ahead.

By way of background, I should note that two independent but complementary evaluations were conducted as part of the contract renewal process—one through procedures prescribed by UCCSN policy and the other performed on campus through the Faculty Senate—and both offered extremely valuable feedback. The first was conducted by a committee chaired by Dave Frohnmayer, the president of the University of Oregon, who led two regents and two alumni as they followed UCCSN evaluation procedures. This included reviewing various background materials, such as planned and annual academic support is an ongoing challenge. Student services are perceived by some to require a greater consumer ethic. Media coverage has not reflected the institution’s growing national stature.

Some of these constructive criticisms were echoed in the survey results from faculty and staff members in the evaluation conducted for the UNLV Faculty Senate. The survey was designed to measure my performance in achieving a number of objectives, including most of the university’s strategic goals. Although I was continued on page 28

Dental School Clinic Now Screening Patients

The UNLV School of Dental Medicine is now screening patients for acceptance in its clinic, which will open this summer.

The clinic is open to all Nevadans including those participating in the Nevada Check-Up and Medicaid programs. Patients will be treated by dental students under the supervision of faculty dentists. Patients will be accepted if they have dental needs that fit the students' educational needs.

There is no charge for the initial screening examination. However, treatment fees at the clinic are about one-third to one-half of the customary fees in the community. If a patient has insurance, the school will assist in billing the insurance company for reimbursement. Patients must be available for one- to two-hour appointments at least once every two weeks until their dental work is completed. They must have reliable transportation to the clinic, which is located at Charleston Boulevard and Shadow Lane in downtown Las Vegas.

For more information, call the School of Dental Medicine at 702-895-0451.

Boyd Law School Achieves Milestone

The William S. Boyd School of Law has been admitted as a member of the prestigious Association of American Law Schools, a nonprofit organization of 164 institutions. The association admits law schools based on such criteria as the quality of law faculty scholarship and teaching, the suitability of its law library and facilities, and the effectiveness of its curriculum.
Historian Documents Nevada Test Site Memories

Mary Palevsky’s resume contains all the academic qualifications you would expect of an oral historian. Yet her most compelling credential is that she was born into a family of storytellers and scientists. Her parents — both scientists with the Manhattan Project, the secret World War II atomic weapons development program — would often tell stories that, Palevsky realized later, were filled with the moral dilemmas associated with the project’s legacy.

New as director of UNLV’s Nevada Test Site Oral History Project, Palevsky will document similar stories of people involved with the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

“There are many interesting parallels between the ethos of scientists, like my father, who did no weapons work postwar, and of those who worked at the NTS,” Palevsky said. “They all shared an amazing commitment to ingenuity, hard work, and sacrifice that their work demanded of them, regardless of their politics. However, I think a lot of people have misconceptions about who these scientists really were and whether they could be human in certain ways.”

Working with history professor Andy Kirk and sociology professor Robert Fustrell, Palevsky expects to interview more than 100 individuals this year. The three-year project is funded by a $582,000 federal grant.

Interviews will include scientists, administrators, and politicians as well as technicians, soldiers, secretaries, security guards, and others who did not have high profile roles at the site. Also among proposed interviewees are attendees, “downwinders,” and American Indians whose lives were impacted by the test site.

“The fabulous thing about oral history is that it’s a method to document the experiences and views of people who would not normally be included in the historical record,” she said. “Their voices can democ- ratize history, reminding us that history is made by all of us.”

Palevsky’s own interest in oral history didn’t manifest itself until the late 1980s, when she began recording the memoirs of her dying father. Although the illness left her with as many questions as they did answers, the experience, along with the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, inspired her to seek out other Manhattan Project scientists.

Her research resulted in a book, Atomic Fragments: A Daughter’s Questions, which weaves together personal inquiry and oral history to examine the legacy of the Manhattan Project and to better understand the impact it had on her own life. She hopes the NTS project will do the same for others.

“Many people’s lives in Nevada were affected by what happened at the test site, so I think that the stories that come out of this project will be important to them,” she said. “It’s an essentially interesting picture of the developments in American culture during the Cold War, not the least of which is the amazing secrecy surrounding nuclear weapons and the science behind them.

“I don’t think we comprehend the extent to which nuclear weapons have changed our lives. What is striking to me is the diversity of views people hold about their meaning.”

All tapes and transcripts from the project will be housed in the Library’s special collections department, where they will be made available to the public.

— Gian Galiasi

KUNV Pumps Up the Volume with New Programming

By Gian Galiasi

A score or more venues catering to Las Vegas’ jazz enthusiasts close, KUNV 91.5 FM continues to breathe new life into the classic FM format.

Now in its sixth year with an all-jazz format on weekdays and an eclectic mix of world music on weekends, the station has been steadily increasing its audience. And while simply staying on air in a notoriously difficult market would cause enough for some to rest on their laurels, the handful of dedicated staff members and volunteers are not satisfied with the status quo. They continue to both strengthen and refresh their efforts.

Under the management of communications professor Anthony Ferris, the station has made several changes to expand its loyal fan base. Most notable is the addition of program director Gig Brown, a former radio broadcaster, saxophonist, and percussionist. Brown knows what it takes to please an audience. His extensive experience includes stints at some of the nation’s most popular jazz radio stations, including the industry leader WBGQ in New Jersey.

“We are now refocusing our playlist to bring more continuity to our sound,” says Brown, who wants to restore a consistent flow to the daily schedule. “Listeners are going to have a much clearer idea of where the music they’re hearing is headed.”

Lori Huerta, director of marketing and membership, explained that the station’s appeal has always been its traditional jazz programming, which was largely missing from the Las Vegas airwaves before KUNV’s 1998 format change.

“There are other jazz stations out there but they tend to saturate more with the soft jazz audience,” says Huerta. “Our listeners tend to be local musicians and jazz aficionados who want to preserve traditional jazz in town and who want to hear intelligent information about the music they love.”

Brown hopes a recent retooling of the production suite will attract partner- ship opportunities with international artists. For example, the station hopes to become the home of the nationally distributed program JazzSet with Dee Dee Bridgewater.” Bridgewater and her production suite, Ginger Bruner, are local residents.

Since Gig Brown became KUNV’s program director, the station has retooled its production suite to attract new programming, such as the nationally distributed “JazzSet with DeeDee Bridgewater.” Brown is pictured here with UNLV announcer Freddie Jackson in the background.

Although jazz will always be the main focus of KUNV, two programs have been added recently to attract a wider audience.

Last fall, KUNV became the home for a retooling of a popular radio program hosted by Las Vegas weatherman Nate Tannenbaum. The program, which can be heard Saturdays at 10 a.m., features notable local guests and out-of-town visitors who discuss and play eclectic selections of their favorite music.

Additionally is “Our Metropolis,” a half-hour talk show Sunday mornings about Southern Nevada issues. It is hosted by history professor Hal Rothman, and guests have included Pat Mulroy, general manager of the Las Vegas Water Authority; Dina Titus, state senator and UNLV professor; and Thom Reilly, Clark County manager.

Huerta and Brown both hope that KUNV’s increasingly diverse programming and growing popularity will translate into more financial support for the station. It relies on membership dues, underwriting support, and grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to pay its bills — including its off-campus rent. The station occasionally receives support from various Las Vegas venues and the artists who play them, but there’s no misconception about the nature of the particular jazz scene it promotes.

“While smooth jazz artists are traveling the world playing 17,000-seat arenas, Brown explains, “the traditional jazz musicians that we typically promote are still playing for $50 and dinner at the local pub.”

On the station’s “wish list” for 2004 is new equipment for remote broadcasts, server space for broadcasting live over the Internet, a music scheduling and cataloging system, and better production facilities. “The thing this station has been able to accomplish with the equipment and facilities that we have is nothing short of amazing,” says Brown. “But we need to tap into additional resources if we’re going to build on those accomplishments and truly reach our full potential.”

For more information, visit kunv.unlv.edu or call 702-798-9169.
Parables from (a Not Quite) Paradise, NV 89154

**AKM: Heart Lines and Lyrics and Over the Top**
by William N. Thompson
1st Books Library, 2003

KNPR public radio listeners in Las Vegas are familiar with William Thompson's colorful metaphors and uninhibited expressions of opinion. Now 30 commentaries from the UNLV professor of public administration have been collected into Parables from (A Not Quite) Paradise, NV 89154. The essays— which he hopes "occasionally irritate and arouse ire"— frequently focus on his specialty, gaming, but also cover such divergent topics as Las Vegas growth issues, nuclear waste, and Runnin' Rebel basketball. If you like his parables, you may also like his verse in Heart Lines and Lyrics, from Billy Gamble and Friends, written over some 43 years by friend Anthony J. Juliano. Billy Gamble is Thompson's alter ego.

And if you hunger for more of Thompson's iconoclastic way of looking at life, try the third book he published last year, Over the Top, Solutions to the Stupish Dilemmas of Life, written with former student Bradley L. Kenny. He describes Over the Top as a self-help book for managers, but he offers lessons for anyone who feels that life consists of "pushing big rocks up a mountain, only to see them roll back down again ... over and over."

**Desert Seasons**
A Year in the Mojave
Journalled and sketched by Ruth K.A. Devlin
photography by Frank Serafini
Steps Press, 2004

Another small treasure representing the author's personal sensibilities is Desert Seasons: A Year in the Mojave. It is Thompson's alter ego, and it focuses on several generations of Las Vegans, including casino owner Willy Bobbins, who represents the self-made career model of yesteryear, "Without the Benny Binions and Sam Boyds in real life, fictional characters of that scope would seem too fantastic to believe," Thompson said, adding that a recent reviewer (new to Las Vegas) said exactly that about Willy Bobbins. "Too bad the reviewer never met Benny over a bowl of chili and listened to the stories." Barons did have the chili-and-stories opportunity in 1970, when Binion auditioned him for a dealing job. "I practiced exactly one day and made a mess of his table. When I came off the game, he greeted me with a sardonic smile, called me 'soo', and said that some people don't pick it up right away."

Writing is one thing that the Community College of Southern Nevada teacher seems to have picked up without difficulty. At UNLV he studied under novelist Richard Wiley and graduated as the outstanding senior in what was then the College of Arts and Humanities. And although he didn't major in writing at Arizona State University, he spent 17 years studying the Neolithic Revolution, the period in which humans adopted food production strategies beyond hunting and gathering.

**Hamrick Name: Athletics Director**

The last time Michael Hamrick worked at UNLV he was an intern in sports promotions. This fall he takes on the top athletics position on campus.

Now with a few months as athletics director under his belt, Hamrick's top priority is enhancing community support for UNLV's programs. "Great public universities have strong ties to the communities in which they are located, and athletics provides a way for people to connect with the campus," Hamrick said. "At the same time, teams just don't win championships without loyal fans cheering them on. By inviting people in the community to be part of our university family through athletics, we hope to create an environment for our student-athletes to grow as individuals, as players, and as scholars." Hamrick previously was director of intercollegiate athletics at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. He has also served as athletics director at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and at several assistant athletic director positions. He began his career with the UNLV internship.

Under Hamrick's leadership, East Carolina had no major NCAA violations, doubled its athletics budget, doubled season football ticket sales to 17,000, and increased single-game attendance significantly.

Hamrick led the development of a comprehensive gender equity plan that increased scholarships for female student-athletes by 167 percent. At the same time, the school's student-athlete graduation rates well exceeded national averages (at 66 percent). Under his leadership, East Carolina spent $46 million improving and building athletic facilities, and he raised $16.8 million in private funds to construct a strength and conditioning/multipurpose building and a baseball stadium/office complex. Hamrick earned his master's degree in Sports Administration from Ohio University College of Business. He completed his degree in Education from Marshall University in West Virginia, where he was an football scholarship as a starting linebacker.
What could tiny fruit flies and human beings possibly have in common? While most of us probably would respond, "absolutely nothing," a team of UNLV researchers is proving that these insects are more closely related to us then we might have ever imagined.

"Few people outside the circle of biology appreciate that the brain cells of the fruit fly are remarkably similar to those in humans," biological sciences professor Stephen Roberts says. "Because of the similarity, studies on these insects can help us understand -- and perhaps even improve -- the human condition. Surprisingly enough, fruit flies have even been the study organism of several Nobel laureates in medicine and physiology."

These small creatures can be conditioned for learning -- much like the famous dogs used in Pavlov's historic work, Roberts notes. But more importantly, the fruit fly offers a powerful model for identifying the genetic, developmental, and environmental underpinnings of brain anatomy and function in humans.

Consequently, the common fruit fly is at the heart of a three-year study led by Roberts and fellow professor Steven de Belle to determine the negative impacts of environmental stress on early brain development and behavior. Along with graduate student Xia Wang and laboratory technician David Green, they are also exploring the flipside of this issue to determine if a sensory-enriched environment can positively influence brain growth and function -- or even repair damage caused by prior exposure to stressful conditions.

With a $330,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, the group first intends to discover how exposure to heat stress and environmental toxins disrupts brain maturation. They have already learned that subjecting developing flies to high temperatures for 35 minutes a day causes significant developmental disruption to a section of the insect brain that is similar to the human hippocampus, the center of associative learning. (Further findings, however, indicate that the heat stress has little effect on other brain regions or body parts of the flies.) As part of this initial experimentation, the team also hopes to identify how this impairment directly affects the flies' learning and memory functions.

The next step is to determine whether a sensory-enriched environment with a constant optimum temperature and pleasing aromas -- which to a fruit fly are rotten fruit odors -- will "heal" the impaired brain anatomy and cognitive functions.

The final goal is to identify the genes -- regions of DNA that contain the instructions for synthesizing proteins -- that are affected by stress and sensory enrichment. There are roughly 30,000 genes in humans that provide the code for approximately 100,000 proteins -- cut these numbers in half and that's what it takes to make a fruit fly.

"With the latest DNA technologies, including microarray analysis, we will be able to identify the environmentally sensitive genes that affect brain development and memory," Roberts says. "Perhaps one day these could be used as targets of gene therapy that might prove useful for those suffering from such things as memory loss, Alzheimer's disease, or brain injuries."

Both scientists study a variety of genetically engineered flies in their research programs, although their joint project employs wild flies collected at Gilcrease Orchard in north Las Vegas. Much of their work takes place in the newly established UNLV Stress Genomics Center, a 1,200-square-foot biotechnology facility located in White Hall. The center is the only one of its kind in Southern Nevada and houses a half million dollars' worth of advanced molecular biology equipment for research related to human, animal, and plant genes.

The center further affords students the opportunity to actively enhance their classroom experiences by working in the laboratory on a major federally sponsored research project. Funding for the facility was made available through a grant from the NSF's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). Roberts wrote the proposal.

Since their arrival at UNLV, Roberts (hired in 1999) and de Belle (hired in 1997) have received more than $5 million in federal research funding. The money is supporting the development and maintenance of important life science research facilities, such as the UNLV Center for Biological Imaging, which is under de Belle's direction. The work of the two scholars, who have published their findings in some of the country's top professional journals, including Nature Genetics, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, and Science, reflects the strides UNLV is making in becoming a major metropolitan research university.

"This research is not only covering new ground but is expected to be a springboard for additional studies of the biological and social environment and its influences on gene expression, brain development, and learning and memory," Roberts says.
Center for Urban Partnerships is fostering hope for Nevada's hardest-to-place children looking for a home.

By Gian Galassi

It's no secret that child welfare agencies have long been overwhelmed by heavy workloads and bantam budgets. Nevada is no exception. Social workers nationwide are struggling to find permanent placements for nearly 126,000 children who, in some cases, have been waiting the better part of their childhood for a place to call home.

Compounding the difficulty of the job is the fact that approximately 50 percent of these kids are over the age of 9 or have other "special needs," which, studies show, significantly decrease their chances of being adopted. In adoption terms, special needs children include those who are older, from racial or ethnic minority groups, members of sibling groups, or who have special emotional, behavioral, developmental, or medical problems. Although recent federal legislation is providing incentives to promote the adoption of special needs kids, many child welfare workers believe that the support infrastructure required to successfully improve the situation still needs shoring up.

For the past two years, UNLV's Center for Urban Partnerships (CUP) has collaborated with state and county child welfare agencies on a comprehensive Adoption Project to do just that. CUP researchers believe that the Adoption Project, which is funded by a state grant, will help shape future adoption policy, improve placement practices, and enhance worker and student training.

Special Needs, Special Solutions

The project's initial study, titled "Adoption: Those Who Wait, Those Who Do Not, and the Reasons Why," developed an in-depth profile of the children awaiting adoption in Nevada. Working with the state Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the Clark County Department of Family Services (DFS), UNLV researchers conducted an exhaustive review of the case records to determine exactly who these children are, where they reside, what obstacles they face, and what factors increase the likelihood for their adoption.
The results, which were compiled last summer, were typical of a national profile: the most difficult children for Nevada to place are older children of color who have multiple special needs and who have spent numerous years in foster care.

While the realities for this subset of kids are seemingly grim, CUP interim director Ramona Denty says the data enhances child welfare professionals’ efforts to find permanent homes for children.

"Since we know what spending the longest periods of time in the foster care system, we can specifically address their needs in future recruitment strategies," says Denty, who is also associate dean for research in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs and associate professor of social work. "But it's not an easy thing to do. Some of these kids have experienced horrendous abuse and have been left with severe emotional problems. Unfortunately, a 9-year-old who requires psychiatric care is not always an attractive option for adoptive parents."

Building on previous studies, Denty and her colleagues will further define what motivates the people who do adopt children with special needs and what the state can do to target similar prospective parents and help them follow through with an adoption.

Often the most able caregivers for these children are the people who already have an emotional investment in their lives. Kirshner care, or the arrangement in which a family member accepts primary responsibility for a child, is considered to be the best option for kids when the birthparents are not able to care for them.

"Relatives are usually the most viable resource these kids have," Denty explains. "Most relatives are willing to take kids in temporarily, but we're looking at ways we can increase the support services available to them so that they can more easily become permanent options for the kids. It's a much better alternative than having the kids experience multiple foster care placements with strangers."

Although placement of special needs kids is a major challenge for child welfare officials, recent federal legislation has dramatically improved adoption rates across the country. The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 is credited with more than doubling the number of adoptions in Nevada by reducing unnecessary administrative barriers and providing some modest financial incentives.

This past November, the federal government renewed ASFA, expanded an adoption tax credit, and included a provision that permits families to claim an additional $4,000 for every adoption of a child over the age of 9.

"Naturally, the legislation has been hailed by most child welfare workers as a long-overdue victory for children who might have otherwise spent their entire childhood in foster care or group homes. But the law's attendant success has also exposed some deficiencies in the system, not the least of which is the aforementioned lack of support services available to both pre- and post-adaptive families."

As a result, the number of dissolved or unsuccessful adoptions has grown along with the number of placements of special needs kids.

"Unfortunately what happens sometimes is that parents will adopt children who have significant physical or psychological problems only to give them back in six months because they were unprepared or overwhelmed by the emotional investment that these kids require," says Denty. "One of the most important aspects of the center's research will lead to a recruitment protocol that will not only help the state target prospective adoptive parents but will also identify the kinds of support these families need to ensure that the adoptions become permanent ones."

According to a study conducted in 2000 by Thom Reilly, an adjunct professor of social work and Clark County manager, the most needed services reported by adoptive families include financial subsidies for health care, in-vitro out-of-home day care, tutoring, individual counseling, and support groups.

Denby says the current research shaping the recruitment protocol addresses many of the unmet needs identified in Reilly’s study and has already led to the development of curriculum and training for child welfare workers, students, foster parents, and other stakeholders.

"It is simply impractical to stop at uncovering factors that will lead to adoption likelihood," Denby explains. "Nevada's children and the professionals who work on their behalf are better served by research discoveries that provide sound information and tangible approaches to decreasing the number of dissolved adoptions and support adoption success."

Given the mandate of legislation like ASFA and others, Denby and her colleagues on the Adoption Project's advisory council believe it is critical that child welfare practitioners and policymakers be given every opportunity to educate themselves about the most current knowledge base available.

One method toward reaching this goal is the development of a new training series titled "ia Integration of Best Practices and Child Welfare Competencies." The series condenses the findings of several School of Social Work and CUP research projects into a comprehensive training curriculum and will benefit child welfare stakeholders -- from UNLV students to agency workers to prospective parents. The project’s researchers include School of Social Work faculty members Vicky Albert, An-Ping Sun, Adrienne Ekas, and Stacey Hardy-Demond. The training series is led by project coordinator Sandra Owens-Kane of Child Welfare Partnerships and associate professor of social work, Stacey Hardy-Demond, while Laurie Smith, formerly with the School of Social Work, serves as the project evaluator.

Launched earlier this year and facilitated by the UNLV distance education program, the five-module training program is available via Web-based streaming video or on VHS cassette and covers topics such as kinship care, sibling placements, independent living issues, adoption, substance abuse, appreciative inquiry, and the Multi-ethnic Placement Act. Additional modules will be created later this year as data from other School of Social Work and CUP studies become available.

The preliminary results were also used to revise curriculum used in social work courses at UNLV, including one undergraduate course in general child welfare issues and a graduate course designed for family-centered practitioners.

"Most of the associations are either advanced-level master's students or Ph.D. candidates. And because of the interdisciplinary nature of the topic, the center draws the best and the brightest students from such fields as social work, public administration, counseling, criminal justice, psychology, and law."

Constance Brooks is one such student. When he's not studying for his master's degree in social work, he serves as research division coordinator for the center, where he is charged with identifying resources from across the campus and the community that will benefit a given project. Constance has organized the efforts of an impressive interdisciplinary cadre of UNLV researchers, including Patricia Markos and Larry Ashley of counseling.

Joanne Thompson and Mary Ann Overcamp-Martin of social work, Daniel Allen and Roslyn Caldwell of psychology, and Lori Glasgow of public administration.

"One of my objectives is to bring various community stakeholders to the table who may not have otherwise been working together," says Brooks, who credits CUP for enriching his educational experience at UNLV. "Working at the center provides students like me with the practical experiences that come from applying what I've learned in the classroom to real-life situations. It's a unique reciprocal relationship because it serves students' needs while also serving the community." It's this comprehensive approach that Denby says makes the center an asset to the community.

"This is part of what UNLV is — it's part of our commitment to the community. Most of the agencies that we partner with couldn't otherwise obtain the kinds of service we provide because they simply just don't have the budgets for it. And that's really the beauty of our partnership. We're able to utilize resources from across our campuses and those resources that would probably cost three times as much from a private firm — and address issues that, ultimately, affect all."

Although most stakeholders understand that the real change they wish to see in the child welfare system will take a significant amount of time, the center and its partners are steadfast in their commitment to chipping away at the obstacles. Progress is being made, however, in that each year greater numbers of children are finding permanent homes with committed, loving families. Ultimately, that’s the goal of the project."

"The work we do can be extremely challenging at times," says Brooks. "But at the end of each day, it is truly gratifying to see these challenges become opportunities for me to have ideal learning experiences and for CUP to truly be of service to the citizens of Nevada."
For the children, it's a fun place to be. Easels set up near a mock dry riverbed provide a picturesque setting for a would-be Monet. In nearby classrooms, panels of glass windows can be raised like garage doors to allow the preschool teachers to expand their lessons from the traditional classroom setting to the outdoors. And, come summertime, the dancing waters of a permanent water play area will be the source of refreshing relief from Las Vegas' triple-digit temperatures.

For the children, the newly opened Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center, which now houses the UNLV/CSUN Preschool is a fun place to be. For their parents—many of them UNLV students—it's an enriching place for their children to learn while they attend their own classes or work. For the staff of the center and for administrators, professors, and students of the College of Education, the $5.8 million center is a dream realized.

The 20,932 square feet of indoor space allows the preschool staff to improve its already excellent programming (it is one of only a few centers in Southern Nevada to achieve accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children) in ways that simply wouldn't have been possible in the old facilities in the Carlson Education Building and in portable units nearby. Set on 62,000 square feet of land at the north end of the campus, the new center has two-and-a-half times more outdoor space than the old facilities.

And not only did the center get more space when it moved into its new quarters in January, it—just as importantly—got improved space. Two specially designed research classrooms, for instance, are equipped with laptop stations and one-way mirrors so UNLV students and their professors can observe the lessons without disrupting the
Choosing Your Child’s Preschool

Catherine Lyons, director of the UNLV/CSUN Preschool, offers this list of questions to ask when selecting a preschool.

1. Is the facility licensed? Check with your state, county, or city licensing departments to see if a school had any violations noted during inspections or if any complaints have been filed against it.

2. Has the school achieved national accreditation? Accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (www.naeyc.org) shows that the school is committed to ongoing program improvement, Lyons says.

3. How large are the classes? Lyons recommends no more than 20 children per classroom with a minimum of two adults.

4. What credentials and certifications do the teachers hold?

5. What safety features are incorporated into the facility? “In general, the classroom should be arranged at the child’s level,” Lyons says. “If they can’t reach an item, they won’t be able to learn from it.”

6. Does the curriculum promote hands-on, center-based learning? “Children this age should not be sitting at desks doing worksheets. They should be able to choose from skill-building activities.

7. How is literature integrated into the classroom? “Beginning at birth – if not before – children should be in a literature-rich environment in which stories are read, discussed, and made up by the children.”

8. How do teachers facilitate friendships? “Forming friendships is one of the developmental milestones for young children. We give families the opportunity to contact one another to arrange play dates, and we hold monthly events so families can see us facilitate interactions among the children.

9. How is discipline handled? “Our center uses redirection rather than time outs when children exhibit inappropriate behaviors.”

The preschool’s curriculum creates a literature-enriched environment with hands-on learning activities. (Above) Tara Louviere, a full-time teacher, with 3-year-old Kamileah Kerr. (Top right) Jack Hager. (Right) Teacher’s assistant Melissa Stinnett, with Georgia McKnight.

“One never expected an opportunity like this,” says Catherine Lyons, who has headed the UNLV/CSUN Preschool for eight years. “Being told you’re going to be part of developing an entirely new, state-of-the-art early childhood center from conception through implementation is something I never would have dreamed of. Yet here it is.”

“This new center is enabling us to build on what I believe was already outstanding programming in ways that will greatly benefit the families we serve as well as the UNLV students who use the center in their academic endeavors,” she says, noting that the preschool is a resource to students and researchers. While a camera in one classroom currently enables lessons to be filmed and studied later by education students, teachers, and professors, all the classrooms are camera-ready.

“Children this age should not be sitting at desks doing worksheets. They should be able to choose from skill-building activities.”

“Beginning at birth – if not before – children should be in a literature-rich environment in which stories are read, discussed, and made up by the children.”

“One never expected an opportunity like this,” says Catherine Lyons, who has headed the UNLV/CSUN Preschool for eight years. “Being told you’re going to be part of developing an entirely new, state-of-the-art early childhood center from conception through implementation is something I never would have dreamed of. Yet here it is.”

“This new center is enabling us to build on what I believe was already outstanding programming in ways that will greatly benefit the families we serve as well as the UNLV students who use the center in their academic endeavors,” she says, noting that the preschool is a resource to students and researchers. While a camera in one classroom currently enables lessons to be filmed and studied later by education students, teachers, and professors, all the classrooms are camera-ready.

“In general, the classroom should be arranged at the child’s level,” Lyons says. “If they can’t reach an item, they won’t be able to learn from it.”

“Their center uses redirection rather than time outs when children exhibit inappropriate behaviors.”

It removes the challenge of finding high-quality, affordable, and convenient care for their children while they pursue their college degrees.”

One obvious improvement is the number of people who will benefit from the center. Lyons estimates that where the old preschool used to serve approximately 90 youngsters at one time, the new early childhood center will serve about 165 children.

However, those numbers don’t paint an accurate picture of the service the center provides to both the campus and larger Southern Nevada communities, she notes. Because so many of the youngsters are children of UNLV students who often are enrolled at the center on a part-time basis that mirrors the parents’ class schedules, a more accurate measure may be the number of families served per semester. Lyons

continued on page 29
License Plates Express Pride, Raise Funds

About The Association

The UNLV Alumni Association was established in 1967 to provide volunteer leadership, support, and resources that enhance the UNLV community. The organization bestowed its first scholarship in 1973 and, to date, has contributed more than $5.9 million to the university in the form of scholarships, projects, major capital endowments, and program assistance.

The value of your UNLV diploma is maximized through your involvement and by giving something back to the institution that set you on your way. The association provides a significant and ongoing connection to the Rebel spirit.

Joining the association, either as an alum or a friend, is an easy and highly effective way of showing support for UNLV.

For membership information, call 702-895-3621 or e-mail alumni.relations@ccmail.nevada.edu.

As the driver of the late-model sedan pulled up to the light, he beeped a greeting to the younger man in the pick-up truck that has seen better days. The second driver couldn’t understand his con­ception to the luxury-car owner until he realized they both proudly display Rebel Pride license plates.

Since its introduction in 1998, the license plate program has raised nearly $325,000—proceeds of which benefit scholarship endowments.

As you might expect, some dedicated university leaders, such as President Carol C. Harter and Russel Kost, assistant vice president of alumni relations & development, drive cars with the customizable plates. But enthusiastic alums are getting into the spirit too. Currently, 3,000 Nevada drivers have the Hey Rebel plates. “Alumni” and “4 UNLV” are among the personalized messages seen around town.

“This program gives UNLV alumni, faculty, friends, and staff an ideal opportunity to show off their commitment to the university while adding a personal statement to their vehicles,” explains Fred C. Albrecht, vice president for university and community relations and the head of the UNLV Alumni Association. “Alum” with boasting about their affiliation, the plate owners help provide support for talented students, which builds a stronger institution for us all.”

The standard plates cost $60 initially and $30 at renewal (in addition to regular car registration fees). A personalized UNLV plate is sold for an additional $50 initially and $50 at renewal. UNLV receives $25 of the initial fee and $20 at time of renewal.

To download an application for a personalized plate, visit www.dmvnv.com/platescharitable.htm.

—Kirkland Researcher

Alumni Association Recognizes Top Alumni, Supporter

Through its annual awards programs, the UNLV Alumni Association recognizes individuals who are sterling performers in their fields and who symbolize the ideals of higher learning. The association recently named television producer Anthony Zuiker as its 2003 Alumnus of the Year while community leader Robert N. Broadbent was honored posthumously with the Silver State Award—both award programs presented to non-alumni. In addition, seven graduates received the Outstanding College Alumni Award.

Zuiker, ’91 BA Communication Studies, is the creator and executive producer of the hit television series CSI: Crime Scene Investigations and CSI: Miami. He has lectured in UNLV classes and continues to support the film department. Zuiker also received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from UNLV in May 2003.

Broadbent, a pharmacist, served as a Boulder City mayor and Clark County commissioner. As director of aviation, he oversaw the expansion of McCarran International Airport. He is credited with making the newly named Robert N. Broadbent Las Vegas Monorail a reality and helped UNLV acquire the former Paradise Elementary School property.

Each year since 1977, the association has recognized outstanding alumni, as well as one non-graduate, for their professional achievements and contributions to the university. In 1996, the program was expanded to recognize individuals from each college.

The intention of these recognitions is to salute academic performance and leadership in a variety of professional areas, and to serve as a point of inspiration to the generations of students that will follow,” explains Jim Kirkwood, Alumni Association president.

College award recipients are:

• Business: Chip Johnson, ’71 BS Business Administration.
• Education: Christine Chairrell, ’83 BA and ’85 MA Political Science and ’01 EdD Educational Leadership.
• Engineering: Joseph Lombardo, ’86 BS Geology and ’91 MS Computer Science.

The UNLV Alumni Association named TV producer Anthony Zuiker (above) its 2003 Alumnus of the Year. (Right) Doug Broadbent accepts the Silver State Award from President Carol C. Harter on behalf of his father, the late Robert N. Broadbent.

• Honors: Mei Mei Wong, ’93 BS Mathematical Sciences.
• Hotel Administration: Tony Santo, ’84 BS Hotel Administration.
• Liberal Arts: Stavros Anthony, ’82 MA Political Science and ’99 Ph.D. Sociology.

Faculty Receive Awards, Grants for Student-Focused Teaching

Acknowledgment for UNLV’s top teaching professionals often comes in the form of an expression of sudden recognition on a bewildered student’s face or a word of thanks quietly shared between classes. Since 1988, thanks to funding from the UNLV Alumni Association, some of these extraordinary performers have received recognition of another kind.

Selected by a committee of alumni, three full-time faculty members are recognized at a luncheon each semester for the extra effort they invest in helping students learn. Faculty members are also invited to apply for funding of projects that extend special learning opportunities to students.

This award program recognizes academic achievement and commitment to student learning and development,” says Barbara Cloud, former associate provost for academic affairs. She collected and forward­ed the nominations and project proposals to the association committee.

“These awards have special meaning because of the unique relationship between alumni and university faculty, and we are grateful to the alumni for continuing to recognize the classroom achievements of our hard-working and devoted faculty,” Cloud says.

The 2003 Student Focus Award recipients are:

• Ralph Reynolds, educational psychology
• Louis Kavouras, dance
• Matt Tincani, special education
• Ann McDonald, theatre arts
• Andy Nazarecht, tourism & convention administration
• Richard Pape, health promotion

In addition, psychology professor Karen Kern received a $5,000 Student-Centered Project grant. Her student-run program “Cognition in Aging Training for Southern Nevadans” researches the types of activities that stimulate brain activity in older adults.

As Seen On TV

When the UNLV Alumni Association produced a new television advertising campaign this fall, some notable alumni answered the casting call. U.S. Congress­woman Shelley Berkley, ’73 BA History, and former Clark County Sheriff Jerry Keller, ’69 BS Biology, donned the Hey Rebel mascot uniform in the com­mercial to encourage graduates to stay connected to the university through the association.

20 I UNLV MAGAZINE 21
Elizabeth "Liz" Muto is having a banner year. The 23-year-old became a UNLV graduate in May, Miss Black Nevada in August, and Miss Black USA two weeks later. Muto is the first Nevadan ever to win any national pageant title—and she is determined to make the most of the opportunity.

"I definitely feel the weight of this crown," the Reno native says. "I think this says to the rest of the country that Nevada has so much to offer, and I feel that I need to pave the way for Nevadans. We are a force to be reckoned with and I’m proud to carry that banner."

Muto will carry that banner to the rest of the country as she embarks on a 100-city speaking tour this year. The tour, along with appearances at numerous charity and civic events, comes with the crown and other prizes, one of which is a full scholarship to a university of her choice. Muto plans to use the scholarship to attend graduate school at UNLV after her reign ends. But for now, she’s concentrating on the 100-city speaking tour and her platform message.

"I have so many causes that I want to advocate," Muto says. "I’d like to develop a non-profit organization that provides accessible and affordable after-school activities for children. I want to help at-risk children stay off drugs and out of trouble. And I also want to work with children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, or placed in the foster care system."

Muto knows that some may dismiss her platform as just typical beauty queen rhetoric. But she says her desire to serve as an advocate for children comes from her own life experiences, not from a need to impress judges. Abandoned at the Reno airport when she was just 10 days old, Muto is well aware that her life could have turned out much differently than it has.

"The two pilots who found me turned me over to Children’s Protective Services, and I was placed in foster care," Muto says. "But I was lucky. I was placed with my parents—Tom and Catherine Muto—who were foster parents at that time. They adopted me, loved me, and raised me."

Muto based the powerful monologue she presented for the talent portion of the pageant on her own experience as an abandoned child transformed by loving parents and on the story of child abuse victim Antwone Fisher. She had only a few days to write and practice the speech before delivering it before a packed auditorium. The lack of preparation time, however, was not her greatest concern; she was apprehensive about how her message would be received.

"I was really nervous when I entered college," Muto says. "I was only interested in careers that would make me a lot of money and bring me a lot of prestige. But, as I learned more about myself, I discovered that I really do want to make a difference in the world."

She plans to become active in politics and hopes one day to run for public office. But first she wants to ensure that her life could have turned out much differently than it has.

"I knew I was going to say that my black parents abandoned me and my white parents came and saved me, so I didn’t think I had a chance at winning the Miss Black USA crown."

With that in mind, she went for broke. Her risky performance earned the respect of the judges and her fellow contestants. "After my monologue, a number of women approached me and shared their stories with me. I realized that we all had different paths to get to where we were and that, for many, the path hurt. Yet here we were—strong, talented and intelligent women with so much to offer the world."

Muto admits that affiliation for fellow contestants is something that pageant participants often proclaim but seldom feel. As first runner-up two years in a row in the Miss Nevada pageant, Muto says she is very familiar with the intensity that most contestants bring to such contests. The Miss Black USA pageant is different, she says, because judges place less emphasis on appearance and more on the goals and aspirations of the contestants. The beauty of the contestants radiated from the inside out.

Muto was so impressed by the women she met that she is forming a coalition with other contestants so they can present a united front on issues affecting African American and other minority women.

"The best thing about having a national title is that now people will listen to what I have to say," Muto laughs. Once her reign has ended, Muto will return to UNLV to pursue a graduate degree in political science or an MBA. She didn’t even consider another university and credits UNLV with helping her define what she has become.

"I was really selfish when I entered college," Muto says. "I was only interested in careers that would make me a lot of money and bring me a lot of prestige. But, as I learned more about myself, I discovered that I really do want to make a difference in the world."

"I know I was going to say that my black parents abandoned me and my white parents came and saved me, so I didn’t think I had a chance at winning."

— Elizabeth Muto, '03 BS Business Administration.
Perfect Pairing: Bryan Page, winemaker

Pairing fine wine with good food is just one component of a great dining experience, but for Bryan Page, ‘96 BS Hotel Administration, combining the two has turned out to be the main course in his career.

Now a formally trained chef, sommelier, and vintner, Page assigns dual credit for his love affair with the culinary life to his father, a former chef in Southern California, and to Julia Child, who he recalls watching on television as a child. At age 14, when other kids were still reading comic books, Page was experimenting with recipes from his mother’s collection of cookbooks.

“I discovered that my mom owned the first book that Julia Child ever wrote and I ended up reading it cover to cover, copying everything that she did,” Page says. “And then when my father retired and started cooking more at home, I started cooking more, too.”

Even though culinary school would have seemed the natural path for Page after high school, he enrolled at San Diego State University, majoring first in civil engineering, then psychology, business management, and child development. He never quite found the match he was looking for until he realized that his lifelong avocation should be his vocation. “Because I loved cooking so much I had always researched culinary schools, and when I finally decided to go, I knew it was the right choice.”

Page was attending the California Culinary Academy in 1991 that Page got his first taste for making wine. While the rest of his classmates honed their craft on the San Francisco culinary scene, Page spent most of the time in Napa Valley, interning at Wine Spectator magazine, Haven’s Wine Cellars, and Truchard Vineyards—the latter of which he returned to after graduation to work as an assistant winemaker.

“Working on small projects like Truchard’s and Haven’s was amazing because I had the opportunity to learn all about the process,” Page says. “I had my hands in everything—from crushing to cellar management to bottling. I absolutely loved it all.”

Despite his newfound affection for winemaking, Page didn’t abandon his formal education. He worked as a chef at some of Napa’s most renowned restaurants and cooked for some of the most respected names in the wine and food industry, including Barooshes Ronaldo and Claude Fajtjeur.

But then a serious leg injury standing for long periods of time made him decide that his future lay in the wine industry. Page then spent more than 20 years of his career at the Smart and Sonoma wineries—the latter of which he returned to after graduation to work as an assistant winemaker.

“With the Page Wine Cellars, Page has grown the production of his red Bordeaux-style table wine from a modest 40 cases in 1997 to approximately 850 cases today. In 2001, Wine Enthusiast magazine awarded his 1999 vintage a 93 rating, giving it the prized designation ‘Cellar Selection.”

Sometimes I can’t believe that I’m already on the fifth release of my own label,” says Page, referring to his 2001 vintage that will be released this spring. “It’s a lot of hard work but I can’t imagine doing anything else. Cooking provides instant gratification, but winemaking requires a sustained level of heart and soul, from the harvest until the time when the wine is ready to release.”

Recently engaged to be married, Page is now looking forward to a new chapter in his life, one that includes growing his winery to about 5,000 cases per year and making the best product he can. “My goal is to make amazing wine. I just want to continue doing this one thing and do it really well.” —Gian Galassi

To learn more about Page Wine Cellars, visit www.pagewinecellars.com.

Good Cop, Smart Cop: Dennis Cobb, deputy police chief

When Dennis Cobb became a police officer, he figured his work-related travel would be limited to paroling city streets. But since joining the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department in 1983, the political science graduate has expanded his policing skills by visiting more than 20 countries as a Fulbright Fellow and a White House Fellow.

“My travels from the Gobi Desert to the jungles of Columbia have given me a broad perspective of the underlying similarities of policing around the globe,” says Cobb, ‘79 BA Political Science. “There may be different laws, but when it comes to interrogating a suspect or improving the administrative processes of a department in Kenya or Harvard, it’s not that different from one in Las Vegas.”

Cobb now oversees more than 550 employees, including those in facilities management, motor vehicle fleet, communications, civil fingerprinting, records, and information technology.

The overseas experiences gave Cobb a clear indication of the value of his education. “When we gathered for a photo of all the White House Fellows, I learned that I was not only the only woman with a bachelors’ degree and the only one who didn’t graduate from a place like Stanford or Harvard. It was exciting to realize what a good job UNLV had done to get me there. "I think what I learned most as a student was how to satisfy my curiosity. It seems liberal arts degree doesn’t prepare you for as much as to know things—how to acquire knowledge, That’s served me well.”

Cobb lives in Summerlin with his significant other, Colleen Sisley, ‘95 BA, and their daughter, Shelby. After graduation he tried a few professions, including substitute teaching and firefighting. “When I became a police officer, I discovered that I’m more suited to the self-determined environment of policing. In firefighting, everything is reactive—I liked going out to look for stuff.”

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**Animal Attraction: Sue Lynn Reif, zookeeper**

A beloved 17-year-old diabetic cat named Mimi provides Sue Reif with all the animal companionship she wants—at home. Though the human and animal live separately, Reif says, of how numerous pets of all species, Reif sees no need to do that. After all, what pet besides Mimi could compete with the wallabies, mute swans, exotic parrots, capuchin monkeys, capybaras, and African pygmy goats that Reif has at her disposal? Reif, ’92 BA Psychology, is a zookeeper at California’s Happy Hollow Zoo and co-founder of the Pacific Cetacean Group, a non-profit organization devoted to marine conservation.

While the aforementioned zoo animals are all well and fine, she admits a particular fondness for the ungulates. Say again? Ah, yes, ungulates, better known to non-zookeepers as non-ungulates. Reif is charged with the African pygmy goats, miniature horses, and the like. Her duties include training the animals, formulating their diets, feeding them, and, when necessary, giving them medication. 

“I’m always keeping a keen eye to seeing if they’re healthy and if their behavior is normal,” she says. “As you work with them, you get to know their personalities and natural behaviors and that helps you spot when something is wrong.”

Reif’s favorite ungulate is the San Jose Zoo’s 22-year-old dwarf zebra—a species of cow from India—named Nicky (with Reif at left).

Richard Baldwin, ’95 BS Accounting, is director of corporate finance for The Aflac Insurance Companies’ National Life Insurance Company in Santa Rosa, Calif. Baldwin specializes in the fields of tax and employee benefits. Previously, he served as controller of General Dynamics Corporation in San Diego, Calif.

“Wanny” Mun-Yee Hui, ’95 BA Hotel Administration, coordinates a hospitality sales and marketing team at Las Vegas-based Hospitality Services, a Las Vegas consulting firm he founded in 1996. The company specializes in the hospitality and casino industries. Reif is a Microsoft certified systems engineer, Microsoft certified professional, and Adobe Macromedia certified consultant.

Cliff Odle, ’90 BA Secondary Education, is a firefighter, police officer, and emergency medical technician in Sun- nyside, Calif. A former all conference and team captain in UNLV, he played professionally for the Las Vegas Desert Stars and was a teacher and head soccer coach at Chaparral High School in Las Vegas. He operated his own bottled water company for six years before selling it to take on a new career as a firefighter and police officer. He lives in Santa Clara with his wife, Michelle, and their son, James.

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President's Message
continued from page 2
pleased to find that I received favorable ratings on many items, the need for greater infrastructure support for students, faculty, and staff was identified. More specifically, improving our customer-service orientation in the business we conduct with students and providing greater internal support services for faculty are at issue. I want to assure the campus and the community that the challenges cited in both evaluations are being explored fully, taken seriously, and will be addressed. I have already initiated discussions about several of these points, and I consider myself accountable for setting concrete goals directed at producing timely and positive results. I am clear that a favorable evaluation does not allow us to rest on our laurels; much work lies ahead, and I look forward to meeting with them with the same vigorous, practical approach that I have traditionally adopted. Additionally, I have outlined several goals that I plan to pursue in the coming years, and I would like to share them with you as well. These goals were included in my self-evaluation, which was part of the evaluation process, and, though many of you may be familiar with them, I believe they serve as a concise reminder of what we must do to sustain UNLV's progress. Thus, in the coming years, I plan to accomplish the following:• Continue to pursue the planning for a capital campaign through the UNLV Foundation with the goal of significantly raising funds to achieve giving among members of the UNLV extended family.
• Continue to be actively involved in shaping the campus physical master plan for future campus construction, expansion, renovation, and raising.
• Seriously undertake campus planning and preparations for the university's 50th anniversary celebration in 2007-08. Move forward with the construction of the Science, Engineering, and Technology Building and the planning of other desperately needed campus construction projects, particularly Greenspun Hall and the Student Services Building.
• Continue progress toward our goal of becoming a Doctoral/ Research Extensive University (R1) as defined by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
• Continue to seek tenants and partners for the Harry Reid Research and Technology Park.
• Continue to prepare for the implementation of the new admissions policies at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

CONTINUE to develop and build the professional programs on campus – the Dental School, the School of Law, the School of Medicine, and others that are planned for the future, particularly in various health sciences disciplines.
• Continue to seek opportunities to work collegially and to seek collaborations with UCSN partners.
• Continue to upgrade athletics competition and our commitment to enhancing student athlete academic success and graduation rates.
• Continue to identify community linkages and collaborative opportunities for the benefit of the entire community and state of Nevada.

I have also identified several of my ambitions as president that I will share. To offer some context, I should explain that I have a vision in mind for how I want our university to become one of the leading metropolitan research universities in the Southwest and ultimately in the United States. This vision includes the following outcomes:
• UNLV will be a significant leader in the development of the high education system in Nevada and will have a unique set of programs and research emphases to offer the region, state, nation, and world at large.
• UNLV will successfully combine excellent undergraduate teaching with superb research productivity.
• UNLV will reach the Carnegie Foundation's Doctoral/ Research Extensive classification (Research I) within the next five to seven years.
• UNLV will be a capital campaign and, ideally, will raise an unprecedented amount of private support. Among other campaign goals, these funds will be used to create endowed chairs in a dozen or more areas through which we can create international research and teaching excellence.
• UNLV will become an indispensible resource and partner in economic development and diversification, health care, fine and creative arts activities, highly competitive athletics, and community development.
• UNLV will transform, in every way, our community. I hope sharing these goals and ambitions offers you some additional insights into our collective vision for the campus. Once again, I want you to know that my support for UNLV’s success is based on my belief that we are enjoying a period of renewed commitment and unparalleled optimism, as well as the esprit de corps that naturally emanates from the shared pursuit of an inherently noble cause. I look forward to pursuing these goals with you in the years to come.
March 12 Dinner Theatre - Rip Taylor's It Ain't All Confittee. 6:30pm Tam Alumni Center.

March 17 Board Meeting. 6pm. Tam Alumni Center.

March 30-31 Grad Fair. 11am-2pm. Tam Alumni Center.

April 16 Scholarship Luncheon. Noon. Tam Alumni Center.

April 21 Board Meeting. 5pm. Tam Alumni Center.

For event information, call the UNLV Alumni Association at (702) 895-3621 or (800) 829-2586.
UNLV's first football team took the field on Sept. 14, 1968, when the school was still known as Nevada Southern University. The Rebels were coached by UNR graduate Bill Ireland. Playing its opener at the old Cashman Field, NSU defeated St. Mary's College from California 27-20 before 8,000 fans. Ireland's squad was led by quarterback Bill Casey, who also punted for the Rebels in his one year with the team. The team would win its first eight games over teams such as Auzasa Pacific, San Francisco, and UC San Diego. The 69-0 drubbing of Cal Tech on Oct. 26 still stands as the biggest victory margin in UNLV history. Hopes for a perfect season were spoiled, however, in the season finale when Cal Lutheran came to Las Vegas and downed the upstart Rebels 17-13 on Nov. 23. The Rebels of 1968 wore a silver helmet with a logo shaped like a football filled with a Confederate Flag design. However, that decal was quickly replaced with a more appropriate emblem in time for the next season as NSU officially became UNLV in 1969. (Above) The inaugural team celebrates the end of the season with Mr. Las Vegas himself, Wayne Newton.
ONCE A REBEL. ALWAYS A REBEL.

The college experience is a lifetime experience, not one that ends when you pick up your diploma. That's what we are hearing from members of the UNLV Alumni Association. They've elected to become members because of a long list of real benefits and, perhaps more importantly, the intangible ones.

Like being able to say, "I'm a Rebel."

It's the best way to demonstrate your pride, stay connected with your fellow Alumni, give back to UNLV and its students, and stay in college forever. Learn more about the UNLV Alumni Association at www.unlvalumni.com or call us at 895-3621 or 1-800-829-ALUM.

GET INVOLVED. STAY CONNECTED.
STAND OUT IN A CROWD.

Show your Rebel Pride and support UNLV by purchasing a **UNLV REBEL License Plate**. Funds from the sale of UNLV REBEL plates go back to the school, supporting UNLV’s Alumni and Athletic Scholarships. Pick up your UNLV REBEL license plates at any Nevada DMV office or call the UNLV Alumni Office at **(702) 895-3621** for more information. [www.unlvalumni.com](http://www.unlvalumni.com)