Inside UNLV

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

Shane Bevell  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

David Ashley  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Cate Weeks  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Jennifer Lawson  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Risky Business

Safety Folks Keep You Out of Hot Water

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

If you’re one of those people who piggyback extension cords, stop it. You’re making the people in Johnny Centineo’s department nervous.

That would be along with the people who extinguish cigarettes in ashtrays placed on upholstered chairs (no kidding — he has the photos to prove it) and anyone who uses chemicals for lab work and doesn’t properly store them.

The job of Centineo and the people who work for him in the department of risk management and safety is to keep the campus safe — people, buildings, property, all of it.

Despite the many challenges that presents, Centineo, who previously held a similar job at the University of Houston, said he likes the variety of both challenges and opportunities that exist at a university.

“We never have time to get bored,” he said of his staff of 21. “Something interesting is always going on.”

Checking for Problems

The staff inspects buildings and checks equipment to ensure safety. Some of the problems they find may be too discreet for the average person to notice, while some are glaringly obvious.

“People put paper around light bulbs to change the ‘atmosphere,’ with a different color,” Centineo said, with more than a hint of dismay. “Don’t ask me why.”

Then there are the ubiquitous campus golf carts. “Anyone who drives one of the carts is required to take cart safety training from us, and it’s important that they do that.”

People often speed in the carts, apparently failing to realize that driving the carts recklessly can have consequences as serious as a car accident.

On at least one occasion, an employee received a serious head injury after falling from a cart in which she was a passenger, Centineo said.

Laboratory Safety

Campus laboratories also are a concern for the risk management and safety department.

Centineo said his department already has helped some labs improve their safety by inspecting equipment, installing more eyewash stations, and helping improve the way chemicals are stored. Additionally, the department is working on improving the lab safety program campuswide.

Since there is no way for a research university to avoid having potentially hazardous materials, Centineo said they do that. “We never have time to get bored,” he said of his staff of 21. “Something interesting is always going on.”

Safety Tips from Risk Management and Safety

• Make sure you know where fire extinguishers are located in your area and how to use them.
• Make sure that hallways and walking paths are clear of furniture, supplies, and debris so people can exit quickly in case of emergency.
• Participate in evacuation drills for your building.
• Heed the signs warning that special training is needed to enter certain areas.
• If a spill may involve mercury, which is present in some thermometers, check equipment to ensure safety.
• If you notice a loose floor or ceiling tile or loose insulation, don’t disturb it. Asbestos is present in some buildings. Call the risk management and safety department at ext. 5-4226.

Ben Faucett, a safety training officer with the department of risk management and safety, is one of the people who trains members of the campus community how to properly use a fire extinguisher. That knowledge could prove invaluable in an emergency at home as well as on the job.

Parking: The Good, the Bad, and Your Options

The completion of two additional levels of the parking garage added 844 spaces. Overall, UNLV gained approximately 1,000 spaces this summer.

By Shane Bivell | Marketing & PR

Parking — yeah, we know it’s a word that makes you groan. But it’s been a while since we wrote about the most popular thing to complain about on campus. Inside UNLV sat down with Tad McDowell, director of parking services, and Mike Sauer, associate vice president for administration, to get the scoop on current parking issues.

Increased Parking: The completion of several construction projects, including two additional levels of the Cottage Grove parking garage, recently added more than 1,000 parking stalls. Since the new levels opened, the parking garage hasn’t yet been filled to capacity, even during the first week of school, McDowell noted. He added that during the first week of classes this year there were approximately 635 open spaces in the Thomas & Mack lots, plus another 580 available spaces in the parking garage.

Problem spots: The next major construction project that will impact parking is the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. The building will be constructed at the northwest corner of Maryland Parkway and University Road.

Sauer noted that there is adequate parking on the north side and the southwest portions of campus. “However, based on preference and demand for where people want to park, we don’t have adequate parking on the southeast side of the campus (by FDH and the student union).”

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Connecting with the Community

One day they weren’t here — the next day they were.

As the new academic school year began, new and returning students and the events of Rebel Connection completely altered our campus. The excitement, the energy, the events — all were part of the transformation from sleepless summer to vibrant school year.

This was my first year participating in Rebel Connection and it was a delight to see so many parents, students, faculty members, and staff taking part in the week’s welcome and orientation events. Throughout the campus, there was vitality and excitement that signified students were back.

One particular Rebel Connection event that stood out the most was the new student orientation program — it was very Las Vegas. During the program, the band, the Rebel Girls, the cheerleaders, Hey Rebel! the mascot, balloons, confetti, and even an indoor fireworks show captivated everyone. Parents, students, faculty members, and staff were all singing along with pride to the Rebel fight song. It was an energizing experience and a true testament to the amount of pride that exists on our campus.

On the first day of classes, I walked the campus with Rebecca Mills, vice president of student life, and visited the various “Ask Me!” booths. Even in the extreme heat, volunteers were gladly passing out maps and water as well as offering assistance to those with questions.

Observing Student Commitment

We also walked the academic malls with students and engaged in several interesting discussions with student organization leaders. From one booth to the next, you could see the passion these students had for their individual causes and their commitment to helping new students.

Walking around that day, we got the sense that students really understood that they are part of something bigger — something more than just classrooms — they are part of a community.

Premier UNLV was another exciting event that brought the campus community together. It was quite a sight to see more than 2,000 students with flashlights lining up to form the letters U-N-L-V on the North Field. When you see the final picture, you may not realize how difficult it was getting all the students together.

The week culminated with our first Rebel football game of the season. It was thrilling to see so many people supporting our team and getting enthusiastic about what was a very solid win.

Successful Rebel Connection

Rebel Connection was the first example this year of the kinds of activities that happen outside the classroom to enrich the student experience and bring our entire campus community together. The events were a true reflection of our remarkable city and a reminder that UNLV is a unique place that many people cherish and enjoy. Indeed, it was a tremendous experience for all, including me.

I am extremely appreciative and proud of our entire community for making Rebel Connection an overwhelming success.

Parking Spaces Added and Lost This Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parking Location</th>
<th>Added Positions</th>
<th>Lost Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Grove Garage Parking Lot</td>
<td>444</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lots D and E — east of PDH and the student union</td>
<td>125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot O — west of parking garage and east of the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Development Center</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot T — north of soccer building and south of the Student Union Building</td>
<td>65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot L — west of the EPA building on Harmon Avenue</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paved area north of the access road in front of soccer building</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot G — between Tonopah Residence Hall and Beam Hall</td>
<td>-36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot I — north of the Barrick Museum</td>
<td>-12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot L — west of EPA building on Harmon Avenue</td>
<td>-82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parking Options:

Parking options that are convenient for everyone.

- ULV offers a variety of options.
- The free lot north of Eller Media Softball Stadium on Harmon Avenue is an option for those more concerned about costs than convenience.
- For those who want to avoid parking lots at all costs, reserved parking might be worth the extra price. For something in between, look to “The Ride,” a free shuttle service offered by ULV parking services and CSUN. Now in its second year, the service is currently transporting between 600 and 700 people per day, according to McDowell.
- Riderhip increased last year once the route was condensed. Instead of traveling the entire perimeter of campus, the shuttles bring riders from the Thomas & Mack lots and the free lot to the center of campus in front of the Harry Reid Center.

“Parking has been a problem on this campus for a very long time,” said Michael Sauer, the assistant to the chancellor for parking. “It is something that we have been working on for many years, and we continue to work on it.”

Parking enforcement staff patrol the faculty/staff lots on a more regular basis.

Club Ride Offers A Way to Beat Gas Pump Woes

In addition to the shuttle service, ULV offers a monthly program called Club Ride, which is a free program sponsored by the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada that encourages commuters to use alternative modes of transportation, such as carpools, public transit, and walking and biking.

If you formally participate in Club Ride at least four times per month, you are eligible for monthly prize drawings that include bus passes, gift cards, and mugs. In addition, participating in Club Ride will decrease air pollution and traffic congestion and will save you money on your gasoline bill.

Parking Options:

- ULV is a self-funded, auxiliary enterprise. Permit fees, meter collections, and fines finance such things as the parking garage expansion and the salaries of the parking services staff.
- Parking permit fees increased 8 percent this year. According to Sauer, the reason for the increase is because the university is planning to build another parking garage, and the gradual permit increase will prevent dramatic increases in future permit costs.

Why do we pay for parking?

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Curators Primed to Strike Gold

Memorabilia Needed for UNLV’s 50th Celebration

By Catie Weeks | Marketing & PR

Robert Lynn knew someday someone would want the bit of campus the grounds crew stuck in the fenced yard behind the Facilities Maintenance Administration building. That day is arriving this fall as organizers of UNLV’s 50th anniversary celebration begin collecting memorabilia for a special exhibit.

Lynn, facilities supervisor for the grounds crew, rescued from a construction dumpster a marble monument recognizing the woman who donated the original 60 acres of land UNLV was built on. It was removed years ago when the campus entrance in front of Frazier Hall was remodeled.

“It’s a piece of our history, a piece that marks the very beginning of UNLV,” Lynn said. “No one knew quite what to do with it, but we didn’t want to just throw it away.”

Schyler Richards, chair of the anniversary committee, is glad the facilities crew thought to keep the memorial. She hopes other employees will scour their closets — at work and home — for pieces of memorabilia for next fall’s exhibit at the Barrick Museum.

“The exhibit will celebrate all the people who have been part of the Rebel family for 50 years,” Richards said. “UNLV’s history is so much more than the buildings we’ve built and the programs we added. We hope the people who have lived UNLV’s history will share their memorabilia and, more important, the stories behind their pieces.”

The biggest temporary exhibit the museum has hosted, it will chronicle the evolution of UNLV since the 1957 opening of its first building, Maude Frazier Hall. Combining photos and memorabilia, the exhibit will focus on campus life and the changing makeup of the student body, academic development, and architectural changes.

Museum curator Aurore Giguet emphasized that items don’t need to be old to be of value. “A

Rebel Trivia: Who Donated the First Land for UNLV?

Estelle Cornish Wilbourn, along with her husband, Howard, donated the first 60 acres of UNLV’s land in 1954. Estelle had owned the land before marrying Howard. The couple grew barley, with some difficulty, for several years before moving to California, according to a Las Vegas Review-Journal article. The 1979 article went on to detail the dedication ceremony for a memorial to Estelle. Brock Dixon, acting UNLV president at the time, was quoted as saying, “It is only with maturing, and even age, I think, that we begin to appreciate the past. Perhaps UNLV is approaching a state of maturation, for we are met today, soberly and joyfully, to celebrate a critical element in our institutional history.”

Invent The Future

Planned Giving Helps Donors Determine Their Options

New “Create Your Legacy” Website Launched

By Jennifer Lawson | UNLV Foundation

Spanish professor Don Schmiedel remembers feeling like a pioneer when he arrived at campus in 1965. “It was an adventure to come here so many years ago,” the Ohio native said. “It was such a small, crude, undeveloped campus then, and it has come to maturity with an amazing speed.”

Schmiedel retired in 1999, but wanted to remain a part of the campus’s continuing growth. Three years ago, he and his wife, Grace, a retired kindergarten teacher, established a charitable gift annuity — an arrangement in which they transfer cash to the university and, in exchange, receive an annual payment. Grace said 95 percent of that sum each year for life.

“We just wanted to have some continuity, some attachment to the place where we had been so long,” he said. The UNLV Foundation had such pioneers in mind when developing its new planned giving website, said Bud Beekman, the foundation’s director of planned giving.

Philosophical Change

“We made some fundamental changes in the philosophy behind the website,” he said. “A small group of folks are starting to emerge who were among the first groups of students or professors or other friends of the campus, and they are thinking about planning their estates. We wanted to make the website more user-friendly and aimed at the layperson who just wants to explore their options for giving.”

Featured on the site are a glossary of terms, gift calculator, and detailed explanations of ways to give — pooled income funds, charitable lead trusts, and so on. A self-assessment helps potential donors decide what type of giving best suits them. The information can be used for general estate planning purposes, not just for researching ways to donate to the university.

Most Common Gift

The most common type of gift given to the university is a bequest in which funds are left in a will, Beekman said. Schmiedel chose an annuity because the money he donated and the payout he receives makes it a win-win situation for him and for the university.

His gift is unrestrictied, meaning he didn’t designate how he wanted his donation to be used. That type of gift is uncommon, and badly needed, Beekman said.

“The university needs unrestricted money, and I always point out that because it’s so difficult to get,” he said. “Anyone who has a house understands having money available to fix the roof. Not real sexy, but it needs to be done.”

Others want to make a meaningful contribution to the department or unit where they spent most, or all, of their professional lives.

More info: To learn more, go to foundation.unlv.edu and click on “Create Your Legacy at UNLV” or contact Bud Beekman at bud.beekman@unlv.edu.
Engineering

ROTC Unit Doubles Size

UNLV’s Air Force ROTC unit recently doubled its size at the same time it celebrated its one-year anniversary at UNLV and as a department within the college. Forty-five new members met on campus to “tip off” the 2006-07 academic year. The cadre now totals 85.

During the event, Air Force Col. Mike Hogan awarded additional scholarships, bringing the total number of student scholarships to 14; eight of the scholarships were awarded to engineering majors. Cadets spoke about leadership lab, physical training, professional development, field training, and the importance of community projects.

Capt. Todd Kaufman and Jason Ross spoke about pilot qualification and described success tips for college. Tech. Sgts. Jason Prichard and Cornelius Farnell provided numerous answers to questions posed by both the cadre and family members present.

The event concluded with a celebration for the two regional awards and the one national award that Prichard earned over the summer. He was selected from a group of 800 as the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter for the Southwest Region and for the Air Force Officer Accessions Training School. He also was named the top graduate among the technical sergeants at the Air Force’s national NCO academy leadership training course.

Fine Arts

Chamber Concert Kicks Off October Offerings

The Performing Arts Center opens the Charles Vanda Master Series on Oct. 18 with 1 Musici (The Musicians). The group’s style of chamber playing represents total dedication, respect for the style and taste of each composer, and at the same time a free interpretive liberty. The Boston Globe called their ensemble performance “lyrical sweetness.”

The Classical Guitar Series welcomes Brazilian-born Carlos Barbosa-Lima on Oct. 24. He is widely recognized for his extraordinary skills as a transcriber and arranger of a wide range of music for guitar, including works by Scarlatti, Debussy, Gershwin, and Cole Porter.

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre’s main season will open Oct. 6 with Noel Coward’s Private Lives, a comedy about a once-married couple who run into each other at a hotel where they are honeymooning with their new spouses. They briefly reunite and rediscover both their love and anger until their aggrieved spouses resurface and the battle begins. The show runs through Oct. 15 in the Judy Bayley Theatre.

For ticket information, call ext. 5-2752.

Graduate

New Program to Make Reviewing Graduate Applicants Easier

Faculty and staff will soon be able to review the records of prospective graduate students online when the college completes a new electronic imaging process in the coming months.

The new system will allow for electronic storage and review of transcripts and application materials of students seeking admission to the Graduate College.

“Any time we can make our processes more efficient, the campus will benefit,” said Mark Rudin, interim vice president for research and graduate dean. “Electronic storage of these records will certainly streamline the process of review of student application materials, providing greater convenience to the campus community and expediting decision-making on graduate student admission.”

In a second phase, materials regarding new graduate programs and courses also will be available for review electronically by faculty. Rudin added that other offices in the Division of Research and Graduate Studies, including the office of sponsored programs, are also involved in the process of converting to electronic storage of documents.

Honors

92 Students Join College

The college began the academic year with 92 incoming students, one of whom was among the 100 national high school presidential scholars invited to the White House.

Eighty of the students are Nevada residents. The average GPA of the incoming class is 3.75.

Honors Student Council Wins Rebel Achievement Award

The Honors Student Council received the fourth annual Rebel Achievement Award as the CSUN Outstanding Student Organization for 2006. In addition, council members had two proposals accepted at the Western Regional Honors Council conference in March. One of the presentations, “Becoming a Better Student Through Teaching,” was based on student experiences as instructors of the one-credit Honors Orientation course. The other was titled “The Spirit of a Successful Honors Student Organization/Government.” The presentations were so successful that the students have been invited to present at the national conference in Philadelphia in November.

Hotel

Gourmet Summit Benefits Students

The hospitality industry continues to support the college in many creative ways. In September, the World Gourmet Summit Las Vegas hosted the Grand Gourmet Safari at the World Market Center Las Vegas. This is one of many events that are exclusive gourmet festivals organized in multiple worldwide locations.

Designed to benefit hospitality students, proceeds from the Grand Gourmet Safari have a significant impact for hospitality students at both UNLV and CSUN by providing valuable scholarship funds. Students also benefit through the ticket sales and the purchasing of spectacular silent auction items that include trips to exotic locations and wine packages.

More than 90 vineyards representing 15 countries and 22 regions converged at this unique wine extravaganza, offering visitors an unprecedented opportunity to sample nearly 300 wines from five continents and devour gourmet cuisine prepared by master chefs.

Alumni Join College

Several new faculty and staff members joined the college this fall.

New to the hotel management department are Carl Braunsch, Ashok Singh, and Mehmet Erdem, who earned his doctoral degree at UNLV in 2003. Joining the food & beverage management department are Pat Monro, who earned both his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees from UNLV in 1969 and 1983, respectively; Heikki Aapio, who earned his bachelor’s degree at UNLV in 2004; and Sean Radley.

Joining the office for student advising are Matt Cutla, who earned his master’s degree at UNLV in 2006; Kim Ensigne; Kia Fritzer; and David Singleton.

New to the tourism & convention administration department is Carola Raab, who earned her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from UNLV in 1993, 1996, and 2003, respectively.

Law

Immigration Conferences Set for October

More than 150 professors from around the world are expected to descend on UNLV this month for two conferences on immigration.
Liberal Arts

Donohue Receives NIH Grant
The National Institutes of Health recently awarded a nearly $1 million grant to psychology professor Brad Donohue. The grant will enable him and his students to develop a treatment program for drug-dependent mothers whose children are in child protective services. These women have among the highest incidence of HIV in the country. They have a number of risk factors: low-income females, largely ethnic minorities, high rates of sexual relations with multiple partners, and relatively high incidence of prostitution for drugs and money. These mothers are often reluctant to be involved in HIV prevention programs because they fear that child protective services might take away their children.

The research directed by Donohue will develop a means to assess both the drug-abusing and drug-dependent status of the mother and the severity of child neglect and risk of contracting HIV. In addition, this project will develop methods to help students transition from high school to college, to develop scientific research community. It will emphasize the improvement of overall academic performance, critical thinking, the meaning of academic integrity and honesty, and as students’ understanding of scientific discourse and methodology.

University College
New Staff Join College
The college welcomed new staff members this fall. Jason Linders moved from Montana to join the college as an athletic-academic advisor. Peter Kim, who earned a doctoral degree in education from UCLA, relocated from California to become an academic advisor in the college.

Interns Receive High Praise
College students who participated in internships this summer were described by their internship supervisors as excellent, amazing, and talented. Internships took place at the Las Vegas Crime Lab, Andre Agassi Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas, Rebel Athletics, and the Lili Claire Foundation. Students included Melissa Beggs, Clarita Kendall, Isaiah Taifu, and Isaac Watts.

Urban Affairs
College Departments
Welcome New Faculty, Staff
The communication studies department is adding three new faculty members: assistant professor Erin Sahslstein (Ph.D., University of Iowa), basic course director/assistant professor-in-residence Joseph Valenzano III (Ph.D., Georgia Southern University), and professor Tara M. Emmens-Sommer (Ph.D., Ohio University).

Joining the faculty in the department of criminal studies are assistant professors Timothy Hart (Ph.D., University of South Florida) and Tamara Madensen (Ph.D., University of Cincinnati).

New faculty and staff in the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media include professor Dan Stout (Ph.D., Rutgers), assistant professor Stephen Bates (J.D., Harvard) and KUNV-FM operations manager Frank Mueller (J.D., Brigham Young).

The department of public administration welcomes assistant professor Jessica Word (Ph.D., Florida State).

Heading the dean’s office staff is new executive assistant Linda Campbell-Miller, formerly of the Boyd School of Law.
various campuses,” said Odalys Portes, assistant professor with tenure in July. Her project, called American Elder Caregivers: Coping and Well-Being, was awarded more than $100,000 from the University of Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research. She recently participated in a National Institute on Aging, National Institute of Health-funded research training program at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn. She will participate in two follow-up meetings being funded by the National Institute on the National Institutes of Health.

Spotlight On Accomplishments
Submit Your News
E-mail entries to inside.unlv.edu. Items should be no more than 100 words.

Campuses Unite for Hispanic Heritage

Princeton sociologist Alejandro Portes will speak at UNLV Oct. 6 as part of the Hispanic Heritage activities continuing on campus this month.

Portes, an expert in social changes and development as well as social psychology, will speak from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Boyd School of Law, Room 110. The event is free.

United Effort
Hispanic Heritage Month continues through mid-October with a variety of activities on three NSHE campuses.

“UNLV, CCSN, and NSC are working together to celebrate this year’s Hispanic Heritage activities and are spreading the event around the various campuses,” said Odalys Carmona, UNLV’s diversity program coordinator.

“This is the first time the three institutions have been presented together on this sort of event. It’s working well, and we plan to approach other similar events, such as Black History Month, in the same way,” she said, explaining that among the benefits to faculty, staff, and students is a co-ordinated calendar, so you may not have more than one event scheduled at a time.

“It’s all about unity,” Carmona said.

Another notable event is the two-day LatinCrit (Latin and Latino Critical Theory) conference immersion that will take place at the law school Oct. 6 and 7. More than 150 professors from around the world are expected to attend the confer-
eence focusing on immigration issues. LatinCrit academicians research issues of social justice, globalization, race, gender, and sexual orientation.

Film Festival
The Latino Film Festival will continue on all three campuses Oct. 10-12. UNLV will screen three films:

• Enamorada (Mexico), Oct. 10
• Lista de Espera (Cuba), Oct. 11
• Central do Brasil (Brazil), Oct. 12

Screening times and location are to be determined.

More Info: For a full listing of activities at UNLV, CCSN, or NSC, visit www.unlv.edu/hispanic or call Carmona at ext. 5-5991.
Safety
Continued From Page 1

The gift was the play at night. It's also important to learn the proper technique when using a fire extinguisher. “For instance, people usually aim the spray at the flames when they try to put out a fire. What they need to do is aim at the base. Otherwise, the fire isn’t going to go out.”

CPR training is another class that Centineo urges member of the UNLV community to take. He knows from his own life how valuable such instruction can be. When his now-grown son Michael was only 18 months old, he suddenly stopped breathing.

Safety Classes
Among the many classes offered by the risk management and safety department are:

• Fire extinguisher safety
• CPR training
• Car-driving safety
• Respirator training
• Asbestos awareness
• Defibrillator training

Four adults were present, but only Centineo knew how to perform CPR.

“I certainly never expected to use that training with my own family,” he said, “but I can’t tell you how glad I was that I knew what to do. I don’t know what would have happened to my son if I hadn’t been trained in CPR.”

More info: To check the training calendar or register online for class, go to rms.unlv.edu.

Texas Ranger Roams Campus

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

As you've walked around campus in recent weeks, have you noticed a familiar face you just can't quite place? Maybe you know him, you think to yourself, or maybe you've just seen him somewhere.

You've seen him somewhere — in your living room.

Clarence Gilyard Jr., who played ranger Jimmy Trivette on Walker, Texas Ranger and investigator Conrad McMane on Matlock joined the College of Fine Arts faculty this fall. And he didn't waste any time transferring to campus. Before classes began he worked a couple of shifts in an 'Ask Me' booth "to learn how to be a part of this family.

As the semester started Gilyard sat down for an interview with Inside UNLV. The bookshelves of his office are lined with the works of famous authors and playwrights; not a single celebrity photo is in sight. During the interview his wife, Elena, and their 3-year-old son, Maximilian, dropped in. The latter has his own drawer in Dad's office.

What was your first paying professional job?

When I was a student at Long Beach State I was waiting tables. One of the waitresses had an audition at a theater, the Century City Playhouse, and asked if I wanted to go. The play was a musical version of an Aesop's fable for children. I got to play Apollo. I got the part, I think, not because I could act — because I couldn't — but because I can play the guitar.

As providence would have it, it worked out great.

In what way?

It was an interesting place. It had a children's theater during the day and a theater for adults at night. On week-ends, industry professionals would hold their children's birthday parties there. We did the birthday party and we did the play. I scooped a lot of ice cream; I cleaned up a lot of messes.

The gift was the play at night. It was a very hot play called Bleacher Bums. The original 16 cast who had workshoped it in Chicago brought it to Hollywood so they could show off the play in a big city. Somewhere there. Joe Mantegna was in Bleacher Bums. I got to hang out with those guys.

So here is a person who aspires to act and here I am in a great theater with a great play and across the street is a wonderful ballet center (the Stanley Holden Ballet Center). I would come in and do the play, help out on Bleacher Bums and take a ballet class. Then I got a chance to audition for Bleacher Bums. I didn't get it the first time, but I made it the second.

How do you decide on acting as a career?

At some point after considering different paths I realized that I wasn't going to study law and I wasn't going to study accounting. I wasn't going to go into the military. And I wasn't going to be a professional athlete. So I started studying theater.

Literally, when I decided to seek some way of focusing my energies, I walked into the theater department at Long Beach State University and Libby Appel (now artistic director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival), along with the staff, helped me completely change my major in one fell swoop.

But you didn't get your degree then, did you?

No, I worked professionally for a while. Then I almost got fired from a TV series (The Duck Factory), so NBC sent me to the Loft Studio to get up to speed.

The Loft — an outgrowth of the Actor's Studio in New York — was a very vibrant environment for actors. Many trained at Yale, Juillard, Columbia, and Carnegie-Mellon. Being in class with all these students I realized I didn't have their vocabulary. They came out of these conservatory programs, these programs focused in theater, which I did not.

So what did you do?

I went looking for an undergraduate program that would be flexible enough for a professional actor. I'd already been in the business for about five years. I'd had two television series (CREPs and The Duck Factory) and a couple of pilots under my belt, but I was not satisfied.

I was untrained and I needed some help, so I went back for my undergraduate degree in theater.

Where was that?

At California State University Dominguez Hills. I was 33 when I got my degree, which makes me a good fit at UNLV. I've been going to university ever since. While working on Walker I started my graduate studies at the University of Arkansas. Also, halfway through my time on Walker I started an acting class in Dallas, where we were based.

What led you to teaching?

I'm convinced that I'm supposed to be in education. So after Walker ended, instead of going back to work in Hollywood, I chose to stand down. I taught in the Texas university system. Then I was offered a residency at Southern Methodist University. After a year there I decided to get a graduate degree in a conservatory program. I chose SMU and spent three years immersing myself in classical theater. I graduated on May 20.

How did UNLV enter the picture?

UNLV turned out to be a great fit with its film and theater departments, graduate program in theater, and the Nevada Conservatory Theatre. It's providence. I know I'm supposed to be here.

What professional goals do you have besides teaching?

Next summer I'm co-producing and starring in the Athol Fugard play My Children! My Africa! in Chicago. I'd die to do some more Chekov. I'm about ready to do my first Shakespeare.

Since most people probably know you best from Matlock and Walker, I have to ask you a question that's a twist on the old Ginger or Mary Ann question about Gilligan's Island. Which character did you prefer, Jimmy or Conrad?

(His wife, Elena, chimed in with "Jimmy" just as he replies "Conrad." "I'm from Texas and I like the cowboy hats and the jeans," she explains.)

I love them both, but the journey in Walker got a little redundant. The time that I was with Andy (Griffith on Matlock), the opportunities in that series were endless. Each time I got the script I was doing something that was wacko. Each script was like a little movie. In one script I was a bartender and I had to learn how to be a bartender like Tom Cruise was in Rain Man. I was also in this one where I had to flip those bottles. So I went home and start flipping. In another episode I had to go undercover at a circus.
By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

When game day comes, Kyle Wilson is one of the few folks on the sidelines hoping he doesn’t have to run onto the field. When he’s in the spotlight during an athletic event, it’s a bad sign.

Wilson and his staff of four full-time athletic trainers and seven graduate students put in long hours to keep student-athletes healthy and to rehabilitate them when they are injured.

As director of athletic training since 1999, Wilson said his job is most rewarding when he sees an athlete finally return to competition after rehabilitation. “We sometimes spend four or five hours a day with the athlete in treatment and strengthening exercises,” he said.

Injury management can play a significant role in helping student-athletes both on and off the field. Wilson said, “It is very rewarding when the student-athletes graduate. When they are hurt, they sometimes want to shut everything down. Sometimes they lose sight of their goals as both students and as athletes.”

Athletic trainers treat cuts, bruises, and minor sprains to muscles and ligaments. Working around students’ class and practice schedules requires them to arrive early in the morning and leave well after evening practices. At the Lied Athletic Complex, the athletic trainers can treat muscles and bones using ultrasound, hot/cold packs, and whirlpool treatments. For more severe injuries, they lead student-athletes through range-of-motion and strength exercises.

To prevent injuries, the athletic trainers focus on warm-ups and preventive ankle taping. They also make sure the athletes are properly hydrated before and during practice and games to avoid dehydration, one major cause of cramping and injuries.

Rebel Healers

(Above) Graduate interns M.J. Vera, right, and Jamie Crumbaker attend to an injured Rebel football player during the Iowa State game Sept. 9. (Left) Vera prepares Gatorade, which keeps the athletes hydrated during games and practices.