Inside UNLV

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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).”

By Shane Bevell | 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 lineup 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
Connecting with the Community

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

As the new academic 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 sleepy 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 Reb! 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.

In addition, parking services has in- stalled 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 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 class- rooms — 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 of this year’s kinds of activities that happen outside the classroom to enrich the student experience and bring our entire campus community together. These 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>Where</th>
<th>Why</th>
<th>Spaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Grove Garage Parking</td>
<td>Expanded with two additional floors</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lots D and E — east of PDH and the student union</td>
<td>Completion of the first phase of the student union</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot O — west of parking garage and east of the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Development Center</td>
<td>Restoration of some parking that was lost due to Science and Engineering Building construction</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot T — north of soccer building and south of the Stan Fulton Building</td>
<td>Lot restructured to add spaces</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot L — west of the EPA building on Harmon Avenue</td>
<td>A new lot to replace lost parking due to addition of modular teaching labs</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paved area north of the access road in front of soccer building</td>
<td>Vacant land converted to parking</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot G — between Tonopah Residence Hall and Beam Hall</td>
<td>Second phase of the new student union</td>
<td>-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot I — north of the Barrick Museum</td>
<td>Boyd School of Law Moot Court project</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot L — west of EPA building on Harmon Avenue</td>
<td>Modular teaching labs added</td>
<td>-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,057 spaces added</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Parking Opportunities

Convenient parking at an urban university is always an issue and cause for complaint, McDowell said. “We are busy and task-oriented people and want to be able to park as quickly as possible to get to where we are going.”

The Administration’s View on Parking: The administration considers parking important and discusses parking issues on a regular basis, according to Sauer said. The university recently re-established the Parking Advisory Committee, a group that includes faculty, professional and classified staff, and students. The administration has asked the committee for input on parking issues important to the campus community. These include curbing abuses of handicapped parking stalls, parking fine amounts, future parking garages, and the current method of reserving spaces for faculty, staff, and students.

“Our goal is to protect parking and provide the best parking solutions,” Sauer said. “We don’t want someone not to come to UNLV because of parking.”

In addition, parking services has increased enforcement by having enforcement staff patrol the faculty/staff lots on a more regular basis.

Parking Options: Although parking is a common issue for everyone, UNLV 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 UNLV parking services and CSUN. Now in its second year, the service is currently transporting between 400 and 700 people per day, according to McDowell.

Ridership 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.

Club Ride Offers A Way to Beat Gas Pump Woes

Interested in carpooling? Club Ride is a free program sponsored by the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada that encourages commuters to use alternate 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 tab.

Why do we pay for parking? Parking services 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.

> Parking

Continued from Page 1

“The nice thing about the shuttle is that sometimes it can be just as convenient as a good parking spot,” McDowell said. “You can park close to a shuttle stop and it will have you in the core of campus in a matter of minutes, while driving around looking for a parking spot can cause a lot of stress.”

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More info: Contact parking services at ext. 5-1300 or visit parking.unlv.edu.

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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 on 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 he transfers cash to the university and, in exchange, receives a portion 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.

“I was there through seven presidents, and I started from the ground up. It was good for me professionally and personally, and I thought I’d like to do something. [The bequest is] a legacy, a payback for 30 pretty good years for me and my family.”

— Jim Frey, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts, on why he established a bequest for graduate student research in sociology

Philosophical Change

“We made some fundamental changes in the philosophy behind the website,” he said. “A small group of people 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 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 unrestricted, meaning he didn’t designate how he wanted his donation to be used. That type of gift is uncommon, and bady needed, Beekman said.

“The university needs unrestricted, and I always point out that out 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.
Deloitte and Touche Exec to Speak Oct. 24

Sharon Allen, chairman of the board of directors for Deloitte and Touche, USA will speak on diversity Oct. 24 as part of the Wells Fargo Distinguished Speaker Series. The 10 a.m. event will take place in the theater of the student union. It is free and open to all faculty, staff, and students.

Allen is responsible for the governance of an organization with more than $8 billion in annual revenues and oversees the firm’s relationships with a number of major multinational clients. Her term as board chairman in 2003 was the latest achievement in a career of distinguished business leadership. Before that, she served as managing partner of the Pacific Southwest practice of Deloitte.

The Wells Fargo Distinguished Speaker Series is a forum for dynamic national business leaders to address students and faculty. These professionals share their knowledge on various topics and provide insight into current international and domestic issues. The presentations help students bridge the gap between the classroom and the business world. Through this program, both students and faculty will be better equipped to integrate practical experience into their base of business knowledge.

Across Campus

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 Air Force ROTC unit, 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 Rossi spoke about pilot qualification and described success tips for college.

Business

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Pointing the Way

Thanks to 415 faculty and staff volunteers, including Lauren Cusanelli, left, of the Harry Reed Center, UNLV welcomed more than 3,000 students and parents to campus this fall. Volunteers distributed 13,000 student handbook planners and at least 26,000 bottles of water to new and returning students while helping more than 9,000 of them find their way around with a handy campus map.

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The LatCrit XI annual conference, titled Working and Living in the Global City: Race, Gender, and Sexual Orientation, was 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 women who abuse in the context of child neglect.

The National Institutes of Health has had one of the fastest growing immigrant populations in the country. Nevada ranks sixth among all states in percentage of residents who are immigrants at 16 percent, behind only California, New York, New Jersey, Hawaii, and Florida. Both the LatCrit conference and the Las Vegas conference were planned to explore the many ramifications of immigration growth.

Welcome New Faculty, Staff
College Departments
Joining the faculty in the department of criminal studies are assistant professors Timothy Hart (Ph.D., University of Iowa), basic course director/assistant professor-in-residence Joseph Valenzano III (Ph.D., Georgia Southern University), and professor Tara M. Emmers-Sommer (Ph.D., Ohio University).

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 incidences of HIV prevalence in the country. They have a number of risk factors: low-income females, largely ethnic minority, high prevalence 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 or drug-dependent status of the mother and the severity of child neglect and risk of contracting HIV. In addition, this project will develop the first treatment programs for women infected with HIV prevent and treat drug abuse in the context of child neglect.

Libraries
Major Acquisitions Increase Research Resources
University Libraries has strengthened access to vital materials with a significant number of major acquisitions of licensed electronic databases, e-books, and e-journals during the past year. These resources, made possible through the support of UNLV administration, generous donors, and university holdings and represent an investment in the university’s research infrastructure.

“These collections should not only help faculty and graduate student research, but can be used to place research-based articles at the heart of some undergraduate courses,” said Patricia Iannuzzi, dean of Libraries. "One database addition is the Century of Science, which extends the Web of Science citation index back to 1900 for the 200 most-cited journals. Researchers may now access the electronic journal backfile of some of the most prestigious and highly cited scholarly publishers in the field.

Online access to newspapers was expanded, including the entire backfile of the Chicago Tribune and a collection of more than 1,000 early American newspapers.

Digital collections of books, plays, and historical papers and diaries also were increased. Acquisitions include the ebrary collection of 30,000 new e-books as well as access to 6,000 new electronic books from the sciences, medicine, technology, and social sciences from Springer Publishing. Access was licensed for 200,000+ public and parliamentary papers, substantial historical collections of women’s and immigrants’ letters and diaries, as well as important literature collections focusing on African writers and Asian-American playwrights.

The program to add these electronic collections is under way so that they can be easily found on the catalog and website, library.unlv.edu.

Across Campus
University College
New Staff Join College
The college welcomed two 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 during the 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. Participating students included Melissa Beggs, Clarita Kendall, Isaiah Tahua, and Isaac Watts.

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

Getting to Know You
Sandy Nadelson, center, of the Nursing School; Derrek Furukawa, right, advisor in the College of Liberal Arts; and Henry Villanueva, executive director of first year programs and transition services, chat at the new faculty and staff orientation reception at the Tam Alumni Center on Aug. 14.
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, was selected to speak from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Red Circle Room of the Student Union.

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 highlight the various 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 added, explaining that among the benefits to faculty, staff, and students is a co-ordinated calendar, so you never eliminate having more than one event scheduled at a time.

“It’s all about unity,” Carmona said.

Another notable event is the two-day LatCrit (Latin and Latino Critical Theory) conference examining immigration 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 conference focusing on immigration issues. LatCrit academics research issues of social justice, globalization, democracy, 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.

Get Training?

If you’d like to learn how to conduct a more effective interview, how to speak conversational Spanish, or how to prepare an employee development document, the human resources department has a class for you. To check out these and other training opportunities, go to hr.unlv.edu. Under “staff development” you will find the training catalog. To register for a class, you must first submit a registration form, which can be obtained by going to the “other services” section and clicking on “forms”. If you have questions call ext. 5-0402.
dangerous chemicals on hand, safety is key, he said. Eventually he would like to have one office responsible for receiving all the chemicals used on campus. That would help ensure proper documentation of what chemicals are on campus and that proper safety procedures are in place.

Resources Available

Centineo said he wants staff and faculty members to be aware of the resources available via the department of risk management and safety website, rms.unlv.edu. It provides safety tips and information on hazardous materials and on safety training offered by the risk management and safety staff.

And don’t think the safety training provided is useful only on the job. Much of it, Centineo said, also may prove valuable during your off-duty hours.

Fire extinguisher training, for example, is a must for everybody, he said. People need to know that there are fire extinguishers that will extinguish only certain types of fires.

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 members 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.

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 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 Mc Masters on Malco phoned the College of Fine Arts faculty this fall. And he didn’t waste any time transitioning 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 waiters 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 Apem. 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 weekend nights, industry professionals would hold their children’s birthday parties there. We did the birthday party and we did the play. I learned how to prepare ice cream; I cleaned up a lot of messes.

The gift was the play at night. It was a very hot play called Blacher Bums. The origin 16 cast who had workshoped it in Chicago brought it to Hollywood so they could show off the new material. What a performance they had there. Joe Mantegna was in Blacher 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 Blacher Bums, and take a ballet class. Then I got a chance to audition for Blacher 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, Julliard, 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 didn’t.

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 (CBEPs and The Duck Factory) and a couple of pilots under my belt, but I wasn’t 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 into teaching?

I’m convinced that I’m supposed to be a teacher. 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 little movie. In one script I was a bartender and I had to learn how to be a bartender like Tom Cruise was in one script. I got a little redundant but I love those bottles. So I went home and start flipping. In another episode I had to go undercover at a circus.
Rebel Healers

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.

(Top) Assistant athletic trainer Bernie Chavies stretches a student-athlete in the Lied Athletic Complex training room. (Below) Head athletic trainer Kyle Wilson assesses an ankle injury.

(Top) Assistant athletic trainer Bernie Chavies stretches a student-athlete in the Lied Athletic Complex training room. (Below) Head athletic trainer Kyle Wilson assesses an ankle injury.

(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.