Combating the Community’s Nursing Crisis

The Title IX Balancing Act

Energizing Research
Shining a Light on the State’s Power Resources

Engineering Professor
Bob Boehm
Calling for a Great University

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Much More Than a Building

I
have long maintained that a dynamic partnership should exist between universities in metropolitan areas and the communities in which they reside. The former mayor of Atlanta, Andrew Young, once spoke eloquently with the agricultural community. The benefits that accrued from that relationship fed not only America but the world. A similar kind of relationship between universities and the cities is necessary.

I often refer to Mayor Young’s insightful call for support when we discuss our mission at UNLV. He so articulated the powerful impact urban universities can have between their commitment, time, and intellectual resources to their communities. At UNLV, we have taken his words to heart, establishing close and productive ties to the community and state through the integration of our important functions—teaching, research, and service. We have written and spoken of our past endeavors in this area and of our continuing responsibility to seek new and innovative ways to partner with government agencies, private industry, and other institutions in Southern Nevada and the state for the benefit of all involved.

I revisit this issue now because before us on the horizon lies the facility to conduct top-notch research, fostering discoveries and a strong academic program. “One of the strengths in the program at SIU was that our dental graduates score very well on external exams. I plan to duplicate that success at UNLV,” UNLV’s School of Dentistry is the first dental school to open at a state-supported university in more than two decades. While the school will not be eligible for full accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation until 2007—after the first class of dental students graduates—the accreditation process began nearly two years ago. School officials expect to hear soon whether the school has been granted “accreditation-eligible status,” a crucial step for the fledging school.

Another step forward will come in early 2004 when the school moves to its permanent home on the new Shadow Lane campus. While the move is a significant step, space for classes will be conducted on the main UNLV campus. The excitement among the first class of dental students is already palpable, said Associate Dean Susan Silverton. Throughout the summer, students logged onto an electronic bulletin board to exchange information and ideas. A spouse’s group also emerged.

“This dental school started as an idea,” Silverton said. “It has become a community.”

Dental School Goals Include Improving Access to Health Care in Community

As the UNLV School of Dentistry welcomes its inaugural class of 76 students this fall, the Las Vegas community is gaining a much-needed resource for health care.

UNLV President Carol C. Harter said, “The opening of the UNLV School of Dentistry is the real milestone, not only for the university, but for the state as well. For the first time, Nevadans interested in dental careers will not have to leave the state to receive this highly specialized education.

“Additionally, the community as a whole will benefit from the presence of a dental school as our dental faculty and students become increasingly involved in outreach activities designed to promote better dental health,” she said.

Dr. Patrick J. Ferrillo, the school’s new dean, was previously dean of the Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Dental Medicine. There, he was instrumental in the establishment and staffing of SIU dental clinics that provide oral health care for the underserved population in the region.

Providing such community care is something the UNLV School of Dentistry will do as well. “We at UNLV have a mission to try to help address that access-to-care issue,” Ferrillo said. The first step in achieving UNLV’s goals for the school, according to Ferrillo, is establishing a strong academic program. “One of the strengths in the program at SIU was that our dental graduates score very well on external exams. I plan to duplicate that success at UNLV,” UNLV’s School of Dentistry is the first dental school to open at a state-supported university in more than two decades. While the school will not be eligible for full accreditation by the Commission on Dental Accreditation until 2007—after the first class of dental students graduates—the accreditation process began nearly two years ago. School officials expect to hear soon whether the school has been granted “accreditation-eligible status,” a crucial step for the fledging school.

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Honors College Dean Plans to Build on Undergraduate Research Programs

Stephen Rosenbaum, the new dean of the Honors College, says he began work at UNLV this summer ready to build on what he describes as an “already amazing” honors program.

Rosenbaum, who for the past four years headed the honors program at Illinois State University (ISU) in Normal, said he decided to move to UNLV after 30 years at ISU in large part because of the positive things he had heard about honors education at UNLV. Once he had met with people on campus, he was convinced that he and UNLV were a good match.

“My impressions are several,” said Rosenbaum after accepting the position. “One is that it is a very flexible institution in terms of allowing new traditions to be developed and that it is open to good ideas—and that’s very good for a university.”

His other appointments include serving as a draw for two students throughout the region and nation.

Rosenbaum, who enjoys researching and reading about ancient history and philosophy, earned two degrees in philosophy—a doctoral degree and a master’s degree—from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As a Senior Honors College include building on the tradition of undergraduate research projects that link talented students with professors. Such partnerships benefit not only the students, but the professors and the university as well, he said.

He also intends to increase student-recruiting efforts and said he sees UNLV’s location in the desert as an advantage as a draw for two students throughout the region and nation.

At ISU, he developed two special honors colloquia that proved popular with students: Death and Dying and The Development of Western Moral Thought.

When announcing Rosenbaum’s selection as dean, President Carol C. Harter said, “He has a number of innovative ideas for the college, and I am looking forward to seeing how our already strong honors program matures under his guidance.”

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Campus News

Ferrillo Selected to Head Dental School

Dr. Patrick J. Ferrillo, recognized internationally for his leadership and educational development, was selected as the new dean of the UNLV School of Dentistry following national search. Previously he was dean of the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine.

He has served on numerous committees related to dental education. In 1999, he served as president of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), which addresses contemporary issues influencing education, research, and delivery of oral health care to the public.

His other appointments include service as the 1994 chair of the ADEA Council of Deans, 1991 chair of the American Dental Association Council on Dental Therapeutics, and 1996 chair of the Steering Committee on Specialty Programs for the Commission on Dental Accreditation/Council on Dental Education.

He received his dental degree from the Baylor College of Dentistry in 1976, and in 1978 completed an advanced education program in endodontics at Baylor. He received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Georgetown University in 1975.
Strate Receives Faculty Award from Association

Larry A. Strate, associate professor of business law, has been selected to receive the UNLV Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Award. "During his 21 years at UNLV, Larry has distinguished himself as a leader in the classroom and around campus," said Fred Albrecht, vice president for university and community relations. "He is an inspiring teacher and is dedicated to helping students achieve their goals through his numerous campus and community service activities."

Strate has served UNLV's College of Business for more than two decades as both an administrator and faculty member. A graduate of the Gonzaga School of Law, his work service on campus has often focused on pre-law undergraduates. Recognizing a need to help students gather information on prospective law schools, he established UNLV's first bar review program for law school recruiters in 1985. The annual event, which is open to the public, brings representatives from more than 50 law schools to campus.

In addition to helping hundreds of students as an academic adviser, he has served as adviser to several student organizations. He established two temporary accommodations, one of which became a chapter of Phi Alpha Delta, a national pre-law fraternity. Strate has taught a variety of courses, including business law, international law, money and banking, economics, and community property.

He has served on numerous committees, including the NCAA Steering Committee, the Intercollegiate Athletic Council, the President's Planning Council, and the committee that established the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV.

His scholarly research has focused on gaming and has resulted in several books and instruction manuals as well as more than 35 articles in refereed journals. Strate earned a master's degree in business administration from UNLV in 1976 and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Montana in 1964.

Life Skills Center to Benefit Disabled

By Mae Herens

A partnership between UNLV's and the Lili Claire Foundation will give adults and children with developmental disabilities the chance to live healthier, more fulfilled lives.

The Lili Claire Life Skills Center is scheduled to open early next year with the goal of helping individuals with neurogenetic birth defects such as Williams syndrome, Down syndrome and autism to lead happy, productive, fully integrated lives and to provide hope and resources for the families who lose them, said Keith Resnick, director of the Lili Claire Foundation.

"We started this hoping to help just one child and our family and the response has been great," he said. "That's why we are thrilled to be embraced by UNLV. It's an honor to be associated with this kind of institution."

In 1998, the Resnicks created the foundation in memory of their daughter. Lili Claire was only five and a half months old when she died after undergoing an 18-hour open-heart surgery to correct a severe heart defect. She had been born with Williams syndrome, a rare congenital disorder caused by the deletion of genetic material on chromosome 7, including the gene that makes people talented musicians, Hall says.

There are also future plans for a family resource center with a library of information about developmentally disabled people.

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Students Can Complete Their Degrees Online

Started as a small, limited service in 1996, UNLV's distance education program will offer more than 50 classes to 2,200 students this fall. Using an Internet-based system, students have 24-hour access to class materials, faculty lectures, and discussion groups, said Charlotte Farr, director of distance education.

"Students, especially those with full-time jobs, enjoy the flexibility distance education offers," Farr said. "We also tend to find that students who rarely take part in regular classroom discussions feel more comfortable participating in discussions in the online classroom environment."

Distance education offers courses in a number of disciplines for all students. In addition, students can complete a bachelor's degree in social science studies and work toward master's degrees in nursing, education, and hospitality administration. For more information, call (702) 895-0707 or visit www.unlv.edu/alumni/benefits.html.

Hotel College Teaches Golf Course Management

With the endorsement of the Professional Golfers' Association of America, UNLV is teaching a new degree program this fall. The PGA recently approved the professional golf management program, bringing to 13 the number of colleges and universities offering the program.

The four-and-a-half-year program grants a bachelor's degree in recreation with a concentration in professional golf management. It is designed for students intending to become PGA club professionals, who will manage golf courses, as well as health and fitness professionals.

Club professionals manage many aspects of a course's daily operations, including instruction and course relations. "This rigorous academic program is going to prepare our students to take on the business challenges specific to their chosen industries," says Stuart Mann, dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration.

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State's Endangered Historic Sites Named

Preserve Nevada, a non-profit organization associated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the public history program in UNLV's College of Liberal Arts, recently named the state's "11 Most Endangered Historic Sites." In addition to preserving Nevada's rich cultural heritage, the Preserve Nevada partnership "will provide a unique educational experience for UNLV students, who will have an opportunity to work directly with preservationists, community leaders, and scholars in this effort," said history professor Andrew Kirk, director of UNLV's public history program.

The endangered sites were selected by Preserve Nevada as part of its programs to bring public support and attention to significant buildings, sites, and landscapes that face a threat of destruction. They are:

- **The Moulin Rouge**, Las Vegas -- built in 1955 to serve African-American entertainers not allowed to stay in the hotels in which they performed.
- **“Million Dollar” Courthouse**, Pioche -- built in 1871-72 at a cost of more than $800,000, well over its original $26,000 contract.
- **Railroad Cottages**, Las Vegas -- built between 1909 and 1912 to house railroad workers.
- **Rock Art Sites**, throughout Nevada -- contain petroglyphs from the state’s early inhabitants.
- **Virginia Street Bridge**, Reno -- a spot where, legend has it, new divorces in the “Divorce Capital of the World” tossed their wedding rings into the Truckee River.
- **Silver State Lodge**, Reno -- built in 1927 to cater to people seeking state residency and a quick divorce.
- **Stewart Indian School**, Carson City -- built in 1897 as a boarding school for Native American children.
- **Goldfield High School**, Goldfield -- built in 1907 in one of the state’s mining boomtowns.
- **Naughty County Courthouse**, Hawthorne -- built in 1883, it is the only courthouse in Nevada to serve two counties, Mineral and Eureka.
- **Nevada Northern Railway Complex**, Elly -- built in 1905 with a depot, shops, and yards.

Alumni Association Awards Its Top Honors to Greenspun Family, Broocker

The UNLV Alumni Association recently presented its highest awards to the Barbara Greenspun family and local attorney Thomas Broocker.

The Greenspun family received the Silver State Award, the highest honor the association gives to non-alumni supporters of the university. The Greenspun College of Urban Affairs and the Hank Greenspun Science, Engineering, and Technology Complex are just two examples of the family’s commitment to UNLV and to the principle of high-quality education. The School of Communication is named after Hank Greenspun, a celebrated Nevadan who, throughout his long career, was a public advocate and founder of the Las Vegas Sun.

The family most recently pledged to give UNLV 40 percent of the cost to build a new facility to house the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. By current estimation, the proposed building would cost approximately $24.3 million, bringing the family's pledge to $9.7 million. UNLV is asking the Nevada Legislature to fund the remainder during the 2003 legislative session.

"When we started the Hank Greenspun School of Communication, and then expanded our commitment with the opening of the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, it was only a matter of time before the various pieces of the college needed a home to come together," said Barbara Greenspun, publisher of the Sun.

In addition, the Greenspun family has sought to enhance the intellectual life of the campus through the Barbara Greenspun Lecture Series, which has brought distinguished speakers to campus, including former President Bill Clinton. The family has also contributed generously to student scholarships.

Broocker, ’88 BS Accounting, received the Alumnus of the Year award. A shareholder in the Las Vegas office of Kafoury, Armstrong & Brooker, he specializes in gaming, Securities and Exchange Commission compliance and regulatory work, and corporate law.

UNLV Quick Fact

Social work students from the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs contributed more than 62,800 hours to local service agencies in 2001. The pro bono work, valued at $708,000, helps students translate theory into practice while contributing needed services to the community.

University of Nevada, Reno

UNLV President Carol C. Harter and business management professor Keon Leong were named Educators of the Year by the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce. Harter, who came to UNLV in 1995, was recognized for her management of UNLV’s growth and her association with the UNLV Foundation. In an influential role in the environmental studies department, and helped rescue more than one species of endangered fish.

He arrived on Labor Day 1969, fresh from his doctoral studies at the University of Kansas. With an interest in specializing in desert fishes, Deacon had found a job offer from a university in the middle of the Mojave Desert too good to pass up.

He was the campus’ second biology professor. That put biology and chemistry professors, which had only one professor each. "It was unbelievable that I was going to get to be the only biologist studying desert fishes who actually was based in this desert," he recalls.

A career highlight was his role in preserving the threatened Devil’s Hole pupfish -- an inch-long fish unique to Nevada. He worked toward having the pupilfish’s habitat designated as a national wildlife refuge.

"The desert fishes may be small, they are not insignificant. These desert fishes present fascinating stories and equally intriguing questions," he says. "How did they get where they are today? What happens to them over time? What are the survival mechanisms they have developed?"

Two endemic species in Southern Nevada were named in his honor: Rhinichthys deaconi, the deacon’s pupfish, and Pyrgulopsis deaconi, the Spring Mountain pupfish. But Deacon didn’t spend all his time on the animal kingdom; he was also closely involved with students. Perhaps his most noteworthy effort in that area was spearheading the creation of UNLV’s environmental studies program.

"It was instrumental in the development and construction of the Richard Tam Alumni Center. He currently serves as a director of the College of Business Administration Association."

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"It was instrumental in the development and construction of the Richard Tam Alumni Center. He currently serves as a director of the College of Business Administration Association."

More than 40 years after arriving in Las Vegas to pursue his dream of studying desert fishes, Jim Deacon, distinguished professor of environmental studies, retired in March.

Along the way, Deacon taught countless numbers of students, played an instrumental role in the founding of the environmental studies department, and helped rescue more than one species of endangered fish.

Biologist Jim Deacon Retires
Boundaries Between: The Southern Paiutes, 1775-1995

University of Nebraska Press, 2001, 312 pages, plus notes
By Martha Knack

The author: Martha Knack, professor of anthropology and recently named a UNLV Distinguished Professor, is a pioneer in recognizing the importance of both men and women in Native American Studies. She is known for her expertise on Native Americans in the Great Basin. This is her third book on the subject.

The book: Boundaries Between skillfully combines contemporary oral histories with meticulous archival research in examining the culture of the Southern Paiutes and identifying the factors that have contributed to their survival. By all the "rules" of history and anthropolo­gy, this small-scale, foraging culture should have disappeared long ago. Knack's study analyzes why the usual rules do not apply to the Southern Paiutes. Boundaries Between has been called a "landmark achievement in the field of ethnohistory."

Hyposexual Sexual Desire: Integrating Sex and Couple Therapy

By Gerald Weeks and Nancy Gambescia

The author: Gerald Weeks, chair of the counseling department, has more than 20 years of experience in sex and marital therapy. He is one of two therapists in Nevada certified by the American Board of Sexology, and the American Board of Sexology, and the American Board of Sexological Psychology.

The book: Hyposexual Sexual Desire skillfully combines medical and psychological approaches to treatment. The book presents new methods of working with couples, including an approach that integrates sexual desire into the couple's treatment. It is a "landmark achievement in the field of ethnohistory." 

Best Places Las Vegas

Saqsquatch Books, 2001, 352 pages
Edited by James P. Reza, '89 BA Political Science

The editor: James P. Reza, '89 BA Political Science, is founder and editor of SCOPES magazine, an arts, culture, and lifestyle publication now known as Las Vegas Weekly. He is the consultant editor for all editions of the Time Out Guide to Las Vegas and has worked on numerous television productions for the Travel Channel and the BBC. He is vice president of the Cultural Development Company, a Nevada real estate development firm, and a columnist for the Las Vegas Mercury.

The book: One of the most proliferous authors on campus, Hal Rothman is fond of calling Las Vegas the "first city of the 21st century." Newly elected chair of the history department, Rothman was the editor of the journal Environmental History. He is frequently quoted in national media and has served as an advisor on documentary films and television programs about Las Vegas and the West. Rothman has also authored Devil's Bargain: Tourism in the Twentieth-Century American West; Saving the Planet: The American Response to the Environment in the Twentieth Century; and I'll Never Fight Fire with My Bare Hands AGAIN: Recollections of the First Forest Rangers of the Inland Northwest.

The book: Las Vegas, once an isolated gambling outpost in the desert, has become mainstream and now symbolizes the new America, Rothman contends. In Las Vegas he finds a city that lets Americans fulfill their favorite fantasies. The city offers a sterilized version of Europe and New York City and escapism to a South Seas island (without torrential winds or pesky flies). Unlike many small towns that declined after 1945, Las Vegas has survived to become a real city, thanks to a malleability that lets it become whatever its visitors want it to be, Rothman contends.

Neon Metropolis: How Las Vegas Started the 21st Century

Routledge, 2002, 368 pages, illustrated by Hal Rothman

The author: One of the most prolific authors on campus, Hal Rothman is fond of calling Las Vegas the "first city of the 21st century." Newly elected chair of the history department, Rothman was the editor of the journal Environmental History. He is frequently quoted in national media and has served as an advisor on documentary films and television programs about Las Vegas and the West. Rothman has also authored Devil's Bargain: Tourism in the Twentieth-Century American West; Saving the Planet: The American Response to the Environment in the Twentieth Century; and I'll Never Fight Fire with My Bare Hands AGAIN: Recollections of the First Forest Rangers of the Inland Northwest.

The book: Las Vegas, once an isolated gambling outpost in the desert, has become mainstream and now symbolizes the new America, Rothman contends. In Las Vegas he finds a city that lets Americans fulfill their favorite fantasies. The city offers a sterilized version of Europe and New York City and escapism to a South Seas island (without torrential winds or pesky flies). Unlike many small towns that declined after 1945, Las Vegas has survived to become a real city, thanks to a malleability that lets it become whatever its visitors want it to be, Rothman contends.

University Wind Symphony's Gawd$illa Eats Las Vegas (1997) and Monkey (2000)

Mark Records

Thomas G. Leslie, conductor

The kitchy cover art and dubious title of Gawd$illa Eats Las Vegas seem more akin to a B-movie than a university music group's recording, but they are somehow appropriate given the CD's popularity in Japan. Gawd$illa, recorded in 1997 by the UNLV Wind Symphony, is a top-selling CD in Japan, a country that loves what is often simply referred to as "band music." The Tower Records chain in Japan made Gawd$illa a feature title and devoted a special display to the recording. The symphony's 2000 recording, Monkey, is also selling well across both the Pacific and the Atlantic.

"It may seem strange to an American audience, but wind symphony music is big in Japan and Europe," said Mark Morette, president of Mark Records, which produces and distributes the wind symphony's CDs. "It's a relatively new music form, but I believe it's going to be the 21st century's classical music. The pieces are shorter than classical orchestra music, but they are more complex and have a lot of different moods and expressions."

In May, the Hokkaido Band Directors Association donated $40,000 to bring the 63-member UNLV Wind Orchestra, led by music professor Thomas Leslie, to Japan for a week-long tour. "UNLV Wind Orchestra CDs are popular overseas because of the densely colorful and unique sound of the group in addition to a highly expressive and dynamic sense of musicality displayed in the ensemble's performances," Leslie says. "This is certainly one of America's premier collegiate wind bands."

Gawd$illa is also attracting attention across the Atlantic. Marcus Will­helm, a reviewer for the German music magazine Clarino, singled out Gawd$illa as "Celebration," a piece originally commissioned by the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra, and Frank Ticheli's version of "Amazing Grace." He wrote, "These pieces are characterized by good phrasing and a perfect orchestral balance. Gawd$illa gets its title from a composition by Eric Whitacre, who has studied under UNLV music faculty members. Whitacre also composed the piece "UNLV Alma Mater" on the Monkey album to commemorate the university's 40th anniversary. Gawd$illa, Monkey, and UNLV Wind Symphony's other CDs are available by calling the UNLV band office at (702) 893-3734 or Mark Records at (716) 759-2600.

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UNLV weighs the realities of achieving Title IX gender equity in athletics programs.

When Erin Borcherts graduated from Cimarron Memorial High School, going to college meant leaving Nevada. The avid golfer wanted to compete on the collegiate level as she worked toward a degree in marketing. "Growing up here, I always thought it was a shame that UNLV didn't have a women's golf team because Las Vegas is such a golfing town," she says. "There were so many talented high school golfers here who wanted to play their way through school. Like me, they had to leave the state to do it."

Borcherts returned to her hometown school for her junior year when UNLV added women's golf to its lineup in 2001. Along with golf, UNLV added women's soccer and volleyball as part of President Carol C. Harter's initiatives to bring the school's athletics department into compliance with the gender equity requirements of Title IX legislation. "I jumped at the opportunity to play here," says Borcherts, who is now a senior. "I knew every time the team went out on the course, we'd be making history. That's just a cool experience."

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 is the landmark legislation that bans sex discrimination in schools, whether it be in academics or athletics. The law applies to all educational institutions, both public and private, that receive federal funds, thus including the UNLV athletics department.

In 1995, a task force for gender equity in athletics at UNLV was appointed to identify the department's Title IX compliance status and direction.

Lisa Kelleher, UNLV associate athletics director for olympic sports, serves as the liaison to the gender equity committee. "It is my job to make sure there is equity between the men's programs and women's programs," Kelleher says. "The committee did a full review and compared UNLV to what other schools were doing. We also brought in a consultant to evaluate our situation."

Lamar Daniel, who runs Consultants for Gender Equity and Sports Management, was hired to help UNLV athletics assess its Title IX challenges and offer suggestions on how to achieve compliance. Daniel is a consultant for numerous universities across the country and previously worked with the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education.

"Since I have worked with the program, UNLV has made tremendous progress with its Title IX compliance," Daniel says. "Everyone has been very responsive to recommendations, and UNLV has moved closer to full compliance. In fact, there is little that remains (to be done)."

There are three basic continued on page 31
This past spring, Bob Boehm couldn't help but shake his head as policymakers and environmentalists debated opening Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Preserve. When conflicts in the Middle East escalated, sending prices at the gas pump up to $1.54 per gallon, he pedaled his way to work every day. And Nevada's wrangling over proposed utility regulations elicited a pointed letter to the local media from the frustrated mechanical engineering professor.

The country's energy policy often pits environmentalists against businessmen and politicians against one another. But Boehm, who is director of UNLV's Center for Energy Research, believes there are win-win solutions for these issues.

"We have the ability to solve the country's energy problems within Nevada's borders."

— Professor Bob Boehm

Engineering professor Bob Boehm shines a light on the state's renewable resources.

ENERGIZING RESEARCH

The benefits of renewable resources are plentiful. As the word "renewable" would suggest, using energy generated by the sun, wind, and the earth's recurring heat sources does not deplete natural resources. Nor do these resources cause pollution or harmful waste — a benefit perhaps especially appealing to a state faced with housing radioactive byproducts from nuclear power plants across the country. Simply put, Boehm says, "renewables can get us out of a whole lot of pickles."

Reid, a longtime proponent of alternative energy sources, is fostering research partnerships between federal agencies and state educational institutions. He most recently helped match more than $15 million in energy research funding with Nevada institutions. The UNLV Center for Energy Research has already received funding for the Dish Stirling project, a solar power system that could be used for large-scale electricity generation. The university is likely to receive even more research funding through an appropriation to NREL for the establishment of a renewable technology site in Nevada.

"I believe continued research at UNLV is vital to our communities and will offer opportunities to expand and diversify Nevada's economy," Reid said. "The ongoing energy crisis demonstrates how critical it is that we find other sources of power."

Nevada's economy would benefit from exporting the product of its renewable resources — electricity — to other states. Moreover, the United States would not have to rely on fossil fuel sources, such as oil and natural gas, from other countries. This would insulate the country from spikes in energy costs due to unrest abroad.

If the state taps into its solar, wind, and geothermal resources to become a major source of the country's energy needs, both Boehm and Reid say, jobs and tax revenues will follow. "This could be really big business in Nevada," Boehm says. "It's not a pipe dream to think that renewables could help diversify our economy."

Low population and vast open spaces only enhance Nevada's viability as a renewable energy powerhouse. Technologies like solar and wind require sizeable amounts of open land for power-generation equipment.

"Unlike many other states, Nevada has the land to spare," Boehm says. "The prime real estate for renewable resources happens to be the
land that nobody is using. In fact, just a small fraction of the land in Nevada owned by the federal government would be sufficient for a major facility.”

A Matter of Perspective

With such clear-cut benefits to using renewable resources, Boehm has trouble understanding why the country is resistant. Even the most viable reason not to use renewable resources – cost – doesn’t carry much weight with him. Boehm readily concedes that the cost of our involvement in the Middle East is a hidden "cost" of our energy policy. "That plant would ultimately lead to a 100-megawatt solar power generation plant in Southern Nevada," he says. "But the cost of our involvement in the Middle East is a hidden subsidy," he says.

"In the modern world, we don't like things that cost a lot to start with – even if we'll save in the long run. We think, 'Let's go with something cheaper now and deal with the price of fuel later.' Later, when the cost of fuel goes up, we're paying through our teeth."

Supply and Demand

Fortunately, renewable technologies are already seeing significant gains in cost efficiency.

The cost of wind energy – an often forgotten alternative, Boehm says – has declined from 40 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to less than 5 cents.

The major drawback to wind is that it is fleeting, Boehm says. "It can be hard to pinpoint the best places to harness the power from wind sources. Some of our research in the near future will probably focus on assessing the 'windiest' areas of the state."

In solar technologies, photovoltaic (PV) panels are already widely used to light signs along rural stretches of highway. In Sacramento, Calif., the utility district's Solar PV Pioneer program is working with homeowners to install grid-connected systems on rooftops. The electricity-producing systems significantly reduce or eliminate the homeowner's electricity bill. Because the system is connected to the power grid, any power not used by the homeowner is fed back into the power grid, and the consumer is credited for the power generation at the retail rate.

The cost of PV technology has dropped from more than $1 per kWh in 1980 to nearly 20 cents today. Through concentrator systems – such as those found near Cramer's Junction, Calif. – currently offer the lowest-cost solar electricity for large-scale power generation. The cost of dish concentrators, like those on the UNLV campus, are not far behind.

Electricity from large-scale power plants based on concentrating solar dish technology would initially cost about 15 cents per kWh, according to NREL. That cost would drop to between 4 cents and 5 cents per kWh about the same as traditional power sources. When demand for the technology lowers production costs for the systems and as the technology is improved through research.

UNLV's solar dish projects are directed toward identifying maintenance problems and improving the reliability of solar concentrator systems. The collaboration of faculty in other colleges on campus will offer a multidisciplinary approach to solving system problems, Boehm says.

"Our work to prove the viability of the operation of the dish systems and to develop a near-term plan of the Department of Energy to put a 1-megawatt solar power generation plant in Southern Nevada, "he says. "That plant would ultimately lead to a 100-megawatt system that could power up to 20,000 homes."

Engineering students are well integrated into the research projects.

UNLV's Center for Energy Research employs students for a number of projects, including the development of a hydrogen-powered bus engine. Federal funding for the dish-stirring project allowed the center to hire 12 undergraduates to take part in training and to operate a project to put a 1-megawatt solar power generation plant in Southern Nevada.

"Right now, there are not a lot of technically trained people in this field," Boehm says. "We believe it's very important to involve students in advanced research like this. It will give them a significant advantage in the job market as demand for renewable resources increases."

"Our students are Probably the best and have a number of indirect costs, Boehm says. The use of fossil fuels has troubled nuclear power plants as well. "Nuclear power is a kind of like buying water, a homeowner needs at a total cost that is less than an electric water heater when lifecycle costs are considered," Boehm says.

For more information on the Center for Energy Research, visit www.egr.unlv.edu/solar/main.html.

Graduate engineering student Tony Braithwaite's research for his master's degree focuses on a hydrogen-powered engine being developed by UNLV's Center for Energy Research at Kell's Automotive in Las Vegas.

Power Projects

Under the direction of engineering professors Bob Boehm and Yahia Baghzouz, UNLV's Center for Energy Research is working on a number of projects.

Hydrogen/Electric Hybrid Bus

As part of a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contract, the center is modifying a battery-powered bus using advanced hybrid power concepts. The bus engine burns hydrogen to generate electricity and recharge the system's batteries. Unlike gasoline-powered vehicles, the hybrid emits no carbon monoxide and only a little nitrous oxide, which makes it attractive for public transportation in areas trying to improve air quality. UNLV students are developing a new internal combustion engine and better braking and battery-management systems.

Photovoltaic (PV) Systems

The center has developed a second-generation system to help monitor environmental conditions in remote locations at the Nevada Test Site. In areas without access to electrical power, photovoltaic power generation systems are used to operate the monitoring equipment. Working with UNLV's research center, the partner has lowered the costs of the prototype system by nearly 50 percent. UNLV students and faculty also helped redesign the system so two people can easily move it using a customized trailer. Another UNLV designed mobile PV system is being used as a teaching tool for middle and high school students in Clark County.

Solar Water Heaters

The center partnered with Pulte Homes and the Corporation for Solar Technology and Renewable Resources to evaluate the economic viability of solar-powered water heaters. This helped in the marketing of solar heaters to home buyers. "The solar heater can furnish all the hot water a homeowner needs at a total cost that is less than an electric water heater when lifecycle costs are considered," Boehm says.

For more information on the Center for Energy Research, visit www.egr.unlv.edu/solar/main.html.
Combating the Nursing Shortage

UNLV’s College of Health Sciences is responding to the community’s health-care crisis with new programs to increase the number of nursing graduates.

by Diane Russell / photos by Geri Kodey

The statistics are startling. Nevada not only doesn’t meet the national average when it comes to the number of nurses via-a-vis the population, it ranks dead last. According to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services statistics, Nevada ranks 50th among the states in terms of the number of nurses per 100,000 people. While the national average is 782 per 100,000, Nevada has only 520. The feeling among many Nevada health-care professionals is that something has got to change.

UNLV administrators and faculty know that, too, and the university is working to improve the situation. More than once over the past few years, UNLV has opened additional seats for new nursing students. And, now, as part of a statewide effort to combat the nursing shortage, the department of nursing is again planning to increase the number of students it accepts—this time to 56 per semester.

F or several years prior to 1999, the nursing department admitted 32 new students per semester. Because UNLV students planning on becoming nurses spend their first three semesters taking general requirement courses, these 32 students were second-semester sophomores who were ready to begin taking their actual nursing courses. Beginning this fall, UNLV’s nursing program is again increasing the number of new students it accepts—this time to 56 per semester.

If a recipient works as a nurse in Nevada for a certain length of time, the loan is forgiven. In addition, almost all the clinical facilities offer some form of tuition reimbursement to employees.

These areas will be necessary if the state’s schools are to be able to significantly increase the number of nurses in Nevada, she says. UNLV offers free tutoring to help students through the difficult math and science requirements. Witt says it had become apparent over the years that a number of students dropped out of nursing after experiencing trouble with those courses.

The department also encourages networking among nursing students by sponsoring monthly discussion sessions. Sometimes, a speaker is brought in; always, students are encouraged to discuss any concerns or questions they may have about nursing careers or UNLV’s nursing program.

The department, in collaboration with Student Financial Services, also offers support in the form of financial aid and is trying to increase the monies available.

Some area hospitals—including those in the Valley Hospital Systems (Desert Springs, Valley, and Sammerlin) and St. Rose Hospital System (Sienna and de Lima campuses) as well as MountainView and Lake Mead hospitals—currently offer financial aid to nursing students or are in the process of developing such assistance. In return, aid recipients agree to work a certain amount of time for the lending hospital; if the student works for the hospital for the agreed upon period, the loan is forgiven. In addition, almost all the clinical facilities offer some form of tuition reimbursement to employees.

Sunrise Hospital, Witt says, has been generous in providing funds to hire additional faculty via joint appointments, to hire science and math tutors, and to hire staff to assist students in the nursing department’s patient-care laboratory.

The Legislature, as part of its effort to increase the number of nurses, established a loan program that provided $23,000 for UNLV nursing students during 2001-03 biennium. If a recipient works as a nurse in Nevada for a certain length of time, the loan is forgiven.

For several years prior to 1999, the nursing department admitted 32 new students per semester. Because UNLV students planning on becoming nurses spend their first three semesters taking general requirement courses, these 32 students were second-semester sophomores who were ready to begin taking their actual nursing courses. Beginning this fall, UNLV’s nursing program is again increasing the number of new students it accepts—this time to 56 per semester.

With that increase, only a short waiting list will remain, Sabo says. “The dean describes the current situation as a sort of "good news, bad news" scenario.”

“The good news is that our efforts to stimulate interest in nursing as a career have been successful,” she says. “The downside is that we still don’t have sufficient faculty to be able to admit more than 56 students per semester. At this point, even that is stretching our faculty about as far as they can go.”

Another difficulty is finding a sufficient number of “practicums” placements, Witt says. The practicum experience requires students to apply the theories they have studied and the skills they have learned to real-life situations under the guidance of faculty or staff nurses in a hospital or clinic. Before graduating, the student nurses must gain experience in departments devoted to medical-surgical care, obstetrics, pediatrics, psychiatry, community health, and case management.

Even with the growing number of hospitals and clinics in Las Vegas, it will be a challenge to find enough spots for future students—particularly in the areas of in-patient obstetrics, pediatrics, and psychiatry, Witt says.

But Sabo says that a statewide effort being spearheaded by the Legislature may soon provide additional assistance in combating the nursing shortage.

In 2001, the Legislature mandated that the University and Community College System of Nevada develop a plan for increasing the capacity of the nursing programs at each of its institutions. The mandate calls for each school to double in 2000-01 academic year enrollment. The Board of Regents recently approved a report on the plan for the 2003 Legislature, which will convene early next year. That report details what the institutions need in terms of financial support, faculty, and facilities to make the doubling of enrollments possible.

Under the mandate, UNLV would need to increase its enrollment to 120 new nursing students per year, Sabo says. “We’re happy to be working with the Legislature to increase the number of nurses working in Nevada,” she says. “All of us realize what a critically important issue this is and what a continued nursing shortage could mean for the state’s future.”

But doubling the capacity of the state’s nursing programs will not solve the problem; the expanded capacity must be coupled with a successful effort to attract more students into the nursing profession, Sabo says.

Witt says the nursing department over the past few years has taken several steps to interest more students in the profession and, as importantly, has been measuring progress to help students succeed in their nursing studies. Continued and expanded efforts in
Science or engineering and not have to deal with some of these issues and make more money," Witt says. "Promoting a career in nursing can be a hard sell.

Yet, UNLV is working diligently to promote nursing as an excellent career choice - one that offers varied job opportunities and a chance to provide a valuable service to society.

Among its efforts are having local nurses speak with UNLV students, having nursing faculty members and students speak with high school students in classrooms and at career days, and sponsoring a summer nursing camp called Nursing Connections. Now in its second year, the camp brings people who may be interested in nursing - not only high school students, but adults as well - to campus during the summer to learn more about the profession. The camp includes visits to local hospitals for a first-hand look at nurses in action.

Subo has written a grant proposal asking the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for funding that would allow the department to expand its recruitment and retention efforts. But perhaps the best recruiting tool is hearing from those people happy with their choice of nursing as a career.

One of those people, Rachel Omo Choudhury, graduated from UNLV in May with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. For Choudhury, who already had a bachelor's degree in biology from Rollins College in Florida and a master's degree in infectious diseases from the University of Hawaii, the pursuit of a nursing degree was a very deliberate choice.

She once had considered becoming a doctor, but decided instead to work as a researcher. Her master's degree allowed her to do HIV research, it is associated with a couple of years, but she eventually decided to return to her original goal of working with people.

However, this time out, she decided that nursing - rather than medicine - was the field for her. "It is more in keeping with my philosophy," she says. "You take care of the whole person. And, you often involve the family in the care."

"Doctors focus on curing. With nursing you are able to do more caring for the person - not just concentrating on curing them, but also trying to make them better. Nurses are able to spend a lot more time with patients and are able to do more hands-on care."

Choudhury, who had two nursing jobs waiting for her by the time she picked up her UNLV diploma, works full time at MountainView Hospital and part time at St. Rose Hospital, serving as a medical-surgical nurse at both locations.

Eventually, Choudhury plans to return to college once again - this time to earn a master's degree in nursing that will qualify her to become a family nurse-practitioner. "I would like to have my own practice or maybe work in a clinic setting. I'm interested in health promotion - encouraging people to stay healthy."

As the negative publicity about nursing, Choudhury says it doesn't bother her. "You have so many different job options with nursing today. People need to be motivated by what they can do, what they can contribute."

"At the University of Hawaii, I was a psychiatric nurse before becoming an educator, says she loved the work. "I think it takes a special person to be a psychiatric nurse. You have to be a person who can appreciate small gains. Sometimes it would be a major accomplishment for a patient to learn to use a pay phone or a Laundromat."

"I had long-term relationships with patients at a Veteran's Administration hospital; sometimes those relationships lasted years. The patients became important people to you. As they got better, it was thrilling."

But appreciating small gains is not a requirement of the field, she says. "That's one of the wonderful things about nursing - there are so many things you can do with it. So if you're not the person who likes long-term relationships and small gains, he a trauma nurse, I was a psychiatric nurse before becoming an educator, says she loved the work. "I think it takes a special person to be a psychiatric nurse. You have to be a person who can appreciate small gains. Sometimes it would be a major accomplishment for a patient to learn to use a pay phone or a Laundromat."

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Rachel Omo Choudhury didn't face the task of sending resumes to potential employers when she graduated in May. She had no trouble finding a position at MountainView Hospital, where she works in the medical-surgical unit.

Admission administration; sometimes those relationships lasted years. The patients became important people to you. As they got better, it was thrilling."
E very summer for more than 50 years, thousands of performers from around the world have converged in Scotland for the prestigious Edinburgh Arts Festival. Musicians, actors, dancers, filmmakers, street performers, and other artists form a community of talent with the goal of performing before and learning from an international audience.

Most of the talent gracing the stages are professional performers. UNLV is among a handful of universities, including Oxford and the University of Southern California, that send groups to the festival.

"The festival allows our students to demonstrate their talent and skill in an international venue where the audience observes what is produced and gives little thought to: 'It is good - for a university," says Jeff Koep, dean of the College of Fine Arts. "In Edinburgh you present against the very best in the world, professors and amateurs alike."

This is the fourth year in a row that students from the Fine Arts College performed in Edinburgh. For three weeks in August, UNLV offered Dancescapes III and Dance Back the Cat, an original work choreographed by professor Margot Mink Colbert.

Mink Colbert, who has performed in Edinburgh once before, says that her goals for the trip included having the students perform in front of an international audience and learn what it is like to be on stage every day for three weeks. "There is a lot of dedication and stamina required," Mink Colbert says. "The students were exposed to a range of content that they could never see (in Las Vegas), or even in a much larger city. There is much more variety at Edinburgh, especially in terms of experimental and innovative work."

And Mink Colbert would know. A choreographer, dancer, and teacher, she has performed throughout the United States and Europe, enjoying a career that spans the professional, independent, and academic circuits. She has choreographed more than 60 original ballets in styles ranging from classical to postmodern and including theatrical, site-specific, and video dance works.

Mink Colbert was trained in Russian ballet as a child, graduated New York's performing arts high school, and earned a bachelor of science degree in ballet and modern dance performance from the Juilliard School of Music.

"I saw this as a great opportunity to get my work to a different audience, and to see other performers' works," she says. "It's the experimental work at Edinburgh that really interests me. Much of it is about content, not production. A lot of the work is interesting intrinsically, but doesn't have a lot of splash. In addition, when performing for such a diverse crowd, one can make a lot of valuable contacts."

The festival also is excellent exposure for UNLV. Not traditionally known for its fine arts program, the college showcases its best and brightest in Edinburgh, according to Koep.

"Our students gain a great deal of experience, and, in turn, demonstrate a lot of what UNLV fine arts programs have to offer," he says. "They have done a fantastic job representing the university." Dancescape Back the Cat is a lightened romp through the classic Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, says Mink Colbert. "It's best described as taking four professional ballet dancers, one choreographer, a composer, an actress, and the Alice book, mixing well and achieving a celebration of the imagination."

Mink Colbert, who collaborated with Danish flutist and composer Tael Acher on the piece, says it "presents a fresh depiction of some Wonderland characters."

UNLV’s dance department will present Dancescape III at 7 p.m. Sept. 7 and 3 p.m. Sept. 8 in the Ham Fine Arts Building.

"What makes Edinburgh so attractive for the film students is that they can see live performance of the highest caliber at relatively low cost." Menendez says. 'These kids have seen hundreds of movies, but most have never seen any professional work on stage. Edinburgh changes that overnight. In one month, our film students take in dozens of memorable shows, and this immediately is reflected in the films they shoot the following year."

"Of course, it doesn't hurt that the Edinburgh Film Festival, the longest running film festival in the world, also takes place in late August. After a few weeks on the fringe of the performing arts scene, the film students get 10 days to witness the year's best films from every corner of the world. This is complemented by master seminars with film professionals like cinematographer Darius Kondijhi, composer Angelo Badalamenti, director Guillermo del Toro, and actor Sean Penn."

This year eight film students will start earning their audiences with film showings in Edinburgh. They will be led by professional director and UNLV assistant professor David Schmollie. "These kids are lucky to have David as their guide," Menendez adds. "David is very well respected by the industry."
Traveling Show

Theatre company takes UNLV playright's Oedipus to Greece.

by Jennifer Vaughan

Nobel Prize-winning playwright Wole Soyinka has given a classic Greek tragedy a modern retelling while giving the Nevada Conservatory Theatre (NCT) a world stage. With Soyinka directing, NCT premiered the adaptation of Sophocles' Oedipus at Colonus before an international audience in Delphi, Greece, this summer.

"In a time when the world is in crisis, it speaks volumes that NCT presented an adaptation of a centuries-old play that deals with the current world issues of intolerance, violence, and inhumanity," says Jeff Koep, dean of the College of Fine Arts.

Soyinka's title character is the patriarch of the gods, "Their history has been one of wandering, settling, uprooting, and wandering yet again, ever since they escaped as slaves from the sultunes of the Tigris, taking with them their gods," says Soyinka, who holds the Elias Glenn chair of creative writing in UNLV's International Institute of Modern Letters.

Founded by UNLV faculty, NCT is beginning its second season as a professional company overseas, NCT managing director Jeff Koep says the company will continue to focus on its Las Vegas performances.

"We are building a strong following and a vital and dynamic professional theater that enriches, strengthens, and challenges the cultural and artistic life of Las Vegas and the desert Southwest," says UNLV professor Robert Brewer says in the NCT season's opening program.

Founded by UNLV faculty, NCT is beginning its second season as a professional company housed in the lady Bayley Theatre at UNLV. "We had a successful first season, and we believe we have responded to the call for professional theater in Las Vegas," Brewer says. "We are building a strong following and hope to build our subscriber base this year."

The professional arm of the NCT season opens in September with Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Edward Albee's greatest play. It will be followed by the holiday student production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella, and then Mollic's Tartuffe. The second professional NCT production, Jack Guarnier's Six Degrees of Separation, will open in May. That play won both the Olivier Award and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play.

NCT is on track to be recognized by the League of Regional Theaters, the nation's leading association of professional theaters. "NCT is committed to a collaborative artistic and teaching mission," says Thomas F. Cooke, NCT artistic director and UNLV's theatre department chair. "We hope to create a vital and dynamic professional theater that enriches, strengthens, and challenges the cultural and artistic life of Las Vegas and the desert Southwest, while simultaneously training a skilled and talented group of students to shape and direct the professional theater of the 21st century."
**University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Calendar**

**October 2002**

- **5** Las Vegas Philharmonic: *All-American Celebration*, season premiere concert. 8pm. Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2878.
- **8** Homecoming Football Game: UNLV vs. Wyoming. 7pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3900.
- **10** Women's Volleyball: UNLV vs. New Mexico. 10:30am. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **12** Performing Arts Center: *Shanghai Ballet's *Coppélia*. 8pm. Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2878.
- **16** Music: University Wind Orchestra: *Christmas Concert*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **18** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Yo-Yo Ma’s The Silk Road Project*. 8pm. Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2878.

**November 2002**

- **1** Women’s Volleyball: UNLV vs. San Diego. 7pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **8** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – A Christmas Carol*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **9** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Puccini’s La Bohème*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **12** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Leonard Bernstein’s* *West Side Story*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **15** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Italian Opera*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **17** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Puccini’s La Traviata*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **19** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Giuseppe Verdi’s* *Aida*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **23** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – The Psycho* *Melody*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **24** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Vivaldi to Pink Floyd*. 7:30pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-2878.

**December 2002**

- **3** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – A Christmas Carol*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **15** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Giuseppe Verdi’s* *Aida*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **17** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – The Psycho* *Melody*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **21** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Puccini’s La Traviata*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **23** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Giuseppe Verdi’s* *Aida*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- **25** Performing Arts Center: *Charlie Vanda Master Series – Leonard Bernstein’s* *West Side Story*. 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

*For event information, call the UNLV Alumni Association at (702) 895-3621 or (800) 829-2586.*

**CALENDAR**

**CALIFORNIA**

**Alumni Association Events**

- **Sept. 7** Tailgate – Kansas Game
- **Sept. 20** Dinner Theatre
- **Oct. 5** Tailgate – UNR Game
- **Oct. 11** Homecoming Dinner with Coach Robinson
- **Oct. 12** Homecoming Tailgate Party – University of New Mexico Game, beginning at 1 p.m.
- **Oct. 17** Homecoming Golf Tournament
- **Oct. 26** Away Tailgate – San Diego
- **Nov. 2** Tailgate – Wyoming Game
- **Nov. 6** Law Symposium
- **Nov. 16** Tailgate – Air Force Academy Game
- **Nov. 22** Dinner Theatre
- **Nov. 23** Alumni Reunion Reception for members of the 1977 Basketball Team

**First Basketball Game of the Season – Halftime Ceremony to Honor 1977 Team**
1960s
Tim Lau, '68 BS Electrical Engineer-
ing, now lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

1950s
Fred Albrecht, '71 M. Ed., was recently named to U.S. South's South-ern Nevada Advisory Board. He is also UNLV's vice president for uni-
versity and community relations.

Kenneth Fong, '73 BS Business Adminis-tration, was named a 2002 Businessper-son of the Year by the Nevada Asian Cham-ber of Commerce. A commer-
cial property management firm. He received an MBA from San Francisco State University.

Cynthia Vannucci, '79 BS Business Adminis-tration, received her MBA at the University of Texas and a docto-rate at Penn State. She is director of meetings and conventions at Monmouth State College of Den-
ver. She recently authored a book on e-commerce design.

1980s
Deron Shields, '88 BS Hotel Administration, is director of sales for BarBuser LLC, a provider of wireless beverage monitoring soft-
ware company. He lives in Foster City, Calif., with his wife and five children.

P. Stelton Phares, '88 BA Communi-
ties, is principal of Phillip Stanton & Associates, a mar-keting and advertising firm serving clients in California, Massachusetts, and Nevada. He is also a principal in a company rep-resenting Midwestern artists and arti-
s. In 1999, he finished his first screenplay, Cricket, and is currently gathering research for his first novel, Sandycreek Country Courtyard.

Penny Pomerantz, '87 Hotel Adminis-tration, is the point of sale management director at The Venetian Resort. She also serves as the fund-raising director for Mold Survivors of America. She is married and has three children.

Richard C. Richardson, '88 BS Accoun-
ting, is the chief financial and process officer at Systems Research & Development, a Nevada-based tech-nology firm. Previously he was a sen-
or manager at Arthur Andersen.

Ty Busch, '89 MA History, received a doc-torate in sociology from the Uni-
city. In May and is finishing a book about South African prisoners during apartheid. He recently served as a lec-
turer in sociology and criminal jus-
tice for the Metropolitan Com-munity College and for Maryland's Annapolis Community College and the Community College of Baltimore County.

1990s
Laura Worthington, '90 BS Man-
age, is a licensed investment re-
search and branch manager for Realty Executives of Nevada. She is married and has three children.

Michael R. Brunet, '91 BA English, received his law degree from the Uni-
city. Upon completion of the Nevada bar exam, he will join the law firm of Gordon Silver in Las Vegas as an associate attorney.

Eric R. Nelson, '91 BLA Landscape Architecture, recently joined the newly formed architecture division of Luman and Association, an engineering and design office in Carson City, Fallon, and Reno.

Matthew B. Ross, '91 BS Hotel Adminis-
tration, is owner of Pop To Go, a beverage and candy vending company in Arvada, Colo. He has one
son in seventh grade.

Paige A.M. D'Alessio, '92 MS Hotel Administra-
tion, is marketing services director
for the Northern Cali-
foria region of Tram-
mett Group, a leading commercial real estate

firm. She has been a
full-time real estate

agent for the past

10 years.

Laura Worthington, '90 BS Man-
age, is a licensed investment re-
search and branch manager for Realty Executives of Nevada. She is married and has three children.

Signature Sleuth: Drew V. Max, '82

When most people sign a document, they just scribble their sig-

nate and don't give it a second thought. Not so for Drew V. Max, a person who gives many autographs a lot of careful consideration.

Max is among an elite few in the nation who actually are court qua-
lified and board certified as handwriting experts. He is retained by law firms, businesses, banks, casinos, and government agencies to serve as a forensic document examiner in legal cases. He also is one of only a handful of people in the nation who is an expert examiner of historical documents and autographs.

"I'm a handwriting expert for Max, a self-employed handwriting firm and a 1982 UNLV history graduate.

"While I was still in high school in the late 1970s, I got a job working as a runner for the state of Nevada Gaming Control Board," Max explains. "It was a fascinating place to work, especially because it was during that time period that issues were being raised about documents related to the Howard Hughes estate. It just really piqued my interest."

But it wasn't until a few years after college that Max began pursu-
ing a career as a handwriting expert.

"After graduating from UNLV, I worked as a credit manager for a building material company," Max says. "One day a legal document came into my office and I could just tell that the signature on it was a forgery. One company took the document to our attorney who in turn gave it to a handwriting expert who confirmed, yes, it was indeed a forgery. That's when I realized that I had a real knack for recognizing signatures and got serious about training myself to work in the profession."

Max bought every book he could on the subject and traveled across the United States to attend lectures and seminars. With no degree programs in the field, training is still largely done through the time-tested method of apprenticeship. After almost three years as an apprentice, Max got his first big break.

"It is up to the courts and judges to decide if you are qualified to be an expert," Max says. "So it was just a huge relief when I began to have courts and judges certify my credentials after years of working so hard to get qualified.""Max quickly built his reputation in legal circles when he got his second high-profile case—this time accepting an advanced apprenticeship under Howard C. Dooler, a grandmaster of handwriting experts.

"Dooler has a prestigious national reputation and is court quali-
ified in over 40 states and jurisdictions," Max says, explaining why although he was experienced, he didn't want to pass up the opportu-

ity to train under Dooler. "He is a past Federal Employee of the Year award recipient for giving expert testimony on organized crime in court and before the U.S. Senate."

The years of intense training are finally paying off for Max. He has acquired a national reputation as an expert on autographs and legal documents and now is the sole proprietor of his own business. He also works as a partner with Max Goldsman in their company A.A.U. (Authentic Autographs Unlimited).

Signature Sleuth: Drew V. Max, '82

While Max credits his apprenticeships with giving him much of the specific knowledge for how to do his job, he says that his history degree from UNLV played an important role in the forgery and autograph cases that he works on, especially those that deal with histori-
ducational documents.

"I examine all aspects of a document very carefully," Max explains. "What is the paper stock that was used? Does the postmark on it match the type of stamps that were used during that time period? What type of writing instrument was used? Ballpoint pens were not available before 1945, so if a letter is dated 1910, then it better not be marked with a ballpoint pen."

In a recent case, Max was retained by a collector to determine the authenticity of John F. Kennedy's signature on a campaign letter dated May 14, 1960. In the letter addressed to the editor of a Virginia publica-
tion, Kennedy thanked the community for supporting his drive for the presidency.

"I approached this the same way I do all of my cases," Max explains. "One of the first things I do is collect numerous samples of the person's signature—that are as close as possible to the date that appears on the document. The reason being is that a person's signa-
ture tends to evolve over time. That is certainly the case with John F. Kennedy, whose signature changed dramatically from the time that he was in his late 20s to the time that he was assassinated."

Max determined that the signature was not an authentic original, but instead was made by an Autopen, a machine that duplicates sig-

natures. Many politicians and celebrities use these devices, Max explains, which then lessens the value of the document.

Max takes pride in knowing that he chose a profession that is unique and has so much history wrapped into it. "It is so rewarding to be able to combine my interests and skills into a profession that I love and enjoy doing," Max says. "And, it is especially gratifying to know that my degree from UNLV is helping people to provide an important service to so many people."

— By Betty Blodgett
Changing Goals: Ryan Bledsoe, '99 & '00

Two years ago Ryan Bledsoe played soccer against a backdrop of the bright lights of the Las Vegas Strip. Today his playing field is inside the solid, weighty buildings of the federal government. Bledsoe, starting goalie for the UNLV men’s soccer team during the 1999 and 2000 seasons, earned a B.A. in economics in August 1999 and an M.A. in economics the following year. Now working for the federal Reserve Board of Governors, better known as the Fed, he was promoted to assistant economist in August. Bledsoe works in the research and statistics division of the Fed. Before his recent promotion, his principal assignment was the triennial Survey of Consumer Finances, which collects and analyses data on the distribution of wealth and income across the nation (see www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/oss/oss2/oscfinindex.html). This brings him into contact with other divisions, such as monetary affairs and international finance, when they need to use data from the survey.

"Fortunately for me," Bledsoe says, "my position allows me to work on several different projects at the board."

His work goes beyond assembling the data for the Fed’s use. "I also work on every aspect of preparing and presenting the survey data to the public."

As an assistant economist he will play a greater role in analyzing data.

Proflicient in a number of computer languages, he writes computer programs using data from the survey. "No. As with any institution’s leader, he speaks at our Christmas party," says Bledsoe. "I have sat in on a few meetings where the Board of Governors was briefed about research projects I have worked on. That has been the extent of my interaction with the chairman."

One of those relatively rare individuals who was actually born in Las Vegas, Bledsoe attended Eldorado High School and as a senior was named "Mr. Eldorado" by the Year of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Bledsoe succeeded both on and off the field. With a 3.8 undergraduate GPA and a 4.0 as a graduate student, he was named by the NCAA to the 2000 GTE (Verizon) Academic All-America team.

Coach Barry Barto says, "Ryan Bledsoe is the student-athlete you dream about during the recruiting process. He has demonstrated the highest degree of excellence both in the classroom and on the field. It has been a privilege to have coached him as our ambassador for UNLV men’s soccer."

Bledsoe pursues his career, soccer remains one of his hobbies. "I am currently assistant coach at Thomas Jefferson High School in Fairfax, Va.," he reports. "I play for a local coed soccer club, I also coach my good friends, and every Friday I coach 15 of my coworkers on the national mail to play soccer during my lunch breaks."

He credits a strong work ethic for his success. "The work ethics that have made me successful in school and at work also made me successful on the soccer field."

— By Barbara Cloud


At Carnegie Hall in New York, the 2,000 people in the audience stand and applaud at the conclusion of an inspiring Easter Sunday performance of Vivaldi’s Gloria. Beaming with pride from the audience is Michael Cundari, who as director of the Franklin Middle School choir in Las Vegas, has spent the last several months planning the collaborative performance with the White Middle School choir in Henderson.

Cundari, who received his bachelor of music degree from UNLV in 1999, was a student-teacher at White and worked with Randy Pal. "Pal directs one of the most accomplished school choirs in the country," Cundari says. "We have kept in close touch since I graduated. When he was invited by MidAmerica Productions to conduct the Carnegie-Hall and conduct his choir with the New England Symphony Ensemble, he suggested that we collaborate."

Cundari, who describes himself as a "music generalist," never had much interest in singing, but his scholarship required participation in a choir. "I went from being a cut-up in class to the guy who, three years later, directed the university choir when choral director David Wellers had a conflict," says Cundari.

He credits Wellers for turning his focus to choral studies. "The high time I’m part of a choir that is clicking is unexplainable, and it’s something I wanted to pass on to kids. I couldn’t be happier doing it." The Nutley schools couldn’t have helped him there. In 1999, Cundari’s middle school choir won praise from 50 to 250 students — just under half of the school’s entire population. He also started an a cappella madrigal group and directs the high school choir, which performed in the second half of the Carnegie Hall program. "Concert choir teaches music, but it teaches discipline, focus, and teamwork and provides a tremendous sense of accomplishment," explains Cundari. "I feel that kids leave my classes as better people, and what could be more satisfying than that?"

— By Bill Glavin
President continued from page 2

ironically, as result of a drop in tax revenue that stemmed from the downturn in the economy. We are told that it may be difficult for the state to find enough funds to give us the green light. Yet, we are eager to get started on a building that could have such a beneficial and far-reaching impact on the future of our campus and our state.

Like Mayor Young, I believe that the changes we can help effect could be of monumental importance. As an institution, we are as committed to contributing to the health and prosperity of this community as we are to building our own success; it is clear that the success of one inevitably serves the other. I am convinced the mutually beneficial nature of this new facility will produce wonderful opportunities that will be viewed over time as pivotal to the evolution of our city and state. However, ensuring that the proposed facility becomes a reality will require a true partnership be formed between UNLV and its supporters, state legislators, and the people of Nevada. Like the marvelous agricultural advances of the last century to which Mayor Young referred, this kind of partnership—and the resulting powerful impact it can have on our state's future—does not come about by accident. We must find ways to make it happen. The progress of our university community and will, in part, depend on it.

Learn more about Rebel sports programs at: unrebels.com

UNLV already has a bowling club and Las Vegas is a major area for intercollegiate bowling with three major tournaments being held in the city every year. However, without funding from Title IX, that is not possible. Kelleher credits Nevada's leaders with making it possible for UNLV to add women's programs while holding onto the men's programs. "The state has stepped forward—in three different bienniums to fund efforts to ensure compliance for Title IX at its state universities. It has given over a million dollars in each biennium. Reform like this is not about state governments nationally in terms of adding sports—but not at the expense of existing programs." Daniel says that UNLV is lucky to have the state behind the funding for Title IX. "It is rare for any state government to contribute money specifically for Title IX. A number of states have contributed money to athletics, but it is generally earmarked for some other purpose. In addition, some states are cutting back on funding for athletics departments."

While the National Women's Law Center recently reported that the contrary, UNLV has no significant issues related to scholarship funding. Not too long ago, however, there was major concern about facilities. The additions of the student-athletes have given an immediate boost to UNLV's lineup. The athletics department is in good shape in terms of the benefits portion of Title IX. That is not to say, however, that UNLV does not have areas in which improvement is needed. "We are behind in areas like housing and marketing dollars, but the nice thing is that we have solved many problems already," Kelleher says. "In other words, we have dealt with the areas that will have a large impact on the university and are now focusing on the next tier of issues."
Fast-track Growth

What better way to kick off UNLV Magazine’s new Timeline section than with these dramatic aerial shots of the campus? In 1959, the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada boasted just three buildings – Maude Frazier Hall, Archie C. Grant Hall, and the gymnasium. By the 1970s, UNLV had achieved its independence from UNR, its dirt parking lots were paved, and the Las Vegas community was starting to close in. Today, the center of UNLV’s 337-acre main campus is the Lied Library. Opened in January 2001, the library saw 1.1 million visitors in its first year. This fall, the William S. Boyd School of Law moved into its permanent home on the main campus. UNLV also recently acquired its first satellite campus on Charleston Boulevard, near Interstate 15. The 185,000 square feet of space at the Shadow Lane campus is being refurbished to house UNLV’s Biotechnology Center, Cancer Institute, and School of Dentistry, which welcomed its first class in August.

Historic photos above courtesy of the Lied Library’s special collections department. The library’s vast collection of UNLV and Southern Nevada historical photos is open to the public. For more information, visit www.library.unlv.edu/spec.coll/index.html.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
5:30 pm  Cocktail Mixer / Martini Bar
7:00 pm  Dinner with Coach Robinson
Inside the Marietta Tiberti Grand Hall
of the Richard Tam Alumni Center

Hosted by Outback Steakhouse
$25 for Active Alumni Members
$35 for Non-Alumni Members
Reserve Table of 8 - $400
(umbrella sponsorship includes appropriate
recognition in the evening's program)

Awards Presentation:
Outstanding Alumnus - Tom Brooker
Silver State Award - Barbara Greenspun and Family.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
1:00 pm  Tailgate FREE for Active Alumni Members • Guests $10
4:00 pm  Game vs. New Mexico — GO REBELS!
Tickets available call (702) 739-FANS.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14
12:00 pm  Homecoming Golf Tournament at Canyon Gate CC
Entry Fee: $125 per person. Dinner included with
entry fee. Please RSVP by Oct. 2 — (702) 895-3621.

For more information on these events or to join the
UNLV Alumni Association, call (702) 895-3621 or
visit our website at: www.unlvalumni.com
Our Students are Scarlet and Silver Plated!

Shouldn’t You Be Too?

DRIVE THE LANE displaying your REBEL PRIDE and give to UNLV’s Alumni and Athletic Scholarship Funds. A one-time $60 fee and a $30 annual renewal fee are all that’s required to own a UNLV collegiate license plate and help a UNLV student get financial assistance. REBEL PLATES are available at all Nevada Department of Motor Vehicle License Plate Divisions. Or call the UNLV Alumni Office at (702) 895-3621 for more information.