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Inside UNLV

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Degrees of Possibility

University College Offers Students a Variety of Options for Pursuing Their Degrees

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

University College is nothing if not multi-faceted. It’s a place for:
• an undecided student to roost while getting help figuring out which major is best for him.
• a student struggling academically until she gains admission to the college of her choice.
• a student to fashion a degree that meets her very specific needs.

Addressing Retention and Graduation

Founded in fall 2004, University College was created in large part to address challenges in student retention and graduation rates, said John Readence, the college’s founding dean.

“Some students were not ready to enter one of the other colleges — either because they hadn’t decided on a major or because their grade point average (gpa) was high enough to gain admission to UNLV, but not yet high enough to get into their chosen college,” he said.

“University College not only gave them an academic home, but also provided them with services designed to help them achieve their goals.”

Readence gives much of the credit for success to the college’s advising staff, headed by Anne Hein. Because they work with all students who have not yet declared a major, the college’s advisors must be knowledgeable about every UNLV degree program. Their goal is to help students find the academic program that is the best fit.

The Facts on University College

Test your knowledge about University College. Do the facts below jibe with your perceptions?

Fact: Nearly 32 percent of University College students have gpa’s of 3.0 or above, while another 25 percent have gpa’s between 2.5 and 3.0.

Fact: Students pursuing a university studies degree take by far the majority of their classes from UNLV’s other colleges. Their capstone projects are closely reviewed by faculty members from outside University College as well as within.

Fact: Because University College students take only 12 credit hours within the college, other colleges receive the bulk of the students’ FTE funding.

Healthy Climate for Research

Professors Take Science to Legislature to Influence Wellness Program

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

A half dozen years ago Susan Meacham was at a roundtable discussion when a Clark County Health District official shared her troubles getting federal grant funding. One reason cited: Nevada was not addressing public health problems related to obesity.

“At the time I realized that the state’s policies — or lack of policies — could really hinder UNLV’s research programs in nutrition sciences,” said the professor of nutrition science. “We had to step back a bit from developing grant proposals and work on our partnerships in the community.”

That decision led to a hand in reshaping school foods policy and the passage of legislation establishing a state fitness and wellness council. Now, instead of being passed over, Nevada is being recognized as a national leader. The Center for Science in the Public Interest recently ranked the state second in the country in terms of school foods policies.

Statewide Changes Start with Local Collaboration

Meacham and Audrey McCool, a food and beverage management professor, began by working with the Clark County School District’s dietitian. With technical support from UNLV, the school district developed policies that took junk food out of the Las Vegas Philharmonic.

Don’t Miss the Fun

Join President Ashley for the campus holiday party. It will be 5-7 p.m. Dec. 7 at Artemus Ham Hall, followed by a performance of the Las Vegas Philharmonic.

Tips for Hiring Better Staff

HR gives you six tips for recruiting and retaining the best employees.

Hotel Careers Center

A generous gift from an alum will make possible a career center for Hotel College students.

Your Feedback: Readers Rate Inside UNLV

What’s the most popular story recently published in Inside UNLV?

With new leadership this fall, it’s not surprising that readers have shown a strong interest in what President David Ashley has to say.

Inside UNLV recently adopted a question-and-answer format for this piece. We know you’re busy, so the change is part of our efforts to present information in a way that allows “skimmers” to quickly gauge if the story applies to them.

The second most popular story hit on what is perhaps employees’ biggest collective grumble: parking. In an open-ended question, respondents also indicated that they’ve enjoyed past coverage of campus construction projects.

Suggest a story. Contact editor Diane Russell at diane.russell@unlv.edu or at ext. 5-0894.

Take this month’s survey. Visit facultystaff.unlv.edu.

Not getting your copy? Ask the person who sorts mail for your department.

We have noticed that your enthusiasm seems to drop as stories get longer. We’ll continue to work on providing just the right amount of information. In the meantime, please keep responding to our surveys. It will help mold Inside UNLV into an even more effective publication for faculty and staff.
Share the Power of the Positive Spirit

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR
Ever feel a little lost navigating the business side of UNLV? The human resources department has been conducting a series of business operations training classes to help managers (old and new) and future managers be successful in their roles.

Last month Inside UNLV sat in on a session by Sam Connally, associate vice president for human resources. Here’s what we learned about recruiting and retaining the best employees:

1. Recruitments must be public: There is a well-defined search process for faculty and professional staff positions. The search can be waived if special skills merit that a search doesn’t need to be conducted or during a work stoppage. All classified vacancies are subject to recruitment and there is no search waiver process.

More info: Contact George Dombroski, director of recruitment and compensation, at ext. 5-1523.

2. Nobody gets paid until the E-doc is processed: For classified staff, human resources initiates the employment documentation, known informally as an E-doc. For faculty and professional staff, the process is a little more complicated. The department that is hiring the employee initiates the employment document.

More info: Contact George Dombroski, director of recruitment and compensation, at ext. 5-1523.

3. From the benefits UNLV offers: Many new hires are surprised to learn that as state employees, they will not pay social security tax (but there is a 1.45 percent Medicare tax). Instead, UNLV uses the Retirement Plan Alternative program, which features a generous state match for contributions. UNLV also offers optional supplemental retirement plans.

More info: hr.unlv.edu/Benefits/bene_sum.html.

4. Salaries have to be within certain ranges: Compensation ranges for faculty are based on discipline and rank. Compensation for professional staff is by range (1-7). Classified employees are compensated based on state personnel tables.

More info: hr.unlv.edu/Compensation/index.html.

5. Resources help all staff grow: Staff development opportunities include workshops in office support skills, developing and enhancing supervisory and management skills, building on customer service, and university business processes.

More info: hr.unlv.edu/ Benefits/bene_sum.html.

6. Merit increases are tied to performance evaluations: For professional staff, annual evaluations must be completed by March 1. Factor and summary ratings include: unsatisfactory, satisfactory, commendable, and excellent. To be eligible for merit, employees must be rated satisfactory in two categories and commendable or excellent in one category. Merit amounts range from $1,000 to $4,500.

For classified staff, annual evaluations are conducted on the anniversary date of when the employee was hired. Factor and summary ratings include: does not meet standards, meets standards, and exceeds standards. To be eligible for merit, employees must be rated either meets standards or exceeds standards. The salary increase is five percent.

Tips for Hiring and Keeping Better Staff

Just before Inside UNLV sat down for this interview with President David Ashley, the university announced two major gifts for the Invent the Future campaign. The donations will create new scholarships and enhance career service programs (see “Gift Creates Hotel Careers Center,” page 3). Here the president shares his thoughts on fundraising.

What is the biggest misconception about campus fundraising?
That all fundraisers do is ask for money.
Fundraising is about conveying all the good things that are happening here. It’s about showing the direction we’re headed and the opportunities there are for individual gifts to have impact. It’s about sharing the enthusiasm, and about connecting our friends and alumni to the mission of the university.

If we are successful at that, then alumni, community members, and business leaders will turn to us and say, “How can I help?”
And how can they help?
By supporting the things we do best. As a public university, we get about a third of our operating budget from the state. Those funds provide the basics. Private dollars allow us to enrich the experiences for students and faculty; they provide those additional things that truly nurture excellence.

The Invent The Future campaign started quietly in 2002 and publicly in 2005. How does a presidential transition affect campaign efforts?
The short answer is that a change in leadership does not by default adversely affect campaigns, and the reason goes back to my answer to the first question. As long as there’s confidence the university will continue to move forward, donors will continue to support the university.

Keep in mind, too, that campaigns generally last seven to 10 years while the average tenure of university presidents is less than five. Most universities will experience a leadership change or two — during the life of their campaigns.

How is fundraising at UNLV different from other institutions?
First, UNLV has very few alumni compared to its peer institutions. Most major campaigns focus directly on alumni giving and engagement.
UNLV just doesn’t have that base — 50 percent of our alumni graduated within the last 10 years.
But UNLV is fortunate that many major corporations and successful individuals in the community are filling in. They view giving to UNLV as an opportunity to provide the kind of life-changing experiences they had in college, and they don’t want to see our top students leave Nevada in order to get them.

One other thing that I think makes UNLV quite special is the number of donors who are very successful, but did not have the benefit of formal college or professional education. They see the tremendous value of the UNLV offers, and they want their community to be strengthened by our success.

What role do faculty, staff, and students have in the campaign?
Your role is not at all unlike mine: to simply share your enthusiasm for the good work on campus when you’re beyond the university boundaries. The power of the positive spirit I see across campus will help UNLV achieve so much more than its fundraising goals; it will play a part in every aspect of our success — from attracting top employees and ensuring our students receive a high-quality education to fostering economic diversity and advancing research.

Marketing Materials Available
Making a presentation? The office of UNLV marketing & public relations has developed a number of institutional brochures for campus use, including the UNLV Profile brochure, the UNLV Highlights fact sheet, and the UNLV At-a-Glance card. Order your copies at marketingandr.pr.unlv.edu/pubs/Order.html.
Opportunities during their first two years of study and their careers in Las Vegas. He encourages graduates to build industry relationships that are emerging locally will create a greater demand for skilled professionals. He hopes his gift will make it fun for students to learn ear training, music notation, arranging, and video editing. Saving and rendering files takes a lot of computing power. To speed up the process, Kaupp and Mader connected all the Macs in the lab so that they can use each other’s processing power. If computers are connected to the “node,” the entire lab works like a supercomputer and turns saving processes that typically take hours, into minutes, they said. Speaking about the potential for podcasting, Mader said, “Students could post their recitals to the iTunes store. Or faculty can post their latest recordings. Theater, dance, music, and other departments could offer live broadcasts of events, drawing more attention to UNLV happenings.” The capabilities for podcasting are already there, he said. “All I need to do is turn it on.”

Invent the Future

Gift Creates Hotel Careers Center

Internship Opportunities to Exist for Both Faculty and Students

By Lorri Bachand | UNLV Foundation

A new career center planned for the Harrah College of Hotel Administration is one of the fruits of the $332 million raised to date as the Invent the Future campaign completes its fifth full year. The Boyd Gaming Career Services Center — named after the alumnus who donated $1.2 million for its creation — will work with the UNLV Career Services Center and is set to open next year. In addition to providing students in the Hotel College with specialized assistance, the satellite center will extend programming into the classroom, giving faculty an integral resource for panellists and other resources for teaching and research. The program will also help improve academic advising, as students who know more about their careers of choice will be more likely to choose fitting coursework.

Boughner, who recently was appointed to lead Boyd Gaming’s Echelon Resorts development on the Strip, said he believes the large-scale project that are emerging locally will create a greater demand for skilled professionals. He hopes his gift encourages graduates to build industry relationships and their careers in Las Vegas.

Connecting Students with Opportunities

The center will connect students with mentorship opportunities during their first two years of study, and with internships during their junior and senior years. As students complete their undergraduate studies or while enrolled in graduate programs, the center will be a resource for job placement.

“When we start developing students’ professional interests during their first years of college, we are able to introduce them to the industry and help them develop solid relationships,” said Al Izzo, associate professor of food and beverage management and the college’s career services liaison. “By the time they are seniors, their success ratio in job placement is very high.”

Izzo said that the comprehensive career development approach reinforces students’ education, as they see what they’ve learned in class put to a practical application through mentorships and internships.

Faculty Benefit, Too

Faculty also benefit from the industry relationships that Career Services builds, Izzo said. Its contacts can lead faculty to guest speakers for classes, affiliations with professional organizations, and even faculty internship opportunities.

“We know how important it is that students get industry experience under their belts while they’re still in school.”

— Karin Olsen, Hotel College director of external relations

“With a campus this size offering such a variety of academic programs, students in different areas have specialized needs,” said Eileen McCarr, director of the UNLV Career Services Center and a co-chair of the campus campaign committee. “The satellite center in the Hotel College will work collaboratively with our center to make sure each student gets the best career information and advice possible.”

Karin Olsen, the Hotel College’s director of external relations, said, “We know how important it is that students get industry experience under their belts while they’re still in school. Our graduates will emerge with meaningful resumes and professional personas, and have an excellent set of skills to help them get the jobs they want.”

Music professors use the cameras built into their new iMacs to record lessons with students, Mader said. “When students leave, professors hand over a copy of the video. This way, students can learn by watching their own recordings,” he added.

Fighting Fear

“Eliminating fear of technology is the key to using it to be creative. This fear can be eliminated through training in the UNLV music tech lab,” said Gil Kaupp, instructor of music technology and recording engineer in the college’s recording studios. “The tools make it fun for students to learn ear training, music notation, arranging, and video editing. Saving and rendering files takes a lot of computing power. To speed up the process, Kaupp and

Invent the Future

Mac Lovers Embrace Creativity Through Computers

By Mamie Peers | OIT

In 1984, Macintosh aired a memorable Super Bowl commercial selling its computers as machines of freedom and liberation. Today, many people at UNLV are actualizing the dream of Macintosh creators by using their computers in new ways to create new art, improve teaching and learning, and to just have fun.

Considering the ultimate tool for creativity by many innovators in the fine arts, “Macs” are not only business devices. At UNLV, they’ve become soundboards, supercomputers, and digital cameras.

Macs and Music

One place on campus that uses Macs in creative ways is the music technology lab inside the Beam Music Center, Room 138. Visitors to the lab might question whether they’re looking at musical instruments or Apple computers. At each desk, pianos and other instruments connect to the machines, turning the computers into cutting-edge soundboards. Music software enables students to edit musical scores, study the sounds of a particular instrument, or add their own lyrics to a familiar tune. Some of this sophisticated music software is only available on the Macintosh platform.

Funded by student technology fees, the lab is open for use by anyone at UNLV who wants to create or analyze music. “My role,” explained Rob Mader, musician and creative technology specialist for the College of Fine Arts, “is to make sure technical tools never get in the way of creation.” That’s why Fine Arts opted to use Apple computers, he said. “Macs are easy to use and they just don’t fail.”

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More info: To learn more about the music technology lab, go to mt.cfa.unlv.edu.

Nutrition

Continued from Page 1

and sodas out of school vending machines while educating children on healthy habits. The change was met with resistance from some administrators concerned about losing revenue, so a cadre of UNLV researchers and students invested their time in public meetings to shore up support. “The policy the board eventually adopted was ambitious; it was a strong statement about the importance of instilling good eating habits,” Meacham said.

The district’s policy then became a template for the state. Again, UNLV researchers stepped in to provide expert testimony during the 2004 legislative session. Their efforts contributed to the passage of two bills supporting wellness programs. “Our role — and really the role for most researchers — was to provide a sound technical background about the science behind the policy,” she said. “It’s a good illustration of how the university’s research agenda can improve the community.”

CARRYING OUT THE RESEARCH MISSION

The experience also illustrates how complicated carrying out the university’s research mission can be, McCool said. University research is dependent on many other factors, not the least of which is community support.

“You can’t just sit in your campus office and say, ‘I want to research this.’” McCool said. “If you don’t have all the players involved in the health of our communities behind you, it’s hard to be seen as a serious competitor for grant funding.” The key, she said, is to become a contributing partner. “You cannot be a bystander while others out in the community are working hard to address health and obesity issues and then expect the community to rally in support of your ideas anytime that you ask them for assistance.”

Now the researchers hope to help Nevada catch up to other states in the collection of nutrition data. “The national recognition has shown Nevada to be a leader in policy; now we need to see what impact these policies will have on lifelong food choices.”

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Across Campus

Business
College Names 2007 Business Hall of Fame Inductees
Jackie Gaughan and Michael Gaughan Sr., the Cashman family, Luther Mack, and Kitty Rodman have been named as the 2007 inductees to the Nevada business
Hall of Fame. They will be honored at a dinner Feb. 15 at the Wynn Las Vegas. The college presents the event in association with Deloitte and Touche, USA.
The Hall of Fame honors business leaders who have significantly contributed to the economic prosperity of Nevada and brought positive recognition to the state. The inductees emerged from a large pool of public nominations submitted to the nominating committee and the college’s Executive Advisory Board.
Inductees include such prominent Nevadans as William S. Boyd, Hank Greenspun, William F. Harrah, Howard Hughes, Robert Lewis, Jerry Mack, Irwin Molasky, William “Si” Redd, Jim Rogers, Glenn Schaeffer, E. Parry Thomas, J.A. Tiberti, Del Webb, Claudine Williams, and Stephen A. Wynn.

Improved Website Launched
The College of Business recently launched an improved website, business.unlv.edu. The new site features up-to-date information on events and news, improved navigation, and a more modern look and feel.

Education
Early Childhood Center Supports Faculty/Student Research
Supporting research by faculty and students is one of the primary goals of the campus’ Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Development Center, home of the UNLV/CSUN Preschool.
The center’s Research Advisory Council was established to achieve that goal. It meets regularly to identify obstacles to using the center for research and to develop strategies to eliminate those obstacles. To conduct research at the center, faculty and students can contact center director Catherine Lyons at ext. 5-1112 or catherine.lyons@unlv.edu or contact professor John Filer at ext. 5-1105 or john.filer@unlv.edu.

Dental
Crackdown on Cancer Reaches Thousands Across Nevada
Since 2001, the Crackdown on Cancer program offered by the School of Dental Medicine has performed almost 50,000 oral cancer screenings, conducted nearly 2,000 high school tobacco and oral health education presentations, and reached an audience of close to 90,000 students in Nevada. A tobacco education program, Crackdown on Cancer is offered to students in middle and high schools throughout Nevada. Through its two mobile dental clinics, dental professionals from UNLV provide free, comprehensive oral cancer screenings. Program staff offer tobacco and second-hand smoke education, brief intervention counseling, diabetes information, and referrals for tobacco cessation programs as well as follow-up services for evidence of a tobacco-related disease. Taking the mobile dental clinic to participating schools allows maximum participation by overcoming many access issues.
The goal is to educate Nevada youths about the risk factors for oral cancer, primarily the risk posed by tobacco use. Early detection can reduce incidence of tobacco use among teens, thereby helping reduce the rate of smoking among adults and the subsequent health costs associated with tobacco use.

The center is a resource for students majoring in education, psychology, physical therapy, nursing, biology, psychology, and food and beverage management. Its two research classrooms are equipped with laptop stations, one-way mirrors, cameras, and microphones. They were designed to allow UNLV students and their professors to observe lessons without disrupting the classroom. A camera in one classroom enables lessons to be filmed and studied later by faculty and their students; all the classrooms are camera-ready.
The preschool was one of the first programs in Southern Nevada to achieve accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. It serves more than 200 children with and without disabilities from ages six weeks through 5 years and their families. The center is one of the largest employers of student workers on campus, with approximately 130 students working as teaching assistants.

Engineering
Transportation Conference Draws Record Numbers
The annual Fall Transportation Conference drew more than 230 people from the Western United States to the Cox Pavilion in October, setting an attendance record for the conference.
Speakers and attendees were both transportation practitioners and decision-makers focused on discussing opportunities and challenges, as well as strategies for planning, designing, operating, and managing transportation systems.
Mark Rudin, interim vice president for research and graduate dean, opened the conference.
Papers presented focused on transportation and urban planning, traffic operations, safety, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), public transportation, infrastructure management, and advanced transportation technologies.

Honors
Awards Recognize Faculty Mentoring and Teaching
Two annual awards to recognize faculty members who have served as research mentors or taught courses for the college and its students are being created.
The Honors College Master Teacher Award will recognize a faculty member for excellence in teaching, commitment to the Honors College and its educational goals, and pedagogical rigor.
The Honors College Research Mentoring Excellence Award will recognize a faculty member for excellence in mentoring student research as shown by the research products and student research successes.
Both awards will be given based on efforts during the academic year preceding selection.
The college is instituting the

Fine Arts
Manhattan Transfer Program Begins December Arts Offerings
The December fine arts offerings kick off with Manhattan Transfer Christmas on Dec. 2. The Performing Arts Center presents the group that made music history as the first to win a Grammy in both pop and jazz categories the same year. With incomparable, award-winning, four-part harmony, the group’s part-jazz, part-holiday program is the perfect start to the season.
The Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV presents William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night from Dec. 1 through Dec. 10. Directed by acclaimed Shakespearean director James Edmondson, the classic play is a delightful delirium of mischief and merriment featuring Shakespeare’s most irresistible characters. A pair of shipwrecked twins, the winsome Viola, the roguish Sir Toby Belch, and the pompous Malvolio help reveal secrets of love, laughter, and life.
Additional performances from the College of Fine Arts include the UNLV dance department concert Choreographies on Dec. 1 and 2; the new music ensemble NEXTET on Dec. 2; the Men’s Glee and Women’s Chorus on Dec. 3; UNLV Opera Theatre workshop scenes Dec. 3; and UNLV Jazz Faculty Concert on Dec. 7.

Hot Off the Grill
Marty Rawlins of Sodexho, left, mans the grill during the Rebel Rally just before homecoming last month. Hundreds from the campus community turned out to eat, listen to the band, and enjoy some of the last of the nice fall weather.

The college is instituting the...
awards with the approval of the Honors Council.

Hotel

College to Expand Recreation and Leisure Studies Program

The college is expanding once again; this time, in the world of recreation and sports. Starting Jan. 1, the recreation and leisure studies program will be converted into the department of recreation and sports management. The department will focus on providing a challenging new environment for students interested in sports and leisure management. The goal is to develop additional courses for undergraduate and doctoral levels, as well as create programs that can meet the needs of local and regional employers.

The new department consists of eight faculty members, under the interim direction of Cynny Caruthers, who is currently a faculty member in the department of tourism and convention in the college. The department will house the bachelor of science in recreation, which includes professional golf; the bachelor of science in event management (starting in fall 2007); and a master’s degree in sport and leisure service management.

Once the department receives national accreditation for the bachelor of science in recreation from the National Recreation and Park Association, it will be the only accredited recreation program in Nevada. The department also plans to develop undergraduate concentrations in sports management, youth development, outdoor recreation, and gerontology. An opportunity for students to earn a Ph.D. in hospitality with a concentration in recreation management will be available within the next two years, which will help UNLV advance to the level of research extensive university.

Liberal Arts

Professors Study Disparities in Health Insurance Coverage

Sociology professors Jennifer Keene and Anastasia Prokos are studying trends in a persistent topic of national debate: health insurance coverage.

They are focusing on employer-provided coverage with an emphasis on the inequality in access to health benefits. The numbers of overworked Americans grew steadily from the late 1980s through the late 1990s. Employee health benefits are the primary avenue through which Americans obtain coverage.

Keene and Prokos are using a nationally representative dataset that contains information on workers’ family and work lives, including health benefits. They currently have two related papers on this topic.

In one paper they study trends in employee health benefits from 1992 to 2002. Their analysis emphasizes the intersection of gender and race in determining who is offered health benefits and, when offered, who accepts their health benefits. Results of the analysis showed distinct gender and race inequality in who gets offered health benefits and who elects to participate in health plans.

In a second paper, they focus on health benefits in 2002 and study how workers’ family lives and the level of their employers’ contributions to premiums influence the decision to enroll in employee health plans. Examining disparities throughout the labor force in the distribution of employer-provided health insurance is important because coverage has a direct effect on health care use and therefore family members’ health in general.

Law

Strong Fall Class Increases Diversity

The class that entered the Boyd School of Law this fall is the strongest in the school’s history, coming from 13 states and 67 undergraduate institutions. More than 2,200 students applied for the 150 spots.

The school from which the most students received their undergraduate degrees is UNLV, followed by UNR, BYU, Arizona, Utah, and UCLA. The class includes a record number of racial minorities, 43, and a record percentage of minorities in the class, 28 percent. The school saw an increase in the numbers of African-American, Hispanic-Latino, and Native American students enrolling. This year’s entering class also has very strong numerical credentials, with a median undergraduate grade point average of 3.5, and the highest median median Law School Admissions Test score in the law school’s history, 158.

The youngest member of the class is 19; the oldest is 59. Many of them had successful careers before considering law school. The class includes an environmental planner and biologist, a union organizer, an owner and manager of a bread store, a television reporter, and several military veterans. One was a child actor, another an adult actor, and another a first-round draft pick and Pro Bowl football player. Some are the first in their families to have graduated from college or to attend graduate school.

With this kind of talent and experience, the future of the law school, and of the legal profession, looks very bright.

University Libraries began partnering with Technology Ventures Corp. (TVC) in fall 2005 and is now part of its entrepreneur-education program called the Center for Commercialization and Entrepreneurial Training (CCET). The center provides an extensive curriculum to familiarize the new and experienced entrepreneur with the various aspects of forming, planning, financing, operating, and expanding a technology-based business. In addition, University Libraries provided health insurance is important because coverage has a direct effect on health care use and therefore family members’ health in general.

Libraries

UNLV Libraries Brings Resources to Entrepreneurs

Would you have thought spending time at the library might help an entrepreneur make a technology-based business a success?

Important Reminders About Graduate Assistantships

Several important dates regarding graduate assistantships are quickly approaching.

• GA Forms Due — Forms for requesting a new assistantship for the spring semester and for renewing a fall semester assistantship should be submitted by Dec. 1 so that records can be processed in time for spring semester. The same request form — found at graduatecollege.unlv.edu/PDF_Docs/GAFORM.pdf — can be used to renew an assistantship or request a new one. The completed form should be sent to the Graduate College, mailstop 1012.

• Reminder for Students — Faculty and staff are encouraged to remind graduate assistants (GAs) who are on nine-month contracts to register for classes before the end of the fall semester to ensure they receive their tuition waivers on time.

• Reminder for Coordinators — Graduate coordinators should notify the Graduate College if a GA on a nine-month contract leaves his or her post at the end of the fall semester. Send notification to Eric Lee, graduate program manager, via e-mail in such cases.

• No Yellow Cards — As a reminder, the yellow fee waiver cards have been eliminated. The college now processes graduate assistant fee waivers at the time the GA registers for classes. This has streamlined the process and reduced the number of late fees incurred by graduate assistants.

• Contract Signing — The contract signing period for graduate assistants in the spring will be Jan. 8-11 in the Graduate College conference room, FDH 312.

Across Campus

Perfect Practice Position

Rorke Bowman takes advantage of some late fall sunshine to catch a few minutes of tuba practice. A junior music major, Bowman is a member of the UNLV Symphony Orchestra.
An accomplished writer, Bates has published books focusing on political economy, afield that he calls "equitable defenses, jurisprudence, and attorney liability." His research interests include reporters' privilege issues and who is considered a journalist under the law.

Anenson, who teaches international business law and legal environment of business in the finance department of finance, decided to go into teaching because she likes working with students and watching them learn and grow. She also enjoys research. In fact, her research record earned her early tenure at Akron. Among other pieces, she has had two articles published as the lead in the American Business Law Journal, the premier peer-reviewed journal in business law. In 2006, both articles received the journal's Hoeber Award for excellence in research. In 2004, Anenson was one of six business law professors invited to present research at the Hurst Seminar held at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Anenson has an advanced master of laws degree in international and comparative law from the Georgetown University Law Center. Her research interests include North American Free Trade Agreement investor-state arbitration, equitable defenses, jurisprudence, and attorney liability.

Dental School
Adrian Dalalo

Adrian Dalalo, a 35-year-old Serbian native who was terrified of the dentist as a child, decided to become a dental assistant at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine. As an adult, some patients view the dental clinic as a scary and painful place, Dalalo said. “When you mention the dentist, images of needles, pliers, and drills come to mind.” Because of his own dentophobia, Dalalo empathizes with those patients. “Educating and reassuring the patients of the benefits of dental treatment can help them overcome their fears.”

Dalalo overcame his own fears by completing dental assistant training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas and by working as a dental assistant journeyman for four and half years in the U.S. Air Force. After a brief hiatus, Dalalo decided to return to dentistry assistance. He chose UNLV’s dental school because he wanted the opportunity to work with dental students in a formal educational environment. He also plans to take advantage of UNLV’s education benefits by pursuing a degree in the medical field.

As a dental assistant, his responsibilities include assisting dental students with extractions, root canal treatment, periodontal therapy, and X-rays.

His community outreach work has provided some of his more memorable experiences. While demonstrating proper brushing and flossing techniques on a model to elementary school children, several of the model’s teeth popped out. “All teeth were immediately returned except for one picked up by a 6-year-old boy,” Dalalo said. “He looked at it for a few seconds, then held it up and shouted, ‘Yea! Now I get money from the tooth fairy!’ Instantly, all the kids started pulling out teeth from the model.”

E-mail entries to inside.unlv.edu. Items should be no more than 100 words.
offers a monthly market research seminar, developed and taught by UNLV librarian Cory Tucker. Tucker’s seminar highlights library resources that are available to help TVC clients with their business planning. The seminar focuses on company information, industry information, and market research.

Founded by Lockheed Martin Corp., TVC’s mission is to help start-up companies that are developing technology in Nevada, California, and New Mexico.

For more information on CCET educational programs, contact Cory Tucker, at cory.tucker@unlv.edu

### Sciences

**Honor Society Students Swiftly Complete Service Projects**

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED), the honor society for undergraduates pursing careers in health-related fields, has brought their usual enthusiasm and determination to a number of service projects recently. Twenty-four members participated in the Green Up Nevada Project at the Las Vegas Wash on Sept. 30. The students planted approximately 250 mesquite trees in the wash to prevent soil erosion and completed the work well in advance of the 5 p.m. deadline. In September, approximately 40 AED members participated in a warehouse renovation project. They removed the debris generated by the demolition of the interior walls and loaded the debris into contain- ers for disposal at the city dump. The students again surprised the on-site supervisor by completing the project in half the allotted time. AED members also coordinate such important student activities as the physician shadowing program; dentist shadowing program; humanitarian service program; bone marrow donor registration drive; organ donor registration drive; annual visits from nationally ranked medical schools (Duke University School of Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, etc.); annual presentations from pharmacy programs (Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, etc.); and an annual tour of the UNLV School of Dental Medicine.

### Urban Affairs

**Environmental Studies Joins National Organization**

The department of environmental studies recently became a member along with UNLV, of the National Council on Science and the Environment (NCSE), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the scientific basis for environmental decision-making. UNLV joins more than 140 member institutions ranging from large private to public research institutions across the country. As member of the NCSE University Affiliate, the department chair, David Hassenzahl, becomes a member of the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors. The department also is assigned four slots at the annual NCSE conference, and commits to send at least one faculty member and one student each year to the national conference, as well as at least one person to the annual meeting of the council.

**Creative Projects**

Tim Gauthier, assistant dean for University College, is one of four faculty members who oversee the creation of the students’ capstone projects — the two-semester project in which the student combines both of his areas of study. The projects have included:

- unusual, futuristic pieces of furniture created by a student studying theatre and interior design.
- an oral history project on people who moved to Southern Nevada after being driven from their homes by Hurricane Katrina developed by a student who combined history and communication.
- a musical about gay neighborhoods and regrification written by a student studying music and political science.
- the production of a fundraising video for an inner-city youth foundation in Detroit run by the father of a student who studied communications and physical education. The video generated a contribution from the Ford Foundation.
- an “entrepreneurial” student who has a defined goal in mind might best be served by a particular combination of studies not currently included in a single degree program, Readeen said.
- some students just have a very clear idea of what they want and turn to us to help them achieve that,” the dean said.

Hein, who has been a counselor at UNLV for 18 years, said she finds the students pursuing university studies degrees to be “highly creative and motivated to do something different.”

**A Unique Experience**

While it’s true that most University College students transfer to another college before graduation, some elect to stay for a special opportunity it offers them. This same opportunity also attracts transfers from other colleges into University College. In University College, a student can create her own degree program by combining two fields of study. A person who plans to open her own restaurant, for instance, might create a major combining food and beverage management studies with business courses.

A student watches a worker hose down the demolition site of the old Donald C. Moyer Student Union to make room for the second phase of the new student union. When the MSU opened in 1967 the student population was 3,902. The new union, which will total 135,000 square feet when the second phase opens in time for the fall 2007 semester, will serve more than 28,000 students.

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Sharing Traditions

No matter what holidays you celebrate, December is ripe for family traditions. Here’s the story behind the traditions some of your co-workers love.

Tree Trek
by Nancy Syzdek
assistant director, student life marketing & communications
For more than 35 years, my husband Danica and I have traveled to Lincoln County to cut down their own Christmas trees. We usually head out, BLM permits in hand, in the dark of night, stopping only in Caliente for a great greasy spoon breakfast at the Iron Skillet. We traverse our way up on four-wheel drive motos to the designated area, to find the perfect 6- to 8-foot Ponderosa Pine that’s as wide as wide as it is tall.

Now, four generations of Syzdeks and their friends enjoy this annual tradition. I even got an early Christmas present on my first trip with the family in 1998 — a marriage proposal. What a way to join the family!

A Burning Tradition
by Molly Michelman, lecturer, department of nutrition sciences
Every Hanukkah is different, since the Jewish calendar causes it to pop up at a different part of December (or sometimes the tail end of November or beginning of January). As a result, it can be challenging to uphold traditions exactly the same way from year to year. The one tie that binds this holiday for me has always been latkes (potato pancakes).

Hanukkah Latkes
(Potato Pancakes)
5 Large peeled potatoes
1 Large onion
8 Eggs
1/3 c Oil
1/3 c Matzo Meal
1 1/2 black pepper
1 T Salt
3 Tbl Cornmeal
Peppermint Bark
by Schyler Richards, assistant vice president, university and community relations
My husband and I have many traditions that we share with his five children from his first marriage and with our 11-year-old daughter, Danica, but this is my favorite. Santa and his elves wrap every single gift perfectly, froze them perfectly, and had just the right amount for every one to eat. Unfortunately, I’m not the best in the kitchen, but I try every year. Now the tradition involves me burning the latkes and trying to cover up my mistakes with plenty of sour cream and sweet applesauce!

All Wrapped Up
by Ina Dorman,
director of RebelCard Services (pictured here with son, Prescott, 3)
St. Nicholas Day is a German tradition I have celebrated every Dec. 6 since I was a kid. On Dec. 5 my brother and I would leave a list of our wanted goodies by the front door with a pair of shoes that we would spend at least two hours polishing to a gleam — the shinier your shoes the better. The next morning we would wake up to see that our letter was gone (presumably picked up by St. Nicholas) and that our shoes were filled with nuts, candy, chocolate, and fruit. There would be a present, too — usually a game the whole family could play. We always used my winter boots because they were bigger and that meant you got more stuff in them.

My wife and I still practice this tradition today with our son. It really enhances the excitement of the holiday spirit and the anticipation of Christmas.

Okra Croutons
1 1/2 lbs White chocolate, chopped into 1/4-inch pieces
1/4 t Herbal salt
3 Tbl Cornmeal
1/2 c (2 oz) Shredded Parmesan cheese
1 can (2 oz) Sliced black olives, drained
1 c Chopped leftover cooked turkey
1 1/2 c  (6 oz) Shredded mozzarella cheese (1/2 c of 1 oz) Shredded Parmesan cheese
Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Place crust on ungreased baking sheet. At serving time, taste soup for season-ing. Garnish: 1 Cucumber, peeled, seeded, and sliced. heat, and simmer 30 minutes. Cool slightly and puree. Gently reheat, add lemon juice & season to taste. Serve in shallow bowls sprinkled with black olives, cheese and parsley. Bake 10 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Turkey pizza
by Schyler Richards
associate vice president, university and community relations
My husband’s mother was a won-derful cook, and always made hers perfectly, froze them perfectly, and had just the right amount for every one to eat. Unfortunately, I’m not the best in the kitchen, but I try every year. Now the tradition involves me burning the latkes and trying to cover up my mistakes with plenty of sour cream and sweet applesauce!

La Fiere & Tichon's Table
peppermint oil into the melted chocolate. Remove from heat, and pour the mixture onto the prepared baking sheet; spread evenly. Chill until firm, 25 to 30 minutes. Break into pieces, and serve.

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