Inside UNLV

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Spring Into Action at Rebel Connection

If you’ve been looking for a way to give back to the campus community, Rebel Connection has an opportunity for you.

Approximately 100 staff and faculty members are needed as volunteers this month. The majority of volunteers will be needed:

• Jan. 11 to direct students during New Student Orientation
• Jan. 16 and 17, the first two days of the spring semester, to staff Ask Me booths

Go to rebelconnection.unlv.edu for a full schedule or to volunteer. For information, call ext. 5-2970.

Casting aside preconceived notions is a must, he added.

Listen Up: Make the Most of Your Annual Review

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Listening is the key piece of advice that UNLV staff development and employee relations specialist Stacey Carrillo has for those about to go into an annual job performance review.

It doesn’t matter whether you’re the supervisor or the employee, listening — as in really hearing what the other person has to say, not just nodding your head and periodically murmuring “uh-huh” — is critical to a successful one-on-one performance review, she said. Casting aside preconceived notions is a must, she added.

Performance reviews for professional staff members, who are evaluated annually on a calendar-year basis, are due in two months.

“We recommend that the supervisors ask their employees to complete self-evaluations no later than January. Then in either January or February the supervisors should prepare the evaluations and conduct the one-on-one meetings with employees. The signed evaluations must be submitted to the human resources department no later than March 1,” she said.

Carrillo provided the following tips for employees and supervisors in the evaluation process.

Tips For Supervisors

• Ask the employee to complete a self-evaluation. While not required by the university, a self-evaluation is a useful tool, giving the supervisor insight into how the employee sees things. (If you require a self-evaluation from one employee, you must require them from all employees.)
• Give constructive feedback concerning the employee’s performance by using specific examples from the past year.
• Remember that the one-on-one evaluation session is a good opportunity to foster two-way communication both now and in the future.
• Allot enough time for the one-on-one session. It could take an hour or more.

Tips For Employees

• Prepare a self-evaluation, including a list of your major accomplishments, even if your supervisor does not require it. This review will help you achieve them.
• Be prepared to ask for additional training if you are seeking to improve or expand your skills.

More info: There will be two sessions of the seminar, “It’s Evaluation Time — Professional Staff,” in the coming weeks. Both sessions will be in the Campus Services Building, Room 212 G. They are 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 24 and 2-3:30 p.m. Feb. 6. To register, call ext. 5-4475 to reserve a spot.
Business

Top Students Invited to Join International Honors Society
A total of 74 of the college’s students recently earned invitations to join the selective international business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma.

Offers are extended to students ranking in the top 7 percent of the junior class, top 10 percent of the senior class, and top 20 percent of master’s programs at schools accredited by AACSB International — the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Each year only about 20,000 students worldwide are inducted into lifetime membership, even though nearly 300,000 students earn bachelor’s or master’s degrees.

Membership is the highest recognition a business student can receive at a school accredited by AACSB International.

Beta Gamma Sigma was founded as a national organization in 1913 with the merger of three separate business honor societies at the University of Wisconsin, University of Illinois, and the University of California. With chapters in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom, Beta Gamma Sigma today is truly an international society that remains dedicated to recognizing the most outstanding students of business and management.

Education

State’s First Autism Center Established at UNLV
A new center for individuals and families affected by autism puts UNLV at the forefront of research into the disorder.

The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders is the first of its kind in the state, said Matt Tincani, center director and assistant professor of special education. “Autism affects one in 166 children, and given Southern Nevada’s growing population, this center is needed to help those with autism and their families,” he said.

The center will conduct research related to assessment of and intervention programs for persons with autism and similar disorders, such as Asperger Syndrome. Both are commonly known by the umbrella term “autism spectrum disorders.” The center also will provide community-focused training and support to the Southern Nevada community.

Although autism is diagnosed in early childhood, its impact often lasts a lifetime. In addition to helping children and their families, the center will provide support for adults with autism and related disorders.

This is the first university-based resource in Nevada for professionals, families, and individuals dealing with autism. Partners include Nevada Early Intervention Services and Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents, the state’s technical assistance program for parents of children with disabilities.

Proposed projects include outreach seminars to professionals and parents, therapist training, and research on teaching communication and social skills. Tincani hopes to garner additional external funding from federal, state, and local sources to support the center’s goal of becoming a premier resource regionally and nationally.

Engineering

Researchers Tackle Hazardous Waste Transportation Issues
Members of the UNLV community are participating in a project related to the transportation of hazardous materials. The Hazardous Materials Truck Tracking Program (HZMT) is a U.S. Department of Energy-funded project geared toward enhancing transportation security, reducing incidents, and enhancing the incident management process should an accident occur.

The project represents a collective effort from the UNLV Research Foundation, the College of Engineering, and Qualcomm’s Wireless Business Unit as the lead technical integrator. UNLV engineering professor Robert Abella and his researchers Kent Peck are establishing a demonstration and presentation program for the integrated technology package. Their work related to accident prevention initiative addresses the status of the truck carrying the hazardous materials and the performance of the driver.

Dispatchers can continuously monitor the location of the truck and trailer through state-of-the-art satellite communications. The driver can activate a panic button, which then alerts the dispatcher to critical events with the same satellite system.

Important driving parameters such as hard braking are recorded and transmitted to the dispatcher. The team will showcase its findings on Feb. 21. Contact Christine Wallace at christine.wallace@unlv.edu if you are interested in attending the event.

Graduate

Graduate College Announces Organizational Changes
The college has made several organizational changes:

• The position of director of admissions will be merged with the vice president of student affairs and enrollment management.

• Kate Hausbeck is senior associate dean and will supervise personnel, oversee academic affairs, and grant operations.

• Harriet Barlow, associate dean for student services, will continue as thesis and dissertation reviewer, coordinator of orientations, special events, and the graduate catalog, and liaison for publications. Additionally, she will oversee expansion of professional development initiatives for students.

• The position of director of admissions and processing has been created to guide recruitment, admissions, and retention. This person also will oversee front-office services and records management, participate in assessment, and serve as administrative liaison to graduate coordinators. The director will also supervise college evaluators, including two newly added evaluator positions. A search is under way.

• Eric Lee is now director of graduate financial services and will manage assistantships, fellowship, and scholarship programs, as well as financial aid, and coordinate processes associated with financial services for graduate students.

• Lee Wilkerson is now assistant director of admissions and processing. She will coordinate all teacher education programs, act as liaison to both the College of Education and the Clark County School District, and serve as college ombudsman.

• Cathy “C.C.” Dyer is now inter- national graduate student coor- dinator. She will oversee matters involving international graduate student admissions and processing, as well as work closely with the international student services, the study abroad office, and the gradu- ate programs of the academic departments.

Hanging with Hey Reb

Rocky Torres from K-Rock Graphics dangles from the Thomas & Mack Center to install a sign in December.
Law
Arbitration Conference, Lecture Coming Soon

The school will host two events early this semester — a conference on arbitration and the third annual Philip Pro Lecture on Legal History.

On Jan. 26, the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution will sponsor a major conference on arbitration. Leading academics and scholars will address the strengths and weaknesses of the federal arbitration law, presenting papers that will be part of a special issue of the Nevada Law Journal. Professor Jean Stenlindh, director of the Saltman Center and a prominent arbitration scholar, helped to frame this conference to address the efficiency and fairness of arbitration.

“The Federal Arbitration Act is now 80 years old, and aspects of the statute have been heavily criticized in recent years as hostile to consum- ers and employees,” Stenlindh said. “In considering how to shape laws around the country we will examine the positives and negatives of the statute and what takeaways will be those that we hope will receive serious consid- eration from Congress.”

Information is available at www.law.unlv.edu/2008-09/Arbitration.

Hazardous Duty

During a recent training session sponsored by the UNLV Institute for Security Studies, Dr. Igor Shafhid demonstrates HAZMAT radiation decontamination safety to representatives from the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Clark County Fire Department, Nevada Emergency Management Services (EMS), North Las Vegas Police Department, and the Clark County coroner’s office.

The UNLV Institute for Security Studies, a think tank dedicated to homeland security, is sponsored by Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), Nellis Air Force Base, and the Regional Counterterrorism Committee.

The program is part of UNLV’s efforts to increase its national security curriculum with the creation of the UNLV Center for Homeland Security. The center will prepare students to address current and emerging national security threats with a focus in homeland security. UNLV President Len Jessup and UNLV Interim Dean of University Libraries created the center in partnership with the Division of Research and Graduate Studies to recognize excellence in projects that incorporate the use of the Libraries’ collections.

The award review committee considers the research needs of the researchers, the impact of the research on current society, and the potential for the research to make a difference in the world. The deadline for submitting proposals is April 15, and the winners will be notified on July 1.

Urban Affairs
Forum Speakers Explore the War on Terror

Approximately 150 people attended the “Freedom From Terror: Reflections, Reasons and Results of 9/11 and the War on Terror” forum sponsored by the department of communication studies and the Boyd School of Law during fall semester. The forum, which was organized by the UNLV Muslim Student Association, was designed to further understand the war on terror and how the United States has changed since the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Panel speakers included Yasser Youssef, a professor at the University of Michigan; James Yaacov Vey, a former U.S. Army captain and Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo Bay; and communication studies professor Joseph Valenzano. Vey, who specializes in political communication, spoke about the power of the new-popular terms “freedom” and “terror,” and how President Bush used them with effect when galvanizing public support for military action leading up to the Iraq War. During the question-and-answer period, Valenzano also noted that there is much confusion about the terms “terrorism” and “terror.”

Tradition and Ideology” (Sponsor: Barbara Roth of anthropology)

1. Alex K. Needelschay, “Synthesis and Characterization of Poly(pyridinium salts) with Anthracene Moieties Exhibiting Both Lyotropic Liquid-Crystalline and Light Emitting Properties” (Sponsor: Pradip Bhownik of chemistry)

2. Jacob T. Sengel, “Conglomeration in the P11 Bug (Armorallodium vul- garis) as a Terrestrial Adaptation” (Sponsor: Allen Gibbs of the School of Life Sciences)

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Campus Happenings

The 411 on Changing Cell Phone Plans

Need to renew your UNLV cell phone contract? Don’t.

To enhance customer service for employees and to save departments money, the university plans to centralize cell phone service on campus beginning next fall. Currently, employees contact cell phone vendors directly to set up services. Under the new plan, users will go through one vendor selected through the request for proposal (RFP) process. With that process already under way, employees should not renew current contracts or enter into new contracts.

“When your service contract ends, do not sign another agreement,” said Mike Sauer, associate vice president for administration. “Continue your service on a month-to-month basis until the new plan is in place. If you still have a contract when the new plan is implemented, you could face paying early termination fees.”

The RFP is expected to go out to vendors early this year. After bids are submitted, a committee will evaluate vendor responses.

“We are hoping to create a diverse committee that represents the broader campus. They will not only evaluate the RFP responses for pricing, but also for innovative features that will benefit faculty members, staff, and students,” Sauer said.

Sauer expects the new vendor to be selected by fall 2007.

Readers Respond

Articles related to human resources obviously strike a chord with Inside UNLV readers. Respondents to our monthly readers’ poll rated the tips for hiring and keeping better staff at the top. In an open-ended question about human resources-related issues, respondents indicated they would like more information about benefits — retirement and otherwise — as well as interviewing tips.

Several respondents asked about UNLV’s educational assistance program, called “grant-in-aid.” More information, including what classes are covered and how much of the tuition and fees are waived, is available at hr.unlv.edu. Click on “Education Assistance.”

Please keep responding to our surveys. We’ll use your feedback to generate stories in future issues.

> Construction

Continued from Page 1

Features: The Greenspun building will bring almost all College of Urban Affairs programs into one building. The building will have one tower of five stories and a second of three stories, and will include classrooms, labs, departmental suites, faculty offices, and radio and television broadcasting facilities. It is designed with sustainability features and includes a distinctive plaza/courtyard shaded by a solar power array, which will provide more than 15 percent of the total annual energy for the building.

Thomas & Mack Moot Court

Size: 6,600 gross square feet

Funding: $4.5 million; paid for through private donations from the Thomas and Mack families

Completion date: Spring 2007

Status: The contractor has finished the honed block portions of the building. Structural steel has been completed and the roof decking was installed. Steel supports for the ceiling systems have been installed as well as the single-ply roof. Exterior areas will be fine graded and the landscape areas prepared for planting in the spring.

Features: The moot court will support the Boyd Law School’s appellate advocacy training programs and provide a venue to host judicial proceedings of state and federal courts. The building will include a fixed-bench courtroom and a 180-seat auditorium.

Student Recreation Center

Size: 187,617 gross square feet

Funding: $55.1 million, paid for by student fees

Completion date: June 2007

Status: The installation of the structural steel is nearly complete. The contractor is in the process of installing mechanical ductwork, plumbing, electrical conduit,stud walls, gypsum board, insulation, exterior walls, and the roof.

Features: The building will include high-tech weight and fitness rooms, swimming pools, and basketball, volleyball, and racquetball courts. The building will be home to the Student Health Center, student counseling and psychological services, and Student Recreation Center administration.

Student Union, Phase II

Size: 37,000 gross square feet. Total for both phases will be 135,000

Funding: $50.5 million (both phases); paid for by student fees

Completion date: Summer 2007

Status: The old union was demolished in November and crews have been doing site work and underground work. They also are completing rough grading and digging for utilities.

Features: The building will include a 10,000-square-foot ballroom, game room, convenience store, retail stores, and outdoor patio seating.

Advanced Dental Education Building

Size: 44,000 gross square feet

Funding: $16.4 million

Location: Shadow Lane campus

Completion date: Summer 2007

Status: The contractor has completed the earthwork and underground utilities. The footings and slab on grade and all block work have been completed. In the coming months, the contractor will start steel installation and work on exterior walls along with plumbing, ductwork, insulation, and gypsum walls.

Features: The facility will house specialty programs in pediatric dentistry, endodontics, orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and periodontics. It is also designed to support clinical research efforts.