Inside UNLV

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The Science and Engineering Building will be used for interdisciplinary teaching and research.

The Big Building Boom

Six new buildings are shooting up across UNLV’s campuses

By Shane Bevel | Marketing & PR

Even with the absence of most students, faculty, and staff over winter break, the campus wasn’t a complete ghost town. Construction crews were busy keeping UNLV’s multiple projects on schedule.

When inside UNLV last gave you a construction update 10 months ago, the Moot Court was still in design and the old Meyer Student Union was still standing.

The contractor recently completed the steel erection and is continuing with the overhead and wall mechanical, electrical, and plumbing portions of the work. Work crews are installing waste lines for labs and preparing to pour the light-weight concrete roof. Crews will continue with exterior framing on the south side as well as interior framing and drywall.

Science and Engineering Building

Size: 205,779 gross square feet

Funding: $113 million, including more than $32.1 million funded by UNLV

Completion date: 2008

Status: The contractor recently completed the steel erection and is continuing with the overhead and wall mechanical, electrical, and plumbing portions of the work. Work crews are installing waste lines for labs and preparing to pour the light-weight concrete roof. Crews will continue with exterior framing on the south side as well as interior framing and drywall.

Features: The building will include offices, classrooms, and laboratories that will be used by research scientists and students.

Greenspun Hall

Size: 121,080 gross square feet

Funding: $89.7 million, including $37 million donated by the Greenspun family; $3.4 million contributed by UNLV

Completion date: June 2008

Status: The contractor was given the notice to proceed on Dec. 18 and has been conducting site work and underground work. It is also completing rough grading and backfilling as well as digging for utilities.

Listen Up: Make the Most of Your Annual Review

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

It’s that time of the year: the annual 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 mumuring “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 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 on-one evaluation session is a good opportunity to foster two-way communication both now and in the future.

• Allot enough time for the 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.

• View the one-on-one session with your supervisor as a chance to discuss what your career goals are and how your supervisor can help you achieve them.

• Be prepared to ask for additional training if you are seeking to improve or expand your skills.

Women’s Wellness Day

The second annual Women’s Wellness Day is 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 31 in the Tam Alumni Center. The free event is sponsored by the Jean Nidetch Women’s Center. Call ext. 5-4475 to reserve a spot.
Cross Campus

Business
Top Students Invited to Join Interna tional University 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 in business.

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 and management.

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 Solutions unit as the lead technical integrator. UNLV engineering professor Robert Abella and researcher Kasimir 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 events 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.

Fine Arts
Folk Dancers Lead Off January Arts Offerings
The UNLV Performing Arts Center welcomes The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble on Jan. 18 as part of the Charles Vanda Master Series. The group has performed in 44 countries across four continents and won the admiration of millions, making it one of the greatest folkloric dance ensembles in the world.

Its rich and colorful repertoire includes the folk dances and stunning costumes of Hungary and Hungarian-inhabited areas.

The series continues Jan. 27 as Lorin Maazel conducts the Filharmonica Arturo Toscanini. Maazel, music director of the New York Philharmonic, chose to direct the Arturo Toscanini Philharmonic because of its “quality level and enthusiasm.” Maestro Maazel began his conducting career at age 9.

For information, call ext. 5-2787.

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

• Kate Hausbeck is senior associate dean and will supervise personnel, oversee academic affairs, and graduate 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 grant writing. He also will coordinate all processes associated with financial services for graduate students.

In cooperation with research services, he will develop and coordinate programs to aid graduate students with grant writing.

• Kathy C.C. Dyer is now international graduate student coordinator. She will oversee matters involving international graduate student admissions and processes, as well as work closely with the international student services, the study abroad offices, and the graduate and professional schools.

Honors
College Celebrates with Medalion Ceremony
The college celebrated its annual Honors College Conference and its graduating students from its various disciplines.

The college celebrated its 10th anniversary and its graduating students from its various disciplines.

For information, call ext. 5-2787.

Hotel
Students Learn the Art of Bistro, Campus to Eat up the Results
This spring, students in the college are learning the art of bistro. And the campus community will be able to enjoy the fruits of their new knowledge when the college opens its weekly bistro Feb. 12.

This spring, the food and beverage management department is offering its first-ever bistro management class. Bistros eating has become very trendy in recent years, as more people become concerned about their health. People are eating smaller, more frequent meals, and the students are learning how to accommodate this movement.

The students will prepare and serve highly flavored hot and cold foods, served on smaller plates, along with a variety of coffees, juices, specialty non-alcoholic drinks, wine, and beer. The senior class, under the direction of professor D [+1 lines]...
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 experts in the field will address the strengths and weaknesses of the federal arbitration law, presenting papers that will be published in a special issue of the Nevada Law Journal. Professor Jean Sternlight, director of the Saltman Center and a prominent arbitration scholar, formed 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 consumers and employees," Sternlight said. "In an effort to address this around the country will examine the positives and negatives of the statute and take a close look at what we hope will receive serious consideration from Congress." Information is available at www.lascu.edu/saltman.html. A 17 p.m. Feb. 5, Geoffrey R. Stone, the Harry Kalven Jr. Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago, will present the Pro lecture. His topic will be "Civil Liberties in Wartime." Stone’s book, The Spirit of Wartime from the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism received the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for 2004 as the Best Book in Political Science and the Political Science Association’s Kammeyer Award for 2005 for the Best Book in Political Science, and Harvard University’s 2005 Goldsmith Award for the Best Book in Public Affairs.

Faculty Endowed Scholarship

Weistrop Endows Scholarship

Emeritus Professor Donna Weistrop has endowed a scholarship in the name of Dr. David B. Shaffer, a well-known arbitration scholar, planned this conference for job interviews. Leading arbitration scholars will address the strengths and weaknesses of the federal arbitration law, present their research and make proposals for change that will help the profession.

Two Assistant Deans Appointed

Across Campus

Law

Arbitration Conference, Lecture Coming Soon

Two Assistant Deans Appointed

Weistrop understands the wonders and the limits of science. As she noted in the winter 2005 issue of UNLV Magazine, “Science is not infallible. As we keep learning things, our interpretations will change. It’s part of being an informed citizen.” She also is committed to the unending search for knowledge — as a teacher and a student. She said, “There’s this amazing thing that happens when you’re working with graduate students. Around the time they finish their master’s it’s almost like starting over. It just blossoms. They transform from student into colleague — instead of me teaching them, we start learning from each other.”

Hazardous Duty

During a recent training session sponsored by the UNLV Institute for Security Studies, Dr. Igor Shafid 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.

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 Moten, communication studies graduate student and director of communications for the UNLV Muslim Student Association; Juan Cole, a history professor at the University of Michigan; James Yaacob Iesu, a former U.S. Army captain and Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo Bay; and communication studies professor Joseph Valenzano. Valenzano, who specializes in political communication, spoke about the power of the now-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 “freedom” and “terror,” a correlative term that refers to a specific tactic, and “terror,” a vague term referring to an emotive state.

Liberal Arts

Donations to English Department Boost Graduate Study Resources

In recent months, the English department has been the grateful recipient of three very generous gifts. An anonymous donor has provided approximately $25,000 to help fund two dissertation fellowships. This year the funding will provide DeNara Hill and Oliver Q. Melton III to complete their Ph.D. programs with no teaching obligations by providing a stipend of $25,000 as well as tuition and fees — approximately $10,000 annually for the UNLV “standard” awards for graduate study. A second anonymous gift from another donor provides $30,000 annually for three department activities: • $10,000 will support graduate student travel to present papers at professional conferences or to attend the Modern Language Association and American Philological Association conferences for job interviews. • $5,000 will support the publication of the department’s Revue d’humanité Journal by the prestigious Edinburgh University Press. • $15,000 will provide funding for the department’s Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series. This year the speakers include Benedict Nightingale, the senior theater critic for the Times of London Times, and Harvard’s Stephen Greenblatt, a well-known Renaissance scholar and public humanist. Finally, Beverly Rogers’ gift of $60,000 has established the Rogers Fellowships in English, which will fund five-year awards leading to master and doctoral degrees in English. Two of those five years will carry no teaching responsibilities. Rogers Fellowships include stipends of $25,000 and all tuition and fees, making them among the most attractive fellowships in the nation.

Nursing

Two Assistant Deans Appointed in the School of Nursing

The school is growing and changing with the hiring of two assistant deans. Tish Smyer has been appointed assistant dean for academic affairs. She will oversee current academic programs, lead the school in the preparation of federal funding proposals, and serve as a resource in fulfilling the teaching mission of the university. Smyer comes from South Dakota State University, where she served in an administrative role. Her expertise in grant writing, program development, and federal funding will be an asset to UNLV, said Dean Carolyn Yucha. Smyer earned her bachel- lor’s degree from the University of Arkansas Medical Center and her master’s and Doctor of Nursing Science (DNSc) degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. Barbara St. Pierre Schneider was appointed assistant dean for research. She will develop an infrastructure and provide support for faculty as they develop their research programs. Schneider’s research centers on exercise-induced skeletal muscle injury and ovarian hormone influences on healing, and she has received research funding from foundations and the National Institutes of Health. She comes from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Louisiana State University, her master’s degree from the University of Washington, and her DNSc from the University of California, Los Angeles. She completed post-doctoral training at UCLA and at Pennsylvania State University.

Science

Emeritus Professor Donna Weistrop Endows Scholarship

Donna Weistrop, emeritus professor of physics, and her husband David B. Shaffer, have generously endowed a scholarship in the college. The Donna Weistrop and David B. Shaffer Scholarship offers support to graduate students in astronomy, chemistry, geoscience, or physics who maintain a 3.5 cumulative grade point average. Preference will be given to students in astronomy and physics programs, areas of particular interest to the donors. Dean Ron Yasbin said, “During her distinguished academic career Donna Weistrop touched the lives of countless UNLV students, faculty, staff, friends, and area residents. With this generous scholarship, Donna and David expand their reach to touch the lives of future generations of UNLV students.” During her career, Weistrop devoted countless hours to things she could not touch. As a leading astronomer, Weistrop was part of a team that developed an instrument on the Hubble Space Telescope and analyzed data gathered from distant galaxies. And, all the while, she opened the heavens to students in both introductory and advanced astronomy classes. Inside UNLV | Page 3
The contractor has finished setting 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 usually 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, lab, 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:** $4.3 million; paid for by student fees

**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. Plumbing, electrical conduit, study 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 of 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.

*Inside UNLV* welcomes comments and suggestions. Please e-mail inside.unlv.edu or drop a note to Inside UNLV at mail code 1024.

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