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Inside UNLV

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Alyson Martinez, Mechanical Engineering

First Impressions Can Be Deceiving

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asked employees to submit stories about how they
have found a little romance on campus.

work, it’s not surprising that some of our co-workers

Meeting Your Mate at UNLV

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

If you consider how many hours we spend at
work, it’s not surprising that some of our co-workers
have found a little romance on campus. Inside UNLV
asked employees to submit stories about how they
met their significant other while at UNLV.

First Impressions Can Be Deceiving

Alyson Martinez, Mechanical Engineering

I met my fiance, Danny, when I transferred from
UNLV to UNR. Danny was a UNR student at
the time and a man sneaks up behind you — not cool)! After

I was so scared (working in an office of all women
asked, “Guess who?” I nearly punched his lights out
simple hello, nice to meet you, and goodbye.

I met him a few weeks later when our supervisor
was on vacation when I first arrived. I

I didn’t realize how much notice until
talked. I found out he lived near me so I offered to
drive him home since we all know the “joy” of pub
lic transportation.

While driving him home a few times, I began to

take notice. I didn’t realize how much notice until

that I was a little scared to talk to him. It wasn’t until
one day when he dropped his bus pass that we really
talked. I found out he lived near me so I offered to
drive him home since we all know the “joy” of pub-
lic transportation.

After driving him home a few times, I began to
take notice. I didn’t realize how much notice until
my supervisor suggested I book him up with one
of my single friends. Getting him to hang out was a
> See ROMANCE, Page 7
Federal appropriations and competitive grant funding serve different functions at a university. Appropriations can be very important for building capacity, enhancing infrastructure, and creating new areas of research. Ongoing research is more appropriately supported by competitive, peer-reviewed grants; these grants are critical to realizing our goal of becoming a major research university.

These awards come from various sources as the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which have rigorous peer-selection processes. That puts our work up against other research institutions, so receiving the awards validates the strength of scholarship behind the proposals. This is key to raising our institutional reputation. The effects magnify from there. A stronger reputation helps attract top students and professors, who then help UNLV advance its teaching and service missions.

It’s also important to note that grant funding provides resources through indirect cost recovery. Increasing our grant awards also increases resources for many activities that support research, such as lab renovations, equipment purchases, and research administration.

The old awards programs, in particular the Planning Initiative Awards, were sometimes used as an avenue to fund “basics” such as software and student lab equipment. They also funded non-academic projects. How do the changes impact this issue?

Our funding challenges were evident as I visited various departments in the last several months. Clearly there are significant infrastructure needs across campus that we must remedy in order to aggressively pursue grant funding. As a direct result of those visits, we’ve allotted $750,000 in one-time monies to upgrade facilities or purchase equipment and materials.

As we move forward, the strategic planning process will be key. As a campus we will identify the areas that can best help reach our goals. Then we will work with administrators to ensure that our resources support those areas. Struggling to do more with no new resources is not a pathway to future excellence. We must work jointly on creating a research culture and providing the infrastructure to support it.
Employee Benefits

Getting the Most Out of Your Health Plan

How to Avoid Some Common Mistakes

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Having health insurance is one thing, knowing how to properly use your health insurance and which plan to choose is entirely different. Inside UNLV recently sat down with Pat La Putt, benefits manager, to discuss some common health insurance mistakes as well as the wellness benefit.

“UNLV is unique in that it offers both an HMO plan and two deductible levels in a PPO plan,” La Putt said. Employees can choose between an HMO plan, a low-deductible PPO plan, and a high-deductible PPO plan.

Know Where to Go

Remember hearing that three local hospitals — Sunrise, Mountain View, and Southern Hills — would no longer be available to UNLV employees? Well, that’s changed for one group of employees. Participants in the PPO plan regained some options, thanks to continued contract negotiations. Unfortunately, those hospitals will no longer be part of the HMO network (except in case of emergency). For a complete list of all PPO and HMO providers, visit www.pepb.state.nv.us/help/provsearch.htm. Here’s a partial list of where you can go:

- Boulder City Hospital
- Desert Springs Hospital
- North Vista Hospital
- Spring Valley Hospital Medical Center
- St. Rose Dominican Hospitals
- Summerlin Hospital Medical Center
- University Medical Center
- Valley Hospital Medical Center
- Sunrise Hospital (PPO participants only)
- Mountain View Hospital (PPO participants only)
- Southern Hills Hospital (PPO participants only)

Common Mistakes

When employees choose a health plan, they often choose based solely on which plan has the lowest premium, La Putt said. “It is important to look at how you access care, how you want to access care, and how you often access care. Those factors drive your out-of-pocket costs.”

Make sure the doctor is still part of the network when scheduling appointments. “The doctor’s contracts are different than the plan year (July-June) for employees’ insurance coverage,” La Putt said. “If your doctor is no longer part of the network, you will pay out-of-network costs, which are higher.” La Putt said another mistake is choosing the high-deductible PPO plan without being fully informed.

The high-deductible is a major medical plan,” she said. This plan has a lower monthly premium and no co-pays. Employees pay dollar-for-dollar until they reach their $2,000 deductible.

“If you are fairly healthy, want a lower premium, and can withstand the risk, then this might be the plan for you,” she said.

Prescription bills can pile up quickly. Avoid significant out-of-pocket costs by asking your doctor or pharmacist if there is a generic brand that can be substituted.

Common Questions from Employees

La Putt said she often receives calls to find if particular doctors are still in the network, and if not, how to select a new one. She reminds employees that while network provider directories are sent out once a year, the online directories are updated more frequently. There are also issues with bills not being paid. La Putt said. “Our staff is familiar with the different plans and what should be covered,” she said. “If you have a problem, let our office do the leg work and attempt to resolve the issue so that you can concentrate on doing your job.”

Confusing Language

There is often confusion related to the in-network and out-of-network deductibles, La Putt said. For example, there is a $500 deductible for in-network visits and a separate $500 deductible for out-of-network visits. It is important to remember that the HMO plan doesn’t cover doctor visits if you are out of the Las Vegas area. The only medical bills from out of the area that are covered are those for emergency services. “That creates another problem,” La Putt said. “The insurance company determines if the visit was truly an emergency, not the employee.”

Wellness Benefit

Under the PPO plan, there is no co-pay and the plan pays 100 percent up to a maximum of $2,500 (your deductible does not apply) if you go to an in-network provider. Among other things, the wellness benefit covers a physical exam, pelvic exam, X-rays, prostate screening, well-child examinations, immunizations, and skin cancer screenings. In order to access this benefit, employees need to instruct their physician to bill the procedure as a routine preventive measure so that the claim can be properly processed, La Putt said.

Under the HMO plan, preventive health services do not require a prior authorization but there is a $15 co-pay. The plan also offers various educational programs that focus on preventive care and the management of existing health conditions.

Other Medical Benefits

La Putt reminds employees that the dental benefits are the same, regardless of which plan you have, and that employees can get four teeth cleanings each year. She also encourages employees to take advantage of their plan’s vision benefit.

More Info: Visit hr.unlv.edu/Benefits/index.html or call ext. 5-0924.

Symbol of Perseverance

Civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams stressed the importance of perseverance and civic responsibility during UNLV’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Jan. 18. In her keynote address, Evers-Williams, the widow of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, said, “Don’t fall into the trap of giving up. Perseverance was one of the major components of the movement, and it was what has carried me through.” Evers-Williams waged a public battle for justice in the 1963 death of her husband, an official with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), who was gunned down by a sniper in the driveway of their Jackson, Miss., home. In 1965, Ku Klux Klansman Byron de la Beckwith was convicted of Evers’ murder. It was the third time de la Beckwith had stood trial for the crime. Evers-Williams, who served as the first woman chair of the NAACP, also spoke about the importance of all citizens exercising their right to vote.
Across Campus

Allied Health Sciences
Faculty Collaborate on Medical Imaging Projects
Faculty in health physics are collaborating with Nevada Imaging Centers/Angiogenics to research various imaging-related areas. These projects include using a high-field magnetic resonance (MR) scanner to map an individual’s brain fibers in order to determine abnormalities due to head trauma, multiple sclerosis, and other neurological disorders.

Another project is using MR imaging and spectroscopy to diagnose breast cancer. If successful, a new technique will be available for annual screenings without the high radiation dose associated with mammography. Similarly, brachytherapy prostate cancer treatment methods using MRI are being investigated. Functional MRI scans are currently being developed to diagnose Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s patients in the very early stages of the disorders.

Kinesiology Program Sets Runners on Right Path
The department of kinesiology again hosted the Marathon Educational Series to provide information for runners training for the Las Vegas Marathon. The series consisted of six presentations on exercise physiology, biomechanics, injuries, nutrition, and race-day preparations. This series was hosted in collaboration with the organizers of the marathon, Las Vegas Track Club, Las Vegas Road Runners, and the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

On race day, students and faculty from the athletic training education program worked with the physicians from the University of Nevada School of Medicine to provide athletes medical care at the finish line.

Business
Students Prep for $100,000 Business Plan Competition
Students across Nevada are preparing for the third annual Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition to be held this spring in Reno. The competition encourages students to act on their entrepreneurial spirit and ideas while teaching them the process of creating a business.

Participants compete for more than $100,000 in cash awards, including a $20,000 grand prize. In addition, the experience, exposure, and prestige that accompany participation make it an outstanding student opportunity. UNR, UNLV, and Sierra Nevada College have agreed to participate so far. The competition can serve as a catalyst for bringing higher education together with the business community.

The competition is open to all faculty-sponsored, full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at any of Nevada’s universities or colleges. Teams will fine-tune the art of brainstorming and crafting a business plan; gain access to networks of successful entrepreneurs, lenders, and investors; and provide in team-building opportunities.

The website www.unlv.edu /projects/bplan includes competition details and business plan resources as well as links to articles about this year’s efforts and follow-ups on past UNLV finalists.

Education
Campus Community Helps Homeless and Needy
Education students, staff, and faculty donated more than 90 blankets, 200 pairs of socks, more than 100 toiletry items, and a variety of hats, coats, and shoes to the nonprofit organization Straight from the Streets.

An organization that serves people of all ages who are homeless or at risk for homelessness, Straight from the Streets operates entirely on donations and with staff volunteers.

Children make up nearly 25 percent of Southern Nevada’s homeless population.

The college’s “Giving Project,” as it was called, was initiated by Patricia Markos, chair of counselor education. Marilyn Ford, assistant chair of curriculum and instruction, and her son, Max Ford Hecker, an eighth-grader at Becker Middle School, helped collect, sort, and distribute the donations.

Max, who is a member of the Junior National Honor Society, applied his participation toward the society’s community service requirement.

The request for donations went out in late November and all items collected were distributed during the holiday season. The project received coverage in the local media and many non-UNLV individuals brought contributions to the college.

College faculty members are already organizing the project for next fall.

Libraries
Protect Your Privacy, Activate Your University Libraries PIN
Library patrons now need a personal information number (PIN) to perform self-checkout and selected online functions. This new requirement began Jan. 29.

Activating a self-selected numeric PIN can be done online in seconds and offers privacy protection and reduces risk of identity theft. It also protects against someone checking out materials using your card and leaving you responsible for payment.

“The PIN is an important step in protecting both our patrons’ privacy and Libraries’ assets,” said Patricia Iannuzzi, dean of University Libraries. “People want and appreciate security measures and the technology is in place to make activating a PIN easy and fast. We’re expecting a virtually seamless transition to the PIN system. Your PIN is necessary for self-checkout and such online functions as renewing books, accessing your patron record, and placing holds on materials.

Staff will be available in person and by telephone or instant messaging for those requesting assistance in setting up a PIN. Your RebelCard ID will continue to be required for in-person checkout.

For more information, visit library.unlv.edu.

Academic Affairs
Collegiate Business Plan Competition - W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup
The competition is open to all students enrolled at any of Nevada’s universities or colleges. Teams will craft a business plan; gain access to networks of successful entrepreneurs, lenders, and investors; and provide in team-building opportunities.

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PAC February Offerings
The Performing Arts Center welcomes the Moscow Festival Ballet performing Swan Lake on Feb. 14 as part of the Charles Vanada Master Series. Leading dancers from across Russia form this company dedicated to staging new productions of timeless classics and led by legendary Bolshoi principal dancer Sergei Radchenko.

On Feb. 24 the Performing Arts Center New York Stage & Beyond Series presents Forbidden Broadway’s 25th Anniversary Celebration. The latest in a series of Broadway spoofs from the creators of Forbidden Vegas parodies the likes of Ethel Merman, Liza Minnelli, and Sarah Brightman.

For ticket information, call ext. 5-2787.

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Fine Arts
Sandy Duncan Heads Glass Menagerie Cast
Sandy Duncan, star of stage and screen, will play Amanda in the Nevada Conservatory Theatre production of Tennessee Williams’ Glass Menagerie this month.

Williams’ lyrical and powerful memory play tells the story of the Wingfield family — Tom, who is torn between his obligation to his family and his deep desire to escape; his domineering mother, Amanda, a faded, tragic remnant of Southern gentility; and his frail sister, Laura. The Glass Menagerie is one of the great masterpieces of American drama and winner of the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play.

Duncan is one of the most versatile stars. One of her memorable performances was as Missy Anne Reynolds in the groundbreaking ABC miniseries Roots (1977) for which she earned an Emmy Award. In 1970, she was named one of the “most promising faces of tomorrow” by Time magazine, and a year later starred in the television series Funny Face (later renamed The Sandy Duncan Show). Performances of The Glass Menagerie will be Feb. 9-18.

Across Campus

Signing on for a New Era
Manami Ishikawa, a junior education major, signs the last beam to be placed in the new student union during the topping-off ceremony. Members of the campus community were invited to make their signatures a permanent part of the new union.
Graduate
New Policy to Allow Greater GA Stipend Flexibility
To improve graduate assistant recruitment and retention, a new Graduate College policy will allow academic deans greater latitude in setting GA stipend levels.

Through the new policy, which will take effect in fall 2007, colleges and departments will still receive a set amount of funding for GAs, but they may choose to allocate that funding at varying levels, depending on their needs. For example, an academic unit may now choose to award fewer assistantships but raise the stipend levels. They will also have the flexibility to set the duration of the assistantship at one semester, nine months, or 12 months.

However, a minimum stipend amount — $10,000 for master’s-level students and $12,000 for doctoral students on nine-month contracts — must still be paid to all graduate assistants.

“This new system is designed to give college deans and graduate programs much greater flexibility to disperse graduate assistantships in ways that are consistent with the unique needs and demands of particular disciplines,” said Kate Hausbeck, senior associate dean of the Graduate College. “Ideally, this will allow graduate programs to become more competitive and to recruit and retain outstanding graduate students. Nationally, some disciplines tend to pay higher stipend levels to graduate assistants, so it is important that UNLV has the flexibility to offer larger amounts with varying contract durations, as appropriate.”

Hausbeck said that faculty already have the ability to set extramurally-funded graduate assistant stipends at higher levels, provided that the stipend is written into the grant proposal or contract. Extramural funding sources may be used to fund GAs on summer stipends as well.

Hotel
Industry Notables to be Recognized at Vallen Dinner
The college will recognize hospitality industry executives for their contributions to education at its third annual Vallen Dinner of Distinction on May 3 at the Mirage Hotel-Casino.

The college will honor Scott Sibella as Alumnus of the Year. Sibella, who graduated in 1988, is president and CEO of The Mirage Hotel-Casino.

Sibella as Alumnus of the Year.

Mirage. In addition, each department will recognize its own student as Alumnus of the Year. This year’s honorees are:

- David Saxe, a 1993 alum and Saxe Productions

- Cortney S. Warren, a new assistant professor in psychology, has represented clients from more than 25 countries in a wide variety of cases.

- For example, at the request of a prosecutor, the clinic obtained legal status for an undocumented girl who helped the prosecution of a violent crime of which she was the victim. The clinic also represents victims of human trafficking, primarily those forced into labor, including a woman “sold” to a Las Vegas family for $3,000.

- Clinical students overcame the deportation of a couple charged with having lost their lawful status for remaining outside the United States too long. The husband had suffered a massive heart attack while on vacation in his home country and his wife stayed with him to provide care. The clinic represented a 6-year-old girl who had been abandoned by her mother and diagnosed with cancer, permitting life-saving surgery. Another client is an airman posted at Nellis Air Force Base attempting to bring his wife and their children to the United States prior to his next deployment abroad.

- Students successfully obtained U.S. citizenship for a 72-year-old Cuban refugee with breast cancer, and obtained proof of U.S. citizenship for a young person who had been smuggled into the country at the age of 11 and had lived here ever since with the knowledge that she had been a U.S. citizen since birth.

- Through cases like these, law students, under the direction of professors David Thronson and Leticia Saucedo, learn to practice law while providing excellent legal services to people and communities who need them.

Law
Students Touch Lives, Gain Experience
Now in its fourth year, the Immigration Clinic of the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic has represented clients from more than 25 countries in a wide variety of cases.

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Liberal Arts
Professor Studies Factors Influencing Eating Disorders

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Free透 Up the Fans
Firing Up the Fans

Fireworks explode inside the Thomas & Mack Center before the Runnin’ Rebels’ basketball game against Utah on Jan. 3. The men’s team will play at home Feb. 7 vs. TCU and Feb. 10 vs. Wyoming. The women’s team has home games Feb. 21 vs. BYU and Feb. 25 vs. Air Force.
The study was the ... continued from page

continued from page 1

XXU (Nursing) was the keynote speaker at the School of Nursing Research Day at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in Illinois. The title of her presentation was "Cultural Competence in Nursing Education, Practice, and Research," Suburban Biggs also made this presentation for the doc- toral nursing program at the Saint Louis University School of Nursing. He was one of several invited scholars whose presentations were videotaped for current and future doctoral students.

Susan Summers (English) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for November. She is the office manager of the English Department, serves on the Campus Community Campaign Committee for the Invent the Future campaign, coordi- nates the information-sharing sessions for administrative assistants, and heads the Sneaker Patrol of checklist machines. An administrative assistant IV, she has worked at UNLV for three years.

James Woodbridge (Philosophy) co-authored (with Bradley Armond-Garber) a paper titled "The Pathology of Validity," which will appear in an upcoming issue of the international journal of philosophy of science journal Synthese.

Susan Thompson (International Programs) has been elected to the board of directors of NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The world's largest professional association dedicated to international education, NAFSA has more than 10,000 members. The organi- zation seeks to increase awareness of and support for international education and exchange in higher education, govern- ments, and the public, by helping to ensure that citizens with international experience and global awareness are crucial to U.S. leadership, competitiveness, and secu- rity. Thompson also is a recipient of the national Lily von Klempner award from NAFSA for her service and leadership in the field of international education.

William Calder (Thomas & Mack) was named an employee of the month in the custodial category for November. A facility supervisor II, he has worked at UNLV for 21 years this month.

Michele Sanders (English Department) was named a classified employee of the month in the admin- istrative category for December. An administrative assistant II, she per- forms a variety of duties, including handling travel reimbursement and managing graduate student registra- tion. She came to UNLV in 2003 to work at the UNLV Foundation and later transferred to English.

Report to Women in Media Studies (Communication Studies) was named a classified employee of the month in the technical/services category for December. A duplicating operator supervisor, he oversees the copy cen- ter, quick-print area, and bindery. He also operates sophisticated color copy machines. He has worked at UNLV since 1999.

Martin Dean Dupalo (Political Science) was recently awarded the Jefferson Award for public service locally for his continued efforts to assist in the local community. He was also nominated for a fifth year to serve on the city of Las Vegas Community Development Review Board, which evaluates non-profit organizations for block funding to meet the needs of the community.

Robert Lucas (Custodial Services) was named a classified employee of the month in the custodial category for December. A custodial worker II, he has worked at UNLV since April 1991.

Tara M. Emmers-Sommer (Communication Studies) is first author of the article, "Love, Suspense, Sex and Violence: Men's and Women's Film Predilections, Exposure to Sexually Violent Media, and Their Relationship to Rape Myth Acceptance," which is featured in the current issue of Sex Roles. She is co-author on two chap- ters in the book Mass Media Effects. Research: Advances through Theory, Practice, and Policy Analysis (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates). She also is first author on the conference paper, “Do Sexual Attitude and Behavior Differences Differ Between Casually Dating and Seriously Dating Individual?” That examination of relational factors and safer sexual practices was pre- sented at the National Communication Association convention in San Antonio.

John Massengale (Kinesiology) is the 2007 recipient of the Scholar Award from the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education. The award ceremony was held at the association's annual conference in New Orleans, where he also presented a paper titled "Kinesiology and Physical Education Department ... in the administrative category for December. An administrative assistant III, she served as executive assistant in the department chair and to the Nevada Conservatory Theatre. She has worked at UNLV for 10 years.

Marion Ledwig (Philosophy) wrote “Common Knowledge in Game Theory,” which was recently published in The International Journal of Knowledge, Culture, and Change Management. She also is the author of the book Common Sense: Its History, Method, and Applicability. (Peter Lang, New York, 2007).

Patricia Iannuzzi (Librarians) delivered the keynote address, "Changing Learning, Changing Roles: It Takes a Village," at the fifth Information Literacy Conference at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez Libraries in Juarez, Mexico, in October. The international event was sponsored by the University of Juarez and the U.S. Consulate. The theme was Assessment and Evaluation: Key Elements to Information Literacy Programs. Topics included initiatives under way in the Latin America and Europe, specifically, the “Bologna Process.” For more information, visit www.unmex.org/iau/be/ bologna_process/index.html.

Erika Engstrom (Communication Studies) is co-author of “Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Bride: Portrayals of Women of Color in Bridal Maga- zines,” with Cynthia Frisby (University of Missouri, Columbia), which appeared in the fall issue of Media Report to Women. The study was the subject of a Dec. 11 article in the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Karl Kingsley (Dental Medicine) is lead author of the article “Transfection of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma with Human Papillomavirus-16 induces Proinflammatory and Morphological Changes in Vitro,” pub- lished in the May issue of Cancer Cell International.

Across Campus

Continued from page 5

Urban Affairs

New Advisory Board

Attracts High-Profile Members

The National Advisory Board of the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies, chaired by professor emeritus Barbara Cloud, recently held its inaugural meeting and elected officers.

Elected vice chair was donor Brian Greenspun, president of Las Vegas Sun Inc., and son of Hank Greenspun, the founder of the Las Vegas Sun and the person for whom the School of Journalism and Media Studies and soon-to-be-built Greenspun Hall are named. Among other high-profile members are: Evanet E. Dennis, national journalism scholar and founding- director of Columbia University’s Media Studies Educator Center; Patricia Llama, Emmy award-winning television reporter and producer and frequent CNN contributor; Carlos Sanchez, KBLR-TV Telemundo general manager; David Pinker CBS television executive vice president for research and planning.

The board makes recommendations to strategies that will ensure the stu- dents’ professional success and on fundraising.

"We are extremely pleased that people of this caliber were willing to be members of the national advisory board," said Cloud. "It’s an indication of the excitement that the Hank Greenspun School and its new director, Ardyth Sorensen, are generating in the field of journalism education."
problem, though, because he is very shy and I’m very outgoing. So I com- promised and asked him to come over to fix my computer (he’s a com- puter major). After coming over three times to fix my computer, with some movies and meals in between, he finally kissed me.

Three years later, here we are. We bought a condo together and are doing great. He still sneaks up behind me sometimes, but now it’s more romantic and less scary.

Ice Cream Social Leads to Sweet Romance
Nora Lamgendorf, Student Enrollment Services

I met my husband, J.B., at an ice cream social held by Inter Varsity here on campus in 1995 at the old Moyer Student Union. We struck up a conversation and found that we had a lot in common. We both served in the military (me Navy, him Air Force) before deciding to matriculate at UNLV. I had already graduated in 1994 and returned to my college family after teaching for a year in Budapest, Hungary. My hubby-to-be was a student in the engineering program at the time. Our first official date was at a foot- ball game on Sept. 29 of that year (UNLV vs. Hawaii) and the rest is history.

We married three years later in 1998 and he continues to be my very best friend. UNLV has played an integral part of our lives as we still keep in touch with lifelong friends we met here. Although J.B. did not finish his degree at UNLV, he is a proud supporter along with me as a lifetime member of the UNLV Alumni Association.

I am a ‘triple’ Rebel as I work as a graduate assistant for the Business College at the Nevada Small Business Development Center, where I helped people who wanted to start a business. He came to me with an idea. It was not a great idea, but I spent lots of time helping her out just to get to know her more. She is an artist and was looking to make money creating unique pieces of pottery for urns for family pets. Her idea did not amount to much but our relationship sure did! We were married in June 2006.

Opposites Attract When Business Meets Art
Paul Blonsky, Distance Education

I met my wife, Heather, here at UNLV. I was getting my master’s degree and I worked as a graduate assistant for the Business College and wanted to start a business. She came to me with an idea. It was not a great idea, but I spent lots of time helping her out just to get to know her more. She is an artist and was looking to make money creating unique pieces of pottery for urns for family pets. Her idea did not amount to much but our relationship sure did! We were married in June 2006.

Blind Date on Valentine’s Day?
Tiffany Schnier, College of Education

I met Jeff in Tonopah Hall back in 2001 when I was a freshman. He lived on the second floor and I lived on the third. We were set up on a blind date on Valentine’s Day by his suitemate. I almost chickened out and did not go. I mean it was a blind date! He could have been scary, ugly, etc. All I could think is, “What am I getting myself into?” How different my life would be now, though, if I hadn’t gone.

Who would have thought this Vegas girl would meet her Montana- born sweetheart at UNLV? Four years later we were married and are expecting our first baby in July.

From Microforms to Marriage
Christine Wiatrowski, Lied Library

Eugene P. Moehring, History Department

I first met Gene on the third floor of the old library where I was working in the periodicals/microforms area. He was hunched over one of the old microfilm readers doing research. The old readers looked like a huge box and he was embedded in the depth of one, trying to read the microfilm. He didn’t really look up much, so I introduced and introduced myself as the new person in charge of microforms. I thought he would call me by his first name. I think that he was a little taken aback but he said that it would be OK. I found out much later that he was nocturnal and spent considerable amounts of time at the microforms machines in the late evening. Since I worked days, our paths rarely crossed.

(At occasional university functions) we engaged mostly in “small talk” about the library. I still didn’t see him much until the early 1990s when the history depart- ment bought the library more than a half million dol- lars in materials, primarily microforms. He was depart- ment chair at the time and would occasionally come to the library to discuss the collection. Because he was very concerned that the new microform resources would be difficult for students to find, I worked on several access tools to help them. This project took a lot of time and effort. Appreciative of the work I had done, he took me to lunch. It was still all business.

Eventually he would come to the library, close to the time he knew I was getting off work, and walk me to my car. We would go out for birthday lunches (his and mine) and Christmas lunch for a few years. We enjoyed each other’s sense of humor. We started talking about marriage and on Oct. 1, 2000, tied the knot. He still makes me laugh.
Comfort Zones

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

When you need to take a break for a few minutes to refresh your mind, where do you go?

Readers cited a number of spots from the rock and mineral display inside Lilly Fong Geoscience to a walkway leading from the area of the Bennett Professional Development Center up to a ridge near the soccer fields. That latter spot, according to campus life admin assistant Cy Vogt, always provides “a splendid view of the sky.”

Other picks included:

**The North-South Academic Mall between FDH and Ham Fine Arts**

“The area provides shade on a hot summer day, explodes with color in the fall, glistens with the unfolding of new leaves in the spring, and lends sanctuary to the birds all year long. To me, it is absolutely the most peaceful area on campus and gives me a quiet respite in an all too-busy day.”

— Susan Summers, admin assistant in the English department

**The Grove of Trees in front of the Beam Engineering Complex**

“It combines two things I look for when I need a break — a shady green space and pizza.”

— Susan Jones, research associate in the landscape architecture and planning program

**Tam Alumni Courtyard**

“Because it’s always pretty quiet and almost always shady and cool, the benches in front of Tam Alumni Center facing the mall.”

— Roberta “Bobbie” Studwell, professor and Law Library director

**The Book-N-Bean**

“I can look out the window and see students walking by, and it’s near the library — another one of my favorite spots on campus.”

— Sabrina Tindal, wellness educator with student wellness

**The Xeric Garden**

“The combination of colorful, flowering, drought-tolerant plants, rambling paths, and the birds attracted by the flowers and plant cover make this a great place to stroll, take a couple of breaths and unwind for a few minutes.”

— Michelle Baker, program coordinator in educational outreach

Lori Griffin, a geoscience undergraduate, describes the rock and mineral collection inside Lilly Fong Geoscience as a “must see” for anyone drawn to natural science. “It is a dream for anyone interested in geology.”

(Above) A pretty walkway in the northwest area of campus leads toward the soccer fields. (Below) Michelle Baker of educational outreach enjoys a view of the Xeric Garden, which she said is “hands down” her favorite place on campus.