Inside UNLV

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Corporate Challenge: Let the Games Begin

Teams are forming for the annual city of Las Vegas Corporate Challenge. Corporate Challenge is a healthy way for employees to stay active in the community and to interact with colleagues outside the office. The 2007 games will begin March 29 with a torch relay, executive relay, and parade of banners. The games will continue for 12 weeks and culminate with awards being presented at the closing ceremonies June 16.

Who’s the Trashiest?
UNLV Wants the Title

From Jan. 28-April 7, UNLV is competing in the RecycleMania event, a friendly competition among college recycling programs that provides the campus community with a fun way to promote waste reduction. Campuses compete in different contests to see which institution can collect the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate.

UNLV is competing in the Per Capita Classic. You can participate by recycling everything, including:
- all paper, including shredded
- cardboard
- aluminum cans
- plastic bottles
- toner/ink cartridges
- steel/tin/scrap metal
- cardboard
- all paper, including shredded
- alkaline batteries
- reusable office supplies

More Info: Contact Rebel Recycling, ext. 5-3760 or visit recyclemania.org.

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News & Information for UNLV Insiders
FEBRUARY 2007

Greenspun Tops the List

7 UNLV Projects on Legislative Request Lists

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Requests for $61 million in construction-related funding for seven UNLV projects are on two lists being submitted to the Nevada Legislative by the UNLV. The legislative session begins Feb. 5.

One request — for $21 million for furniture, finishings, and equipment for the Science and Engineering Building — is on a list of “finishes” money being requested for eight projects across the system. While projects on that list are unranked, completion of these unfinished projects is assumed to be the highest UNLV priority for capital funding, said Gerry Bomotti, UNLV vice president for finance and business.

On the longer list — the NSHE capital improvement projects list — UNLV projects are ranked Nos. 1, 9, 11, 15, 21, and 30. A request for $19.4 million for completion of Greenspun Hall tops that list. UNLV also is part of the planning for the University of Nevada Health Sciences System. The NSHE is making a separate funding request for this initiative, which would include money for the renovation of the Shadow Lane campus’ building B to support the School of Medicine and UNLV’s nursing programs as well as money for additional construction at Shadow Lane as well as other locations in the state.

With the system requesting more than $350 million in capital improvements at its various institutions — not counting the separate request for funding for the health sciences system — no one expects all of the requests to be funded, Bomotti said.

“We don’t know how far down the list the legislative funding will reach,” Bomotti said. “Many others, including the Nevada Department of Corrections, also are asking for substantial sums. Legislators will have to weigh requests carefully in order to determine which projects are most needed.”

Rebel Romance: 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
Alphey Martinez, Mechanical Engineering

Danny Korene, Reprographic/Design Services

I met my fiance, Danny, when I transferred from the cashier’s office to engineering. Danny worked there, but was on vacation when I first arrived. I met him a few weeks later when our supervisor introduced us. Nothing major occurred — just a simple hello, nice to meet you, and goodbye.

A week went by and I hadn’t seen him. Out of the blue one day he came by, but this time instead of saying hello he stood behind me, covered my eyes, and asked, “Guess who?” I nearly punched his lights out. I was so scared (working in an office of all women and a man sneaks up behind you — not cool!) After 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 public transportation.

After driving him home a few times, I began to notice. I didn’t realize how much notice until my supervisor suggested I hook him up with one of my single friends. Getting him to hang out was a
Awards Revamped to Focus on Research

Last month President David Ashley announced changes to UNLV’s internal awards programs. The new awards include the President’s Research Award, which emphasizes cross-disciplinary research; the Research Development Award for individual research and creative activities; and the Research Infrastructure Awards for equipment and facilities enhancement.

Here Ashley shares with readers more details about these initiatives.

How will the changes improve the awards process?

As I and others on campus began looking at UNLV’s internal grant programs, we recognized that the money available was spread thinly among several smaller programs. In addition, we noticed that a number of projects became unsustainable after the internal grant was finished.

In restructuring the programs, we put the university’s top priority — creating a research-enhanced environment — at the center, and we’ve established concrete expectations for the research. Our new Research Award, for example, will seed collaborative, cross-disciplinary projects that are capable of producing submissions for national competitive grants.

Another program, the Research Development Award, encourages peer-reviewed publications as well as university-community collaborations.

In the past several years, UNLV has received a large portion of its outside funding through federal appropriations. Why is there now an emphasis on competitive awards programs?

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 our Research Award, which emphasizes cross-disciplinary research 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.

Did You Know?

• Bert Babero was the first black professor on the campus. Babero, a zoology professor, started in 1965 in the biology department.

• Esther Langston was the first black female professor at UNLV. Langston, a social work professor, came to the university in 1971. She was also the first black professor to receive tenure in the NSHE system.

• Professor Roosevelt Fitzgerald was the first black professor in the department of anthropology and ethnic studies. He began in 1973, and also served as the department’s chair.

• Professor Rainier Spencer established the NSHE’s first and only Afro-American studies program. The minor was approved in 1998 and the B.A. in Afro-American studies in 2000.

NSHE Campuses Collaborate on Black History Month Events

By Grace Russell | Marketing & PR

A summit on ways to improve the college success rates of black students is among the events commemorating Black History Month at NSHE campuses. UNLV kicked off the monthlong celebration Feb. 1 at the Alumni Amphitheater in front of DFB. There were speakers from each of the sister schools, entertainment, and a dinner. Other UNLV events this month include a Black Film Festival and a youth empowerment conference to introduce area high school students to UNLV.

The summit, which was held Feb. 2 at the CCSN Cheyenne campus, explored the state of blacks in higher education. It featured representatives from UNLV, NSC, and CSN.

“The summit brought all of the NSHE people together so that we could share information about issues that affect people of color,” said Odalys Carmona, UNLV diversity program coordinator.

Carmona and representatives from CSN and NSC coordinated the month’s events. UNLV’s organizers included students, faculty, and professional and classified staff.

“Because this formula worked so well during Hispanic Heritage Month and Native American History Month, we decided to work together again for Black History Month,” Carmona said. “The collaboration lets us offer the community more events on each of the campuses and throughout the valley.”

Committee member Michelle Jordan, coordinator of diversity initiatives for the Harrah College of Hotel Administration, said the events will do more than share the rich black culture with students and staff.

“By acknowledging Black History Month and other months set aside for underrepresented groups on this campus, UNLV is demonstrating its commitment to diversity.”

For a complete listing of events, visit facultystaff.unlv.edu.

Invent the Future

Staff Donations Help Students Put School First

By Lori Bachand | UNLV Foundation

Stephanie Ramirez started her UNLV career with the usual must-haves for an honors student: enthusiasm, some college credits under her belt, and a clear goal to complete her degree. But she also had two advantages not available to all students: emotional support from two fellow undergraduates (her brother, Mike, and their father, Miguel) and financial support through a privately funded scholarship for academically talented students.

Nearly every academic unit on campus has identified scholarship or fellowship support as a priority in the $500 million Invent the Future campaign. As of January, the campaign had raised more than $337 million in gifts and gift intentions during its first five years, $22.7 million of these funds are designated for scholarships and fellowships.

“My family and our faculty and staff, as well as our alumni, choose to support the hundreds of privately funded scholarships or fellowships at UNLV,” said Deborah Young, director of scholarship and tribute giving. “They are either in daily contact with students, or remember a time when they were struggling students themselves, and it’s a meaningful gesture that they can make to directly help our students.”

Ramirez said the scholarships have played a significant role in her success. “I have enough support for tuition and books, and I have never had to put school second to working in order to pay for tuition.”

Ramirez leveraged Nevada’s Guinn Millennium Scholarship with additional money earmarked for top students. She received an award from a privately funded scholarship set up by HSBC Bank Nevada.

Joking about the advantage of having her father and brother with her at college, she said, “We were the Ramirez triumvirate. My family has always had this bond. (My dad and brother) were in the College of Business, and I was in sciences, and when I finally switched majors to economics, it seemed like everything fell into place.”

Although they never took classes together — the trio was too competitive — they challenged each other for higher grade point averages. Mike and Miguel graduated in December with degrees in finance and management, leaving Stephanie single at UNLV. She will graduate with honors this May with what she calls an understanding of “the sacrifices that others have made to join a bank or investment firm as a research analyst.

Stephanie Ramirez was one of the featured speakers at UNLV’s annual scholarship luncheon on Feb. 1.

More info: Learn more about the new grant programs and download applications at research.unlv.edu/services_grants.html.
Employee Benefits

Getting the Most Out of Your Health Plan

How to Avoid Some Common Mistakes

By Shane Bevill | 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 benefits.

“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.pebp.state.nv.us/help/providersearch.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 often you 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’ insurancecoverage, 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 yearly 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 offer 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 $50 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-network visits that employees can get four teeth cleanings each year. She also encourages employees to take advantage of their plan’s vision benefit.

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 30-year 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 1994, 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.
**Allied Health Sciences**

**Faculty Collaborate on Medical Imaging Projects**

Faculty in health physics are collaborating with Nevada Imaging Centers/Amigenics 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 share 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 non-profit 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-check-out 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.

**Fine Arts**

**Sandy Duncan Heads Glassmenagerie Cast**

Sandy Duncan, star of stage and screen, will play Amanda in the Nevada Conservatory Theatre production of Tennessee Williams’ The 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.

**PAC February Offerings**

The Performing Arts Center welcomes the Moscow Festival Ballet performing Swan Lake on Feb. 14 as part of the Charles Vanda 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.

**Across Campus**

**Sign 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.

“arly 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 stipends than those 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. In addition, each department names an award recipient.

This year’s honorees are:

- Peter C. Bernhard, chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission
- Guy R. Fieri, a 1990 alum and host of the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives"
- Cortney S. Warren, a new assistant professor in psychology, has begun a collaborative effort with Valley High School to integrate eating disorder prevention and research into school health curriculum. After joining UNLV in the fall, Warren found almost no resources in the Clark County School District to prevent or treat eating disorders in local students. The project will develop and test an interactive eating disorder prevention and positive body image promotion program among ethnically and racially diverse male and female teenagers.
- Warren studies the influence of socio-cultural factors on eating disorders and body image. Eating disorders are among the most common yet serious psychological problems facing Americans today. Estimates suggest that about 5 percent of Americans will develop anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa during their lifetimes. Furthermore, eating disorders are associated with some of the highest mortality rates and most debilitating health consequences of any psychological disorder.

The development of eating disorders is strongly linked to Western socio-cultural values of appearance, which prescribe virtually unattainable physical ideals while stipulating that one’s appearance is central to their social value. In American media, for example, young thin females and muscular males with perfect skin, hair, and teeth, dominate fashion media. These images convey the message that attaining that appearance will guarantee social desirability. Although such advertising exists everywhere, they are particularly strong in local media, where billboards, club advertisements, and even work uniforms of hospitality employees communicate these values.

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. As an 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.

During Vallen’s tenure, more than 2,400 students graduated from the college. To recognize Vallen’s dedication to the industry, the college has established an endowed professorship in his name. The professorship will bring distinguished industry or educational leaders to the college.

For ticket information, call Judy Nagai at ext. 5-2934.

Liberal Arts
Professor Studies Factors Influencing Eating Disorders

Cortney S. Warren, a new assistant professor in psychology, has begun a collaborative effort with Valley High School to integrate eating disorder prevention and research into school health curriculum. After joining UNLV in the fall, Warren found almost no resources in the Clark County School District to prevent or treat eating disorders in local students. The project will develop and test an interactive eating disorder prevention and positive body image promotion program among ethnically and racially diverse male and female teenagers.

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Sciences
Physics Taken to New Heights

The department formerly known simply as physics has a new name — the department of physics and astronomy.

The name change was approved by the NSHE Academic Affairs Council in November and took effect Jan. 1.

Dean Ron Yodshin noted that the change is part of several faculty member initiatives. Last year they also created graduate programs in astronomy. The faculty has worked together to strengthen areas of expertise in physics, astronomy, and astrophysics, he said.

Professor emeritus Donna Weistroph, who has moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., since retirement, deserves special congratulations for determination and leadership as do professors Steve Lepp and Jim Belser for never giving up on these initiatives, the dean said.

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Keith Schwer (Center for Business and Economic Research) was awarded the Thayne Robson Award at the annual luncheon for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) annual conference in Memphis, Tenn., in October. He is the most recent of the award honoring the late past president of AUBER. To be eligible for the award, the person must have served as an AUBER member for 15 years; must have served on the AUBER board of directors in a leadership capacity; must have provided outstanding service to the organization; must have exhibited selfless, exceptional, and long-term commitment to the association; and must be an economic and public policy leader in their state.

Michel Hugo (Film) has written Hell’s Threshold, a book of fiction based on historical events dealing with the treason and duplicity of several governments during and after World War II. Published by America, the book is available this month.

Donald Faulkner (Facilities Management and Services) was named employee of the month in the technical/service category for November. A maintenance repair specialist II, he keeps all the buildings water tight as part of the roof shop. He has worked at UNLV for 15 months.

Genie Burkett and Steven Trinkle (Music) performed a series of six concerts for schools and libraries in the Reno area in November. The performances took place in Reno, Duncan-Traver, Verdi, North Valleys, Minden, and Fallon. The programs were funded by a grant from the Nevada Arts Council with assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts and private donors.

Stephanie Parnesi, Eileen Wells, Donald Sims, and Laura Tramposh (Public Safety) recently were hired as UNLV police officers. Previously was a mounted deputy with the Geauga County sheriff’s department in Cleveland for 10 years. Wells came to UNLV from a six-year stint as a state trooper with the Florida Highway Patrol. Sims served as a Henderson police officer for one year and also worked as a personal trainer. She has a bachelor’s degree in recreation management from UNLV. -END-

Frances Ohman (Law Library) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for November. A law library assistant II, she is an evening supervisor at the law library. She has worked at UNLV for a year and a half.

Yu Xu (Nursing) was the keynote speaker at the School of Nursing Research Day at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in late October. The title of her presentation was “Cultural Competence in Nursing Education, Practice, and Research,” subtitled “A Proposal for BIGGER.” She also made this presentation for the doctoral nursing program at the Saint Louis University School of Nursing. He was one of two invited speakers 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, coordinates the information-sharing sessions for administrative assistants, and heads the Sneaker Patrol at Runnin’ Rebels games. An administrative assistant IV, she has worked at UNLV for three years.

James Woodbridge (Philosophy) co-authored (with Bradley Arron-Carb) a paper titled “The Pathology of Truth and Validity,” which will appear in an upcoming issue of the international 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 organization seeks to increase awareness of and support for international education and exchange in higher education, government and non-profit sectors. Members who have international experience and global awareness are crucial to U.S. leadership, competitiveness, and security. Thompson also is a recipient of the national Lily von Klenner award from NAFSA for her service and leadership in the field of international education.

William Calder (Thomas & Mack) was named 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 administrative category for December. A classified employee II, she performs a variety of duties, including handling travel reimbursement and managing graduate student registration. She came to UNLV in 2003 to work at the UNLV Foundation and later transferred to English.

Reprographic Design Services was named classified employee of the month in the technical/services category for December. A duplicating operator supervisor, she oversees the copy center, quick-print area, and binding. She also operates sophisticated copy machines. He has worked at UNLV since 1999.

Martin Dean Dupaulo (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 grant 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 chapters in the book Mass Media Effects: Research, Advances through the Decades (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates). She also is first author on the conference paper, “Do Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors Differ Between Casually Dating and Seriously Dating Individuals?” That examination of relational factors and safer sexual practices was presented 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 convention in December where he also presented a paper titled “Kinesiology and Physical Education Departments in University Tables of Organization.”

Kim Hobbs (Theatre) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for December. An administrative assistant III, she serves as executive assistant to the department chair and to the Nevao 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 (Libraries) delivered the keynote address, “Changing Learning, Changes Roles: It Takes a Village,” at the fifth Information Literacy Conference at the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez 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.unesco.org/iau/be/bologna_process/index.html.

Erika Engstrom (Communication Studies) is co-author of the article “Transvention 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.

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,” published in the May issue of Cancer Cell International.

> ACRROSS CAMPUS

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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: Evanette E. Dennis, national journalism scholar and founding director of Columbia University’s Media Studies Education Center; Patricia LaLama, Emmy award winning television reporter and producer and frequent CNN contributor; Carlos Sanchez, KBLR-TV Telemundo general manager; David Paulson, CBS television executive vice president for research and planning.

The board makes recommendations on strategies that will ensure the students’ 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 Sohn, are generating in the field of journalism education.”

> Inside UNLV

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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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 Langendorf, 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
Meyer 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
husband-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
each member of the UNLV Alumni
Association.

I am a ‘triple’ Rebel as I work at
UNLV fulltime and completed both
my undergraduate and graduate
degrees here. UNLV will always
have a special place in our hearts
and we will forever be Rebels.

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
at the Nevada Small Business
Development Center, where I
learned to help people who wanted to start
a business. Heather came to me
with an idea. It was not a great
idea, but I spent lots of time help-
ing her out just to get to know her
more. She is an artist and was look-
ing 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 Schmier, 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 suite mate. I almost chickened out
d 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.

Sparks Flew In More Than One Sense
Sunny Gittens, Orientation and University Programs
I was fortunate to meet my hus-
bby-to-be was a student in the
humanities department and was
involved in the campus life. When we
met, I was working for Advanced
Entertainment Services, providing the pyrotechnics during
Rebel basketball and football games. In August 1999, I hired Tom to pro-
vide the fireworks at Premier UNLV. Throughout the process of setting
up the show we flirted on the phone. When the event was over, Tom
came to campus to pick up a copy of the commemorative photograph.
It was the end of the workday so of course we went out to dinner. You
could say the sparks were flying. We were married in November 2002,
have a 2-year-old daughter, and are expecting our second daughter in
May. Seven years later Tom is still doing the fireworks at Premier.
We celebrate our anniversary at this event each year.

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, try-
ing to read the microfilm. He didn’t really look up much,
so I intruded and introduced myself as the new person
in charge of microforms. I can still remember how I would call him
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 not 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-
alars 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 process took a lot of time and

Tech Savvy
CEB to Get Top-Notch Network Capabilities
By Mamie Peers | OIT
It will raise a lot of dust, but when it’s done, it
will be worth it.

The “it” is the total overhaul of the network
infrastructure in the Carlson Education Building.
The massive project is com-
pleted late this semester, state-of-the-art tech-
nology will enable professors in the building
to explore new supporting environments for research,
teaching, and collaboration that the existing infra-
structure can’t provide, said David Peers, manager
of network development and engineering in the
students in classrooms in the Clark County School
District.

“We would also like our professors to be
near each other in the same building,” he said.
“Collaboration is extremely important for all
research and outreach communities, including
ours.”

Overhaulin’ — OIT Style
Eugene Moehring and Christine Wiatrowski

Next, he outlined the best locations for data
closets, the rooms that hold all the hardware
and become the main area where all fiber connects.
The upgrade reduces the number of these closets
from six to two. Having fewer data closets will
make them easier to maintain, manage, and secure,
said Gray.

Also, OIT staff collected a list of scheduled
events from the Education College in order to
minimize disruption. Clark County teacher test-
ing is hosted in CEB, for example, and the sound
of a screw dropping to the floor could disrupt the
environment. Project plans include reserving clean,
quiet spaces for critical activities.

CEB also will be converted to IP telephony,
becoming the second building on campus to be
entirely converted to the technology in which the
data network is used for telephone calls rather
than using traditional phone lines. The new stu-
dent union was the first.

Levitt said, “We look forward to May 2007
when CEB will be ahead of something. We envi-
sion a time when our students create lesson
plans here on campus, and then access the files
from classrooms in the Clark County School
District.

“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.
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, glisters 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 undergrad, 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.