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Inside UNLV

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President David Ashley addresses the campus community at his first academic convocation Sept. 12.

Ashley Urges Campus to Set Even Higher Standards
By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Telling the campus community that “now is the time to claim our rightful place in UNLV’s history,” President David Ashley used his first convocation speech to outline a number of changes to come as the university begins its second half-century. Among those are:

• The creation of an ombuds office to give faculty and staff an impartial place to air concerns or resolve conflicts.

Ashley also reiterated his commitment to the core values he has established for UNLV — equity, ecology, and excellence. Pointing to the new position of vice president for diversity and inclusion as an example of his dedication to equity, he said, “This value typifies the very essence of a university — to be inclusive. To be inclusive is to embrace diversity and assure fairness. And to do this is to create a rich academic environment that encompasses a world of opinions. ‘I will hold every dean, every supervisor, and every search committee accountable for producing a diverse pool of applicants for open positions at UNLV.’” Ashley said. “If this principal is violated, the search will be stopped. It is only from the most diverse candidate pool that the best qualified can be selected.”

The Research Development Award supports individuals pursuing a variety of creative and scholarly activities. A total of $100,000 has been allocated.

The Research Infrastructure Awards Program — a one-time allotment of $1 million for college/school-level research infrastructure.

The University Faculty Travel Committee — $100,000 to support faculty as they travel to conferences to conduct research or pursue creative activities. This program is being augmented with an additional $100,000 for graduate students’ research and scholarship.

Harrah’s Foundation Funds INNovation

$30 Million Gift to Benefit College of Hotel Administration
By Erin O’Donnell

By the time this year’s incoming freshmen are ready to graduate, faculty and students in the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration should be experimenting in new labs, testing products for major corporations, and getting real-world experience right here on campus.

Last month, the Harrah’s Foundation announced a gift of $30 million to launch INNovation Village, the college’s proposed new academic hub with an adjoining hotel and convention center.

Dean Stuart Mann said the project will guarantee UNLV remains a leader in hospitality education and research. “We’ve always had a vision of creating a hospitality campus within a campus,” Mann said. “Many things will be created with this gift that don’t exist today. Both the university and Harrah’s are really excited about this opportunity for a continuing partnership.”

Mann hopes UNLV will break ground on INNovation Village by 2009 or 2010. When completed, the academic hub will have traditional classrooms, faculty offices, computer facilities, food and nutrition science labs, teaching kitchens, and a gaming lab.

It’s still conceptual, but Harrah Hotel College faculty can already envision the possibilities. We asked some of them what INNovation Village could mean to their research capabilities, their students, and to the hotel-casino industry at large.

Christine Bergman
Food and beverage professor

Food scientists such as Christine Bergman help manage the process of getting food from farm to market. Her research takes place largely in the lab — but she doesn’t have one of her own at UNLV.

“I spent the summer at a lab in Texas, away from
Focusing on Retention, Graduation

This month President David Ashley addresses the importance of retention and graduation.

In the last column you mentioned that student retention is a key element in planning and budgeting. Can you expand on that?

With state funding based on our enrollment numbers, it can be easy to focus on our volume of students. However, it is critical that the campus community understands that retaining our students and improving our graduation rate should be at the forefront. From a practical standpoint, it costs less to have a student continue toward graduation than it does to recruit new ones. More importantly, I believe that it is our responsibility to ensure that, once students are here, we do everything we can to help them attain their degrees. I hope every person on campus sees his or her role in this charge. We will improve our graduation rates only through campuswide efforts — not just initiatives in admissions and student life, or in the classroom and advising centers.

What are our retention numbers?

Our freshman-to-sophomore retention rate is 70 percent — the lowest among our peers in the Carnegie Comprehensive Doctoral classification. We are near the bottom in terms of degree completion, with a range of 39-42 percent, while our peers average 55 percent.

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Our freshman-to-sophomore retention rate is 70 percent — the lowest among our peers in the Carnegie Comprehensive Doctoral classification. We are near the bottom in terms of degree completion, with a range of 39-42 percent, while our peers average 55 percent. Frankly, these numbers are unacceptable.

So, why is our retention rate low?

There are many factors that play into retention. A key one for UNLV is the balance between full-time and part-time students. When we compare ourselves to other universities with a high number of part-time students, we are on par with our peers in retention and persistence rates; but average among this group is not what we aspire to be.

We have seen a slight increase in part-time students each year since 2004, and last year a full 30 percent of our undergraduates attended part-time. It’s an uncomfortable trend, one that is unhealthy for a university with our ambitions. Nor does it serve our students well; studies show that students with a full course load are much more likely to complete their degrees.

Although the strong, local job market may be driving this part-time trend, we need to focus on the things we can control and take appropriate action. Is our environment welcoming to students from all backgrounds? Are the schedules serving the students’ needs? Can we improve financial aid and enrollment processes? Do students have enough access to advising?

What is UNLV currently doing to improve its retention?

I have mentioned before that UNLV now has first-rate facilities that will go a long way to promoting a culture of full-time enrollment. The Student Union, Student Recreation and Wellness Center, and library are helping make the campus both an academic and social home for our students. Our next development is the planned First-Year Center, which will be housed in University College. This redirects current resources to give students a defined place for successfully making the transition to university studies. Here they will learn about the many opportunities and resources our university offers them.

Another important step relates to our more stringent GPA requirements. GPA is one predictor of student success. So, when I was pleased when the regents recently gave us greater flexibility to consider other predictors of success, such as a student’s demonstrated leadership in a university setting, I was pleased when the regents recently gave us greater flexibility to consider other predictors of success, such as a student’s demonstrated leadership in a university setting.

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Taking a Strategic Look at UNLV’s Future

Leigh V. Bejar

Continued from Page 1

my family. I really, really don’t want to do that any-
more,” said Bergman, who came to UNLV three
years ago from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Bergman said she needs to perform more com-
plex experiments with analytical and physical
property instrumentation. Her food science class
— a requirement for all nutrition and food and
property instrumentation. Her food science class
years ago from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Bergman kicked off the planning process last month at a campuswide
presentation that laid out the chal-

University Life...getBlock

Lighting Up the Night
The Rebel Connection helped wel-
come 28,000 students to campus
during the first week of school.
Faculty, staff, and students filled
more than 400 volunteer jobs, and
passed out more than 5,000 cam-

pus maps and 25,000 bottles of
water. More than 2,800 members
of the UNLV community attended
Premier UNLV (left), honoring the
university’s 50th anniversary.
Allied Health

One of UNLV’s Oldest Programs Receives Reaccreditation

The radiography program in the department of health physics recently concluded its reaccreditation process with very positive review from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. Director George Palesi said the committee found the program to meet every standard of accreditation and identified numerous strengths. A formal award will be presented later this year.

The program, which has been in existence more than 40 years, is one of the oldest at UNLV. It trains entrants in the use of imaging technology to serve the Southern Nevada community. Three full-time and five part-time faculty and one administrative assistant staff the program. It is one of the nation’s largest radiography programs, accepting 50 students each year into the two-year certificate of completion program. Many graduates of this program continue their UNLV imaging education by entering the bachelor’s degree in Computed Tomography Imaging/Imaging Science, an imaging bachelor of science program to gain added education and credentialing in CT, MRI, or ultrasound.

Business

Donation Helps Expand MIS Courses

IBM pledged $160,000 to the college to create two new courses targeted toward students in management to create two new courses targeted toward students in management to create two new courses. The Mendenhall Innovation Program in the department of management and information systems is developing the graduate version for its when their graveyard shifts ended.”

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Across Campus

Honors

College Welcomes New Students

A total of 108 new students joined the college last month.

At a welcoming ceremony, students and family members heard from honors faculty member Maria Jelinec-Pavica and Daniel Villanueva of foreign languages, who described the high academic standards expected in honors courses. They also heard the “other side of the story” from upper-division honors students Sean Akari, Michael Amato-Von Hentet, Elizabeth Ashbaugh, and David Cotter.

Lisa Chastain, director of advising, provided perspective on the need for new students to work with academic advisors from both the Honors College and from their respective discipline colleges to ensure they are making sufficient academic progress.

Finally, parents got interesting news from Interim Dean Peter Starkweather as he outlined the rules associated with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which mandates that grade reports be provided only to the student in question. The orientation concluded with a luncheon and comments from President David Ashley and Executive Vice President and Provost Neal Smatresk.

In other news, Honors student Shripa De is the first UNLV student to be honored by the Philip L. and Maria D. Campos Philanthropic Fund, a recipient of their new “Emerging Scholar Award.” Shripa is one of only 60 rising sophomores nationwide to receive this recognition.

Hotel

College Career Center Opens

The Bob Boughner Career Services Center, created with a $1.2 million gift from local gaming executive Robert Boughner, is up and running.

Housed on the first floor of Beam Hall, the center encourages students to explore career opportunities during their freshman and sophomore years and then continue the process throughout college. It provides information on large international companies as well as local and national hotels, restaurants, gaming venues, and other hospitality venues.

Bobbie Francis, college alumnus with nearly two decades of experience in the hospitality industry, serves as director. She credits the college for her experiences and now wants to use her knowledge to offer students similar opportunities. In addition, she hopes to provide a positive experience for hospitality businesses so they are eager to help students with jobs.

Comparing her duties to those at previous jobs, she said that much like making sure guests have an enjoyable experience, she will ensure employers have a great experience at UNLV.

Law

School Events

Promote Exchange of Ideas

As the new semester starts, faculty, staff, and students are looking forward to the dedication of the recently completed Thomas & Mack Moot Court facility. Housing a state-of-the-art courtroom, it is another manifestation of the tremendous generosity the Thomas and Mack families have shown the law school and UNLV.

Water Issues Conference: The school will host the all-day conference Collaboration and the Colorado River in the new facility Oct. 12. The conference will bring water and environmental experts together with specialists in dispute resolution to examine water and land-use issues relevant to the region. The school’s Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution is sponsoring the event.

Lecture: On Dec. 6, the Saltman Center will continue its Peace in the Desert lecture series with Dennis Ross, former director of policy planning under President George H.W. Bush and special Middle East envoy for President Bill Clinton. These events, along with speakers and other guests at the school, represent the continued commitment to making the school a center for the exchange of ideas within the legal academy and here on campus. Look for new programs, additional speakers, and increased opportunities for the campus community and the school to share our work over the next year.

Libraries

Special Collections Offers Treasures from UNLV’s Past

University Libraries makes preparations for UNLV’s 50th anniversary a lot easier by providing greater access to the unique materials in the archives. UNLV’s special collections department was established in July 1967 as the first repository for historical documents in Southern Nevada, including important materials on the early history of UNLV — the university archives.

In summer 2006, Tom Sommer became the newest archivist within special collections and was given the assignment to refine and expand the archives. He focused on organization, classification, and an increased web presence.

He extensively updated the university archives webpages to add photographs and descriptions of the various record series, including university publications. They now include FAQs, a bibliography of published works on UNLV, and timelines on the university’s history, buildings, and presidents. Sommer will continue to add more content and links to the university archives webpages over time.

In the meantime, the newly revised webpages, www.library.unlv.edu/special/university_archives/index should be useful during the 50th anniversary year.

Sciences

Bucked the Trend: Geoscientist First Woman to Win Award

Brenda J. Buck, associate professor of geoscience, received the Soil Science Society of America’s top award, recognizing her professional achievement in mineralogy and soil chemistry.

Buck is the 16th recipient and first woman to receive this prestigious award. The Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Soil Science Award recognizes a midcareer soil scientist who has had a profound effect on the field nationally and internationally.

Buck is one of the world’s foremost experts on arid soils. The citation acknowledges her “outstanding advances” in the fields of soil-geomorphology, landscape evolution, micromorphology, tectonics, paleoclimate, geoarchaeology, and heavy-metal and radionuclide contamination. She is active in national and international soil and geology research and has served with the National Science Foundation and the International Union of Soil Science.

Buck was recently selected to lead a collaborative grant project ($382,153) with scientists from the U.S. Department of the Interior; U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and UNLV, to assess the effects of air quality in areas of Clark County. Buck and her colleagues will provide technical assistance to land management agencies under the Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, a cooperative effort with BLM.

Engineering professors Darrell Buck and Nicholas Wang, James King and Vic Etyemezian of the Desert Research Institute, and two postdoctoral appointees in the geoscience department, Dirk Goossens and Brett McLaurin, will collaborate on the project.

University College

Alum Joins Faculty

The college welcomes new faculty member Joshua Kryah. He holds a Ph.D. in English from UNLV and has extensive experience in advising and mentoring students earning interdisciplinary degrees.

The college also congratulates professor Julian Smith, who has taught in the college for several years as visiting faculty, and now has been appointed to a professor-in-residence position.

Exploration Fair Set for Oct. 4

All colleges at UNLV are invited to participate in University College’s Majors Exploration Fair on Oct. 4 in the Student Union. Hundreds of undeclared students have the opportunity to meet faculty and learn more about UNLV’s variety of degree programs.

Urban Affairs

Environmental Studies

Hosts Technology Conference

The department of environmental studies hosted the International Symposium on Technology and Society, the annual conference of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers’ Society on Social Implications of Technology.

“Risk, Vulnerability, Uncertainty, Technology and Society” was the theme. Presentation topics included nuclear weapons and nuclear waste management, gambling and society, and energy and resources and society.

College presenters among the 75 attendees included environmental studies chair David M. Hassenzahl and environmental studies Ph.D. student Renee Rahoy, who also served as conference chair and conference coordinator, respectively; faculty members Timothy Farnham and William Smith of environmental studies; Julian Kilker of journalism and media studies; and environmental studies graduate students Ted Greenhalgh, Carmel Létourneau, and Dennis Bechtel.

Several of the conference papers will be published in a special issue of Technology and Society, the journal of the Society on Social Implications of Technology, Hassenzahl is its editor.

Lapping It Up

The new Student Recreation and Wellness Center opened Sept. 17. The building includes high-tech weight and fitness rooms, swimming pools, and basketball, volleyball, and racquetball courts. Call ext. 4-7100 for membership information.

Inside UNLV | Page 8
imaging incoming containers.

received funding from the Institute for Academic Engagement with primary caretakers. She also was an invited speaker at the 10th annual Regents’ Academy at Mt. Charleston. They were joined by junior faculty from all NSHE institutions for three days of intensive examination of teaching practices, course development methodologies, and discipline-specific applications. The goal of the program is to advance faculty members’ teaching skills at an early stage of their professional lives so that time and energy can be directed at productive scholarly research activities.

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She has worked at UNLV since 1998.

an employee of the month in the custodial category for July. A custodial worker I, he has worked at UNLV since 2001.

Sue Fawn Chung (History) assisted in preparing an exhibit on the history and accomplishments of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA) for the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum in San Francisco. The exhibit opened at the end of July in conjunction with the national CACA conference. Her study on the Chinese mining community in Island Mountain, which is located in Nye County, will be presented at the annual conference of the Organization of American Historians in New York in March.

Lisa Howard (Thomas & Mack) was named classified employee at the month in the technical/service category for July. An IT technician I, she retired after more than a year as a classified employee at UNLV Libraries and three years as a student worker. She earned her bachelor’s degree in business from UNLV in 1970.

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See SPOTLIGHT, Page 7
Judy Ries
Administrative assistant, facilities management

Judy’s Tip
“As the leave keeper for nearly 400 employees, sometimes it’s tough to satisfy everyone’s needs and still maintain a positive attitude. People can get pretty frustrated when there are errors. Reassuring them that they will get help immediately is key.”

Don’t Leave a Paper Trail: Go Electronic

By Shane Bevill | Marketing & PR

Do you have a stack of old payroll stubs at your desk? If so, you are probably not alone. However, the university wants to help you change that.

The controller’s office annual update of key business policies has now been posted online at controller.unlv.edu. There are also key financial contacts and website resources for more information.

“From a security standpoint, employees should be careful about where they are leaving their pay stubs.”

All employees can access their pay stubs online, whether they receive the paperless advice or not. This feature comes in handy when employees need copies for loan applications.

Follow these steps to begin receiving a paperless payroll advice:
1. Login to EQUUS at hr.unlv.edu/equus_external.html
2. Click on the payroll tab at the top of the page
3. Click on the direct deposit link at the top left
4. Change from printed to web advice on the drop down menu

“Once your paperless pay advice is ready, you will receive an e-mail with a link to your advice on the EQUUS site. For security reasons, the advice doesn’t come directly to your e-mail.”

*Call human resources at ext. 5-3504 for more information.

Inside UNLV

Inside UNLV welcomes comments and suggestions. Please e-mail inside.unlv.edu or drop a note to Inside UNLV at 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., 3rd floor, Las Vegas, NV 89109.

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## Share Service Savvy

By Grace Russell | Marketing & PR

Before joining UNLV four years ago, Judy Ries worked in the grocery business for 25 years. Even with that lengthy experience with the public, she wanted to hone her customer service skills. So, she attended the workshop, Advanced Connections: Moving Quality Service Beyond the Basics, offered through the UNLV office of staff development and employee relations.

“We all know how to give good customer service, but a little refresher course never hurts,” said Ries. “The training in the training course really hit home and gave me renewed efforts not to repeat any of them.”

The workshop explores new ways to address everyday situations. Additionally, the training provides tips on face-to-face and telephone communications.

To enhance your customer service skills, Hilary Bockstanz, director of the office of staff development and employee relations, offers these tips:

1. **Support Your Colleagues**
   - If you see your co-worker confronted with a tough customer, step in to see if you can help diffuse the situation or suggest a suitable solution.

2. **Ask and Invite Questions**
   - Often students and employees may not know what questions to ask. Ask them questions to check their understanding and to prevent future problems and confusion.

3. **Share Information Across Department Lines**
   - Avoid duplication of effort and save time by communicating with other campus departments. Communicating such work with other departments can help you provide a better level of service.

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Inside UNLV is a monthly publication by the office of Marketing & Public Relations. UNLV is an AA/EOE Institution.
By Grace Russell | Marketing & PR

Returning alumni, parades, and tailgate parties — though UNLV has changed over the years, the excitement of homecoming remains.

Homecoming festivities will kick off Oct. 16 with the grand opening of the 50th Anniversary Memorabilia Exhibition at the Barrick Museum of Natural History. The week’s activities also include a parade, a golf tournament, and a pep rally. They will culminate Oct. 20 with a football game against Colorado State. Members of the campus community can show their support of the university and the football team by wearing red for Rebel Red Day on Oct. 19.

More info: For a complete list of homecoming 2007 activities, log onto celebrating50.unlv.edu.

Time-Honored Tradition

(Left) UNLV students participate in the 2006 homecoming parade held on campus. This year’s parade will be Saturday, Oct. 20, at Sam Boyd Stadium. (Below) “Honorary Homecoming Queen” Tanya the elephant poses with a UNLV drill team member in 1971. See this photo and other UNLV memorabilia at the grand opening of the 50th Anniversary Memorabilia Exhibition on Oct. 16 at the Barrick Museum.

(Top) UNLV football teammates huddle during the Nebraska game in 1998. Some photos are from the 50th Anniversary Memorabilia Exhibition at the Barrick Museum. (Above) Faculty, staff, and students are invited to cheer on the football team at a pep rally and barbecue 11 a.m. Oct. 18. (Left) Senior defensive back Tony Cade tackles a Utah State player during the 2007 season-opening game. UNLV started the season off right with a 23-16 win over the Aggies. The Rebels will take on Colorado State 6 p.m. Oct. 20 at Sam Boyd Stadium. Purchase tickets at unlvtickets.com or call 739-3267.