New Leadership, New Questions

Dr. Carol C. Harter, UNLV President
Alumni, students, and those who have helped celebrate Homecoming in years past know that the UNLV Alumni Association plans several days of great events and activities every fall. This year, the celebration will be better than ever!

**Homecoming Schedule of Events**

**Thursday, November 2**—Special Class Reunion for graduates of the Colleges of Health Sciences and Hotel Administration, 6 p.m., Richard Tam Alumni Center, $15 per person. Homecoming floats on display in the Moyer Student Union parking lot. Student Variety Show, 7 p.m., Moyer Student Union.

**Friday, November 3**—Pep Rally, 11:30 a.m., Alumni Amphitheater, free. Giant Homecoming Celebration and Class Reunions for Classes of '70, '75, and '85, 6:30 p.m., Richard Tam Alumni Center, $10. Dinner (served) at the Richard Tam Alumni Center, presentation by football coach Jeff Horton, and introduction of Homecoming King and Queen and Alumnus of the Year to follow.

**Saturday, November 4**—Great Alumni Tailgate Party, 10:30 a.m., Alumni Park at Sam Boyd Stadium.

- **UNLV/North Texas State University Football Game, 1 p.m., Sam Boyd Stadium**

**Monday, November 6**—Alumni Golf Tournament, noon, Canyon Gate Country Club.

For more information, call the UNLV Alumni Relations Office at 895-3621 or 1-800-829-ALUM.
New Leadership, New Questions
Recently appointed UNLV President Carol C. Harter has begun to identify some key questions about the university's future. Many of the answers, she believes, will come from the university community itself.

BY TOM FLAGG

Dedicated to Nature by Nature
At times it's been a dirty job, but UNLV alumna Tara Pike has brought uncommon commitment to many campus environmental projects.

BY DONNA MCALEER

Reel-Life Experience
When UNLV students work on the sets of major film and television productions, it's bound to be good for the storytelling.

BY FRANCISCO MENENDEZ

Recovering A Sense of Enjoyment
Leisure studies professor Cynthia Carruthers is using her research to help recovering alcoholics find ways to enjoy their lives without drinking.

BY SUZAN DIBELLA

An Alumnus for the Prosecution
Clark County District Attorney Stewart Bell, a 1967 graduate of Nevada Southern University, wants to give something back to his community by making it a safer place to live.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

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More Than $2 Million Pledged for Valedictorian Scholarships

UNLV's 10-year-old Valedictorian Scholarship Program has received perpetual funding in excess of $2 million in the form of an endowment.

The donation, which came through the UNLV Foundation from the Mary V. Hughes Trust, will create the John F. and Mary V. Hughes Scholarship Endowment in their memory.

This program provides $10,000 UNLV scholarships to high school valedictorians in Nevada. Mary "Mitz" Hughes is the third major benefactor of UNLV's Valedictorian Scholarship Program.

The program was created in 1985 through a gift of $1 million from hotel-casino owner Margaret Irardi. Financial support from that program went to 129 of Nevada's top high school graduates. The Golden Nugget Corp. and, later, Mirage Resorts, Inc., continued the funding beginning in 1991, and the scholarships were named in honor of former UNLV Foundation Chair Elaine Wynn. More than $1 million provided Elaine Wynn Valedictorian Scholarships to 181 students.

The endowment is the third major gift from John and Mitz Hughes. They were members of the UNLV Foundation President's Associates, contributing $500,000 in 1991 to support student services at the university. UNLV recognized their gift by naming a campus residence hall the Johnny and Mitz Hughes Hall in their honor. In 1992, Mitz Hughes donated $300,000 to create the Mitz Hughes Honors Endowment.

New Executive Director to Lead UNLV Foundation

A new executive director of the UNLV Foundation has been selected.

John Gallagher, whose academic and administrative career spans more than 20 years, came to UNLV from Tacoma, Wash., where he was vice president for university relations at the University of Puget Sound. Before that, he was assistant vice president of university relations and director of development at Seattle University.

His development experience began when he founded the department of corporate and foundation relations at St. Martin's College in Olympia, Wash. His shift to development and fund raising came after many years as a faculty member in the division of political science, where he served as associate dean and associate professor.

Gallagher is well known within the academic development community. He contributed a chapter to the book Annual Giving Strategies: A Comprehensive Guide to Better Results, published by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). He has also served as a chairman, panelist, facilitator, and presenter at numerous development conferences.

Gallagher holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Washington.

International Game Technology Donates $1 Million

A $1 million donation from International Game Technology to UNLV will establish the International Game Technology Library, featuring the Gary Royer Gaming Collection, in the UNLV International Gaming Institute.

The gift came from the IGT Foundation to the UNLV International Gaming Institute through the UNLV Foundation. The Reno-based donor is the leading manufacturer of slot machines and proprietary software systems and an innovator in slot technology.

The donation will be used to purchase a unique collection of gaming-related materials compiled by Gary Royer, a Reno CPA and author of numerous books on gaming, according to Vince Eade, director of the UNLV International Gaming Institute. The institute, which will house the IGT Library and make it available for research and educational purposes through the library's special collections department, is part of the internationally known William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration.

The collection will be organized into five sections and will include information on gambling law, gaming control and management, gambling vendors and manufacturers, casinos, race tracks, specific games, and the history, sociology, and psychology of gambling.

President Carol Harter Brings New Leadership to UNLV

By Tom Flagg

By the time this issue of UNLV Magazine reaches its readers, Dr. Carol C. Harter will have been in office as the university's seventh chief executive officer for some two months, and the planning process that she started will give new direction to UNLV will be underway.

President Harter, who was appointed by the UCCSN Board of Regents in February after a national search, came to UNLV from the State University of New York at Geneseo, a school in upstate New York that is nationally known for the quality of its undergraduate programs. She had served there as president and professor of English since 1989. Prior to her tenure at Geneseo, Harter served as vice president for administration and vice president and dean of students at Ohio University.

In addition to a great deal of energy and enthusiasm for her new job, Harter brings to UNLV a strong commitment to participatory planning, internal management, and student life. She also hopes to foster a feeling of community and family at the university. One of her first actions was to call for a planning retreat on Aug. 21 and 22 (after this issue of the magazine went to press) at the Thomas & Mack Center. The intent of the two-day session was to bring together 100 people from various areas of the campus to work with facilitators from the Pew Higher Education Roundtable in an effort to begin identifying key questions about the university's future.

Harter wants to make the planning process a truly university-wide, inclusive effort. She envisions the process of developing a mission and goals statement taking at least a year.

"I don't think there is any way to shorten it and still have the kind of participation that we need," she said.

"When we have completed this first phase, I want every faculty and staff member, as well as student leaders, to know where we are going in terms of these major issues. Then when people see an action taken, they will know where it comes from."

Harter sees an overall theme in the process: "It is how to create an academic community, in the liveliest and best sense of the term, where we care about each other and work for the institution's well-being, where we take off our departmental hat and put on our institutional hat, where we care about the same values, where we share a sense of the institution's future and its progress."

The following are some of the questions and ideas Harter hopes to see addressed in the planning retreat:

- Is the university structured in a way that will best advance its goals? If not, how do we restructure it in helpful ways?
- How do we balance quantitative growth with qualitative improvement?
- Are we going to say we want to become qualitatively better rather than quantitatively larger, and what are the strategies that will lead us there?

- How much does this institution want to move its efforts, energies, and resources more toward graduate education and research? How much more does it want to point toward enhanced undergraduate education? Or does it want to do both things simultaneously better than it is doing them now?
- Might our strengths and our future lie in more in the areas of professional, environmental, and interdisciplinary programs than in the more traditional offerings?
- Do we want to become a more selective institution in terms of which students come to us for undergraduate education? If so, will the access issue — which is very real, especially in a state with only two major universities — be largely accommodated by the booming growth of the community colleges?

These are just a few of the many issues the campus will face in the coming years, Harter said, adding that she hopes all members of the university community will consider them carefully.
Alumni Association Plans Football Trip

Travel with the UNLV Alumni Association to cheer on the Rebels when they meet their traditional football rivals, the UNR Wolfpack, on Oct. 28 in Reno.

The association has two packages planned—one of which includes play in the annual Sandblast Open golf tournament. Both trips include lodging at the Reno Hilton and airfare.

For golfers traveling with the alumni group, the trip will begin Oct. 26 with a flight to Reno. The Sandblast Open will take place the following day at the Rosewood Lake golf course. The Sandblast Open pairs supporters of UNLV against supporters of UNR and serves as a scholarship fund raiser.

Money earned through the tournament is divided evenly between scholarship funds at the two universities.

On Oct. 28 the group will attend the UNLV vs. UNR football game and return to Las Vegas that night. The cost of the trip is $341. The second group—for non-golfers—will leave Las Vegas on Oct. 27 and return after the football game the following day. The cost of that trip is $241.

To make reservations or to obtain additional information, call the Alumni Relations Office at 895-3621.

Anthony Saville Receives Alumni Award

Anthony Saville, professor of educational administration and higher education, has been chosen as the 1995 recipient of the UNLV Alumni Association's Outstanding Faculty Award.

The association's awards committee selected Saville based on positive evaluations of his teaching, writing, and research from students and faculty.

Saville, the former dean of UNLV's College of Education, has consistently received high marks on his student evaluations for his teaching methods. In particular, students have praised the practicality of his courses.

The award has been an Alumni Association tradition since 1975.

Journal Editorship Comes to UNLV

Education professor John Readeen was recently named editor of Reading Research Quarterly, one of the most widely read literacy research journals in the world.

The journal is published by the International Reading Association, a 92,000-member organization of reading educators from around the world.

Last year, the association conducted an international search for new editors. Readeen competed with scholars from a number of prestigious schools, including Rutgers University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois, and Texas A&M University.

According to Readeen, the editorship will enable UNLV to help guide literacy research into the next century. He will continue editing the publication through the year 2000.
While researching her thesis, Deacon, the director of UNLV's waste-stream study at selected locations in the Southern Nevada Environmental Studies program, volunteered beyond, "was effective when she first got here, but several weeks the project was not as successful as she had hoped. Tara's attitude was 'Let's just do it.' But I was young and idealistic. Now, I know there are no easy answers. There will also be another $53,000 in estimated savings through lower maintenance costs (no mowing, no sprinkler heads, no water usage to trace) in those areas.

Pike, a member and facilitator of the SCOPE program, has also been involved in other projects. One of which is the campus Desert Landscape Project. The goal of the project is to convert 18 acres of grass on campus to desert landscaping. Once the grass is removed and drought-tolerant plants and new water delivery systems are in place, it's estimated that campus landscaping water usage could be cut by some 30 percent. In 1994 water-cost dollars, that's $150,000 saved. There will also be another $53,000 in estimated savings through lower maintenance costs (no mowing, no sprinkler heads, no water usage to trace) in those areas.

Since the grass will remain green in other parts of campus, Pike has also been busy thinking of ways to recycle green waste, such as grass clippings and tree chips. She is trying to establish a composting demonstration garden on campus.

For the last several years, Pike has also helped organize UNLV's Earth Day, an event that seeks to increase awareness of environmental issues. In a change from past celebrations, Earth Day was held on a Friday this year at Pike's urging, allowing many school children to visit the exhibits and enjoy the activities on field trips. Her work as a volunteer and member in environmental studies has combined nicely to give her an excellent academic foundation enhanced by real-world experience. Asked how she has managed to balance her school work with all of her other activities, Pike laughs. "I've never had much trouble."

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When UNLV students work on the sets of major film and television productions, it's bound to be good for the storytelling. Here, one film studies professor tells the students' tales of learning about the industry, encountering their screen heroes, and just plain getting the job done.

Director Martin Scorsese watches the monitor intently. He sits in his director's chair placed against the wall of a kitchen facility in a rented hall near downtown Las Vegas.

"Action!"

The camera begins by framing up on Academy Award-winning actor Joe Pesci sharing a story with some wannabe gangsters at the side of a bar. Then the Steadicam operator glides off, exploring the large room past some "wiseguys" watching an old 1940s film noir on TV. The camera comes to a gentle stop when the Steadicam reaches the table of the head Mafioso playing cards with a crooked cop. The old Mafioso stares at his cards, furrowing his brow as he thinks of his next move.

The movie is renowned filmmaker Martin Scorsese's Casino. It is the middle of January '95, and the picture has been shooting in Nevada for the past few months. Though the scene is a minor one, the crew is anxious, as they are a week away from wrapping up principal photography, and the challenging shoot is almost over.

A few feet from Scorsese sits UNLV film studies major Jason Goedeker, who has spent the fall semester working as an intern on Casino and the past three weeks as a paid assistant for the camera department. His job: to place Scorsese's monitor in the right position and to ensure that the line from the camera is connected to it.

It might not be the most glamorous job description in the film industry, but Goedeker, 25, knows that a slip-up on his part could halt production, a costly and embarrassing scenario he'd prefer to avoid. So he's vigilant at his post, watching his own black and white monitor and waiting for the word "cut" to break the tension. When it comes, he is relieved.

It is less than a year since Goedeker completed his own 16mm film in the Film Production I class at UNLV. He, like other film studies majors, has devoted a great deal of time and effort to writing, planning, and shooting his own projects. But now the game is different; Goedeker is watching firsthand how the professionals make a movie.

He is one of more than a dozen students the UNLV film studies program has placed as interns or paid professionals in the film industry, from the tedious setting up of scenes to see them in action and to hear how the job is going. Their accounts of their experiences on the set, a few of which I will relate here, speak to the value of such real-world training. They also offer an amusing inside look at the film industry.

But first, I'll set the stage by providing some facts about the film industry and the students who hope to break into it.

Every year, film schools around the country produce approximately 4,000 film studies graduates. Dezso Magyar, director of the American Film Institute's fellowship program, estimates that only 5 to 10 percent of those 26,000 will actually find their way into the film industry.

Some of those students have paid their institutions as much as $100,000 for a chance to get experience behind the lens. In that context, the film studies program at UNLV is a bargain to the aspiring film student. Here, they have an opportunity to learn how to shoot, write, and think about film for a fraction of the cost of the average film school.

My focus is not only to provide them with that experience in a liberal arts setting, but to ensure that they stand a chance of getting a taste of the industry before they graduate. Obviously, not all of our majors want to work in the industry. Some will go on to obtain advanced degrees and serve in careers in higher education; others want to work outside the mainstream, focusing on avant-garde and experimental film. But a substantial number, like Goedeker, want to compete for the big brass ring — the opportunity to take the coveted role of director on a Hollywood feature film.

I am reminded of the joke about the talking dog that was being interviewed by Johnny Carson on The Tonight Show. "It is amazing," Johnny told his guest. "You are a dog, an ordinary house-kept pet, yet here you are being interviewed on my show."

"Yes," responded the dog, "it is amazing. But what I really want to do..."
This desire among students to lead the cast and crew of a feature film grows yearly and prompts many of them to demand answers on how to crack the film industry. They have read about the outrageously high salaries that the industry promises the director, and as they relish the notion of putting their visions on film, the prospect sounds pretty tantalizing to the young creative mind.

But the film set can be a rude awakening to students, as it provides them with a realistic view of how a film gets made, revealing the cast and crew of a feature film grows with a realistic view of how a film gets made. In the summer of 1994, and the desert sun beat down on the arid landscape of the Valley of Fire, one of the shoots took place. This week his job as a production assistant entailed carrying large cases of drinks from one end of the set to the trailer door. DeNiro was in the middle of filming a scene when he received a call from his personal assistant. He then picked up the three heavy cases of beverages he was carrying up the hill to the camera crew.

As he set the cases down, a moment to take a break, he looked up the hill and saw two familiar figures approaching the small, portable dressing room.

"Excuse me, gentlemen. Would you mind if I took a picture with the two of you?"

Shaner and Stewart stopped to stare at O'Hair, who was doing his best to sell them the idea with a winning smile. The captains exchanged glances, then studied O'Hair and his three crates. Finally, Stewart broke the silence.

"After lunch," he said in his commanding voice.

As the captains walked past him toward their trailers, O'Hair sighed. He knew there would be no picture, reminding himself that that was why he locked his camera in his car on the first place.

"Get to work," he thought to himself. "Just do it."

He then returned to his task, putting the heavy cases of drinks and continued his work.

This is the willingness to do a constant is that you have to do your job well. No matter what the assignment is, you gotta give it your all. No complaints, no fuss. Just do it.

As the work of production assistant entails carrying large cases of drinks from one end of the set to the trailer door, DeNiro stood framed in the doorway. He was dressed in the business suit he wears in the movie. He was clean shaven, his face somehow managed to evoke every character that he has ever played.

Immediately, Myler stood at attention and gave him a mock salute. DeNiro returned it with a big grin. This was either a routine they had or a way to impress the professor. He invited us inside.

"So tell me, what's he like?" DeNiro asked.

"Who?"

"Cory. What was he like in school?"

I was myself a little starstruck at that point, I could hardly believe Jake LaMotta was interviewing me about one of my students. I stumbled around for the right words, but figured it was probably the wrong time to check if he really called up Myler at 4:30 a.m.

"Fine. Good student. Has he been good so far?"

DeNiro's big smile was straight out of one of his movies.


We talked more about Myler in class and the film studies program in general. Journalists have always portrayed him as shy and reclusive, but he seemed comfortable as long as he was asking the questions.

Myler stood in the corner organizing his clipboard. He dialed a number on the cellular phone and spoke in hushed tones so as not to interrupt the interview.

That's just the right touch, I thought. Do the job, no fuss. And try to blend into the woodwork.

Another important characteristic for a production assistant is the willingness to do a seemingly simple task well. It's an aspect of the job that student David Scofield took very seriously during his time on the set of the television series Northern Exposure. Given the fact that Scofield, 33, had completed his bachelor's degree in accounting three years earlier and then returned to school to pursue his film dreams, it was clear that he was committed to working in the film industry. Just how committed he became was clear on that day.

The weather on the Redmond, Wash., set had not been conducive to rehearsing his week-long cold. But for his task that day, he would rise to meet the challenge. It was the day he would later recall as his "baptism into the film industry."

It was the day he got to clap the slate.
Recovering
A Sense of Enjoyment

UNLV professor Cynthia Carruthers is using her research to help recovering alcoholics find ways to enjoy their leisure without drinking.

BY SUZAN DIBELLA

Harry's life sounded like an ad for Charter Hospital: He spent most of his time drinking and gambling compulsively. Faithfully shy and extremely self-conscious, he didn't have much of a social life. Alcohol and casinos were his chief forms of entertainment, though they drained him emotionally and financially. As his life spiraled out of control, he knew he needed help, but wasn't sure where to look first.

At that point, you can bet he wouldn't have thought to look in a scholarly journal.

But, ironically, for Harry* — and many others like him — help would come in the form of an education program that grew out of the scholarly research of UNLV leisure studies professor Cynthia Carruthers. Her study of how people use alcohol to enhance their leisure time has produced some telling insights into the way that alcoholics think, behave, and, perhaps most importantly, respond to recovery programs.

*Carruthers became interested in the subject while working in a residential program for people with addictions to help pay for her graduate education in therapeutic recreation. After finishing her master's degree, it occurred to her that the primary focus of therapeutic recreation in the context of such a program is to help people with addictions use their leisure time in a way that supports their recovery and makes it enjoyable.

"If they don't know how to enjoy their lives when they're in recovery, they're not very likely to stay in recovery," says Carruthers, who has since become a certified addictions counselor. "If alcohol and drugs facilitate their enjoyment of their leisure and they don't have the skills necessary to create positive leisure experiences for themselves without those chemicals, they may go back to them as a crutch."

So Carruthers set out to discover more about alcohol use and leisure.

Although we have always looked at how to help people enjoy their lives without the use of alcohol or drugs, we haven't really known what function they serve in enhancing the leisure experience," she says. "We had a sense that there was a relationship, but it had never really been explored."

Based on the simple question, "Why do people drink in their leisure time?" Carruthers developed a year-long study, later published in The Journal of Leisure Research, that began with a telephone survey of 1,000 Southern Nevadans. Initially asking participants about their leisure experiences in general, Carruthers went on to narrow the focus of her study to drinking and leisure. She then asked those surveyed to participate in a follow-up mail survey that concentrated quite specifically on alcohol consumption patterns.

What she found was that people expect alcohol to produce many of the same qualities that are essential conditions of the overall leisure experience. For instance, they expect alcohol to help them psychologically disengage from day-to-day routines, feel more comfortable in social settings,
and become more immersed in their leisure activities. She also found that people who drink more frequently are also more often involved in leisure activities that take them outdoors or into the community to socialize, such as going out to dinner with friends or traveling. The idea seemed to be that alcohol was being used to enhance the positive qualities of the leisure experience.

But occasionally, instead of enhancing the leisure activity, alcohol consumption becomes the leisure activity and drinking becomes problematic. That is when the implications of Carruthers’ research take on special significance.

Since past studies have portrayed alcoholics as isolated, fairly inactive, and restricted in their leisure, people with alcohol use disorder who are still quite active, and if they try to return to those same types of leisure patterns, it will be very threatening to their recovery.

Recognizing the need for a new approach, Carruthers used her expertise in therapeutic recreation to design a four-session leisure education program for people with addictions, incorporating the findings of her research. She helped implement the program in a local hospital last year.

Since her study indicated that many people use alcohol to help them disengage from their preoccupations and routines and then to become more immersed in the moment, she realized it was important to introduce program participants to ways to achieve those states of mind without drinking. So that became the premise of the first session.

“Recreation is often proposed as an alternative to drinking. For instance, there’s a tendency in alcohol abuse treatment programs to say, ‘We need to get these people involved. We need to get them out into the community.’ But unintentionally we might be setting them up for failure by sending them out there to get involved in leisure activities that put them in high-risk situations.”

Carruthers questions whether the findings of past studies accurately portray the problems of today’s alcoholic.

“Those studies focused on older people with chronic alcoholism. Today, people are getting into treatment a lot earlier. These are people in their 30s and 40s who are still quite active, and if they try to return to those same types of leisure patterns, it will be very threatening to their recovery.”

Using some cognitive restructuring techniques, we tried to show them how to step away from their day-to-day worries by looking first at the way they create a lot of the anxiety in their own lives. “Many of the events in our lives are emotionally fairly neutral. However, the way we process these events may be off-kilter or irrational, which can lead to strong irrational emotional responses. In effect, we make mountains out of molehills. What happens then is that we see a lot of cyclical thinking, a lot of working something to death, and a lack of ability to live in the present.”

“So the questions we wanted the program participants to consider are, ‘How am I creating this anxiety and keeping myself in a state of turmoil and preoccupation?’ and then, ‘How can I make that go away?’”

The answers, Carruthers says, dovetail extremely well with the whole idea of the Serenity Prayer, “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

And so what we had them do was look at that process. If there’s an event, and they experience strong emotions or ruminations about it that are out of context, they should trace it back, identify the preceding thought, look at how irrational it is, and then replace it.

“We wanted them to ask themselves if there’s anything they could do to make the situation better, yes or no. If it’s yes, then do it. If it’s no, then it’s their responsibility to let it go. And part of letting go is looking at how we keep things alive in our own heads that don’t do us any good and keep us from enjoying our lives.”

After showing them how to disengage through that technique, Carruthers also sought to help them learn how to immerse themselves in a leisure activity in which they can become totally absorbed, eschewing any intruding disruptive thoughts or feelings.

“We gave them homework after every session. Their first assignment was to put themselves in a situation in the next 24 hours that they anticipate they’ll enjoy, and then really get into that activity. If it’s an optimally challenging activity, it will be that much better because it will require them to remain in the present.”

In the second session, Carruthers helped the participants acquire some interpersonal communication skills that would enable them to feel more comfortable in a social setting. She offered them guidance on listening skills and provided self-esteem-building exercises. In the third session, she helped them identify different types of leisure situations that presented a risk to their recovery, then assisted them in ranking the degree of confidence they had that they could avoid using alcohol or drugs in each situation.

“It ranged from 0 percent to 100 percent confidence, and it included such things as, ‘Something wonderful happened to me, and I wanted to celebrate’ or ‘I was out with friends, and they wanted to go to a bar.’ Or ‘I wanted to get close to someone in an intimate situation’ or ‘I was lonely and bored.’ And then they identified the degree to which they felt they could remain sober.”

“We worked as a group to identify certain items — there were about two or three that almost everybody in the group felt were threatening — and then we developed strategies for handling the situations and practiced applying them.”

The objective of the fourth session was to help them find leisure activities that would support their recovery and then to identify any barriers to their involvement in them. Then the participants were charged with finding ways to overcome those barriers.

“So the goal of the program was to enable them to suspend all of the garbage and begin enjoying their lives in recovery,” Carruthers says. “It was about not allowing leisure to be a threat to their recovery that they didn’t know how to handle.”

Her methodical approach to analyzing the leisure experience seemed to help many of the participants.

“All of them strongly supported the program and continued to participate in the sessions and felt that their abilities had improved. We were glad to see that they didn’t say that they had improved dramatically; they were realistic and said they had improved or improved slightly. We wouldn’t anticipate that they could make dramatic changes through just one session. But, for example, a number of people who were very uncomfortable socially reported they felt that with the basic skills they had learned and some practice, they could make ongoing improvement in their lives.”

Carruthers is pleased that she has been able to apply her research to help people.

“I chose to go into therapeutic recreation with the goal of making a difference in peoples’ lives. I really didn’t start out anticipating that I would one day be doing research, but I’m glad that my work in academia has enabled me to make that contribution. I really like the notion that my job is to help people learn to enjoy their lives.”

Carruthers based her research on the simple question, “Why do people drink in their leisure time?” Her study has been published in The Journal of Leisure Research.
As Clark County District Attorney, UNLV alumnus Stewart Bell wants to make Southern Nevada a safer place to live. He's ready for the challenge, saying he just wants to give something back to his community.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

Ask longtime friends to describe Clark County District Attorney Stewart Bell, and they'll talk about the serious, bright student who was a respected leader as far back as his high school days. They'd also talk about the UNLV alumnus as a talented attorney who built a successful legal practice while at the same time devoting hours to his family and to community causes.

And they'd talk about the Stewart Bell who gave up a well-established legal practice to become a public servant.

Longtime friend and Clark County Sheriff Jerry Keller, who attended both high school and college with him, says Bell deserves credit for making the move to the district attorney's office.

"He gave up what was probably one of the best law practices in Southern Nevada to go into public service," Keller says. "I think that's admirable."

But Bell himself doesn't seem to be looking for that kind of credit. He says he just wants to give something back to the community.

He says Southern Nevada has been extraordinarily good to him over the years, from his days as an accounting major at the fledgling school known as Nevada Southern University, through his two decades as a defense attorney, to that day last November when voters elected him to the county's top legal post.

For years he has been involved in volunteer efforts — everything from heading the state and local bar associations to coaching Little League and girls' soccer — in an effort to give something back.

And that, he says, is why he decided to set aside a thriving defense practice to run for district attorney.

"I thought I had something to offer here in terms of improving the systemic way we do business, improving the level of justice, improving the level of efficiency, and making this community safer," Bell says. "And, I believe I would be able to get a great sense of personal satisfaction if I were able to do that.

Becoming the county's top prosecutor after a full career as a defense attorney isn't as big a switch as people might believe, Bell says.

"The role of the lawyer is to take a problem and find a solution and then sell that solution," he says. "Your client comes to you and asks you for help, and it's your job to help.

"Whether your client is the defendant or the state doesn't really matter, according to Bell, because the key to the U.S. system of justice is that everyone — the police, the prosecutors, the defense attorneys, the probation officers, the judges, and the juries — has a vital role to play.

"The theory of our criminal justice system is that everybody does his job right, justice will be done." Bell says.

"For people who are critical of defense attorneys because they feel those attorneys help guilty people beat the charges against them, Bell refers again to the essential nature of all the roles in the justice system.

"The defense attorney is an absolutely, positively necessary counterpart to make sure that the power of government doesn't overwhelm the individuals," he says. "It's not the case that every person who is arrested is guilty. It's not the case that the prosecution is right every time in terms of accusing who prosecutes and what penalty to seek.

"

As for his own personal switch from the defense table to the government side, Bell says he believes it will have some practical value for the district attorney's office. Because he's been there, he knows how defense attorneys operate. As a result, when prosecutors in his office ask him how he thinks the defense will react to a particular tactic, he has 20 years of daily experience to draw on.

And Bell doesn't intend to let those years as a trial lawyer go to waste by spending all his time on administrative duties. He intends to prosecute cases personally — something few of his predecessors have done.

"It's one of the skills that I bring to the office. It would be a shame to waste 20 years of in-court legal experience and do total administration," Bell says.

"Also, I think the public needs to see you out there. You're the person they say is going to lead the charge. I think they need to see you leading the charge."

Se eing Bell today in his courthouse office surrounded by the trappings of his profession, it would be easy to assume that a career in law was inevitable for him.

But when young Stew Bell arrived at UNLV's predecessor, Nevada Southern University, in the fall of 1963, he thought he was headed toward a business career.

Accordingly, he pursued a business degree with an emphasis in accounting. Professor Reuben Neumarm, now an emeritus professor of accounting, was an important influence, he says. Other professors he recalls as being particularly good are the late Richard Shrahm, who served as chairman of the accounting department for several years, and economics professor Andre Simmons, who is now an emeritus professor.

Bell remembers his time at UNLV — then a university housed in just three buildings — fondly, but he also recalls it as a time of hard work. A grocery store job paid his school bills but left little time for extracurricular activities. Still, he joined Alpha Tau Omega fraternity when it formed a chapter on campus shortly before his graduation.

By the time Bell had reached his senior year, he still wasn't sure what career path to follow.

"I decided that I would go to law school for just a year. When I started I wasn't sure whether I would go all the way or just go a year and decide I didn't like it," he says.

So, after receiving his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1967, Bell headed to the University of California, Los Angeles, where he roomed with fellow UNLV graduate William Skupa, who is now a defense attorney in Las Vegas.

"When I went into school at UCLA, I was somewhat skeptical that my education might be comparatively deficient," Bell says, noting that among his law school classmates were graduates of UCLA, UC-Berkeley, and Harvard. "I was very pleasantly surprised that it wasn't. There's no question that the education I got at UNLV even in its early stage was as good or better than the powerhouse schools.

He also discovered that accounting was an excellent background for law school. His advice to students today who are considering legal careers is to take as many math, accounting, English, and literature courses as possible.

Bell found law school to be
good fit. "I took mostly tax and business courses. I expected to be in corporate law."

But when he returned to Southern Nevada after finishing his law degree in 1970, his first job was as an assistant to the late Howard Babcock, a judge in District Court. Babcock advised him that all young attorneys should begin their careers with jobs in either the public defender’s office or the district attorney’s office to learn their way around the local court system.

Heeding that advice, Bell spent more than a year working as a public defender. Then he went into private practice.

"That was going to be basically on your own, it’s catch as catch can. You take whatever comes through the door so you can pay the rent."

"What came through the door was primarily criminal cases and domestic cases," he recalls. "The more you do that, the better you get. The better you get, the more that come in the door, and so it's just one of those things that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Thus, Stewart Bell began what was to be a long career as a defense attorney.

According to District Judge William Maupin, Bell’s friend from their days together at Nevada Law School, Bell’s career has been not only long, but also very distinguished.

Maupin says he considers Bell one of the 10 most able litigators in the country. "He is one of the smartest attorneys I have ever known."

No one who knew Bell in high school would find this picture surprising, according to Maupin.

"Stew was a very serious student, but Stew has always been fun and funny. Everybody looked up to him because he was so bright."

"There was very little doubt that he was going to be successful," the judge says. "Of all the people I know who are successes, he is the least surprising."  

Sheriff Keller concurs.

"He is the most articulate purveyor of the law that I have ever seen," Keller says. "He can cut to the quick and identify the issues."

Bell says he has several goals for the district attorney's office, some of which he has already begun implementing. One of them is to dispense justice in a more consistent and fair manner, he says.

To that end, he has established a death penalty review committee comprised of himself and six other attorneys in the office. Their job is to review each case in which seeking the death penalty is an option and then decide whether that is the best course.

Bell believes that before the death penalty is sought, a determination needs to be made that it is the just punishment to seek and that it is likely that the district attorney’s office can win the case and have that decision upheld on appeal.

"Because a typical death penalty case—which includes an automatic appeal if the defendant receives that punishment—can cost the taxpayers anywhere from tens of thousands of dollars to $5 million, it would be irresponsible to pursue a case that is a long career as a defense attorney.

"When one 19-year-old kid goes into a 7-Eleven and robs it and kills the clerk—and then we are able to identify the person, catch him, prosecute him, and incarcerate him—to some degree we look on that as a success."

But at that point, the families of both the victim and the defendant have been adversely affected. For the rest of their lives and thousands of dollars of taxpayers’ money have been spent, he says.

"A real success would be if we could have somehow identified this as a potential problem and intervened as a community in this kid’s life when he was 12 or 13 or 15 so that it doesn’t happen," Bell says. "And that’s the only way we are going to be able to define success."

"Every kid that turns around not only solves that problem, but they don’t become a statistic in the adult system five or 10 years later," he says. "I think that has got to be a big focus of our attack."

The cost involved in making sure juveniles stay on the right track is "penalty" compared to the cost of apprehending them, prosecuting them, and jailling them as adults, he says.

Bell, who is the father of four, is a big believer in organized activities for children and teen-agers, such as Little League, Boys and Girls Clubs, scouting...continued on page 24
November 1995

1 Music Department: UNLV Community Concert Band and the Las Vegas Brass Band. 1pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
3 Alumni Event: Homecoming Reception. 6:30pm.
4 Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
6 Music Department: University Musical Society Orchestra. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
11 University Theatre: She Loves Me. 8pm. University Theatre. 895-3801.
22 Music Department: Sierra Winds. 8pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
30 Alumni Event: Dinner/Theatre Event. 4pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

December 1995

1 Master Series: Julliand String Quartet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
2 Music Department: University Chorus. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
5 Music Department: Jau Ensemble. 1pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
10-12 Opera Theatre: The Barber of Seville. Nov. 10 & 11, 7:30pm; Nov. 12, 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
11 Football: UNLV vs. Utah. 8pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3801.
14-16 Music Department: Gala Performance. 7pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
15 Music Department: The Nutcracker. 7:30pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
23 Music Department: Madrigal Choral Festival. 7:30pm. Location TBA. 895-3801.
23 Women’s Center Workshops: "Goal Setting and Maximizing Time Effectively." Deborah D. Wacker Wright. 6:30-8:30pm. Classroom Building Complex C218. 895-4475.
26 Lecturer: John Gray. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
27-29 Dance Concert: University Dance Theatre. Oct. 27, 8pm; Oct. 28, 2 & 8pm; Oct. 29, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
29 Music Department: 76 Trombones + 4, 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

January 1996

2 Community Concert: Stran and Carol Sokelius. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
7 Festival: Handbell Orchestra Festival. 4pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
10 Chamber Music Southwest: Teresa Long, 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
11 Exhibition: "Justen Smith: Contemporary Sculpture." 9am-5pm. Donna Bean Gallery. 895-3803. (thru Feb. 9)
15 Exhibition: "Jutten Ladd: Contemporary Sculpture." 9am-5pm. Donna Bean Gallery. 895-3803. (thru Mar. 1)
21 Master Series: Franz of Vienna. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
27 Celebration Series: Preservation. University Wind Symphony. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
27 Concert: Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
James Fagin, '71 BA
Computer Studies, is a professor of criminal justice and public administration at Chaminade University of Honolulu. He recently received a special educator award from the Hawaii chapter of the American Society of Public Administration.

R. Eugene Boyer, '73
Business Administration, received his master’s degree in criminal justice and public administration from the University of Hawaii. He recently received the University of Hawaii’s highest honor, the Uhlu Medal, and has served as president of both the local and state chapters of the American Institute of Architects.

Kathy Norris, '74
English, is chairman of the high school’s golf team and president of Robert A. Fielden Society, a part-time instructor at UNLV.

Laurel E. Davis, '83 BS Hotel Administration, received a law degree from the University of San Diego in 1987. She is now a partner in the Las Vegas law firm of Lied Sawyer & Colfuss.

Russell James Green, '83 BA History, is chairman of the social studies department at Woodbury Middle School. He also coaches the school’s golf team and oversees the only soccer club in the Clark County School District.

April More Fiala, '85 BS Hotel Administration, is assistant general manager at the Hapag-Lloyd Liner in Amsterdam near Disneyland.

Sharon L. Greene, '87 Hotel Administration, is beverage manager at the Las Vegas Hilton where she oversees 250 employees.

Daniel Perlstein, '87 BS Business Administration, is an account executive with Motekon Gaming in its slot glass division. Previously, he worked as an account executive with Shoshone/Marcaues Advertising & Public Relations and as a market research director at KSAS-TV. He has also worked for F&H & Associates, Frontier Savings, and the Review-Journal.

Carl Cook, '88 BA Communication Studies, is the assistant director of alumni relations at UNLV. He was recently named the outstanding advisor for Director VII at the Regional Student Alumni Association Conference sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Director VII includes 33 western universities.

Laurel L. Wyman, '80
English, is a part-time instructor at UNLV. She has received the Nevada Society of Architects’ highest honor, the silver medal, and has served as president of both the local and state chapters of the American Institute of Architects.

Traci Gordon Polish, '94
Business Administration, teaches in a combination fine- and second-grade classroom at Whitney Elementary School, the same room in which she did her student teaching. She is in her second year of teaching and is also pursuing a master’s degree in education at UNLV. Her husband, Louie Polish, '92 Architecture, is the owner of Sun City Landscape, a company specializing in commercial landscaping.

We’d Like To Hear From You!

We would like to invite all UNLV alumni to submit information about themselves to UNLV Magazine for inclusion in the Class Notes section. Please fill out the form below completely, type or print clearly, and avoid abbreviations. Also, please supply photos and office telephone numbers if you can reach them. If there is a question about your entry, we encourage you to submit a black and white photograph of yourself to accompany your Class Notes entry.

Name

Year Graduated

Major

Address

Type of Degree(s)

City Phone Number: Home

State

Office

Type of Education

Zip

Fax Numbers: Personal Information

School

Mail Address:

Email

Department

Email Address:

Admission

Other Personal Information

Emblems should be mailed to: UNLV Class Notes, University News and Publications, 4005 Maryland Parkway, Box 45102, Las Vegas, NV 89154-5022.
Reel-Life Experience

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fancier than the wooden ones back in the UNLV film studies program. During the week he had learned that if you close it too slowly, it won’t mark the magnetic contacts for the time code. If you close it too fast, it could make a double contact and release a double-sync beep. He had also seen how the slate could be intrusive to the actor’s performance. It had to be clapped just right.

For the shoot, they were in a warehouse on the set of “The Brick,” the bar featured in the quirky TV series. Scofield placed himself in front of the camera. The camera operator guided his position so that he was in the frame, and Scofield held the slate open, prepared for the moment when he would truly break into films.

“Roll sound,” the first assistant director ordered.

“Speed,” the recordist answered.

“Scene 39, D, take one.”

“Camera.”

“Rolling,” the operator responded.

“Mark it.”

That was Scofield’s cue. Steady, not too loud, not too fast, not too slow. As the perfect “clack” echoed on the set, he felt the rush of satisfaction that comes with a job well done.

For those who seriously aspire to the director’s chair, a production assistant job can offer the chance to observe the pros in action.

Take Jennifer Elledge, for example. She graduated from UNLV’s film studies program in 1992, after receiving the award for outstanding graduate in the production area for that year. Like many of her classmates, she was able to complement her education by working on a feature film.

Her job on the set of Indecent Proposal both taught her about professionalism in the film industry and provided her with a role model.

“I used to focus all my attention on watching [director] Adrian Lyne on the set,” she recalls. “I was a production assistant in wardrobe which gave me the excuse to be close to the action. The best job for me was being on the set; office work can be very . . . secretarial. And I felt I needed to learn from watching the director.”

What did she discover?

“Well, what I had already learned—that a director appears to do very little on the set. But what interested me was precisely that—observing the small reactions he had to performances and the small adjustments he made with the actor and the camera between takes.”

She added that the level of professionalism she witnessed on the shoot provided her with a standard that she hopes she will find on her next project: her 20-minute master’s thesis film.

When I spoke with her, she was at the end of her second year in the directing program at the California Institute of the Arts. She was getting closer to that brass ring.

Dedicated to Nature

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It all usually meshes, except for fitting in sleep and a social life.”

Since her 1994 graduation, Pike has worked at UNLV in the Office of Environmental Affairs and Sustainability as a coordinator. This fall, she will go to work for AmeriCorps, a domestic version of the Peace Corps. She helped write the proposal for the Southern Nevada Environmental Corps, a division of AmeriCorps that she will help lead. The organization will inform the community about recycling, desert landscaping and restoration, and water and energy efficiency. It will also work hard to energize and hold community interest.

Pike is pleased that her AmeriCorps service will help pay off her student loans while she is able to continue working for a cause she believes in deeply. “I love organizing people, events. I like creating something and watching it happen, getting things started,” Pike says.

And UNLV has been a valuable proving ground for her abundant talent for doing so.

“The joke at Valley High School was that UNLV stood for the University of Never Leaving Vegas. But coming to UNLV was the best decision I ever made,” says Pike, who credits the supportive atmosphere and personal attention available in the environmental studies program for her accomplishments.

In exchange, she has left the environment at her alma mater a little better than when she arrived. In a way, it’s just another form of recycling, only in human terms.

Alumna

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and church groups. He and his wife, Jeanne, have devoted countless hours to such groups over the years.

Although his work for the district attorney’s office will keep Bell busy for the foreseeable future, he knows that someday his tenure as district attorney will end.

He says he has no political ambitions beyond the district attorney’s office, but that there is one government-related project in Southern Nevada’s future that interests him.

“I envision in the next few years that the governor and the Legislature will decide that UNLV needs a law school. If the timing is right, I would be interested in working on that project, even helping to organize the school and the curriculum, putting a building together, and hiring staff.

“That would be an interesting project where you could, after a few years, look back and say that you’ve done something to make the community better.”

24 • UNLV MAGAZINE
Your child. Your spouse. Relatives. Close friends. Your estate plan should provide for all the obvious beneficiaries.

But what about the heirs who are less apparent? What about, for example, the students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas?

A growing number of people are including UNLV in their bequests. Clearly, they understand that they have both the privilege and the responsibility of assisting future generations of students. And they’re using their estate plans as a vehicle.

A bequest to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is a rare opportunity to make a life-transcending gift — one that will perpetuate your ideals, your hopes, your values.

By providing for UNLV in your estate plan, you can often make a much larger gift than would be possible during your lifetime. And that gift will have far-reaching ramifications, affirming UNLV’s mission of education, touching the lives of students for years — even generations — to come.

Your bequest will literally form the bedrock of our programs, providing much needed dollars for faculty support, curriculum initiatives, and scholarships for our future leaders.

If you haven’t yet made a bequest to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, please consider it.

If you have already included a gift to UNLV as part of your estate plan, please let us know. We want to thank you now by including you in our UNLV Heritage Circle. The UNLV Heritage Circle is a special group of donors and friends who, through their planned gift, will make a tremendous impact on UNLV’s future.

If you’re interested in making a provision for UNLV in your estate plan, you can call the UNLV Foundation at (702) 895-3641 and ask about Generations. It’s our program to inform people about the benefits of charitable gift planning.

Ask for our free brochure on estate planning. We’ll send you information about the numerous giving options as well as preferred bequest language for review by your lawyer.
The Classroom Building Complex recently gained 3,300 square feet when the space under these stairs, located in the courtyard, was redesigned and constructed as a storage area.