7-2008

Inside UNLV

Grace Russell  
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Michelle Mouton  
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Shane Bevell  
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Diane Russell  
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*, diane.russell@unlv.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv](http://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv)

ثار Part of the Civic and Community Engagement Commons, Curriculum and Social Inquiry Commons, Dental Public Health and Education Commons, Other Dentistry Commons, Other Education Commons, Other Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons, and the Transportation Commons

Repository Citation

Available at: [http://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv/39](http://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv/39)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the UNLV Publications at Digital Scholarship@UNLV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Inside UNLV by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.
Parking Permit Changes

UNLV Community Must Pay for Handicap Permits

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Regulations for parking in handicap stalls are changing. Beginning this fall, handicapped employees and students must:
- bring their state-issued handicap placards and letters saying they are handicapped to the office of parking and transportation services for verification
- buy parking permits at the same rate as other faculty and staff
- display UNLV-issued handicap permits on their vehicles

Visitors who park in handicap spots now will need to pay adjacent parking meters — even if they have a state-issued handicap permit.

Previously, UNLV did not charge handicapped parkers at all. This contributed to a high level of abuse, said Tad McDowell, parking and transportation services director. By implementing a fee that is equivalent to what everyone else pays to park, we hope to reduce the amount of abuse. While many people might think this is a negative thing, we are actually protecting the handicap parking for those who really need it.”

Permit Rate Increases

Annual parking permits expire Aug. 15. The 2008-09 parking permit for faculty and staff is $230 or $19.17 per month, a $1.67 per month increase over last year. Go to the parking and transportation services website at parking.unlv.edu to see all types of permits sold.

Permit fees are used for the development and maintenance of parking on campus. Construction is scheduled to begin in late fall on a new parking garage west of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

More Info: Go to parking.unlv.edu to order your permit.

Time to Take Stock

Campus Begins Preparing for 2010 Accreditation

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Every 10 years, like clockwork, UNLV’s accreditation comes up for renewal. And every 10 years, like clockwork, there’s a ton of work to be done before the team from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities sets foot on campus.

The team is set to arrive April 19, 2010. Almost two years away — plenty of time, you might think. Well, there’s time, but it’s more in the category of sufficient than plenty. That’s because the vast majority of UNLV’s work toward renewal. And every 10 years, like clockwork, there’s a ton of work to be done before the team from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities sets foot on campus.

And, as you may have guessed, “before” really translates to “now.”

Preparation Begins

But never fear; a small group of folks across campus began working on this humongous project some months back. Come the start of fall semester even more of us will be pitching in.

The university must have an official report based on a comprehensive self-study in the hands of accrediting agency personnel some months prior to the April 2010 visit. Though it is a lot of work, the accreditation process is both necessary and important, said Michael Bowers, who as vice provost of academic affairs heads UNLV’s accreditation efforts.

“It is an opportunity to go in and do a comprehensive evaluation of the university from the top to the bottom — every department, every activity — and see how we’re doing,” Bowers said. While some may harbor concern that their particular area may be found wanting, “at the same time it’s a good chance to show off what we are doing and what we are doing well.”

Without accreditation, UNLV students would not be able to transfer credits earned here to other universities and financial aid and faculty research grants would be put in jeopardy, he said.

Also heavily involved in the assessment process is the university’s newest academic affairs fellow, mechanical engineering professor Mohamed Trabia.

Steering Committee

The accreditation steering committee, which has been meeting for some months, is comprised of a cross-section of the campus community. Steering committee members are heading 10 task forces, each charged with a portion of...
President’s Classified Employee of the Year

Judi Jones
Program Officer I, Facilities Management
Rebel Since: 1985

What she does: Our department maintains the entire campus. We have movers, plumbers, electricians, custodians, painters, locksmiths, HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) personnel, welders — you name it. They all need parts to do their jobs. I order the stock for the warehouse, pay the utilities for the entire campus, and call vendors if we need them. I make sure that purchase requests are submitted to purchasing and that all invoices are paid on time.

What makes her successful in her position: People can rely on me to find answers to their questions. So in a way, I’m also the investigator for our department.

What keeps her going: I have sat at this same desk for 15 years issuing purchase requests and making sure that our lights stay on. It’s a challenge — and I do love a challenge.

Can’t work without: My computer, the support of my co-workers, and a sense of humor.

Why she was nominated, according to Rick Storlie, facilities management director of administrative services: “For over 22 years, Judi has been the friendly, professional face of facilities management’s customer service. She handles the daily operations of our department with exceptional ease and expertise. Her positive attitude and enthusiasm are infectious. She is a key reason why our department has been successful in meeting the needs of the campus community.”

What she won: $750 and a plaque

Reaction to winning: My jaw dropped. There were so many good people nominated. I am tucked away on the outskirts of the main campus in the Campus Services Building. I just didn’t think anyone noticed me.

Classified Employee of the Year, Second Place

Victor Welbourne
Facilities Supervisor, Plumbing Shop
Rebel Since: 1993

What he does: I’ve been a plumber for 34 years. Our shop does everything from fixing faucets and water main breaks to changing fire hydrants and inspecting fire sprinklers. Right now we are re-piping the drains and remodeling the bathrooms on the third through seventh floors of FDH.

What keeps him going: I like to keep my mind active and doing things people assume I can’t. FDH is probably one of the biggest in-house projects we’ve tackled. We could have passed this project up. But this is a challenge for us, and that’s what I like.

Can’t work without: Good employees — which I have — and supervisors who back me and believe that when I say I can do something, I can.

Why he was nominated, according to Kevin Raschko, assistant director of facilities management: “Vic’s judgment is beyond par and his leadership is second to none. Five years ago, the drainpipes in FDH began to fail and were in desperate need of repair. Outside vendors quoted deemed the pipes too expensive to replace. Vic developed a way to replace the pipes by partnering with other facilities units, saving the university over a million dollars.”

What he won: $500 and a plaque

Reaction to winning: In 2003, I won the Classified Employee of the Year Award. I didn’t think it could happen again. This lets me know that the plumbing staff and I are doing what’s best for the university.

Classified Employee of the Year, Third Place

Del Kolbet
Facilities Supervisor II
Rebel since: I’ve been a rebel all my life and an official UNLV Rebel since 1989.

What he does: From 2 p.m. until 11 p.m., I supervise “the night crew.” People assume the university shuts down at 5 p.m., but it’s a 24-hour-a-day place, and anything can happen. We handle emergencies including fires, broken water mains, power outages, car accidents, and lockouts.

What keeps him going: I live, drink, and breathe UNLV. It doesn’t matter if a tree blows down across campus at 3 a.m. — I’m like Mach 5 with my hair on fire. People tell me to calm down; I guess I’m a little hyperactive. But I am just “on fire” for my job and my family.

What makes him successful: My lack of knowledge. I love learning. Although I think I know where every water valve, light switch, and breaker on this campus is located, I still get excited when I find a new one.

Couldn’t have made it this far without: The campus community, including Arch Archibald, Karl Reynolds, and Kevin Raschko in facilities. They have supported my growth and have nurtured me through some tough times. Recently I had a serious health problem. The concern they had for me was phenomenal.

Why he was nominated, according to Ken Hughes, construction project coordinator of the roof shop: “Del also works on-call and frequently has to come back to the university on the nights and weekends, often taking time away from his family. There are very few people at the university who are as dedicated as Del or who possess the array of talents he has.”

What he won: $500 and a plaque

Reaction to winning: I didn’t think I deserved it. But after 20 years, I guess the university said, “This guy is really important to us.” It makes me want to give another 110 percent.

We make sure that problems are contained and resolved before the campus resumes at 8 a.m.

What keeps him going: I live, drink, and breathe UNLV. It doesn’t matter if a tree blows down across campus at 3 a.m. — I’m like Mach 5 with my hair on fire. People tell me to calm down; I guess I’m a little hyperactive. But I am just “on fire” for my job and my family.

What makes him successful: My lack of knowledge. I love learning. Although I think I know where every water valve, light switch, and breaker on this campus is located, I still get excited when I find a new one.

Couldn’t have made it this far without: The campus community, including Arch Archibald, Karl Reynolds, and Kevin Raschko in facilities. They have supported my growth and have nurtured me through some tough times. Recently I had a serious health problem. The concern they had for me was phenomenal.

Why he was nominated, according to Ken Hughes, construction project coordinator of the roof shop: “Del also works on-call and frequently has to come back to the university on the nights and weekends, often taking time away from his family. There are very few people at the university who are as dedicated as Del or who possess the array of talents he has.”

What he won: $500 and a plaque

Reaction to winning: I didn’t think I deserved it. But after 20 years, I guess the university said, “This guy is really important to us.” It makes me want to give another 110 percent.

We make sure that problems are contained and resolved before the campus resumes at 8 a.m.

What keeps him going: I live, drink, and breathe UNLV. It doesn’t matter if a tree blows down across campus at 3 a.m. — I’m like Mach 5 with my hair on fire. People tell me to calm down; I guess I’m a little hyperactive. But I am just “on fire” for my job and my family.

What makes him successful: My lack of knowledge. I love learning. Although I think I know where every water valve, light switch, and breaker on this campus is located, I still get excited when I find a new one.

Couldn’t have made it this far without: The campus community, including Arch Archibald, Karl Reynolds, and Kevin Raschko in facilities. They have supported my growth and have nurtured me through some tough times. Recently I had a serious health problem. The concern they had for me was phenomenal.

Why he was nominated, according to Ken Hughes, construction project coordinator of the roof shop: “Del also works on-call and frequently has to come back to the university on the nights and weekends, often taking time away from his family. There are very few people at the university who are as dedicated as Del or who possess the array of talents he has.”

What he won: $500 and a plaque

Reaction to winning: I didn’t think I deserved it. But after 20 years, I guess the university said, “This guy is really important to us.” It makes me want to give another 110 percent.

We make sure that problems are contained and resolved before the campus resumes at 8 a.m.

What keeps him going: I live, drink, and breathe UNLV. It doesn’t matter if a tree blows down across campus at 3 a.m. — I’m like Mach 5 with my hair on fire. People tell me to calm down; I guess I’m a little hyperactive. But I am just “on fire” for my job and my family.

What makes him successful: My lack of knowledge. I love learning. Although I think I know where every water valve, light switch, and breaker on this campus is located, I still get excited when I find a new one.

Couldn’t have made it this far without: The campus community, including Arch Archibald, Karl Reynolds, and Kevin Raschko in facilities. They have supported my growth and have nurtured me through some tough times. Recently I had a serious health problem. The concern they had for me was phenomenal.

Why he was nominated, according to Ken Hughes, construction project coordinator of the roof shop: “Del also works on-call and frequently has to come back to the university on the nights and weekends, often taking time away from his family. There are very few people at the university who are as dedicated as Del or who possess the array of talents he has.”

What he won: $500 and a plaque

Reaction to winning: I didn’t think I deserved it. But after 20 years, I guess the university said, “This guy is really important to us.” It makes me want to give another 110 percent.
President’s Professional Staff Member of the Year

Phil Burns
Assistant Director, Office of Student Conduct
Rebel since: 1995

What he does: I make sure students know their rights and responsibilities. If a student engages in behavior that is against the student conduct code — alcohol in the residence halls, academic misconduct, fighting, etc. — they are referred to our office, which then works with the student to address the situation.

Typical day: There is no typical day, which is why I love my job. During the heart of the school year, I have anywhere between eight and 13 appointments in addition to the outreach efforts we do for the campus community.

Biggest challenge: Getting all the cases reported and adjudicated in a timely manner. However, I am never going to rush a meeting with a student.

Most memorable case: The “Phone Pin Scandal.” A student accessed an employee’s long distance personal identification number and shared it with friends (most of whom lived in the residence halls). By the time it was discovered, 650 students had made more than $63,000 worth of phone calls. Together with other campus departments and organizations, we were able to identify the calls made from each residence hall room. A co-worker and I spent nearly three months meeting with those students to resolve the matter.

Why he does what he does: The opportunity to truly make a difference — not everyone gets to say that, although I think everyone can make a difference.

A couple years after a student was permanently kicked out of school, I received a card in the mail. He thanked me for taking the time because if not, he stated, he would have been dead or in jail.

Can’t work without: Sense of humor. A lot of the cases we deal with can be difficult so you need that healthy mental balance. I do that by spending time at the dog park with my two chocolate labs.

People would be surprised to know: In my previous career I toured Europe as the company manager for Phantom of the Opera.

Why he was nominated, according to Paula Castillo, executive assistant to the dean of University College: “He performs a very difficult job with the utmost professionalism, confidentiality, and justice. Phil has earned the respect and loyalty of everyone he interacts with in the department, division, and across campus — something some administrators never achieve.”

What he won: $1,000 and a plaque

Classified Rookie of the Year

Suna Curry
Administrative Assistant IV/Office Manager, Wilson Advising
Rebel Since: July 2006

What she does: This position allows me to use my background in computer programming to take on tasks beyond my job description. Recently, I helped implement an online advising worksheet similar to the one the College of Liberal Arts uses, for two other colleges. This database tracks the classes students need to take throughout their college careers. It’s going to save everyone time.

I’m also a student at the university. I am pursuing a bachelor’s degree in psychology and hope to graduate in May of 2009.

Biggest challenge: Making everyone happy. I have to be strong and sometimes say “no” to requests I’d like to grant. With the present budget crunch, I find myself saying “no” more often than I’d like.

Can’t work without: Passion for what I do, patience with problems, and a positive environment.

Why she was nominated, according to Lea Sexton, senior director of advising: “Suna’s work is impeccable. She has been crucial to the success of programs in the Health Sciences and Fine Arts advising centers. Recently she designed and input advising worksheets for those centers and trained the staff in the use of FileMaker Pro, a database used in the College of Liberal Arts. Suna is one of the best hires I have ever made.”

What she won: $250 and a plaque

Reaction to winning: As they read the nomination I thought, “That sounds like me, but there are plenty of people who do the same thing as me.” So when I heard my name I started to cry. I was so embarrassed — there I was, crying in front of President Ashley.
Students Capture First Place in MBA Competition

For the first time in nearly a decade, UNLV MBA students claimed first place in the global Best Strategy Invitational (BSI) competition.

MBA students Boris Katava, Blaine Krasky, Brian Levy, and Brett Myer, along with faculty advisor Darryl Seale in the management department, competed against top teams from all over the world.

After winning a preliminary competition at UNLV, the students were invited to participate in the BSI competition, known as the “Top Gun” of business strategy competitions. Hosted and administered by Business Strategy Game Online, the competition is held over a two-week period each April, August, and September. Participants are divided into teams and assigned the task of running athletic footwear companies in head-to-head online competition.

Company operations parallel those of actual athletic footwear companies. Just as in the real world, companies compete in the global market arena, selling branded and private-label athletic footwear in four geographic regions: Europe, North America, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America.

The winning UNLV team competed under the company name It Is Footwear. The next competition will be held in August.

UNLV Named Leader in Cyber Security Education and Research

UNLV recently received national recognition, affirming that it is one of the leading universities in cyber security education and research.


Recognizing the importance of information assurance education and research, a large number of U.S. institutions have been developing curriculum on information security. However, only 93 institutions from 37 states have received the designation so far. UNLV is the only university in Nevada to have received the designation.

The School of Informatics, directed by Hal Berghel in the College of Engineering, provides an academic path for students interested in cyber-security careers. The university’s designation makes students eligible to apply for scholarship funding through the U.S. Department of Defense and through a program that provides scholarships in exchange for service in a federal program after graduation.

Get more information: E-mail informatics@unlv.edu or call ext. 5553.

Marching On

More than 3,300 students earned their degrees this May. UNLV’s largest-ever class included the first graduates of the nursing and physical therapy doctoral programs.

Graduate

Send Your New Grad Students to Orientation on Aug. 22

The Graduate College will host the new graduate student orientation 8:30 a.m.-noon Aug. 22 in the Student Union ballroom.

The orientation will provide graduate students with important information to ease the transition into studies at UNLV. College staff will discuss policies and procedures and address issues and concerns that new graduate students face. Topics will include student funding opportunities, graduate assistantship benefits, and graduate student resources. A question-and-answer session also will take place. Graduate students should attend this event in addition to their departmental orientations.

Get more info: To register, go to graduatecollege.unlv.edu.

Fine Arts

Shining City to Launch 2008-09 Theater Season

The Tony-nominated play Shining City, written by Irish playwright Conor McPherson, will kick off the 2008-09 Nevada Conservatory Theatre (NCT) season.

The play involves a grief-stricken man who turns to an ex-priest for help after repeatedly seeing the ghost of his recently deceased wife. The play will be presented Oct. 3-12.

Other NCT productions set for the main stage are:

- The Cradle Will Rock, book, music, and lyrics by Bertolt Brecht, March 13-22. This 1937 “labor opera” uses hilarious parody and satire to expose the desperation and discontent of its time. As union organizers gain strength, steel magnate Mr. Mister bribes businessmen, clergy, and the local press to silence the voice of exploited workers.
- The Music Man, book, music, and lyrics by Meredith Willson, May 1-10. This is still one of the most joyful musicals of all time. Have you heard the one about the librarian and the traveling salesman?
- The Importance of Being Earnest, by Oscar Wilde, Dec. 5-14. In Wilde’s “irregular comedy for seri- ous people,” Algernon and Jack are in love with two delectable young women, both of whom have illogi- cally sworn to only marry men named Earnest.
- The Diary of Anne Frank, by Margaret Edson, written by Irish playwright Conor McPherson, will kick off the 2008-09 Nevada Conservatory Theatre (NCT) season.

Get more info: For individual performance and season ticket information, call ext. 5-2787.

Hotel

College Hosts Hospitality Summit

The college hosted the Harrah’s International Hospitality and Convention Summit last month. The annual event, which is planned and executed by students enrolled in a meeting and events capstone class, featured industry professionals from around the country gathered to learn about a variety of topics, including the “greening” of Las Vegas; how to deal with bed bug lawsuits; restaurant selection among mature audiences; and making the best use of interns.

New Roles for Staff Members

Vince Eade became associate dean, a new position in the administrative structure of the college, July 1. Eade will be charged with providing leadership in strategic planning and in curriculum planning, development, and implementation.

Christian Hardigree has been selected by the faculty to serve a three-year term as the new chair of the hotel management department. Former chair Gail Sammons has trans- itionally to the role of graduate coor- dinator for the executive master’s pro- gram in hospitality administration.

Liberal Arts

Sociologists to Survey Residents on Urban Sustainability

Faculty in the sociology depart- ment recently received a President’s Research Award to conduct the Las Vegas area metropolitan survey. The study will assess how Las Vegas residents think about sustain- ability across three dimensions: community and quality of life; the natural environment; urban economic development.

A team of scholars, including prin- cipal investigators Christie Batson, Robert Futrell, and Barb Brents, as well as the urban sociology working group, are partnering with the city of Las Vegas, the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition, and Arizona State University to conduct the survey.

This project is part of the depart- ment’s larger research efforts in urban sociology. Team member and graduate student Mark Salvaggio received one of three universitywide urban sustainability initiatives grad- uate assistantships.

UNLV Pros, British Sociologists to Study Sex Industry

Two sociologists from Great Britain well known for their study of sexual commerce spent the spring semester at UNLV collaborating with sociology faculty and graduate stu- dents involved in the sexuality and gender working group.

They also helped develop the interdisciplinary globalization, sexu- ality and the city project.

Professor Teela Sanders, senior lecturer in the School of Sociology & Social Policy at the University of Leeds, gave several lectures drawing from two recent books on sex work.

Business

Across Campus
The Saltman Center is accustomed to receiving accolades. In the latest annual rankings of specialty programs by U.S. News & World Report, the center ranked ninth in the nation for dispute resolution. In the American Bar Association client counseling competition this year, the law school’s team won first place in the regional competition and second in the national competition. The Saltman Center hosts numerous conferences and lectures on such dispute resolution topics as water issues, foreign policy, and peacebuilding, as well as collaboration techniques. On Sept. 11 at UNLV, Daniel Schorr, senior news analyst for National Public Radio, will speak on “Forgive Us Our Press Passes” as part of the Peace in the Desert lecture series.

More info: Go to law.unlv.edu/Saltman.html.

Human impacts on climate change have gained attention at the local, regional, and global levels. A major issue for natural resource managers is predicting how species and entire assemblages of species might respond to future climatic change. This project will focus on understanding how organisms have been affected by past climate oscillations and on modeling how species and entire assemblages of species might respond to future climatic change. The reception featured student work supervised by faculty member Timothy Farnham and other campus and local advisors. Topics included:

- the environmental justice movement in the United States
- the lifecycle of cotton T-shirts in landfills
- surveys of wildlife
- controlling particulate matter in dry lakesbeds
- cultural and ecological restoration in Death Valley
- feasibility of aqua farms
- construction and demolition waste
- residential graywater systems
- the economic benefits of solar energy panels
- fluorescent vs. incandescent light bulbs

Students Kelly Douglas and Michael Matulis received the James E. Deacon Scholarship Award. Environmental studies instructor Patricia Mynster received the Outstanding Alumni Award. Marianne Stewart Carpenter received the Aldo Leopold Award. Also recognized for their contributions to the department were administrative assistant Dottie Shank and student worker Henry Weckesser III.

In February, faculty member Krystyna Stave supervised the current and former environmental studies students who facilitated a planning meeting at the Los Angeles Zero Waste Conference.
Spotlight On Accomplishments

Submit Your News
E-mail entries to inside@unlv.edu. Items should be no more than 100 words.

By Michelle Mouton (UNLV Foundation)

Invent the Future

Legend Lives Through Endowed Scholarship

More info: To make a donation to the James E. Deacon Scholarship or to ask about establishing another scholarship, contact Deborah Young at the UNLV Foundation at ext. 5-2818 or go to foundation.unlv.edu.

She and fellow Deacon scholarship recipient Michael Matulis, also a senior majoring in environmental studies, are interns with the Southern Nevada Water Authority. They conduct field research through their volunteer work with the Public Lands Institute as well as their own academic research projects.

“It’s an honor to get this scholarship,” said Nagel. “I am happy to be able to receive a scholarship named for the founder of the environmental studies program. “He is an amazing individual who continues to do great work.”
Travel Rules Changed to Sync with Feds

Use These Tips to Make Travel Easier

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Are you presenting a paper in New York or attending a professional development workshop in San Diego? Follow these tips as you complete paperwork and make reservations.

Last year, Nevada lawmakers revised the statutes covering travel. The new law generally provides for per diem rates consistent with federal travel guidelines.

“The out-of-state travel rate was often inadequate to cover the actual cost of travel and was less than the rate allowed by the federal government,” said Brent Morgan, university controller.

Getting Your Money Faster

UNLV is changing how it reimburses travel expenses. In the near future, travel reimbursement funds will be directly deposited into the traveler’s bank account. As a result, you won’t have to wait for a paper check to be printed and delivered. This change is also part of a larger initiative to eliminate paper costs while improving efficiency.

Travel Reimbursement Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodging</th>
<th>Per Diem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Rate</td>
<td>New Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reno</td>
<td>$58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>$90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Travel Tips

- Complete the proper forms when travel is being arranged and initially authorized so that you and your department know if the actual rate is fully reimbursable before you make reservations.
- To get reimbursed, you must turn in all appropriate forms and receipts to the university’s travel department within two weeks of returning. Before hitting the road:
  - Download the travel document form, the travel itinerary worksheet, and, if necessary, the lodging exception approval form at accounts payable.unlv.edu/forms.
  - Go to gsa.gov to determine per diem rates for your destination.
  - Fill out the travel document and get appropriate signatures.
  - If the cost of your lodging is higher than the allowable amount, complete the lodging exception approval form. There are two exceptions to the federal travel guidelines:
    1. When lodging is booked at a prearranged place such as a hotel where a meeting, conference, or training session is held.
    2. When costs have escalated because of special events. As a result, lodging within the pre-determined rates cannot be obtained nearby and the cost to commute to and from the location exceeds the cost savings from occupying less expensive lodging.

Meal and Incidental Expenses Rates

The meal and incidental expenses rates now depend on your destination. The old rate was $26 per day, regardless of where you traveled. The per diem rates will increase automatically each year as the federal rates adjust, and using the federal rates ensures compliance for any grant-funded travel, Morgan said. “Now rates will more likely cover the actual cost of travel and provide more consistency through fewer exceptions.”

Examples of non-reimbursable expenses include:
- Personal entertainment
- Non-meal tips
- Mini-bar refreshments
- “No show” charges for hotel or vehicle service
- Loss/theft of personal property

More Info: Contact the travel team at ext. 5-1156 or go to accounts payable.unlv.edu.

Employee Benefits

Your Dental Plan Questions Answered

By Grace Russell | Marketing & PR

Shopping for a dentist or not sure if your kid’s braces will be covered under your dental insurance? Inside UNLV sat down with Pat La Putt, benefits manager, to answer common questions employees have about the dental plan.

How do I find a dentist?

The dental plan is managed by Diversified Dental Services. To view a list of dentists in the network, visit www.ddsppo.com. Providers are listed under the State of Nevada Public Employees Benefits Program. You can also call 866-620 to find a dentist in the network.

Do I have to use a dentist in the network?

You can choose any dentist you like, but when you go to a provider in the network, you pay less out of pocket. For example, preventive services are covered at 100 percent if you go to an in-network provider. The same services are covered at 80 percent for an out-of-network provider.

Can I really get my teeth cleaned four times a year?

Yes. Cleanings and oral examinations are covered at 100 percent with an in-network provider up to four times a year. X-rays are limited to two times a year.

Are braces and orthodontia covered under the dental plan?

No. Braces and orthodontia are not covered under the plan. To help cover expenses, you could set up a flexible spending account (FSA). An FSA allows you to set aside money in an account on a pre-tax basis to cover out-of-pocket medical expenses. In addition, employees can still take advantage of reduced rates by visiting an in-network provider, even though the services are not covered in the plan. For more information, call ext. 5-0924.

On my dental estimation of benefits, I continually see the phrase “in excess of usual and customary charges.” What does that mean?

Usual and customary charges are set fees dental providers in the network have agreed to charge for services. However, some providers charge higher rates. After insurance pays its portion of the claim, you may be responsible for fees that are above the usual charge for that service.

Employee Benefits

Your Dental Plan Questions Answered

By Grace Russell | Marketing & PR

Shopping for a dentist or not sure if your kid’s braces will be covered under your dental insurance? Inside UNLV sat down with Pat La Putt, benefits manager, to answer common questions employees have about the dental plan.

How do I find a dentist?

The dental plan is managed by Diversified Dental Services. To view a list of dentists in the network, visit www.ddsppo.com. Providers are listed under the State of Nevada Public Employees Benefits Program. You can also call 866-620 to find a dentist in the network.

Do I have to use a dentist in the network?

You can choose any dentist you like, but when you go to a provider in the network, you pay less out of pocket. For example, preventive services are covered at 100 percent if you go to an in-network provider. The same services are covered at 80 percent for an out-of-network provider.

Can I really get my teeth cleaned four times a year?

Yes. Cleanings and oral examinations are covered at 100 percent with an in-network provider up to four times a year. X-rays are limited to two times a year.

Are braces and orthodontia covered under the dental plan?

No. Braces and orthodontia are not covered under the plan. To help cover expenses, you could set up a flexible spending account (FSA). An FSA allows you to set aside money in an account on a pre-tax basis to cover out-of-pocket medical expenses. In addition, employees can still take advantage of reduced rates by visiting an in-network provider, even though the services are not covered in the plan. For more information, call ext. 5-0924.

On my dental estimation of benefits, I continually see the phrase “in excess of usual and customary charges.” What does that mean?

Usual and customary charges are set fees dental providers in the network have agreed to charge for services. However, some providers charge higher rates. After insurance pays its portion of the claim, you may be responsible for fees that are above the usual charge for that service.

> ACCREDITATION

Continued from Page 1

the accreditation process (see Task Force chart, page 1).

By early fall, each task force will present a report on its area of responsibility. That information then will be used to create a template that will be used by departments to gather information for the self-study. All departments across campus — not just the academic departments — will be required to complete a self-study.

Deans and vice presidents will then use the departmental self-studies to prepare a self-study for their college or unit. College/unit reports will be due in the spring of 2009.

Bowers and the steering committee will prepare the self-study for the entire university. That means taking hundreds of pages and condensing the most important points into a report no more than 250 pages long.

Bowers said he plans to deliver that report to the accrediting agency no later than January 2010. And it is with that university-wide self-study in hand that the accrediting team will visit the university.

“What the accrediting agency looks at is: what is it that you are attempting to do, how are you doing it, and are you doing it well,” Bowers said.

Following the campus visit, the accreditation team will make its report, which will point to what UNLV is doing well and to what needs improvement. It will also recommend whether UNLV should be reaccredited.

Past Accreditation

Ten years ago UNLV was granted reaccreditation but told it needed to improve in two areas — academic assessment and information systems. The accrediting team returned to campus twice: in 2005 to check UNLV’s progress in improving its computer systems and again in 2007 to check progress in academic assessment.

The team was so pleased with the progress made in academic assessment that it said UNLV could be considered a model for other universities, Bowers said.
UNLV wrapped up its year-long 50th anniversary celebration in style last month with a Picnic Pops concert featuring the Las Vegas Philharmonic and recording star Linda Eder.

Hundreds of people gathered on the academic mall under the stars on a breezy Saturday evening to enjoy the show and the ambiance. Featuring songs with Las Vegas connections, the Philharmonic performed the first half of the program. During the second half they accompanied Eder, who sang a wide selection of songs, including “Man of La Mancha (I, Don Quixote),” “I Am What I Am,” and “Vienna.”

Before the show began, people attending the event had the chance to visit booths showcasing UNLV programs. Children were entertained with bounce houses, temporary tattoos, and visits with Hey Reb! The evening concluded with a fireworks display.

To see a video celebrating UNLV’s 50 years, go to celebrating50.unlv.edu.

Snap, Crackle & Pops

Broadway and recording star Linda Eder sings to the crowd.

(Above) Nancy Cleveland, right, of reprographics/design services hands out commemorative programs. She was one of about 130 UNLV employees, friends, and family members who volunteered their time to make the event a success. (Right) Folks attending the concert enjoyed picnic dinners while seated on blankets or at tables.