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Inside UNLV

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NPR’s Schorr to Speak

The Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution is bringing veteran journalist Daniel Schorr to campus for a lecture Sept. 11. Titled “Forgive Us Our Press Passes,” Schorr’s talk is part of the center’s Peace in the Desert lecture series. The center is housed in the Boyd School of Law.

Schorr is a senior news analyst for National Public Radio. His career has included a stint with Edward R. Murrow’s legendary CBS reporting team and a famous confrontation with President Richard Nixon, who included Schorr’s name on his infamous “enemies list.”

His career of more than six decades has earned him many awards for journalistic excellence, including three Emmys and decorations from European heads of state. Civil liberties groups and professional organizations have honored him for his defense of the First Amendment. In 1996 he received the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Golden Baton for exceptional contributions to radio and television reporting and commentary. It is the most prestigious award in the field of broadcasting and is considered the equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize.

The event will take place at Artemus Ham Concert Hall. It is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Early arrival is advised.

More Info: Call ext. 5-2421 or go to law.unlv.edu.

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Receive a monthly e-newsletter with updates and news about UNLV. Go to impacts.unlv.edu for a preview.

Get Your News Online

The university’s Advancement Division has launched a monthly e-newsletter called UNLV Impacts. The focus of this electronic publication will be on the impact UNLV is having in the community through its academic programs, research activities, community outreach efforts, and campus events.

Members of the campus community can direct colleagues and friends who are interested in learning more about UNLV to impacts.unlv.edu, where they can subscribe to the e-newsletter as well as view archived issues.

Helping Students Succeed

New Center to Replace University College

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

UNLV’s new Academic Success Center (ASC) is addressing one big hurdle for students: where to go when they need a little help.

On a campus as big as UNLV, simply finding the right resource can feel daunting. The ASC is a central resource for academic assistance and a link to the many resources across campus that students — and many faculty and staff members — may not know are available.

As its name suggests, the ASC’s mission is to encourage students to complete their studies, and its services are key to improving retention and graduation rates, say campus officials.

Ann McDonough, newly appointed dean of the ASC, said faculty and staff often have been unsure where students should go for particular services. Now there should be no doubt.

Students with academic success needs should go to the ASC.

“If students need any kind of counseling or other services related to academic success, they should be encouraged to come to us,” McDonough said. “We’ll either be able to provide the service ourselves or we will find out for them exactly where on campus that service is available.

ASC Dean Ann McDonough meets with students. The center is charged with improving graduation rates.

“We’ll get them a concrete answer,” she said. “We won’t send them out the door to figure it out themselves.”

In addition, the ASC will provide a more subtle benefit — letting a student make a direct connection with someone at UNLV, she said, pointing out that many studies have shown that students who make personal connections are more likely to graduate.

More Inside:

> President David Ashley’s column, page 2, talks about the Academic Success Center.

Building the Program

This fall, ASC services are concentrating primarily on developmental advising and support of the largest group of alternate admits in UNLV history. In concert with the college advising centers and Gayle Junear, executive director of academic advising, a range of support services are now in place specifically for these students.

Junear also is working with the ASC to launch a class concierge program that will assist students with processes

SSC Addition Among New Buildings

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Bringing them together — that is what the university is doing. The new addition to the Student Services Complex is uniting the services and functions students often seek in a central and convenient locale.

“The new complexes will cut down on the student run-around and also bring us back to a more traditional model of recruitment and admissions as one office,” said Katie Collins, associate registrar for operations and enrollment services.

The Student Services Complex now consists of three buildings:

SSC-A — This building holds the back-end functions for the office of the registrar.

SSC-B — The recruitment office is on the first floor and admissions is on the second floor. Prospective and newly admitted undergraduates can come here to apply to UNLV and to receive counseling on the process for becoming a Rebel.

SSC-C — The enrollment services center (front desk of the registrar) serves admitted students from enrollment through graduation. In this building students can get registration assistance (pre-requisites, full class waivers, etc.), enrollment verifications, class schedules, and transcripts. They’ll also go...
Focus 50 Sets Clear Goals for UNLV

In August, the NSHE Board of Regents accepted UNLV’s Focus: 50 to 100 strategic plan. The plan came about after a year of campuswide meetings to define the university’s identity and set a path for its development in the next several years.

As the planning process progressed, the state’s budget outlook became increasingly worrisome. How did that affect the planning process?

Some people, both on and off campus, might believe that our budget challenges are so severe that we must put everything on hold, including the goals set out in the strategic plan. I believe the opposite is true. Clearly, we face extraordinary financial difficulties. Compared to our peer universities, UNLV already is at a disadvantage in both state and grant funding, as well as the number of support staff. Many things on the financial side will significantly slow our progress. Retreating from our aspiration to become a top research institution — one uniquely able to promote Southern Nevada’s development — would disrupt the past efforts of faculty and staff as well as the needs of our students and community.

My personal philosophy is that strategic planning is even more critical in lean times. It will guide where we make cuts and where we must still invest, and it will keep us moving forward.

So how will UNLV implement the plan?

The obvious place to start is by fast-tracking elements of the plan that have no or minimal costs. We can, for example, redirect the focus of our University College toward the transition of first-year and transfer students into UNLV — providing us address our retention and graduation rates (see “Helping Students Succeed,” page 1). We can also work on many of the cultural-change recommendations of the plan without significant investments of new monies. The plan also highlights areas that must be pursued despite the lack of resources; these become priorities for our external fundraising efforts. To let these areas languish during the current budget crisis will damage the university for years, and in some cases deepen our financial problems.

What were the top priorities that came of the planning process?

One message was very clear. Across campus the single most important priority is to expand graduate student support. Improving here has significant impacts on the university’s ability to enrich the educational experiences of undergraduates while enabling faculty to increase research productivity.

The planning process also helped us better define the issues in which our community needs us to excel most — those related to health care, urban growth, immigration, and desert resources, for example. We already are a leader in many of these areas; we cannot afford to lose the advantages we have. Indeed, can anyone imagine UNLV not leading the country in gaming law, solar energy research, or hospitality management?

Protecting these strengths and building excellence in other specific areas will increase our national reputation and foster economic and social growth in Southern Nevada. And it is how we protect UNLV from the inevitable economic downturns in years to come.

Any final thoughts for faculty and staff?

As the campus knows, we conducted this planning process during UNLV’s 50th anniversary year. This milestone let us celebrate the innovation and unconventional spirit that has always characterized this university. We should no longer think of ourselves as that “young university” of only 50 years. We are a place of substance, with many accomplishments to publicize and even greater impact to have in the future.

More info: Go to planning.unlv.edu to read the Focus: 50 to 100 strategic planning document and learn more about UNLV’s planning priorities.
Professor, Department Chair, Now Dean

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

After 32 years teaching, researching modern playwrights, and serving 12 years as chair of the English department, Chris Hudgins moved into the dean’s position in the College of Liberal Arts. Hudgins recently took time to talk with Inside UNLV about his experiences at UNLV, one of the highlights of his career, and his goals for the college.

The early days. I got here in ’76, I thought I’d stay two years. Then I fell in love with the place; the place has treated me well. I had the chance to grow programs in ways you just wouldn’t be able to do at more well-established institutions.

The move to the dean’s job. I had applied for it four or five years ago, but didn’t get it. This time I thought about it long and hard. I had just been re-elected as English department chair for another three-year term. It turns out I’m enjoying it.

Why he likes it. I get energized by solving problems, and I get energized by possibilities. I’ve worked hand-in-glove with past deans so I knew what the job entailed. One pleasant surprise is that because the staff in the dean’s office is so good I am able to concentrate on our education and research mission and on our fundraising, I don’t have to spend much time on busywork.

Current challenges (no surprise here). The budget. We have managed to cut our budgets for part-time instructors by 20 percent through tremendous cooperation from the department chairs. (Associate Dean) Chris Heavey and (former Associate Dean) Andrew Bell were instrumental in making this happen. We made sure classes were full before we opened new sections. We juggled schedules. It’s like making the pieces of a puzzle fit together.

Goals for the college. Building the research reputation through excellent hiring; fundraising for research resources; and raising the bar for tenure and promotion. Also, we need to improve our lower division undergraduate instructional resources. Relying less on part-time instructors is part of that. I think we are doing an excellent job providing a superior graduate education and upper division undergraduate course offerings.

His biggest successes at UNLV. When I was chair of the English department, those would include hiring a bunch of distinguished faculty, creating an MFA program in creative writing, and creating one of UNLV’s first Ph.D. programs. Richard Wiley, Douglas Unger, and James Hazen were important contributors to the program.

More about the MFA. The MFA in creative writing program has been remarkably successful and was rated among the top five in the country by Atlantic Monthly. We were thrilled about that. Part of what brought attention to it was our requirement that all MFA students spend a semester abroad in a non-English-speaking country and also complete a translation project. For a novelist or poet, it is very important to break out of the self-centered mode both in terms of the personal and the national.

A professional thrill. Back in 1969, I first wrote about the British playwright Harold Pinter. He has since become the subject of much of my research. In 1983 I worked up the nerve to write him. We have since corresponded and met with some regularity. He has been especially generous to me.

In December 2005 I was invited to Stockholm to attend the ceremony in which Pinter would be presented the Nobel Prize for Literature. It was four days of ceremonies with two crowning events. One was Pinter’s acceptance speech, which he delivered via video because he was in a London hospital. He gave perhaps the most forceful political speech a Nobel laureate has ever presented. The other was when the king of Sweden presented the prizes. The ceremony involved a procession by the royal family, followed by the Nobel Laureates. Afterward, we moved to the ancient City Hall where a spectacular formal dinner was served to 1,100 people. I was one of the founding members of the editorial board of the Harold Pinter Review and was delighted to see seven of our publications on display in Stockholm.

His future at UNLV. I like the way my career here has worked. I have been able to pursue my teaching and my research and this interest I’ve had in administration. I’ve been fortunate to have had three sabbaticals and a great deal of support to travel to London and Venice for my research on Pinter. Now that I’m 61, I think being dean is a nice way to round out my career. If things go well, another six years or so might be about right.

Liberal Arts Dean Chris Hudgins says serving on the advisory committee for publications of the Modern Language Association helps keep him active in his research field of modern drama as he serves as dean.

Book Time to Hear Authors

By Joyce Carol Oates | The National Book Award-winning author will speak at 7 p.m. Oct. 18 in the Student Union ballroom.

Among her books are You Must Remember This, Blonde, We Were the Mulvaneys, and The Gravedigger’s Daughter. Oates’ writing has earned her the 2006 Orange Prize, the 2004 PEN/Faulkner, and the PEN/Malamud Award for Short Fiction. She is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University.

Charles Simic

On Oct. 21, the 2007 U.S. poet laureate will speak. Also a Pulitzer Prize winner for his 1990 book of prose poems titled The World Doesn’t End, he is the author of 18 collections of poetry as well as an essayist, translator, editor, and professor emeritus of creative writing and literature at the University of New Hampshire. His 1996 collection, Walking the Black Cat, was a finalist for the National Book Award for Poetry. This presentation, which will be cosponsored by the English department, will take place at 7 p.m. in the Student Union theater.

Michael Chabon

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist will deliver the keynote speech at the Vegas Valley BookFest on Nov. 8. He won the Pulitzer for The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay. His other books include The Mysteries of Pittsburgh and Wonder Boys. This event will take place at the Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Road. It is cosponsored by the Nevada Humanities, the city of Las Vegas’ office of cultural affairs, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, and the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Panel Discussion on Politics

In December, a panel discussion, “The Role of Race and Gender in the 2008 Election,” will feature writer/commentators Farai Chideya, Susan Faludi, and Katha Pollitt. Political science professor and author David Chidsey, Susan Faludi, and Katha Pollitt will be among the panelists. The discussion will be moderated by Temple University’s English Ph.D. candidate Dina Titus. More info: Go to blackmountain.unlv.edu or call ext. 5-5542.
As opposed to putting significant “ceremonial front door” to UNLV, this prominent site serving as the significant merit in the context of campus gateway, however, has ing and replacing it with the new served. Demolishing the build-
ing academic assistance. will offer a central location for get-
ing a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold rating. It will bring almost all the College of Urban Affairs units into one building.

Frazier Hall
Construction is complete; furniture, equipment, and broad-
cast equipment will be installed over the coming months. The building, which is 121,000 gross square feet, is tar-
geting a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold rating. It will bring almost all the College of Urban Affairs units into one building.

Tropicana Parking Garage — Located west of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, the new parking garage will have approximately 1,000 stalls. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2009 following the Nationals Finals Rodeo in December and is scheduled for completion in fall 2009. Approximately 300-400 surface parking spaces will be affected during construction. Permit fees are being used to fund the construction of the garage.

Who’s moving at UNLV?

A number of departments and dozens of faculty and staff members are moving offices.
The map below shows the new locations of those departments.

View and download UNLV maps online at maps.unlv.edu

> BUILDINGS

here to complete graduation-related transactions.
Eight self-service kiosks in SSC-C enable students to take care of such common transactions as printing unofficial class schedules and trans-
scripts. For issues students can’t solve on their own, such as having a hold lifted on an account, staff at a bank of 13 windows will help.
Another benefit is that the SSC is close to the new Academic Success Center (see “Helping Students Succeed,” page 1). Located across the walkway from SSC-A in the old student health building, the center will offer a central location for get-
ing academic assistance.

Frazier Hall
Collins noted that the new facili-	ies will leave a much better impres-
son on students. “Aesthetically, Frazier Hall was not a welcoming site for a student’s first contact with the university,” she said. “It was not a student-friendly building.”

UNLV’s campus master plan, com-
pleted in March 2004, shows the site of Frazier Hall as a new key cam-
pus space, with the existing building to be demolished. David Frommer, executive director of planning and construction, noted that the small, one-story building had “lived its serviceable life,” making way for a major gateway to UNLV.

These plans were not met with unanimous approval; critics want the campus’s first building pre-
served. Demolishing the build-
ing and replacing it with the new campus gateway, however, has significant merit in the context of this prominent site serving as the “ceremonial front door” to UNLV, as opposed to putting significant resources into a building that has limits to its function and service and would need costly renovations, Frommer said. This site’s prime location on Harmon Avenue offers the university a chance to improve its curb appeal and open its interior to the community, consistent with Midtown UNLV planning.

Current construction is rerouting telecommunications conduits at the site. Next, contractors will demol-
ish part of the building, leaving the telecommunications space intact, and add a new feature: a pioneer wall.

“We intend to retain a portion of the building to create a monument to recognize the cultural significance of the site as well as the contribu-
tions of the university’s founders,” Frommer said.

Frazier Hall was named for state legislator Maude Frazier, who was key to the founding of the university.
Bea’s Nose Knows

Trained Labrador Keeps Campus Safe

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Bea stands impatiently by the door each morning; she just can’t wait to get to her job at UNLV.

Typical employee concerns such as lack of convenient parking don’t bother her. But she does demand one thing from her job — food, at least three cups a day. She prefers Nutro dog kibble.

First of Her Kind

Bea is UNLV’s first bomb-sniffing dog. A 31-month-old yellow Labrador retriever, Bea has been part of the campus police force since July 2007. Fortunately, she has yet to unearth any major problem on campus.

Of course, Bea doesn’t work alone. Her handler is officer William Burkett, who has been on the UNLV force for almost three years.

Together they check venues both on and off campus for explosives. They often are called in to inspect a facility before an event, such as the National Finals Rodeo or last November’s Democratic presidential debate.

Sometimes the pair is asked by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the agency that trained Bea and Burkett and provided Bea to UNLV free of charge, to help out at events off campus, such as the Miss U.S.A. Pageant.

They spent 10 days in Phoenix to work the Super Bowl, yet Burkett didn’t see even a minute of the game. But sometimes the duty has unexpected perks. “Bea has met John Travolta, Carmen Electra, and Bruce Willis,” Burkett said.

Specialized Training

Of course, this specialized work required rigorous training — for both officer and dog.

Bea’s training began first. Initially recruited to be a guide dog for the blind, Bea washed out of that program. It seems she was a little too high energy for that particular line of work. (“High energy is not a problem in this job,” Burkett said.)

Bea immediately was snatched up by the ATF, which, according to Burkett, is always on the lookout for good canine candidates for its bomb-sniffing training.

After Bea’s training was well under way, Burkett arrived for his 10 weeks of training at the ATF facility in Front Royal, Va.

Individually, they learned a lot about explosives. Together, they learned how a dog and handler seek out such dangers.

Burkett and the seven other human trainees in his class took turns working with each of the nine dogs in the program. ATF trainers then matched each human with the dog they felt was the best fit for that person.

Burkett and Bea are now certified graduates of the ATF training program, making Bea one of only 145 ATF-trained dogs in the nation.

She even has a U.S. Department of Justice ID card with her photo on it. And on her collar she proudly displays a UNLV police badge.

You’ll see Bea and Burkett around campus — sometimes patrolling for explosives (Bea can sniff out 19,000 kinds) and sometimes working on the training. Burkett or a fellow officer hides items such as shell casings in an area of campus and then Burkett sends Bea to find them, commanding her to “seek.” When she locates what she’s looking for she sits and then looks back at Burkett. If he doesn’t immediately respond, she may stand up and then sit down again or point her nose toward the item to get his attention.

Getting to Know Her

Burkett knows that people want to meet and pet Bea. That’s fine. She’s friendly and likes the attention. If you see her out and about, just be sure to ask Burkett’s permission first to make sure it’s an appropriate time.

Burkett and Bea train daily to keep her skills sharp and so she can earn her food. She is fed only after successfully locating something tainted with an explosive.

Even off duty, Bea and Burkett are together. She lives with him, and at home is pretty much like any other pet, he said.

Bea is a little jealous of Burkett’s attention. Any time he is seated on the couch when his fiancé walks into the house, Bea immediately jumps up on the furniture to make sure she’s the one sitting closest to him.

“She’s very attached to me. I am with her all the time,” he said, noting that he even takes Bea when he goes on vacation. As a trained law enforcement dog, she is allowed to ride alongside him on airplanes.

Burkett said he feels fortunate to be working with Bea. “I was just in the right place at the right time. Two weeks after I started here, I found an application in my box for anyone who wanted to undergo the ATF training. A year and a half later, I had Bea.”

Police Move HQ

This fall, UNLV police services headquarters will move to the former American Cancer Society building, located across Maryland Parkway on Harmon Avenue.

All services, including lost and found, special event staff, police records, and fingerprinting will move to the new location.

“*This location will be a highly visible and accessible stand-alone police station that will be closer to the main UNLV campus,” said Chief Jose Elique.* "We will be able to provide the UNLV community even better access to the police services they have come to expect. Moreover, our new location and the timing of this move is compatible with the long-range vision of the Midtown UNLV project.*

The police dispatch and communications unit as well as student security will remain in the Claude Howard Building, while the Shadow Lane police offices will remain on that campus.
UNLV Organization

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Want a Printable Version?
If you would like a smaller version of the organizational chart, go to facultystaff.unlv.edu to print it.
New Faces
Stories by Erin O’Donnell

Editor’s Note:
Here, in place of the usual “Across Campus” section, we’re presenting “New Faces,” profiles of a random sampling of some of UNLV’s newest employees. As the new academic year begins, take a minute to learn about some of your new coworkers. “Across Campus” will return next month.

ADVANCEMENT
Ken Swisher
Associate Vice President for Strategic Communications

Getting a university to speak with one voice isn’t an easy task, but it’s Ken Swisher’s goal. And when UNLV has something to shout about, he wants to make sure people hear it and understand it.

“UNLV has a great story to tell. My job is to tell that story in a way that people understand the tremendous value and impact of this great university,” Swisher said. “One key to that is to determine a few key strategic messages and use them in all our communications.”

As the university’s new chief communicator, Swisher arrives at a time of transition. He’ll oversee the offices of public affairs, marketing and public relations, and geographic information. Those units recently merged along with the alumni relations and development offices under the banner of advancement.

Swisher oversaw similar functions at his previous job as assistant vice president for public relations and strategic communications at California State University, Northridge. He has spent his career almost exclusively in higher education. Those units recently merged along with fresh-years and development offices under the banner of advancement.

Swisher’s goal is to unite the many communicators on campus to incorporate the university’s strategic messages when talking about their individual departments or colleges.

One of those big-picture messages is that research brings tremendous value to a university’s students and its community. Swisher said UNLV’s status as a research institution was a big draw for him. “A research university is a more dynamic organization. All the fascinating, important, and impactful activities happening here make it an exciting place to be.”

“Higher education is my passion,” said Swisher, who grew up in a town of 2,000 in rural Pennsylvania. “I was fortunate enough to get a job in this field as an undergraduate, and it has turned into a very fulfilling career.”

At UNLV, one of his early goals is to unite the many communicators on campus to incorporate the university’s strategic messages when talking about their individual departments or colleges.

Ken Swisher

BUSINESS
Al Smith
Assistant Dean and Director of Undergraduate Programs

Al Smith’s focus is acclimating first-year college students to campus life. Now, he’s the new kid on the block, and he’ll be learning the ropes right along with freshmen in the College of Business.

Smith comes to UNLV from East Carolina University, where he served as assistant vice chancellor for student development. There he pioneered a comprehensive approach to helping students make the transition to college and he created a first-year center that merged such services as student orientation with academic affairs programs (freshman seminar, transfer student services, and academic success interventions).

“The role allowed me to see the university from a 360-degree perspective — from the point of admission to the end of the first year,” Smith said. “What’s really critical for students is to develop a sense of belonging early on. That first six weeks of college is all about how to get them actively engaged in educationally purposeful activities.”

Retaining students is a challenge for any university, and the highest risk for dropping out is in the first year. Compared to his previous institution, Smith said, this university faces unique issues, such as students who balance full-time jobs with full-time class loads.

Smith said moving from a campuswide role to the college level will allow him to offer more personalized services to students and to help them plot a successful course from freshman to graduate. “I am in the unique position to affect the entire four years.”

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
Takiyah Beckett
Executive Assistant to the Vice President

Takiyah Beckett was an Army brat. Her father moved their family to military posts all over, including Germany. When she encountered prejudice there, it was because she was American, not necessarily black American.

It was a different story when she returned to the United States four years later. “When I would experience racism, I would think, ‘But it’s not like that everywhere else,’” Beckett said.

Those early experiences gained even more significance when Beckett became the executive assistant to Christine Clark, vice president for diversity and inclusion.

URBAN AFFAIRS
Mike Piper
Media Engineer

As students start classes this fall in the new Greenspun Hall, many will be at home with its sleek audio and video equipment. But there’s an entire back-end network behind the curtain that needs Mike Piper to keep it humming — and to keep everyone up to speed on it.

“The students have grown up with digital technology. I’m trying to create that bridge for students, faculty, and staff to learn and understand the infrastructure that is required to support digital media management and production,” said Piper, who fills the new role of media engineer for the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies.

The digital upgrade means tape is out; video and audio are now recorded on electronic cards that slide out of the recorder and into the computer for editing. Piper will help deploy and manage the new systems and network. He’ll convert a massive archive of taped material to a digital format so it can be stored on hard disk. He may even wind up in the classroom, teaching introductory courses on using digital media and helping professors develop curricula that will best prepare students for the high-tech media workplace.

Piper and his wife, Sara, moved to Las Vegas in 1999. He went to work in computer networking for a hotel-casino company and later consulted for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The agency sponsored his executive MBA degree, earned at UNLV in 2005. “I’m proud to say that the positive experience of the EMBA program motivated me to return to campus in a professional capacity after graduation,” he said. “I’m at the ground floor of a new curriculum and a new building. It’s a fantastic opportunity.”
inclusion at UNLV. The position has prompted her to confront her own biases as she’s in daily contact with people who are different in ways that go beyond race, ethnicity, and national origin.

“While our work is dedicated to bringing people together, in order to get to inclusion we have to meaningfully explore and come to really value diversity. So, there are times when our work can be viewed as controversial,” Beckett said. “In challenging long-held world views, it takes time for people to realize that it is only by affirming diversity that we end up including everyone.”

“What I’ve taken from Dr. Clark is to view people and situations from the perspective of their impact on individuals as well as on groups, and especially with respect to how cultural norms come into play.”

Beckett comes from the hotel-casino industry, where she managed behind-the-scenes services such as housekeeping and internal maintenance. At UNLV, she has already helped coordinate a retreat for employees of the diversity offices at all four NSHE institutions in Southern Nevada.

“It helped us to break through our own barriers and learn to be more collaborative, instead of thinking in terms of ‘my campus, your campus,’” she said.

EDUCATION

Gwen Marchand
Associate Professor of Educational Psychology
Gwen Marchand is a newcomer in more than one way. The educational psychology professor just earned her doctorate, and she’s taking on her first university position after two years with the Clark County School District.

With a clean slate ahead of her, Marchand can’t help but be a little giddy. “I’m ready to go,” Marchand said. “I’ve missed having the academic freedom and autonomy of being a part of an intellectual community. I really believe that research cannot be done in isolation.”

At the school district, Marchand worked in research and school improvement, facilitating studies by outside researchers — including some from UNLV. Her projects related to teacher training and inclusive education, and she served on a committee that ensured ethical guidelines were followed.

Now it’s Marchand’s turn to ask the questions. In general she wants to study the connection between student engagement and learning. Her dissertation, which she successfully defended over the summer at Portland State University, discussed methods of student autonomy in third through seventh grades. “Strangely enough, there has not been an excessive amount of research on student engagement,” Marchand said. “It’s an area that could use a little more. We now have kids in first and second grade who are not necessarily engaged, and that shouldn’t happen.”

Engagement doesn’t seem to be a problem, however, for this enthusiastic newcomer.

ENGINEERING

Jennifer Thomas
Academic Advisor
When students inevitably ask Jennifer Thomas why they need to take some courses that seem unrelated to their career goals, she can give them real-world answers. Thomas comes to the College of Engineering Academic Advising Center from a two-year stint as a project coordinator at a Las Vegas engineering firm.

“It enables me to tell students, ‘This is what you’re going into.’ I can tell them why they need to take those courses,” Thomas said.

The job already had been everything she was told it would be, Thomas said — and that’s a good thing. “Students know they can pop into our doors and say ‘Hi’ or joke around with us. And their parents are comfortable talking with us.”

Her duties include keeping students on track with the many requirements of an engineering degree, new student orientation, and helping students find solutions when they’re struggling. As a fairly recent graduate herself, Thomas said she still talks to students. She earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from Pepperdine University in 2004, then became an advisor at a chiropractic college in the San Francisco Bay Area. But she wanted to get back to her native Las Vegas, so she took the job at the engineering firm. At UNLV, Thomas said she found the perfect combination for her skills.

“I realized how much I missed working with students, and the fulfillment I get out of helping them achieve their goals,” she said. “Each of us has had mentors, those people who cut through the red tape for us, who saw something in us.”

She hopes someday there will be engineers out in the world who remember her in the same way.

FINANCE AND BUSINESS

Bud Pierce
Associate Vice President for Human Resources
When Bud Pierce took over as head of human resources in May, the university was deep in a budget crisis, and notices of non-reappointment were imminent. “It was like walking into a buzz saw,” he said. “But we try to deal fairly and honestly with people. That’s of the utmost importance.”

During this baptism by fire, Pierce has drawn on three decades of HR experience to deal with the difficult task of helping people move on. He was director of HR for the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District for 11 years. Before that, he spent more than 20 years working for government agencies in his home state of Kansas. It also helped to have a top-notch staff waiting for him, Pierce said. During his interviews for the job, he met with several faculty and staff groups, and most had nothing but praise for HR. “Nobody was critical at all of our office. They said HR had really turned around in the last few years, and they wanted more of it.”

Pierce isn’t the only newcomer to UNLV in his family. The younger of his two daughters is now a freshman here majoring in music education. And he has one of those six-degrees-of-separation connections, too. Pierce’s wife grew up with basketball coach Lon Kruger back in their hometown of Silver Lake, Kan. “We’ve been following coach Kruger’s career since he left Kansas many years ago,” he said.

FINE ARTS

Lee-Anne Milburn
Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, Department of Landscape Architecture and Planning
For more than four years, Lee-Anne Milburn has studied methods of low-impact urban development, such as building new communities that redirect abundant rainwater back into the aquifer rather than down the street.
“And now I’m moving to a state that gets 4 inches of rain a year,” she laughs. “Water is one of my areas of specialization, but my broader interest is sustainability. It just happens that water has become a big issue of late.”

Milburn is both an academic and a practicing landscape architect. But you won’t see her designing flower beds — her projects have a much larger scope. Milburn studies ways for landscapes to make as little intrusion on the environment as possible while elevating quality of life. At North Carolina State University she created the state’s first low-impact development manual. Her research has related to park development, community design, and healthy landscapes.

At UNLV, Milburn sees opportunities to learn more about how landscape affects health. People are known to thrive more in view of trees and green spaces, so what does that mean to a desert dweller? “If we can deal more effectively with environmental issues, by default we’re going to improve human health and well being,” Milburn said.

“I believe that research needs to be grounded in the place where you are. I see Las Vegas as having really exciting potential in terms of tourism, ecosystem management, development, and art landscapes. I hope to help the landscape architecture program have an even greater impact on this exciting city and the state in general.”

**NEW FACES**

**LIBERAL ARTS**

**Greg Hise**

Professor of History

If you think Las Vegas has imnolded all of its history to make way for highways and high-rise buildings, Greg Hise wants to change your mind. As an urban historian, Hise searches for the lost stories of American cities that can inform our future.

For 20 years, Hise has studied the history of Los Angeles, initially focusing on the WWII era and then moving back to the 19th century. His books include: *Magickal Los Angeles: Planning the Twentieth-Century Metropolis*, and *Eden by Design* (co-written with William Deverell), about an ambitious but unsuccessful 1930 master plan for the region’s parks, playgrounds, and beaches that has since been revived.

Hise’s personal history is as a builder and an architect. But while in architecture school at the University of California, Berkeley, he was drawn to history. “Yes, Hise leaves the University of Southern California for Southern Nevada to expand his view beyond the Sierra Nevada.”

“I’ve written about the fact that L.A. is always talked about as a city of the future,” Hise said. “In some ways it is now a city of the past — a 20th century city. Phoenix and Las Vegas or Hong Kong and Shanghai are now the cities of the future.”

Hise plans to move into comparative ways of urban areas around the Pacific Rim that have diverse populations, have experienced rapid growth, and are shaped by new economies based on modern industries like communications, technology or gaming. “One of the tropes of modernity is that history doesn’t matter. As a historian, I take exception to such claims,” Hise said.

**HOTEL**

**Beth Barrie**

Assistant Professor for Recreation and Sport Management and Project Manager for the Public Lands Institute

The National Park Service relies on 70,000 interpreters to explain the parks’ features, geography, and history to visitors. About 4,000 are paid employees; the rest are volunteers in need of training. Beth Barrie brought that training into the 21st century by developing an interactive, online suite of courses while at Indiana University.

Now, her UNLV students will study those course materials to develop their own interpretive programs for the public lands surrounding Las Vegas. That’s what she calls the “terrific synergy” that training into the 21st century by designing an interactive, online suite of courses while at Indiana University.

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**RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES**

**Bob Switzer**

Director of the Office of Technology Transfer

As the most responsible for pursuing patents and copyrights for projects by UNLV faculty, Bob Switzer gets a sneak preview of cutting-edge inventions. Since coming to Las Vegas in the spring, Switzer has helped a university researcher file a patent for his method of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel and met an engineer who’s making breakthroughs in nanotechnology.

“Two of the exciting areas are alternative energy and biotechnology,” he said. “My job is to gain exposure for these and other prospective inventions produced by UNLV faculty and see what opportunities are available for commercializing these inventions.”

Switzer came from New Mexico State University where he worked within a federally funded program for technology transfer of research at national laboratories, such as Los Alamos and Sandia.

For the new lab space for the Metrology Studies, which will give foreign researchers better access to the national lab’s resources than their limited security clearance has allowed in the past.
A Banner Year on Campus

By Michelle Mouton | UNLV Foundation

Notice something new as you walk around campus? It’s the faces of members of the campus community smiling down at you from banners along the malls.

The faculty, staff, and students featured on them are already benefiting from the private support raised through the Invent the Future campaign. The campaign has raised more than $424 million for new programs, fellowships and scholarships, faculty research, and university facilities.

“During this difficult time of budget cuts across higher education in Nevada, private support is more important than ever,” said Nancy Strouse, senior associate vice president for development and executive director of the UNLV Foundation.

“Our donors know their gifts fund those things that are not covered by the general budget and provide the margin of excellence that is critical for a top research university,” Strouse said.

As the Invent the Future campaign enters its final months, the impact of private support continues to make a difference in the lives of students, faculty, and staff.

“In our college, I’ve seen the impact that private support has on our students and faculty,” said Eric Sandgren, dean of the College of Engineering. “Many of our students benefit from private scholarships and internships, and our faculty and students are able to conduct groundbreaking research through our exciting new programs and facilities.”

Call the Campus Tech Experts

By Mamie Peers | OIT

If you’re ready to work and your computer just won’t cooperate, the office of information technology (OIT) stands ready to help. Here’s a guide to accessing OIT services.

IT Help Desk

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays Location: CBC, Room B-133 Contact: Ext. 5-0777 or IThelp@unlv.edu

Most IT questions can begin here and many can be answered right away. If technicians cannot answer your question on the spot, they direct you to the person who can or they initiate a “help request” to document and track your issue.

Call the Help Desk for:
• Desktop computer problems
• Software, including Lotus Notes and Microsoft Office products
• New computer orders
• WebCampus administration
• The RAVE & SEND student e-mail communication systems
• Network and printing issues
• Training opportunities

Classroom Support

Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. weekdays Location: CBC, Room B132 Contact: Ext. 5-0771

If you’re having problems with technology in a classroom and need help right away, contact this number. You can request:
• Immediate assistance with a Technology Enhanced Classroom (TEC)
• Maintenance for TEC facility equipment
• Computer teaching facility assistance
• Software installation in a TEC

TEC Room Access and Training

You will need a Marlok card to access rooms with technology. If you are locked out of a room during regular business hours, contact your unit or facilities at ext. 5-4357. After business hours, call the police service’s dispatch at ext. 5-3668 and press “2” at the menu prompt. Be sure to have proof that you are teaching and need access to the room.

If you need help using a TEC room, or want training, call ext. 5-0771. OIT provides assistance over the phone and, if necessary, sends a technician to your classroom.

Requests for audio and visual equipment delivery begin here. Media Services provides technology to spaces where technology does not exist — be it a classroom or a special event. Be sure to reserve the following equipment 24 hours in advance:
• Computer projection carts with DVD/VCR player
• DVD/VCR carts
• Video conferencing
• Laptop computers
• Microphones, tape players, handheld video recorders, and more

Multimedia Services

Hours: 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday Location: CBC, Room B-132 Contact: Ext. 5-0701

Send your students here to get help with:
• Password resets
• Lost data
• Formatting Microsoft Word documents
• Using WebCampus
• Accessing RebeMail

Student Help Desk

Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday - Thursday; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday - Saturday; and noon-5 p.m. Sunday Location: Student Union, Room 231 Contact: Ext. 5-0761 or StudentHelp@unlv.edu

More Info:
Go to campaign.unlv.edu.
Dottie Shank Barnett, office manager for the department of environmental studies, considers the arboretum one of campus’s “Great Places.”

“Great People. Great Places” is a new website feature highlighting interesting people and places on campus.

“The grass is great to sit on and enjoy the sounds of nature while reading a book or just listening to the birds sing,” she said. “I enjoy watching students interact while enjoying the beautiful green grassy areas on our campus that are shaded by trees almost as old as our campus.”

Through educational seminars and tours of the arboretum, visitors can learn more about the living landscape, which includes four gardens and three kinds of champion trees: the weeping mulberry, strawberry, and chir pine.

More info: Go to unlv.edu/greatpeople to see more “Great People. Great Places.”

(Above) Barnett considers it a treat to watch the birds circle and play during quiet moments on campus. (Below) The landscape, grounds, and arboretum employees take pride in the appearance of the UNLV campus, maintaining the green areas in a manner true to the original design intent.