On Time with the Tunes

UNLV alumna
Ginger Bruner
The Physics Department knows about motion: it's moving into a $9.2 million, 65,000-square-foot facility that's nothing short of state-of-the-art.

What's inside that building is even more impressive. Bright students learning from brilliant teachers, teachers specializing in extragalactic astronomy, condensed matter theory, and atomic and molecular theory.

Maybe that's why anyone — student or teacher — who's serious about physics is serious about UNLV.

It also explains why we were recently named a National Flagship University.

For more information call 895-3011 or 800-334-UNLV.
The European Witch-hunts

UNLV historian Elspeth Whitney explores the reasons for the deaths of thousands of Western Europeans during the witch-hunts of the 16th and 17th centuries.

BY BARBARA CLOUD

A Nation’s Disgrace, A Family’s Honor

UNLV professor Ed Wakayama intends to make certain that what happened in the World War II Japanese internment camps is not forgotten.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

Ready, Willing, and More Than Able

The challenges that UNLV graduate John Michael Stuart faces have inspired him to spread an important message about the real meaning of ability.

BY TOM FLAGG

In Tune with the Times, On Time with the Tunes

On any given day, UNLV alumna Ginger Bruner might be found on the air at KNPR, at a concert playing the tuba, or at a photo shoot behind the camera.

BY SUZAN DIBELLA

Rewarding Determination

The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center Scholarship rewards student-recipients for their perseverance and tenacious spirit.

BY TERRY BASKOT BROOKER
101 Best Values Names UNLV “Flagship University”

UNLV has been named one of 34 National Flagship Universities in the 1994 edition of America’s Best Values in American Colleges and Universities, published by the Center for College Enrollment Studies, according to David Wilson, the book’s editor.

UNLV first appeared among the 101 colleges and universities in the 1993 edition. “The Best Value National Flagship Universities are those that we feel have national stature,” Wilson said. The list of 34 includes such institutions as UCLA, UC-Berkeley, Duke, Boston College, the University of Michigan, Penn State, Purdue, and Notre Dame.

When you mention these universities anywhere in the country, people know them,” he said. “People are familiar with them coast-to-coast, and they have national respect.”

Institutions were selected for inclusion in the 400-page book on the basis of academic resources, student life, and cost, Wilson said.

“My own feeling is that a certain number of schools — the ones we call Best Value National Flagship Universities — will dominate higher education in the 21st century, and UNLV is in that category,” he added. “These are schools that have great resources, tremendous energy, and attractive costs.”

Wilson said the center, which is located in Bridgewater, Mass., looks at schools nationwide, focusing on those that have been featured in other national publications and seem to have “a sense of institutional momentum.”

He writes that UNLV’s “exceptional leadership” has concentrated on building resources for teaching and learning, and he prunes UNLV’s programs in fields such as business, economics, humanities, hotel administration, education, and exercise physiology.

UNLV has also been ranked in the top third of 113 western colleges and universities rated by U.S. News and World Report’s annual America’s Best Colleges 1994 Guide. UNLV was ranked 35th, according to Robert Morse, director of data analysis for the guide, placing it in the second quarter of regional universities in the West.

Previously, UNLV was listed for four consecutive years in the guide’s “up-and-coming regional university” category, a classification the guide no longer uses.

Alumni License Plates Now Available

Looking for one more way to show your pride in being a UNLV alum? Special license plates are now available for UNLV alumni through the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

Featuring the Rebel mascot and the UNLV logo on a gray background, the license plates will provide revenue for both the athletic department and for the UNLV Alumni Association.

The cost of a special UNLV plate is $60 for the first year, $25 of which will go to the university. The $25 annual renewal fee will also go to UNLV. The money the university collects from the plates will be divided evenly between the athletic department and the Alumni Scholarship Endowment Fund.

“This is a great way to promote your school and help with the growing scholarship program — and at the same time show some school spirit,” said Pam Hicks, president of the Alumni Association.

Hendricks Named Outstanding Alumnus

Bruce Hendricks, a UNLV graduate who has served as an active member of the UNLV Alumni Association for years, was chosen in the spring of the 1993 Outstanding Alumni Award.

Hendricks, who earned a bachelor’s degree in education from UNLV in 1973, is now president of Sheridan National Bank in Sheridan, Wyo.

He served as president of the Alumni Association during 1988-89 while the Richard Tax Alumni Center was under construction. Previously, he served the association in a variety of capacities, including treasurer, chairman of the building, social, and finance committees, and as the chairman of the public relations.

While living in Las Vegas, he also ran a business in the Bays Club and served on the board of the Cladie Lightner, an organization that helps children with cancer.

UNLV Alumni Association Offering Six Educational Tours

The UNLV Alumni Association is offering six educational tours in the coming year, all of them open to anyone who would like to go along.

Organized by the association’s travel and tour director, Claude Rand, an emeritus professor of hotel administration, these trips will take travelers to some of the most desirable destinations in the United States and abroad.

The first tour group will head to Hong Kong for six days, beginning March 12. For a fee of $1,250, participants will cruise Hong Kong Harbor at sunset, visit the People’s Republic of China, and tour the island of Macau and its famous casino.

A Florida trip is set for April 10-17. It will take in Disney World and Epcot Center, the MGM Studio Theme Park, Universal Studios, Church Street Station, and Cape Canaveral. The cost is $789 per person.

The third group will head for South east Asia May 2-11 to stay in the world-famous Regent Hotels in Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Singapore, with a $500, they can spend June 6-10 seeing the new MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park, the Escalibur, Luxor, Treasure Island, and The Mirage, with a visit to Laughlin.

In September, a group will set out for London and the British countryside. Priced at $1,600, the trip is set for Sept. 13-21. The group will visit London, the Salisbury and Canterbury cathedrals, Stonehenge, the Arundel and Windsor castles, Oxford/Canterbury and Stratford-on-Avon, and the Tintern Abbey.

The last trip of the year is a cruise to Mexico on Norwegian Cruise Line’s Southward. Set for Oct. 8-7 and priced at $624, the cruise will take in Catalina Island, San Diego, and Ensenada, Mexico.

For information on any of these trips, call Claude Rand at (702) 895-3621.

Arriaza Attends Iceman Conference

UNLV anthropology professor Bernardo Arriaza recently attended a prestigious conference on the Iceman, a 5,000-year-old mummified body found frozen in the Italian Alps, and on other mummies found in various regions of the world.

Arriaza (featured in the Autumn 1993 issue of UNLV Magazine) was one of 40 international scholars invited to attend the expense-paid conference at the University of Innsbruck. Scholars at the conference shared information on conserving, presenting, and studying both natural and artificial mummies.

The Iceman, which is considered a natural mummy because both its flesh and bone were preserved in the ice, was briefly examined by the scholars. Viewing of the mummy is very limited because of the delicate preservation techniques being used require that it remain frozen, Arriaza said, adding that his own viewing of the mummy lasted only one minute.

One of the most important things that occurred at the conference was that certain agreements were reached on how the Iceman will be cared for,” said Arriaza, who is an expert on the mummification practices of an ancient South American people called the Chinchorros.

He added that an international panel was formed at the conference that will channel research projects on the Iceman and oversee its preservation.

“Naturally, they will try to accommodate research needs while limiting damage to the Iceman as much as possible,” he said. “What makes the Iceman unique is that there are not many 5,000-year-old mummies of Europeans. Most mummies are from other regions of the world.

At the conference, Arriaza presented a paper on his research of the Chinchorro’s mummification practices, comparing them to the preparation of the dead practiced by other ancient cultures of the coastal regions near the Andes.
Harry Reid Center Receives Support for Lake Mead Study

UNLV's Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies has received a $500,000 donation from the Lincy Foundation to fund an extensive five-year study of the Lake Mead Recreation Area.

The grant will allow the Harry Reid Center, which employs some 65 scientific researchers, to develop a base of information about the distribution of plants, birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles in the vast Lake Mead Recreation Area.

According to Alon O'Neill, superintendent of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, said, "We see this as an incredible breakthrough for Lake Mead, as the science produced from the studies will be invaluable to park management as a tool for assuring that we perform our legislative public duty to protect the resource base. We have struggled with management decisions of late because we have lacked the scientific data to help guide our decision making."

The project will involve UNLV students as well as researchers in the Harry Reid Center, Baeppler said, adding that after the study is complete, the center will raise funds for an endowment to fund long-term monitoring of the environmental health of the area.

Continuing Education Offers Kenya Trip

Geology professor Steve Rowland will lead a UNLV Continuing Education group on a 13-day trip to the parks and game reserves of Kenya July 21-Aug. 2.

"East Africa is simply the most fantastic place on earth," Rowland said. "It is the place where the human species evolved. In a sense, visiting Kenya is like stepping into a time machine — a kind of Pleistocene park. The flora and fauna that we evolved with are still there to be seen, smelled, and heard."

The Kenya itinerary will include a stay for several nights in safari-like tents at the Masai Mara Game Reserve, where wildebeests, impalas, gazelles, jackals, and hyenas can be seen.

Another unique lodging experience on the trip will be an overnight stay at The Ark, a famous "tree hotel" located in the foothills of Mt. Kenya. This popular lodge rests on a platform in the trees above a flood-lit watering hole visited by local wildlife to the delight of guests observing from above. Other stops include a visit to the Samburu Game Reserve — which features a rhinoceros sanctuary, as well as giraffe, zebra, and ostrich populations — and nearby Lake Nakuru, home to millions of pink flamingos seen taking flight in many television wildlife documentaries.

Rowland, the 1992 recipient of the Extended Education Faculty Excellence Award, has led several international trips for Continuing Education, most recently to the former Soviet Union. Rowland, who teaches geology, paleontology, and environmental science at UNLV, led a previous trip to Kenya in 1986.

The cost of the upcoming trip is $4,450 per person, double occupancy. For more information on Continuing Education's African Adventure, call Michelle Baker at 895-3254.
The appreciation and confusion of other witches.

A reigned and by suffrage condemned and executed as a witch, in the County of Essex, in the year 1662.
He was only 2 years old when he and his family were released from the camps. Although he doesn’t remember being there, he intends to make certain that what happened is not forgotten by the rest of the world.

E WAS BORN INTO A world of barbed wire and machine guns, populated by people wary and frightened of what those in power had in store for them next. Already, his parents had seen their civil rights tossed aside. With only 72 hours notice, they, along with their family and friends, had been ordered to leave their homes and businesses, taking with them only what they could carry. They abandoned the rest — houses, cars, furniture, personal belongings — or quickly sold them for much less than their worth. Any money they had set aside in the bank was useless to them; their accounts were frozen.

When the time came to leave for the camps, armed sailors came to his family’s home to make sure they went. His grandmother, who had been forced to leave the hospital to make the trip, was so ill that her son had to carry her on his back.

As his family waited in the rain for the bus that would transport them, another woman who was also waiting said of the rain, “Even God is crying for us.”

During the next four years, his family was moved from armed camp to armed camp — until the war ended, and those in the camps were freed. If this story sounds like that of a Nazi concentration camp victim, think again. It did take place during World War II, but in California, not Germany. The armed camp described was Manzanar, the birthplace of UNLV professor Ed Wakayama.

Manzanar was one of several “internment” camps — a euphemism for concentration camp, Wakayama says — where Japanese-Americans and Japanese nationals alike were detained during World War II.

Although Wakayama was not quite 3 years old when his family was released and does not remember the relocation camps, he is very much aware of that episode of American history.

Today, he talks about it not out of bitterness or vindictiveness, but because he believes it is a chapter in U.S. history that Americans must not forget, lest it should happen again.

“I think that talking about it and writing about it is the only way that you can keep this alive so that the same thing will not happen to any other groups,” he says.

That is why Wakayama has been combing through public records and using the Freedom of Information Act to get information he needs to write a book about his family’s experiences at Manzanar and other camps. That is also why Wakayama recently gave a talk about his family’s ordeal as part of UNLV’s University Forum lecture series.

Life has turned out all right for Wakayama, who, in many ways, is living the American dream. After growing up in Japan (where his family went after being released from the camps), he attended three U.S. universities, receiving a bachelor’s degree in biology and medical technology from Northeastern University, a master’s degree in clinical chemistry from the University of Oregon Health Science Center, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Nevada, Reno. Now, he directs UNLV’s small, but growing clinical laboratory sciences program and conducts research concerning both the cause of jaundice in newborns and exactly how aspirin and similar drugs work in the human body. He’s married and has two daughters.

And he’s the first to tell you that today in the United States, there is no discrimination, that anyone can become anything he or she has the determination to become.

The story of the Wakayama family — as told by Ed Wakayama — begins decades ago, just before the turn of the century. In 1895, Ed Wakayama’s father, Kinzo, was born in the territory of Hawaii, making him a U.S. citizen. During World War I, he served in the U.S. Army as part of the medical corps, receiving an honorable discharge when the war was over.

Afterward, he attended college, first in Japan and then at the University of Chicago, where he studied law. Later, he settled in Southern California, eventually becoming the first Japanese-American elected secretary/treasurer of the...
Despite his family's internment during World War II, UNLV professor Ed Wakayama, who now heads UNLV's Center for Japanese Studies, feels no bitterness toward America. "You have to live in a foreign country to appreciate what we have here," he says.

fishermen's union for the West Coast. Then came the "day that will live in infamy"—Dec. 7, 1941—when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. According to Wakayama, his father knew that the bombing meant trouble for those of Japanese descent living on the West Coast. In a futile effort to head off or at least diminish the trouble, he wrote U.S. officials, to no avail, saying that the many fishermen of Japanese descent in California would be willing to donate their vessels for war purposes.

Within months of Pearl Harbor, the Wakayama family, along with tens of thousands of others, was ordered to the relocation camps. Thinking that his service in the U.S. Army would mean something to the government, the elder Wakayama wrote a letter to U.S. military officials requesting that the Japanese-American veterans of World War I be exempted from the order or be separated from the Japanese nationals. The written reply he received stated, "A Jap is a Jap." There was to be no distinction.

He thought of trying to delay the relocation by bringing his legal training to bear and filing legal motions protesting what he was convinced was an illegal action. But when armed sailors came to get his family, he knew it would be foolish to attempt to resist.

He and his wife, who was also a U.S. citizen of Japanese descent, and his wife's mother, sister, and brother left for their internment camp, a makeshift facility at the Santa Anita Racetrack, where they slept in horse stalls on mattresses they fashioned from hay.

It was at Santa Anita that the elder Wakayama first spoke up for the rights of the internees and thus obtained the label that was to follow him through the years of internment to come—troublemaker.

Shortly after arriving at Santa Anita, he spotted other internees who had been put to work converting fishing nets into camouflage. That, he announced, was in violation of the Geneva Convention, which governs the treatment of prisoners of war. His outspokenness landed him in a local jail, and a Los Angeles newspaper wrote about the incident, using the headline "First Jap Spy Caught." Eventually, he was released without having a trial. By that time, his family had been relocated to Manzanar, and he was sent there to join them. "My dad arrived at two in the morning," Wakayama says. "The entire Manzanar camp was waiting for him. He was already a hero." Being a hero carried a price, however. When other internees, many of whom spoke little or no English, had questions, they turned to the elder Wakayama. That role did not sit well with camp authorities, who disliked his dispensing advice and giving speeches—particularly when they were delivered in Japanese, which violated camp rules. Also, he complained to camp authorities about rations intended for the internees that were being sold on the black market instead.

Before long, he found himself in jail again, this time in Lone Pine, Calif. It was while he was there that his wife gave birth to the first of their three sons. Junro Edgar Wakayama, on March 23, 1943. Ed Wakayama's middle name was in tribute to Edgarp Camp, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer who sympathized with the plight of the internees and fought unsuccessful legal battles on behalf of the elder Wakayama.

About the time of his incarceration in Lone Pine, the elder Wakayama was persuaded by the U.S. government to sign a document renouncing his U.S. citizenship. He signed the paper, but underneath his signature wrote the words "under duress."

Because he had been labeled a troublemaker, the family was moved again and again. Next, they were sent to a camp at Tule Lake, Calif., where their second son was born; then to one near Santa Fe, N.M.; then to one at Crystal City, Texas. Finally, when the camps were closed in 1946, the Wakayama family was sent to Seattle and, from there, deported to Japan.

"Once we arrived in Japan, my father looked for his relatives in Hiroshima and found out that everyone in his family had been unlocated by the atomic bomb," Wakayama says. At the camps, none of the internees had been told about the bombing.

With that devastating news, Wakayama says, "It occurred to my father to kill the whole family and to kill himself," but when he looked at his two young sons, he changed his mind. The Wakayama family then made its way to the southern Japanese city of Kitamoto, where Ed Wakayama's mother, Toki "June" Wakayama, had relatives she had never met.

They made their way there and had their third son. The elder Wakayama eventually was to make a living by working with a company that distributed U.S. films in Japan and by teaching English at Gakusa University in Fukuoka.

Although June Wakayama returned to the United States, moving to Hawaii in 1954, Kinzo Wakayama would never again return home. But, according to Ed Wakayama, his 98-year-old father is not bitter. "I think he likes the American system, the democracy. He likes the people, but he just doesn't trust the government or those in high offices."

Yet his father, like many other Japanese-Americans, feels better about the U.S. government since Congress passed a reparation bill in the late 1980s providing a payment of $20,000 each for every living Japanese-American held in an internment camp. Wakayama says. More importantly, he adds, they also received a letter of apology from then-President George Bush.

While the money did not make up for the time spent in the camps or for the property lost, it was an important step because it symbolized an acknowledgement of past wrongs by the U.S. government and helped to heal old wounds, he says.

Recently, Wakayama's father received another valued acknowledgment from the U.S. government. The elder Wakayama, who is quite proud of his service in the U.S. Army, received a medal issued by the Veteran's Administration for World War I veterans commemorating the 70th anniversary of the war's end. As his son's request, a U.S. Army officer presented the medal to Kinzo Wakayama in Japan. Ed Wakayama grew up in Japan, living there until he was 18. He had almost nothing about what happened to his family in America during World War II. It was not until he was 13 that he realized he was not a Japanese citizen, at that time, he had to go to city hall to be fingerprinted because he was a foreigner. And it was not until he was 18 and received a draft notice from the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War that he learned about his family's internment.

There had been bits and pieces of information over the years, learned mostly from visiting friends who would mention the days in the camps. His parents didn't talk about it. And, for awhile, he misunderstood what his parents' friends were talking about. "When you're a kid, you think that 'camping' is like a summer camp, like Boy Scout camp," he says.

But when he received his draft notice, he went to his father to find out more about his family's history.

"My father told me, 'You are a U.S. citizen, and you have to serve your own
country and defend your own Constitu­tion. That’s your duty. You must go back to the United States and serve,” Wakayama recalls.

Wakayama says he wanted to serve, in part because he was aware of the con­tributions of the 442nd Regimental Combat Unit, the segregated Japanese-American unit that fought during World War II and became the most decorated U.S. military unit in history. To turn his back on serving his country would have been to turn his back on the sacrifices of those people, he says.

“It was because of them that the Japanese-American citizens were able to integrate into U.S. society after the war,” he says. “Suddenly, it opened the door for everybody, including me.”

Also, he says, his parents made it clear to him and to his brothers that the problems they had experienced during World War II were not their children’s problems.

“They didn’t want their children to carry the same burden. They knew that life for us would be much different in the United States than it had been for them,” he says.

After receiving his draft notice, he returned to the United States for the first time since his family had left the camps. Receiving a deferment until he finished college, he enrolled at Boston’s Northeastern University. Shortly after completing his under­graduate work, he went into the U.S. Army and was commis­sioned as a second lieutenant. He was stationed at Fort Ord, Calif., where he worked as chief hospital laboratory officer dur­ing the Vietnam War. By the time he was discharged two years later, he had obtained the rank of captain.

Wakayama says he is clearly proud of his military service and has served as a member of the Army Reserve for the past 18 years, working his way up to the rank of colonel.

While pleased with the military assign­ments he has received thus far, he still harbors a military dream: to command the famed 442nd/100th Regimental Combat Unit. This reserve unit, which today, of course, is integrated, is based in Hawaii, but Wakayama says he would gladly commute. “It would be an honor.”

Wakayama also has a dream concern­ing his work at UNLV. He wants to help launch a master’s degree program in clinical laboratory sciences, which he says would be the only program of its kind in the region. With a master’s degree offer­ing, UNLV’s program has the potential to become one of the leading clinical laboratory sciences programs, according to Wakayama.

When he is not busy at UNLV or serving in the Army Reserve, Wakayama is trying to complete the research he needs to write his book on his family’s experiences during World War II.

One interesting find he has made are some documents that the government took from his mother while his father was in jail in Lone Pine. “I was curious,” Wakayama says of the documents that are still held in Washington, D.C. “They must be very sensitive documents, right?”

“Your know what they have, in a brown bag I made a copy. They have his U.S. Army honorable discharge papers from World War II and his driver’s licenses from Hawaii and California. There were two passes to the U.S. Congress and Senate. He had social security cards and a membership card to the American Legion. That’s what they confiscated.”

Despite the injustice of the intern­ment of his family and so many other Japanese-American families, Wakayama is not bitter. In fact, he’s far from it. What happened to his family has affected his life greatly, he says, but the effect has been a positive one.

“I think I learned about the value of freedom, what the Constitution stands for, especially after the redress,” he says. “This is a great country. You have to live in a foreign country to appreciate what we have here.

“I have so many opportunities that became available to me when I returned to the United States. I took advantage of every single one of them. I served in the military. I used the G.I. Bill to further my education. There are scholarships, which are unheard of in Japan.

“In America, whatever you want to be, you can become,” Wakayama says. “It’s the greatest country in the world.”

In 1989, Wakayama was invited to speak at a conference in Japan. “It was curious,” he says. “I made a copy. They have his discharge papers, his driver’s licenses, his membership card to the American Legion.”

Wakayama also has a dream concern­ing his work at UNLV. He wants to help launch a master’s degree program in clinical laboratory sciences, which he says would be the only program of its kind in the region. With a master’s degree offer­ing,UNLV’s program has the potential to become one of the leading clinical laboratory sciences programs, according to Wakayama.

John Michael Stuart is a young man of considerable ability.

A professional motivational speaker, Stuart has delivered more than 70 talks to groups large and small.

The new MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park has hired him to present a series of talks to its employees.

Last year, he helped the Grand Can­yon to raise funds for the Easter Seals organization, and, as a member of that group’s board of directors, he now heads its speakers bureau.

Stuart, who graduated from UNLV in 1991 with a bachelor’s degree in pol­itical science, also recently began study­ing full-time in the master of social work program.

He is articulate, personable, and in­telligent. As he himself says, his abilities far outweigh his disabilities.

Stuart, 28, was born with cerebral palsy, a disease that significantly reduces the control he has over his body. He has difficulty walking, talking, and control­ling his arm and hand movements. With the support of his family, the help of physical and speech therapy, and such tools as an electric scooter and a device that allows him to type with his head rather than his hands, he has been able to pursue his education and embark on a career.

He had planned to use his political science degree as a stepping stone to law school. But one night he saw the movie Edward Scissorhands, a fantasy about an odd young man who has scissors in place of hands.

“Being disabled, I could relate to Edward Scissorhands,” Stuart says. “He was different from other people, and he was a very loving person. Something inside me said, ‘What could I do to spread the message that it doesn’t matter what you are on the outside, that it’s what you are on the inside that’s important?’”

Not long after that, Stuart met a woman who suggested he go into public speaking, and the idea seemed right. He enrolled in a public speaking class in the Greenspun School of Communication as a special student and developed the prototype of the talk he uses today, which he calls “Turning a Disability into an Ability.”

Stuart joined a local Toastmasters club and worked on his public speaking skills, perfecting the talk that he says has evolved over time.

continued on page 24
March 1994

1 Concert: UNLV Wind Ensemble. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
2-6 University Theatre: Pippin. John, March 2-5, 8pm; March 6, 2pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
3 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. San Jose State. 8:30pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.
   International Film Series: Strictly Ballroom. 7pm. Wright Hall 103. 895-3547.
4 Chamber Music Southwest: "A Caribbean Carnival." 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
5 Women’s Basketball: UNLV vs. New Mexico State. 7:30pm. South Gym. 895-3900.
6 Concert: University Musical Society Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
9 Master Series: Mummenschanz. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
10 International Film Series: Day for Night. 7pm. Wright Hall 103. 895-3547.
13 Community Concert: Tennessee Waltz. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
14 Master Series: Yo-Yo Ma. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
16 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
19 Nevada Symphony Orchestra: John Mets, harpsichord. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
20 Nevada Dance Theatre: Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
24 International Film Series: Salsa Bombs Lay/7pm. Wright Hall 103. Free. 895-3801.
28 Barrick Lecture: C. Everett Koop. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
31 International Film Series: Ginger and Fred. 7pm. Wright Hall 103. Free. 895-3547.

April 1994

2 Nevada Symphony Orchestra: St. John’s Passion. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
7-17 University Theatre: Dancing at Lughnasa. April 7-9 & 13-16, 8pm; April 10 & 17, 2pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
10 Master Series: Principal Dancers of the New York City Ballet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
16 Concert: Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
   Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
   Exhibit: "Educational三等奖" 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. 895-3801.
   Graduation: University Commencement Ceremony. 7pm. Thomas & Mack Center.
18 College Diploma Ceremonies: Health Sciences, 9am. Artemus Ham Concert Hall (HC2); Education, 9am. Thomas & Mack Center (TMC); Human Performance & Development, 10am. Judy Bayley Theatre (JBT); Science & Mathematics, noon. HCH; Liberal Arts, noon. TMC; Fine & Performing Arts, 1pm. JBT; Engineering, 3pm. HCH; Hotel Administration, 3pm. TMC; Business & Economics, 6pm. TMC; Greenspun School of Communication, 7pm. HCH.
21 Alumni Event: Dinner/theatre event. 6pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
   University Theatre: Sunday in the Park with George. April 21-23 & 27-30, 8pm; April 24 & 2 May 1 & 2, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

May 1994

3 Concert: University Chorus. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
8 Concert: Jazz Ensemble I. 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
12 Alumni Event: Dinner/ballet event. 6pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
14-15 Nevada Dance Theatre: Peter & the Wolf. May 12-14, 8pm; May 13 & 15, 2 & 7pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
19 Concert: University Community Band. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
20 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
22 Meeting: Board of Regents. 9am-5pm. Tam Alumni Center.

June 1994

21 Ceremony: Honors Convocation. 10am. Artemus Ham Concert Hall.
24 Concert: University Musical Society Orchestra. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
26 Concert: University Musical Society Orchestra. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
27 Performing Arts Center: I Solisti Di Zagarbi. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
30 Concert: Sierra Wind Quintet. 8pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

July 1994

3 Summer Session 1: Session ends.
4/5 Musical Arts Society: "Bijou to Broadway." June 4, 8pm. June 5, 3pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
6 Summer Session 2: Session begins.
11 Concert: Las Vegas Gamble-Aires. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
17 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
23-24 Meeting: Board of Regents. 9am-5pm. Tam Alumni Center.

August 1994

12 Summer Session 3: Session ends.
17 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
29 Full Semester 1994: Instruction and late registration begins.

COMING APRIL 8-10: The Banana Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, featuring 1,300 of the 25,000 panels, commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS. Moyer Student Union. 2nd floor.

CALENDAR

MAL

March 9

Yo-Yo Ma
March 14

C. Everett Koop
March 28

Principal Dancer of the New York City Ballet. April 10
Did you hear the one about the lady tuba player who was a DJ/photographer in her spare time? Meet UNLV alumna Ginger Bruner. In an era when most people find it difficult to manage one career, she juggles three.

**In Tune with the Times, On Time with the Tunes**

BY SUZAN DIBELLA

I

F YOU EVER HAVE THE OCCA-

sion to meet Ginger Bruner and

you’re lucky enough to obtain

one of her business cards, you

might be shocked, but at least a little

amused, by its unique, though concise,

message:

Ginger Bruner
Bitchin’ Renaissance Chick

“I didn’t make it up. A friend who

made up the business card did,” says the

1992 music department graduate, who

has turned her love of the arts into three

different professions — all at the same

time.

Bruner currently serves as the week-
day afternoon DJ at radio station KNPR,

spinning discs by some of her favorite

classical composers and producing several

special programs. Often, when she leaves

the station, she is on her way to play her

tuba at a Dixieland jazz gig or a classical

concert. Then, when she’s not booked

as a musician, she’s picking up freelance

work as a professional photographer.

All in all, Bruner is a busy Renaissance

chick.

“Hey, it’s wacky,” she says of her

schedule. “But it’s a way to do several

things that I enjoy doing and make a

living at the same time.”

The roots of her renaissance orienta-
tion can be traced back to both her fam-

ily and her education, she says,

“The arts run in the family. My

father played the trombone, and my

grandmother, Lucille Spire Bruner, has

been painting and teaching art

in Southern Nevada for the past 40

years. In fact, UNLV gave her an honor-

ary doctorate because she’s such a cool

lady. [Spire Bruner was a 1982 recipient

of an honorary doctorate from UNLV for

her contribution to the development of

the visual arts in Southern Nevada.] She

taught me how to draw and paint when I

was a kid. Later, when I was learning

how to use a camera, I realized that my

eye for composition came from my

grandmother’s lessons.”

Bruner also seemed to have an ear for

music at an early age.

“When I was in fourth grade, a fella

came to school and demonstrated all

these instruments, and I just thought

that was so cool. So I went home and

said, ‘I want to be in the band.’”

Though she was a year shy of the

minimum grade requirement, she was

allowed to join. She took up the trom-

bone, following in her dad’s footsteps.

But by the time Bruner was in sixth

grade, her school needed a tuba player

for the county honor band tryouts.

“Nobody else would even try to

learn to play it, so I said, ‘Oh, pull-eze,

I could play that in a week.” So I took

lessons for a week, and I made it.”

The tuba’s size and lack of popu-

larity among her peers didn’t deter

her. “It was a combination of

strange and hilarious. But I was known

for my sense of humor even then.”

She was also known for her musical

ability, so much so, in fact, that after

playing in almost every available band

in junior high and high school, she was

recruited to play in UNLV’s marching band

in 1982. And so began her somewhat

lengthy tenure at college.

“My time at UNLV was, shall we say,

extended?” she says with a wry smile. “It

took me 10 years to graduate, but then I

have my music degree and, I don’t know

exactly how much, but most of an art

degree. In the first couple of years, I was

playing in five ensembles and singing in

one. So I was playing a lot. It sort of put

a cramp in my regular schooling.”

She adds for the record that during

her 10 years at UNLV, she played in the

marching band, the wind ensemble, the

jazz band, chamber groups, and the or-

chestra, and sang with the Collegians

Musicum Madrigal Singers. She also

At classical radio station KNPR, UNLV alumna Ginger Bruner serves as weekday afternoon disc jockey, as well as producer of several programs, such as Guess Who’s Playing the Classics and Desert Bloom.
served as a photographer and photo editor for the student newspaper, and off campus, she picked up a part-time job as an announcer at KNPR.

Add to that a long list of extracurricular activities, and you can see why Bruner was safe in her comfort zone.

“People thought I was completely bananas,” she says. But looking back, she knows that she wasn’t crazy; she was just interested in taking a more interdisciplinary approach to her education.

“I think the disciplines are too segregated. It just makes so much more sense to me to study art and music together. What’s the use in being a one-dimensional person in a multi-dimensional world?”

Her favorite instructors at UNLV include faculty from both the music and art departments, including music professors Isabelle Emerson and Jim Stivers, and art historian Cathie Kelly.

“Dr. Emerson would occasionally bring in slides of images of art from whatever period we were studying, which was really interesting. I was in her music history classes and doing renaissance and baroque music, which was really great fun. The more you learn, the better musician you are.”

“Jim Stivers was my private lesson teacher and also the orchestra director, so I spent a lot of time learning from him. He’s very musical.”

“When somebody hands you a piece of music, it has all this indecipherable stuff on it. Unless you know what all of that means, you can play the notes perfectly, but it’s not going to sound human or beautiful. You have to add the human factor — the music that comes out of a person — and Jim Stivers can teach you how to bring that out.”

Cathie Kelly was in Rome doing research for a book one summer when I happened to be visiting there. So she showed me all of the stuff in person that I had seen in her art history class, which was amazing and so cool.”

Another of her favorite music professors, Frank Gagliardi, was responsible for getting her — along with some of her fellow members of the UNLV Jazz Ensemble — a gig in a Japanese amusement park.

“Mitch Greenland, which is an amusement park on the southern island of Kyushu, called Frank and asked him to bring a marching band to play in their park for two months. He said, ‘Gee, I’m a jazz band director. How about I bring you both?’ So, essentially what we had in 1985 was the jazz band, plus all the other first-chair players you would need for the music to round out a small marching band. We had a 35-piece marching band, and we took three dancers, a baton twirler, and a drum major and went over and played.”

Despite their rigorous schedule — the band performed several times a day in parades and shows — Bruner says she had a wonderful time, so much so, in fact, that she returned once with UNLV and then again with an all-girl Dixieland jazz band that she led.

As for culture shock, she was surprised to have experienced very little while there.

“I don’t know why, but I got along really well. The university put together two 10-week classes — a Japanese history and culture class and a language class, which helped immensely. She believes her musical ability also helped her bridge the language gap.

“People recognize my voice occasionally,” says Bruner, “but since I am a little bit different in person — more effusive, shall we say? — then I am on the air, it doesn’t happen too often. When it does, I think, ‘Holy cow! I thought I was safe in radio.’”

“Dr. Emerson still considers the music to be unpretentious. It’s not a big deal to be a Renaissance chook. You take some shots, you play some music, you spin some discs. And, above all, you have some fun doing it.”
The first Jean Nidetch Women’s Center Scholarships were awarded this year to four UNLV students who have overcome great adversity in order to attend college. One of them — a victim of the Chinese Cultural Revolution — tells her story.

BY TERRY BASKOT BROOKER

MOST SCHOLARSHIPS REWARD excellence in academics or athletics. But some reward excellence in character and tenacity.

Such is the case with the Jean Nidetch Women’s Center Scholarship, which was awarded for the first time this year to four UNLV students who demonstrated strength of character and tenacious spirit in their efforts to overcome adversity.

The students — hotel administration major Wei Xia, engineering majors Johnnie Dornak and Angela Molnar, and education major Dorothy Vanette — all have faced some form of adversity.

As part of the scholarship application process, they were asked to describe their experiences. Their essays reveal that they share little in common except a fierce determination to get an education at UNLV and the ability to overcome past life experiences that made such a goal difficult to achieve.

One of the essays tells the compelling story of scholarship recipient Wei Xia (pronounced we-shaw), a 39-year-old woman who moved to the United States in 1990 after living through the Chinese Cultural Revolution. The following is an account of her hardships, aspirations, perseverance, and achievements.

She was 12 years old and in fifth grade when the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China began in 1966. The movement, which was launched by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, sought to eradicate the remains of so-called bourgeois ideas and customs and to recapture the revolutionary zeal of early Chinese communism.

Students called the Red Guards were joined by workers and peasants as they staged sometimes violent pro-Maoist demonstrations. Intellectuals, bureaucrats, party officials, and urban workers were their chief targets. All educational institutions were closed.

Too young to serve the revolution in political demonstrations at the age of 12, Wei Xia was forced to remain at home for the next three years. At 15, she returned to school, but was allowed to study only the writings and documents of Mao. By age 17, she was sent to the countryside for a peasant’s education.

“I was literally isolated from the world,” she says. “We had no running water, agricultural machines, or electricity. I was fed only rice with pepper jam, and I slept on a straw mat on a dirt floor in a thatched roof cottage that I shared with two women students.

“We were forced to work 10 hours a day, and after work we were forced to study political documents. My job was to carry natural fertilizer to the fields. The women were given this job because a peasant woman student was considered to be inferior to a peasant man.”

But she held tight to her belief that things would change.

"Although I was a farmer for five years, I continued to study mathematics and the English language at night, using an oil lamp I constructed from an ink bottle. I had faith that knowledge would in some way be my salvation," she says.

When the Cultural Revolution ended in 1976, Wei Xia’s fortunes improved slightly. She left the farm and was assigned to work at the library of the Chinese Academy of Science at Chengdu. In 1977, the universities reopened, and students were allowed to take entrance exams.

In 1979, Wei Xia passed an English exam that permitted her to leave China to come to America.

Wei Xia carefully researched her options. Seeking the best hotel administration college available, she soon was able to narrow the field to California State University, Fullerton.

The international reputation of UNLV, combined with the reasonable cost of living in Las Vegas, brought her here. In August 1991, Wei Xia enrolled and began her studies in the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration.

Now in her third year at UNLV, Wei Xia is quite clear about her educational goals: She plans to obtain a bachelor’s degree in hotel administration and an MBA at UNLV within the next three years.

After that, she hopes to become the owner and president of a Sino-American trade and cultural business that will specialize in the organization of international trade shows and conventions.

“I intend to accomplish this goal by the time I am 48 years old. I am now 29,” she says, acknowledging that her professional goals come from knowing that the Cultural Revolution stole 10 years of her life that could have been spent on formal education. That is why the Nidetch scholarship was so important to her.

“This scholarship is a very important financial resource enabling me to achieve my career and education goals. If forced to find a job, I would have less time to study and my plans would be delayed,” she says.

Wei Xia didn’t take the task of applying for the scholarship lightly. She worked on her essay for nearly two months in order to make sure that her tenacious command of her second language wouldn’t thwart her desire to be considered worthy of the award.

Mastering English is still a challenge for Wei Xia. “Although I have been in America for over two years, I still have a lot of difficulty with English and must spend all of my spare time studying,” she says.

But she recognizes life in America presents many challenges.

“Becoming comfortable with a new culture and accepting an openness and freedom unknown in her homeland will take a period of adjustment, she says. There are also bouts of homesickness because her family remains in China, and she says they are never far from her thoughts.

Yet, her new life is in Las Vegas. She is now married to a UNLV doctoral student in physics, Robert Vaughn, whom she met at UNLV. She plans to become a naturalized citizen in 1995.

And, if her approach to past challenges is any indication, achieving that goal, along with the rest, is just a matter of time.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Jean Nidetch Scholarship was funded by a donation made by Las Vegas Jean Nidetch, the founder of Weight Watchers International.

The scholarship provides $2,500 annually to recipients.

Applicants are required to be full-time UNLV undergraduate or graduate students who have a minimum 2.0 GPA and who have completed some form of adversity in their personal lives.

In addition to funding the scholarship, Nidetch’s donation helped fund the UNLV Women’s Center, established in October 1991 as a campus and community-wide support and workshop center for women.
Class Notes

'70s

Ernie Domanico, '70 BS Geography, is a general contractor. His company, Domanico Construction, specializes in custom homes and has built houses in several Las Vegas developments, including Spanish Trail and Desert Shores.

Charles H. McCrea Jr., '71 BS Business Administration, is a partner in the litigation department of the law firm of Lionel Sawyer & Collins. His practice includes general commercial litigation, creditors' rights, trade name and trademark infringement, and anti-patent law. He is a contributing editor to Nevada Lawyer and is a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association. His son, Charles Joseph McCrea, is a history major in his senior year at UNLV.

Bruce W. Miller, '72 BS Zoology, is living in Belize, Central America, where he is a research fellow with Wildlife Conservation International, the research division of the New York Zoological Society. He is a conservation biologist whose research is related to establishing and maintaining tropical forest reserves in the Neotropics. He was instrumental in the creation of the 267,000-acre Chiquibul National Park in Belize.

Joe Guzman, '77 BS Hotel Administration, is a district sales manager for the Centex division of Gamo Inc., one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. He lives in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Steven Sagen, '78 BS Hotel Administration, is the founder and owner of Winery Direct Marketing, a company that handles sales and marketing of the products of small California boutique wineries to hotels and restaurants nationwide. He lives in San Diego.

David D. Rebock, '79 BS Business Administration, '87 MBA, is a Peace Corps volunteer in the former Soviet Union. He is based in Saratov, a city located about 1,200 miles from Moscow, where he consults with local businesses in their efforts to move from communism to capitalism. He went overseas in November 1992 as a member of the first group of Peace Corps volunteers to be sent to the former Soviet Union. Before going overseas, he lived in North Las Vegas and worked in the banking industry in Southern Nevada, as well as at UNLV's Small Business Development Center.

Debra Boldin, '80 BS Biological Sciences, is laboratory director of the city of Las Vegas Water Pollution Control Facility. She was recently appointed to the national 40,000-member international association for water and wastewater treatment professionals.

Deborah J. Dinkel, '83 BS Hotel Administration, is a lawyer with the firm of Tobin, Lucas & Goldman in Sherman Oaks, Calif. She specializes in labor law, workplace's compensation defense, and cases involving the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Karen L. Elston, '83 BS Zoology, is an environmental geologist in Helena, Mont., with ERMI Rocky Mountain, a worldwide environmental consulting company. She opened the firm's Montana office in 1989. She has also received certification from the state of Wyoming as a professional geologist.

Bruce F. Dyer, '86 BBA Communication Studies, is assistant director of food and beverage at the Las Vegas Hilton, where he oversees 13 restaurants, 12 bars, and more than 1,000 employees.

Lori Elbel, '86 BS Business Administration, has opened her own certified public accounting firm in Las Vegas. Her practice primarily involves tax and consulting work.

Ray Lamorte, '86 BS Hotel Administration, is completing her final year at Southern Nevada University School of Law in Las Vegas. She won the best oralist award for the school's 1992 Intramural Mock Court Competition and was a member of the team that took the first place award in the National Tax Mock Court Competition.

Jann Reimer, '86 Master of Education, is a reading improvement program teacher at Adcock Elementary School.

Debra Bonding, '80 BS Biological Sciences, is a reading improvement program teacher at Adcock Elementary School.

Kenneth Dentrich, '87 BS Hotel Administration, is assistant director of food and beverage at the Las Vegas Hilton, where he oversees 13 restaurants, 12 bars, and more than 1,000 employees.

John C. Totsuie Jr., '88 BS Hotel Administration, is operations manager for Boulevardner Inc., which operates Hyatt's Sports Cafe in Kodiak, Alaska.

Terry Genus, '89 BS Athletic Training, is completing her second year of medical school at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia. While at UNLV, she received national certification in athletic training.

Patrick A. Rose, '90 BS Political Science, received a law degree from the University of Nevada College of Law and is now serving a one-year judicial clerkship with U.S. Magistrate Roger L. Hunt in Las Vegas.

Diana L. Grimesney, '92 BS Nursing, works as a registered nurse at the Luz's Burn Care Unit at University Medical Center and also works for a home health company. She plans to pursue a master's degree in nursing at UNLV.

Barbara B. Hinden, '92 Bachelors of Liberal Studies, was first place in the fiction division of the annual feminist writers' contest sponsored by the National Organization for Women. She wrote the winning story, "The Snake Stomper," as part of a collection for her honors senior project.

Jaime J. Mott, '92 BS Communicati­ons Studies, is a receptionist and intern in the human resources department at REEM, a record distribution company whose labels include EMI, Virgin, IRS, and Capitol. She previously worked for the Los Angeles Raiders as director of operations for the Raiders' merchandise catalog and for the fan club. She lives in Woodland Hills, Calif.

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 home and office telephone numbers so we can reach you 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.

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 home and office telephone numbers so we can reach you 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.

Class Notes

Entries should be mailed to: UNLV Class Notes, University News and Publications, 4535 Maryland Parkway, Box 45102, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1012

SPRING 1994
**Witch-hunts**

continued from page 7

at the history of witches when she became interested in various deviant or outsider groups, such as heretics, Jews, gays, and lepers, as well as witches, in the Middle Ages.

“You wouldn’t think on the surface that these groups would have had anything in common, but they tended to be treated very much the same in lots of ways.” For example, at one time or another all were accused of sodomy, infanticide, and cannibalism, and were used as scapegoats by mainstream society, she notes.

Considering witches as an outsider group, rather than a unique aberration, points to new directions for research and confirms that the question of witches is, as Whitney warned, far more “complicated” than a Halloween image.
OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS WE'VE HOSTED EVERYTHING FROM A TO Z.

From heavy metal concerts to light-hearted comedy, bears on bicycles to men on bulls, Las Vegas Thunder ice hockey to Runnin' Rebel basketball, the Thomas & Mack Center has been the site of just about every type of entertainment and sporting event imaginable.

On this, our tenth anniversary, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of Las Vegas for the support and patronage over the past decade and promise to bring better shows, more variety and the same exceptional service.

So if our first ten years have been this great, just imagine what our teens will be like!
The Valerie Pida Plaza, located southwest of the Flora Dungan Humanities Building, provides a pleasant spot for students to meet, socialize, and relax.