10-2008

Inside UNLV

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News You Can Use

Magic Moments
It’s here. It’s magic. It’s homecoming 2008. While the football game pitting the Rebels against Air Force doesn’t take place until 7 p.m. Oct. 18 at Sam Boyd Stadium, a number of homecoming-related events are scheduled for other times during homecoming week.

The theme of this year’s homecoming is “It’s Magic.” Among the other activities are:

- Oct. 16 — The Rebel Rally. 11 a.m. annual pep rally at the Alumni Amphitheater.
- Oct. 16 — Rebel Red Day. Join this citywide celebration by wearing your Rebel red.
- Oct. 17 — Alumni Dinner. 6 p.m. Student Union ballroom. For reservations, call ext. 5-3621.
- Oct. 18 — Parade. 5 p.m. at Sam Boyd Stadium.
- Oct. 18 — Football Tailgate and Game. 4 p.m. tailgate at Sam Boyd Stadium. 7 p.m. game.

More info: Go to homecoming.unlv.edu or call ext. 5-5631.

To buy game tickets, call 739-3267 or go to unlvtickets.com.

A Rebel of Distinction
Longtime History Faculty Member Receives UNLV’s Highest Honor

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

“Geology, now that would be a great major,” Tom Wright thought to himself oh so many years ago. He enjoyed hiking with his dad, UNLV history professor John Wright. He’d get to use a geologist’s hammer and enjoy the scenery.

But then reality hit: Majoring in geology meant a lot of science and math. A French Revolution class during his sophomore year at Pomona College hooked him on history. Now four decades later, he is one of a select number of UNLV faculty members to achieve “distinguished professor” status.

Talking About A Revolution

Wright’s interest in his eventual field, Latin American history, started with a flier his father handed him about a study-abroad program in Peru. Wright’s junior year in Peru was a particularly interesting time. “I was there in ’61 and ’62, so it was just a couple of years after Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba. I experienced first-hand the impact of the Cuban Revolution.

“On an almost daily basis there were rallies and demonstrations — many staged by students. There were strikes and peasant invasions of haciendas. Walls were painted with slogans, the most common one being, ‘Cuba sí, Yankí no.’ I heard talk of guerrilla activity, but that didn’t start until I was back in the U.S.”

Wright completed his bachelor’s degree at Pomona and then moved to the University of California for his master’s and doctoral work. UC had an unusually high number of Latin American historians on the faculty and Berkeley in the ’60s was a very interesting place to be.

Wright has a self-deprecating sense of humor. Asked about how it feels to be named a distinguished professor, he replied, “I say my status has now caught up to my hair color — distinguished.” Then in a more serious vein, he adds, “I am in very select company and I am honored to be part of that group of colleagues.”

The most recent professor to receive the UNLV designation of distinguished professor, Tom Wright specializes in Latin American history.

“I was one of the 100 (teaching assistants) who kicked off the free speech movement,” he recalled. “The university administration banned what they called political solicitation, which had taken place on campus for a long time, especially on Sproul Plaza. Quite a lot of people thought that was a violation of the First Amendment.”

To defy the ban, the TAs coordinated a day for students to set out tables with literature about their causes. Wright decided to...
Looking Forward to a Year of Action

In his annual academic convocation address, President David Ashley challenged the campus community to take action in the face of uncertain economic times. Here Ashley follows up on the challenges facing UNLV this year.

How can UNLV move forward amidst so many budget uncertainties?

Anyone following the state’s economic news has to feel the enormous challenge ahead and is wondering, “How are we going to address this shortfall?” Unfortunately, we will not know the details until the Legislature adjoins early next summer. In the meantime, we must take action and overcome the paralysis that often comes with uncertainty. Although we will not have definitive answers for some time, we are now developing a process to help make decisions when the real budget numbers arrive.

So how will those decisions be made if the time comes for further cuts? I recently accepted a task force — headed by (Executive Vice President and Provost) Neal Smatresk and Faculty Senate Chair Nasser La Putt — to identify the criteria we will use to evaluate programs should more severe budget cuts come. Having such criteria will help us evaluate both academic and support programs in a nonthreatening, nonemotional way. There is nothing gratifying about this work, but I do believe we will approach this task in a fair manner, with collaboration between the administration and the general campus.

Employee Benefits

Free Counseling Available

Having Trouble Balancing Work and Home?

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

We all have problems, both at work and home from time to time. When you need a little extra help, call on the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which is a free and confidential service.

Ceridian Lifeworks, which is staffed by licensed and certified professional counselors, is now the university’s EAP provider.

“No employee assistance program is an important benefit of any work-place because it helps employees balance work-life issues,” said Pat La Putt, benefits manager. “We all have stress in our life, but we will be more productive employees if we maintain that work-life balance.”

What is Covered?

The EAP is for all full-time and regular part-time employees and their dependents. It provides an initial phone assessment and three face-to-face sessions with professional counselors at no cost. EAP services help with many problems, including those related to:

- parenting
- work
- emotional well-being
- addiction and recovery

The EAP is not a long-term solution and is not supposed to take the place of an employee’s mental health benefit. “If you have a crisis where you need two to three sessions with a counselor, then use the EAP because there is no cost,” La Putt said.

How it Works

You or a family member can call the EAP any time. You will be asked your name, home phone number, employer, and the reason for your call. If the counselor deems it necessary, he or she will personally schedule an in-person appointment with a counselor. Or the person seeking help can ask for names of providers. Ceridian will follow up with the individual to verify they sought services.

One of the reasons Ceridian was chosen as the provider is because of its proactive approach and follow-up with clients.

If additional counseling is needed after three in-person sessions, the EAP counselor will provide a referral to a licensed therapist approved by the employee’s insurance plan.

Lifeworks.com

Another free resource is the lifeworks.com website that Ceridian maintains. The site is an effective tool to help employees find quality care for people who may not feel comfortable speaking with a counselor. “If you need some advice on parenting or any number of issues, the website is a good starting place,” La Putt said.

More Info: Go to lifeworks.com for more information. User ID: NSHE; Password: EAP. Or call Ceridian any time at 877-234-5151.

The Wright Stuff

Family

Wife and colleague Dina Titus, UNLV political science professor, state senator, and Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Interesting Fact

He is the only full-time UNLV faculty member who works in a building named for his father. John Wright (as in Wright Hall) was a longtime professor in the history department.

David Ashley | UNLV President

What keeps you optimistic about the university’s future?

The quality of our student body. I think we should all feel proud of this fall’s enrollment increase. Despite tougher enrollment requirements, freshman enrollment was up 8 percent over our projections. This is a testament in part to the marketing and recruitment efforts over the last 18 months. It’s gratifying to see that the incoming class is more diverse and more capable of succeeding academically than ever before.

Our graduate student enrollment is also up. This shows that we are making real progress in pushing our research mission forward.

I am also looking forward to the work that will be done by the campus action teams I recently established. These teams will address the three major areas we must continue to tackle:

- Infrastructure
- Research
- Education

Our Focus: 100 strategic plan provides clarity to the tasks of each action team. It will help them identify immediate, low-cost ways to keep UNLV advancing through this extraordinary time. They will also evaluate the suggestions from the campus community and identify potential funding sources for longer-term needs.

Finally, I am pleased that we were able to launch the Academic Success Center. The center is an example of how we can increase support to our students with limited resources. But more importantly, it is critical to improving our retention and graduation rates. We must succeed in these areas if we are to realize our ambitions.

Beyond participating in the efforts of action teams, what can individuals do to help UNLV this year?

I believe the state is at a turning point with education. I have experienced severe budget cuts in other states; the difference here is that our institutions are being asked to make cuts in a system that is already significantly underfunded.

As citizens, we must let our leaders know how important it is to us to support preK-12 schools, higher education, and workforce development. Do we want quality education? If the answer is yes, then our schools and institutions need funding stability; we cannot build a strong educational system while weathering the economic and political fluctuations seen in our local business community.

So I urge all members of the campus community to share their thoughts about the difference that UNLV makes in the Southern Nevada community with their political leaders. During this election season, each of us has the right to know exactly where these leaders stand on educational funding.

The resolution to the funding debate will be in their hands this February.
Sharon Altman
Administrative Assistant IV, Public Lands Institute

Rebel since: 2000; previously worked in women's basketball and athletics business offices.

Biggest challenge: Anticipating the needs of everyone ahead of time.

What makes you successful? I know what I am doing and how to do it. I'm not saying I don't make mistakes — everybody does — but I don't make the same mistake twice.

Why you do what you do: I like doing office work and helping others. I like knowing that at the end of the day someone could do their job more effectively because I did my job.

Can't work without: My computer. Everything I do is on the computer.

People would be surprised to know: That I temporarily have regular length fingernails. I can't stand looking at my hands right now (she didn't even want her hands in the photo). A lot of people know me for my long and elaborately decorated fingernails. For more than 10 years, I have sat in the nail technician's chair every two weeks for approximately two hours. My nail bill is like any other monthly utility bill.

For Halloween last year, I had witches, ghosts, and even Frankenstein on my nails. Another time I had blue nails with squiggly lines that looked like seaweed. I would tell everyone that if they looked closely they could see Nemo from *Finding Nemo*, even though he really wasn't there. I got such a kick out of watching people look for Nemo and not be able to find him.

Myrna Payabyab
Dental Assistant, School of Dental Medicine

Rebel since: 2004

Typical day: Assist students, faculty, and residents by dispensing supplies and equipment. Transport equipment to various clinical areas. Clean, package, and sterilize instruments utilizing ultrasonic cleaners, automatic washers, and autoclaves.

Biggest challenge: Making sure that everything runs smoothly. Also, dealing with different personalities and people every day can be a challenge.

What makes you successful? I take pride in my job to ensure quality work, am a team player, and am dedicated to the mission of the UNLV School of Dental Medicine. My positive outlook on life also makes me successful.

Can't work without: The cassettes that need to be sterilized as well as my protective mask, goggles, and gloves.

People would be surprised to know: I have a good sense of humor and can make others laugh. This comes in handy to calm patients down, especially children when they are about to undergo a painful procedure — they laugh first and then cry.

Your own teeth: I have always been meticulous about taking care of my teeth. I have brushed and flossed regularly since I was little. I see firsthand the consequences of not properly caring for your teeth.

Tips for having healthy teeth: Have regular dental visits. Brush and floss your teeth properly and regularly. Change your toothbrush every three months. Avoid too much sugary food. Eat a well-balanced diet.

Tom Jones
Hotel Management Professor

Rebel since: 1990

Typical day: Teach undergraduate classes in facility management, housekeeping, and front office management, and a graduate class in hotel operations. On the days I don’t have class, I work on research projects and write textbooks. I also serve on the board of directors for the International Executive Housekeepers Association and the Cleaning Industry Research Institute.

Biggest challenge: Being more selective in my projects. I tend to say yes quite a bit and take on more than I should.

What makes you successful? I enjoy what I do. I encourage my students to engage themselves in activities they truly enjoy and that truly inspire them.

Why you do what you do: My first degree was in theater and I was an out-of-work actor. Between engagements, I waited tables and tended bars, which provided me a steady paycheck. I also had a short stint teaching early in my career and after several years in the hospitality field, I realized that I could put these two passions together, so I returned to school.

Can't work without: The computer. When I was working on my master’s thesis here at UNLV, I typed it...over and over and over again. When the computer came along, I threw away the Wite-Out.

People would be surprised to know: That I love to ride a motorcycle. I have a Honda ST 1100 sport-touring bike. I love the sense of freedom I get from riding.

What about your name? Sad to say, but I have never seen one of his concerts. I guess I should go before either he gets too old to do one or I get too old to go to one.
Across Campus

Academic Success Center
First Academic Success Week Set for Oct. 6-10
UNLV’s first Academic Success Week, featuring a variety of events, will take place Oct. 6-10. The week will begin with open houses at both the new Academic Success Center (ASC) and at the nearby Student Services Complex (SSC) on Oct. 5. The ASC open house is set for 1-4 p.m. The Student Services open house will take place 2-4 p.m. Student Services tours will start at the kiosk on the first floor of SSC-A.

Academic Success Week is sponsored by the ASC in partnership with the colleges, Student Affairs, Libraries, Career Services, and Enrollment Services. Some of the week’s events include:

• Oct. 7. Advising Days in the Student Union, Lied Library, and the Dining Commons.
• Oct. 9. “Make the Grade” presentation for students, with information on services that assist students with academic success. ASC, Room 146.
• Oct. 10. “Coffee and Career Conversations.” Career Services staff will talk about how various majors translate into possible career choices. ASC, Room 146.

More info: Call the ASC at ext. 5-3177 or go to academicsuccess.unlv.edu.

Business
Maureen Dowd to Speak as Part of Moskow Lecture Series
New York Times op-ed columnist Maureen Dowd and television critic Alessandra Stanley will be the speakers at the inaugural event of the Moskow Speaker Series at 10 a.m. Oct. 16 in the Student Union theater.

The presentation will focus on the intertwining of pop culture with politics as well as the influence the media is having on the current presidential election. It is free and open to all students, faculty, and staff.

Jeffrey Moskow, a part-time finance instructor at UNLV for the past five years who now is battling kidney cancer, donated $1 million to the college to fund the series.

He said his goal is to leave behind a “legacy of learning” for his students. He also said he wants to make students aware of how current events impact the business world every day.

Moskow is teaching a current business topics class in the college this semester while undergoing medical treatment. He named the series after his parents, Morris and Sylvia. His donation is allowing a previous lecture series sponsored by Wells Fargo to be revamped.

Dowd is a Pulitzer Prize-winning op-ed columnist. Previously she served as the newspaper’s White House correspondent, metropolitan reporter, and feature writer. She also reported for Time magazine.

Stanley has been a television critic for The New York Times for the past five years. Before that, she was the newspaper’s bureau chief in Moscow and Rome. She also worked for Time magazine in Paris, Los Angeles, and New York City. Stanley also worked in the magazine’s Washington bureau, where she covered presidential campaigns and the White House.

Education
Ed Psych Program Ranked Among Best Nationwide
The educational psychology program at UNLV again was nationally ranked in the top 25 specialty programs in the most recent U.S. News & World Report survey.

In the publication’s ranking of top-tier educational psychology programs, UNLV was tied with the University of Nebraska and the University of Pittsburgh. It ranked just below Harvard University, the University of Colorado, and the University of Georgia. It ranked above Florida State University and the University of Southern California. The rankings are in the U.S. News & World Report guide, America’s Best Graduate Schools, for students enrolling in 2008-09. Specialty program rankings are based on nominations by education-school deans and deans of graduate studies throughout the nation.

College to Host Higher Ed Conference 2009-13
The College of Education has been selected to host the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) for 2009-13. ASHE is considered the premier scholarly organization for the field of higher education. ASHE, which has about 2,000 members, promotes collaboration among entities engaged in the study of higher education through research, conferences, and publications, including its highly regarded journal, The Review of Higher Education. The study of higher education has an extensive body of literature examining the complexity of historical issues, such as access and excellence, institutional diversity, curriculum development, administrative and faculty roles and training, student achievement, participation of women and ethnic minorities, and public accountability.

Engineering
Boehm Receives Nevada Renewable Energy Award
Robert Boehm, distinguished professor of engineering, recently was honored as the second recipient of the annual Nevada Renewable Energy Leadership (NEVREL) Award. Boehm also is director of the college’s Center for Energy Research. The NEVREL award honors individuals for significant contributions to a secure energy future through innovations in conservation or renewable energy technology in Nevada. The contributions may be through research, education, or practice.

Boehm was cited as having proven himself as a renewable energy leader with supporting research in such cutting-edge renewable energy technologies as hydrogen, concentrating solar thermal power, concentrating photovoltaics, and building efficiency. He also has made significant contributions to the industry and education by supporting students and the community.

“It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and privilege to conduct research with a distinguished professor like Dr. Boehm,” said graduate student Mark Campbell, who relocated from Pennsylvania to ensure he did not miss the opportunity to work with the professor.

More info: Go to the Center for Energy Research website at cer.unlv.edu.

Hotel
Take a Big Bite with Guy
UNLV alumni and Food Network celebrity chef Guy Fieri will prepare some of his signature dishes for the next chef artist dinner series. The event will take place 6 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Stan Fulton Building.

The gourmet event, which costs $100 per person, will begin with a reception of hors d’oeuvres, wine, and entertainment, followed by a three-course dinner planned and prepared by Fieri. Each course will be paired with an appropriate wine selection. The chef artist dinner series is held each semester and is sponsored by Iron Appetit magazine.

Proceeds from the event benefit the students, faculty, and facilities of the college’s Center for Energy Research website at cer.unlv.edu.

A Schorr Thing
Daniel Schorr, senior news analyst for National Public Radio, left, spoke at UNLV last month as part of the Peace in the Desert lecture series. The series is sponsored by the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution, which is housed in the Boyd School of Law. Seen with Schorr is businessman Michael Saltman, who, along with his wife, Sonja, endowed the center.

More info: Call ext. 5-1330 for reservations.
Graduate Students Attend Orientation

More than 430 new graduate students attended new graduate student orientation in August. Representatives from graduate admissions, financial services, student services, and outreach spoke to the students. Also making presentations were Kate Hausbeck, associate dean of the college, and Ron Smith, vice president of research and dean of the college.

For many graduate students, orientation is their introduction to the UNLV collegiate community. The UNLV Career Center and Harriet Barlow, associate dean for graduate student services, and outreach spoke to the students. Also making presentations were Kate Hausbeck, associate dean of the college, and Ron Smith, vice president of research and dean of the college.

Few graduate students, orientation is their introduction to the UNLV collegiate community. The UNLV Career Center and Harriet Barlow, associate dean for graduate student services. "It is really important, therefore, that our students are given the information necessary to help navigate their graduate education successfully. As a member of the Graduate Student Council, I am honored to be a part of such an exciting and important activity."
JoAnn Kittrell (KUNV) received a Media Leadership Development Grant from the Nevada Ballet Theatre’s (NBT) 2008 Above and Beyond awards ceremony in June. The event honored community members who go above and beyond to support NBT.

Kenji Masumori and John Mercer (Kinesiology) had a manuscript published entitled “Biomimetics of Human Locomotion in Water: An Electromyography Analysis.”

Paul Dzerkacz (Landscape, Grounds, and Arboriculture) was named a classified employee of the month in the custodial category for July. A grounds supervisor, he serves as the campus arborist in charge of UNLV’s hundreds of trees. He heads a crew of four workers who maintain and care for the trees. He has worked at UNLV for 25 years.

Steve Curtis and Kathy Lauckner (Harry Reid Center) and Janet Hollinger (Landscape, Grounds, and Arboriculture) organized the first Middle School Science Bowl, which took place at UNLV in the Turf Garden. The Bowl committee thanks Ellen Dill (DRI) and all of the UNLV departments that contributed prizes and services to help make the event fun. Hyde Park Middle School won the event and moved on to the National Science Bowl in Colorado. The local bowl consisted of not only a round robin quiz session, but also the design and racing of a hydrogen fuel cell kit car.

Molly Michelman (Nutrition) received a grant from the Southern Nevada Health District to continue her work on the WeCan program, which is a national program designed for families and communities to help children maintain a healthy weight.

Erin Sahlein (Communication Studies) presented “To Talk or Not to Talk: A Pilot Study of Food-Depopulation Topic Avoidance in the Academic Family Members” at the International Association of Relationships Research meeting in Providence, R.I. This is the first phase of the study is supported by a UNLV Research Development Award.

Deanna Davis, Kyle Ethelbah, and Mike Wilde (CAEO) made presentations in Chicago during the UNLV TRIO To the Institute seminar held in May. The seminars target professional-employment oriented professionals by different TRIO projects across the nation that serve middle-school and high school students, undergraduates, and adults. Seminars focus on the laws, program regulations, and general administrative regulations that project grantees must as a part of their role as well as the intricacies of properly managing TRIO budgets. Other CAEO attendees were Bryan Sundman, Keith Rogers, Muriel Gramell, Larry Letourneau, Rafael Topete, and Miriam Duran.

Steve Ochsen (OIT) was named classified employee of the month in the technical/service category for July. An IT Tech V, he has worked at UNLV for three years—the first year as a student worker. He deploys, troubleshoots, and repairs the desktop computing equipment for the Division of Student Affairs. In 2007, he earned a BSBA in management information systems from UNLV.

Vicki Holmes (English Language Center) recently returned from Puebla, Mexico where she spent a month at Ibero Americas University on a faculty development award. She participated in a program to enhance her writing and speaking of Spanish.

Karl Kingsley and Susan O’Malley (Dental Medicine) are the senior authors of the article “Cranberry and Green Seed Extracts Inhibit the Proliferative Phenotype of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma Cells.” The paper was published recently in the Oxford University Press peer-reviewed journal, Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Erika Engstrom (Communication Studies) presented her refereed paper, “Alternative Media on the Airways: Exploring Women’s Music Radio Programs in the U.S.,” at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in Chicago. Included in her study was KUNV’s all-women’s music program, “Women’s Voices” hosted by Gerrie Blackburn. Holmes reviewed five top peer reviewer for 2008 by the association’s Cultural and Critical Studies Division.

Mark P. Buttnur, Patricia Cruz, Joanne L. Henry (Harry Reid Center) and Linda D. Stetzenbach and Chad L. Cross (Public Health), along with Ecehuze Ezeanolue (University of Nevada School of Medicine), presented a poster, “The Prevalence and Antibiotic Susceptibility of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in Pediatric Patients in Las Vegas” at the 109th general meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Boston.

Michael Hammer (Research and Graduate Studies) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for July. An administrative assistant III, he supports the associate vice president for research, the director of research services, the director of research compliance, and the director of technology transfer. He began his UNLV career as a student worker in the communications studies department in 2005 and then worked in the dean’s office in the College of Liberal Arts before moving to his present job in February 2006. In 2007, he earned two bachelor of arts degrees from UNLV—one in political science and one in sociology.

Stephen M. Miller (Economics) presented “Is the Great Moderation Ending? UK and US Evidence” at the Bank of Greece and at the University of Athens in June. Co-authors of the presentation included Giorgio Canarella (Economics), WeiBoo Fang, (Feng Chia University in Taiwan), and Steven K. Pollard (California State University, Los Angeles).

Paul J. Traudt (Journalism and Media Studies) served as guest professor during the summer semester at the Institute of Applied Media Research at Leuphana University of Lueneburg, Germany. He taught seminars on global media and the social impact of digital media. He also presented an invited paper on Chicona films at the “Transnational Film: European and American Film Conferences” conference at Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany. The proceedings of the conference will be published as a volume.

Philip Patton (Health Physics) received the Eida E. Anderson Award for 2008. One award is given annually to a member of the Health Physics Society under the age of 40. The award recognizes excellence in research or development, discovery or innovation, devotion to health physics, or significant contributions to the profession of health physics.

Paul Carpio (Career Services) is the author of “Now, Launch Your Career: Find Your Path: Personal Advice Letters from Some of the World’s Top Professionals.” The book contains personal career stories of noted professionals including Donald Trump, Mancode Blahnik, Danny Gokey, and Richard Simmons. He also wrote a column, “Career Curator” on the website Vegas Community Online.

Rainer Spencer (Anthropology & Ethnic Studies) presented his paper, “The New Millennium Mutatio,” at the annual meeting of the Association for Black Sociologists in Boston in July.

Jeffrey Crosse (Philosophy, Political Science, and International Relations) was named the 2008 Outstanding Teaching by Part-time Faculty Award, the first adjunct in the philosophy department to receive the award. His interview with film scholar/screenwriter George Toles titled “Remytifying Movies” appeared in the August issue of The Stylus. He recently was hired by Parmenides Publishing, a press specializing in Greek philosophy, dialogues, and philosophical fiction. This summer he will launch a new book division devoted to articulations of philosophy as expressed in cinema.

Johnny Centinio and Robert Deaver (Risk Management) received awards while attending the Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) 2008 Conference in St. Louis. Centinio accepted the Award of Merit for the department’s Complete Safety Program. Deaver received the Award of Distinction for his chemical inventory management and reporting application (CHIMERA), which is being used to track chemicals on the main campus and at NSC. Deaver also gave a presentation at the CHIMERA program at the convention.

Ardhith Sontich (Journalism and Media Studies) was selected by the national Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication to serve on its national accreditation board for national and international journalism programs. She will participate in the accreditation process from October to February.

Brienne Heine (Women’s Center) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for July. An administrative assistant II, she has worked at the center for almost two years, starting as a student intern. Her duties now include running the front office, handling grant paperwork, and helping coordinate events. She is the only administrative assistant in her department. She is also a part-time services counseling with a minor in family studies from UNLV in 2006. She now is pursuing a master’s degree in higher education leadership.

Jorge Grossmann (Music) was featured in the composer-in-residence for the Seattle Latin American Society’s festival (SLAM) in October. During this residency, he will attend the performance of two of his instrumental works, give a lecture on his recent music, and will perform his own composition for violin and electronic sounds. “Alma.” His orchestral work Purisilus was the winner of the 2008 Call for Scores by the New England Philharmonic and will be performed in Boston in February.

Philip Burns (Student Conduct) was an invited presenter at the Association for Student Activities and风险 Management (AS&RM) 2008 anniversary International Conference in Clearwater Beach, Fla. He presented the session, “All Present and Accounted For: Creating a Student Academic Misconduct Code with All the Voices at the Table.” He also became a trustee member of the Raymond Goldstone AS&RM Educational Foundation, which supports educational, scholarship, and leadership initiatives. AS&SA is an international professional organization that facilitates the integration of student development concepts with principles of judicial practice in higher education settings.

Karl Kingsley (Dental Medicine) recently received a UNLV Research Development Award for his pro- posal titled, “Human Papillomavirus Modulation of Breast Cancer Growth.”


Pamela Gallion (Cannon Survey Center) was featured as a speaker at the Health Assessment and Conservation Conference in Chicago in July. Her presentation, “The Challenges of Acquiring Customs for a Home Energy Display (HED) Trial,” summarized the results and described the research methodology used for one of the nation’s first HED trials in which participants were recruited via a third-party call center using telephone research. It was disseminated to the UNLV MBA class for Nevada Power and in conjunction with Paragon Consulting, Portland, Ore., and the Boise Dunham Group of New York. Inside UNLV welcomes comments and suggestions. Please e-mail inside@unlv.edu or drop a note to Inside UNLV at mail code 1024.

Submit Your News
E-mail entries to inside@unlv.edu Items should be no more than 100 words.
Invent the Future
UNLV Center Preserves Local History

By Allison Miller | UNLV Foundation

In an era of blogging, YouTube, and instant communication, there still are some who take the time to slow down, dig into the past, and make a personal connection. “Oral history affords us an opportunity that the written word cannot; it is rich in the nuances, accent, and the tone of the person speaking,” said Lisa Goita-Acres, a UNLV graduate and volunteer for the Oral History Research Center. She has been recording the accounts of Broadway, Las Vegas, and jazz stars. “Each interviewee gives me something I take away. In just the two years I've been doing oral histories, I have heard some poignant and heartfelt stories.”

Claytee White, director of the Oral History Research Center, said, “Oral history is another tool in the arsenal of the historian’s equipment. It makes history more real, similar to a journal or a diary.”

Firsthand Observations
Center staff and volunteers conduct and collect audio taped interviews — sometimes supplemented by video segments — of people selected for their ability to provide firsthand observations on historical topics focusing on Las Vegas and Southern Nevada.

Located in the Special Collections Division at the Lied Library, the center was formally established in 2003, in part by private funding. “Our initial donor was Dr. Harold Boyer. His donation actually justified the start of the center,” said White. The gift created the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project, which focuses on documenting a variety of early Las Vegas history — experiences such as the Latin-Hispanic parade, cruising Fremont Street, and relaxing at the Blue Onion. This project will remain active as the center continues to early Las Vegas life.

Unique Opportunity
Oral history donors know what a unique opportunity this is in a town like ours. Las Vegas is a new city with a lot of old-timers who have great memories,” said White.

Those memories don’t come just from high-profile citizens. The valets, maids, and dealers who helped make Las Vegas not just a vacation destination but also a community have had their say, too. “Without their stories, our history will not be complete,” White said. “Oral history is a way of collecting history from the bottom up instead of from the top down.”

White is enthusiastic about the work that the growing center will contribute to Southern Nevada. “Collecting history in this manner is exciting and allows the university to enter the community in a very intimate way,” she said. “It makes learning an exciting, one-on-one experience for our narrators, volunteers, and especially the wonderful students we are blessed to train.”

Promote your new public awareness initiative, “My Source.”

One of the grants went toward the hiring of a student producer. The station now has 10 students working or serving as volunteers.

KUNV was nominated by the industry publication JazzWeek as best jazz station, while music director Kim Linzy was nominated as best jazz programmer in a medium-sized market. The station also is producing a new compilation CD featuring local artists, which will serve as a premium during the station’s fall pledge drive starting Oct. 3.

More info: Call JoAnn Kittrell at 798-9115.

Beyond UNLV
Institute of Health, and the Nevada Idea Network
of Biomedical Research Program.

The program offers students the opportunity to work on cutting-edge research as undergraduates. They engage in each phase of standard research activity: developing research plans, writing proposals, conducting research, analyzing data, and presenting results in oral and written form. Students use their experiences to become familiar with the faculty, learn about potential majors, and investigate areas of interest. Participants gain practical skills and knowledge they eventually apply to careers after graduation or as graduate students.

The students’ research abstracts and posters are available online at sciences.unlv.edu/pdf/UROP_Program2008.pdf.

Urban Affairs
UNLV Sustainability Report Submitted
Recommendations made by the Sustainability Task Force to President David Ashley during the summer include adopting a green building policy. The task force, headed by David Hassenzahl, chair of environmental studies, is comprised of 11 people from across campus, including two environmental studies students who were engaged in providing a stance on how UNLV can become more sustainable and how it can grow while at the same time reducing reliance on energy, water, and other resources.

Other recommendations included expanding the turf reduction program and becoming a recognized authority on urban sustainability in arid regions.

Radio Station Receives Grants
Radio station KUNV received two $4,000 grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to promote their new public awareness initiative, “My Source.”

One of the grants went toward the hiring of a student producer. The station now has 10 students working or serving as volunteers.

KUNV was nominated by the industry publication JazzWeek as best jazz station, while music director Kim Linzy was nominated as best jazz programmer in a medium-sized market. The station also is producing a new compilation CD featuring local artists, which will serve as a premium during the station’s fall pledge drive starting Oct. 3.

More info: Call JoAnn Kittrell at 798-9115.

Emergency Management Degree Program Receives National Recognition
Both FEMA and the Homeland Security Defense Educational Consortium recognized the crisis and emergency management degree program as a top graduate degree program this past year. The degree is offered by the department of public administration.

The program’s second cohort graduated in June, with many students appointed to new positions, such as director of emergency management for Nevada Power and assistant director of home- land security for the state. The restructured program currently has a new cohort beginning the 24-month program.

Applications for the cohort that will begin in the spring are being accepted and are due in November.

More info: Call Christine Springer at ext. 5-1813.
In addition to making honey, honeybees are critical pollinators of a variety of crops so any biological information is potentially applicable to other real-world situations, Elekonich said. “The honeybee genome was sequenced in 2006,” she said. “We know that honeybees share a large number of genes and proteins with humans and other vertebrates, making the bee a good biomedical model.”

Elekonich’s National Science Foundation-funded research focuses on mechanisms controlling behavior, stress, and aging in honeybee muscles, brains, and organs and the effects of the bees’ interactions with the environment inside and outside the hive. Faculty research using honeybees has garnered more than $1 million in research funds.

Elekonich also teaches a biannual beekeeping course offered through UNLV Educational Outreach.

For more “Great People. Great Places,” go to unlv.edu/greatpeople.