Inside UNLV

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Mission Accreditation

About Mohamed Trabia
Arrival at UNLV: 1987
Current position: A one-year appointment as academic affairs fellow working full-time on UNLV’s reaccreditation effort.

Why he applied for the job: “I was chair of the mechanical engineering department for six years, and during that time we went through a rigorous accreditation process. I saw working on UNLV’s reaccreditation as a way I could contribute to the university. It also is a good transition step between department chair to being a full-time faculty member again.”

Why he was chosen: According to Michael Bowers, senior vice provost for academic affairs, “Mohamed has personal experience as a result of the demanding accreditation process that mechanical engineering went through. Also, he is known and respected by the other department chairs on campus. He understands their challenges. He is an engineer and has an eye for detail and is well organized. So far he has kept everyone on track and on time.”

Professional accomplishments: He is working with professor Brendan O’Toole to design a military vehicle with an interior frame better able to withstand mine blasts or projectile impacts. In 2006, he received a patent along with Dr. Robert C. Wang, a surgeon at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, for a device that allows physicians to attach two sides of a broken lower jaw.

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More info: Contact the payroll office at ext. 5-3825.

Winter Break Reminder
Winter Break is around the corner.
Most offices will be closed Dec. 25-Jan. 4.
Before you leave, remember to shut down your computers and turn off your lights.
More info: Go to hr.unlv.edu/winterbreak for a list of offices and services that will remain open.

Trabia Wrangles Accreditation Data
By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Given the task at hand, Mohamed Trabia’s office is amazingly uncluttered. No piles of papers. No jumble of sticky notes.

Maybe the neatness is the result of the computer age — reports filed electronically rather than on paper. More likely, it comes from the organizational skills he developed during decades as a mechanical engineer.

Whatever the reason, a look at his office provides no clue that Trabia is the person charged with pulling together the vast amounts of data needed to prepare for the upcoming accreditation visit by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

As the only employee spending 100 percent of his work time on the accreditation process, Trabia is deep into it. Providing assistance on the accreditation process is policy and accreditation analyst Gail Griffin.

Already, the self-study reports from each department on campus are in Trabia’s hands. Within the next few days, he should have all college reports as well.

The information will be used to write UNLV’s self-study report, which must be in the hands of NWCCU staff months before their visit to campus April 19-21, 2010. Ten task forces have been working for months gathering data in such areas as the mission of the institution, the educational program and its effectiveness, governance, and institutional integrity. The information they gathered will be updated with UNLV’s end-of-semester numbers.

“Sometime next semester we will have a rough draft to share with the UNLV community,” Trabia said. “The campus community will have the chance to comment on the rough draft. The commission expects our report to be the effort of the entire campus community.”

Green Growth
On Dec. 2, Greenspun Hall was dedicated during a campuswide grand opening celebration. The 120,000-square-foot building centralizes the majority of the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs units. The building, which is targeting a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification, includes classrooms, broadcast studios, and offices. Its 190-seat auditorium will serve as a place to engage the campus and community on issues important to Nevadans. The Greenspun Family Foundation contributed $37 million for the project.
Making Strides Through Prominent Partnerships

This past year, UNLV hosted several major political and national policy events, including the Clean Energy Summit and a Brookings Institution forum. I was pleased that such highly regarded organizations chose to partner with UNLV in bringing together political, business, and academic leaders to tackle critical issues. These events are a sign of UNLV’s growing prominence. They also underscore our contributions to the region’s development.

The Brookings Institution discussion, in particular, confirms that UNLV’s research aspirations are exactly what the region requires in the coming decades. Brookings has identified the inter-Mountain states of Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado as the new American Heartland. The growing population base is transforming the region into an economic and political powerhouse.

This designation, however, poses significant infrastructure challenges. Brookings notes research universities are critical catalysts for innovation and economic development. Las Vegas, it says, lags behind its Western sister cities of Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Albuquerque, and Denver in two key areas: university research capacity and a well-educated workforce.

Conquering the Challenge
That is a challenge we will conquer; there are several reasons why. First, I believe our strategic plan will keep us on course even amid budget challenges. There is considerable overlap between our own goals and the agenda that Brookings outlines. This alignment makes a very strong case to our stakeholders that investing in UNLV will support the economic and social health of our community.

Second, where one might see a challenge for us is actually a significant opportunity. Brookings notes that collaboration is needed for the Intermountain West states to reach their potential as the new American Heartland. UNLV is not given to the same turf wars so common to well-established universities; we recognize that we will make important gains through collaboration.

Finally, UNLV’s location is unique among the region’s cities. Robert Lang, a Brookings Institution fellow, noted that Las Vegas developed in such unique ways that people elsewhere continue to laugh at our approach, yet they adopt our model. We are seen as true innovators in our community development approaches. In addition, Las Vegas is the country’s leading conference center, making us a center for business networking. Las Vegas has developed unique structures and services to foster face-to-face business interactions. And in the middle of all that, UNLV will undergo a successful analysis that our faculty bring to the table.

Here’s What to Do with It
By Shane Bevill | Marketing & PR

Did you know that using a white envelope for intercampus mail could delay it into the right hands? Did you know there is a correct way to label your letters and packages?

Mike Lawrence, director of delivery and telecommunication services, offers tips for having a successful mailing experience.

The right envelope: Use letter-size envelopes when possible. The cost for a large envelope up to 15 inches by 12 inches is 83 cents for one ounce and 17 cents per ounce up to 13 ounces. Envelopes that are larger or weigh more start at $4.80.

Don’t overstuffed: Postage for letters more than one-quarter-inch thick increases from 42 cents to a large envelope rate. Because of the post office’s equipment, overstuffing an envelope can delay or destroy the piece of mail.

Bundling mail: When bundling mail for metering, keep it facing the same direction. Upside-down or backward pieces can slip through the metering machine unnoticed, resulting in the postage being printed on the back or bottom of the envelope. These pieces will be returned to you or mailed to the recipient with extra postage due, and can slow your communications.

Proper labeling: Inbound mail should be addressed as follows: John Doe CSB 241 Box 451044 4505 S Maryland Parkway Las Vegas NV 89154-1044 Use just “box,” not P.O., for the box number.

When sending mail off campus, use UNLV’s complete return address (full xxxx with your campus mail stop number).

DEPARTMENT NAME BOX 450xxx 4505 S MARYLAND PARKWAY LAS VEGAS NV 89154-xxxx Return address labels should be typed using all caps with no punctuation or handwriting. The preferred fonts are Arial Black, Courier, and New Courier.

For foreign mail, the country name should be spelled out in English and appear on the last line of the address.

Other Tips
• Send intercampus mail in manila envelopes with all markings crossed out. Do not use white envelopes because it delays the processing.

• Mail that is received correctly labeled is typically delivered the same day, except for Mondays and the day after a holiday.

• You may not receive or deliver personal mail through the mail center.

More Info: Go to the FAQ section of the delivery services webpage at unlv.edu/depts/delivery.
**Tech Savvy**

**Employee Perk: Loans Make Computer Purchase Possible**

By Marnie Peers | OT

This year, make your holiday shopping a little kinder on the wallet by taking advantage of UNLV’s computer purchasing plan.

Full-time employees who have been with UNLV for at least 12 months are eligible for an interest-free loan of up to $2,500 for the purchase of computers and accessories. The loan is paid back over 24 months through payroll deduction.

“I don’t even notice the payroll deduction,” said Jan Lasagna, administrative assistant for parking and transportation services, who used her $1,400 loan to buy an iMac for home. “Plus, it was the easiest loan I’ve ever gotten. It only took a week.”

Interested? Start by contacting Linda Nishball-Lee in cashiering by phone or e-mail. She will confirm your employment status and provide the loan form. You then return the form, along with a quote for your purchases from a preferred vendor. After you are approved, you pick up the check from the cashiering office. The check will be written to both you and the vendor. You’ll then sign the check over to the vendor when you make your purchase.

“Employees can purchase equipment from just about any vendor they choose, as long as the store accepts a check,” said Nishball-Lee. She used the program herself to purchase a digital camera and computer for her son at Fry’s because she likes “the prices and the store.”

Lasagna attributes the ease of the process to the “gold star” customer service provided by Nishball-Lee, who processes all loan applications on the 15th of every month. Employees wait no more than a month for a check, and sometimes less than a week.

Debra Thomas, program officer for the radiology department at the School of Dental Medicine, used the loan last year to purchase an HP computer and an external hard drive. She plans to use the program again this year.

The toughest part of the process, most participants say, is securing quotes and picking good service from computer stores.

Even though Lasagna could have saved about $150 in educational discounts by purchasing her computer through the Apple store, she opted to buy her iMac from Nick Reese at Century 23 because “I want to support local businesses during these hard times, and also because Nick offers excellent customer service and support.”

She also purchased a three-year Apple warranty from Century 23 so she has local help when technical problems arise.

It’s important to keep in mind that UNLV technicians cannot service your personal computer or install software as they do for your office computer.

More Info: Go to oit.unlv.edu/facultystaff/purchase_comp.html.

To reach Linda Nishball-Lee, call ext. 5-3623.

**Computer Companies Offer Discounts**

UNLV partners with the vendors below to provide employee discounts. Keep in mind, prices change frequently. These are estimates:

**Apple**

With Apple, the more you spend, the more you save. UNLV employees save $50 on a white, 13-inch MacBook; $100 on a MacBook Air; $200 on a Mac Pro. OIT recommends avoiding online Apple purchases and using a local retail store instead.

**Dell**

Employees save on all purchases. For example, the low-end Dell Inspiron Desktop costs $679 for UNLV employees instead of the regular retail price of $833. That’s a savings of $154.

**HP**

Hewlett-Packard recently began offering UNLV discounts on computers. In November, it offered employees the HP Compaq 2710 Tablet PC for $959, compared with the regular retail price of $1,599, a savings of $640.

**Employee Benefits**

**Avoid Co-Pay, Use Wellness Benefit**

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Are you missing out on free medical services? Using the wellness benefit can save employees as much as $2,500 per year, but not everyone taps into it. It’s easy to do: just speak up at your doctor’s office.

The wellness benefit for employees on the preferred provider (PPO) insurance plan eliminates out-of-pocket costs for such preventive measures as mammograms, prostate screening, routine hearing exams, and even complete physicals.

But, if your doctor’s office doesn’t indicate on insurance paperwork that your visit was preventive, chances are good that you’ll end up paying your usual co-pay. Whenever you use a service covered by the benefit, make sure you notify your doctor’s office of the benefit and the need to use the right code on claim forms.

“It’s important for employees to review what kinds of things fall under the wellness category before they visit their doctors,” said Pat La Putt, UNLV benefits manager. “Nobody wants to spend money unnecessarily.”

Here’s another good thing to know. To help promote use of the wellness benefit, the Public Employees’ Benefits Program, which manages the PPO plan, has contracted with Southwest Medical Associates. That means that Southwest staff members are well versed in the wellness benefit and know how to apply it, La Putt said, adding that it lessens your chance of being billed incorrectly.

Preventative doctor’s visits do not have to be done there, but if you do choose to visit Southwest Medical, the results of any test can be forwarded to your primary care doctor even if she isn’t part of Southwest Medical.

**Wellness Benefit — What’s Covered**

- Physical exam, screening lab, and X-rays
- Well child examinations and immunizations
- HPV vaccination
- Prostate screening, such as the PSA blood test
- Routine sigmoidoscopy
- Routine colonoscopy
- Adult immunization
- Screening mammograms (in the absence of a diagnosis)
- Pelvic exam and Pap smear lab test
- Osteoporosis screening
- Hypertension screening
- Skin cancer screening
- Routine hearing exam
- Weight loss program, medically supervised
- Stress management program

For more information on the wellness benefit that is part of the preferred provider insurance plan, go to pepb.state.nv.us.

To reach Southwest Medical Associates, call 877-5002 and identify yourself as a PEBB member.

For more information on the HMO plan, go to healthplannevada.com.
More than 60 people representing colleges from as far away as Hawaii and Kansas attended the West Coast regional conference of the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A) at UNLV in October.

Hosted by UNLV’s Student-Athlete Academic Services (SAAS), the event involved representatives from a number of Division I athletic conferences, including the Mountain West, PAC-10, West Coast, WAC, Big 12, and Big West. Additionally, 25 people from California community colleges attended.

Among the topics discussed were recruiting, academics, and life-skills programs. Professor Larry Ashley of the department of counselor education spoke about gambling and the impact it has on intercollegiate athletics. Many of the advisors attending were able to see the Rebels take on Air Force at Sam Boyd Stadium.

Lisa Levine of SAAS and Brian Evans from Utah State University, who currently serves as the director for the N4A West Region, coordinated the conference.

N4A is the only national organization for academic advisors in athletics. The five regional conferences play an integral role in the professional development of advisors, allowing them to share information and best practices. N4A culminates each year with a national conference; Miami is the host city for the 2009 gathering.

The trio will be honored at a dinner Feb. 19 at the Mirage Hotel and Casino. The event is presented by the College of Business in association with Deloitte.

The inductees exhibit the qualities the college seeks in its students. They exemplify the vision to see opportunity, the imagination to think big, and the desire to give back to the community that helped shape them.

Lanni is former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of MGM Mirage, one of the world’s leading and most respected development companies. Dondero is a member of the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents and has made numerous contributions to the Las Vegas community for more than 50 years. Lenzie served as chairman of the board and chief executive officer for Nevada Power for 10 years and has been a mainstay of the Las Vegas community with his involvement in the Boy Scouts of America and the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees.

The college created the Nevada Business Hall of Fame in 2002 to honor leaders who have significantly contributed to the economic prosperity of Nevada, and who have brought positive recognition to the state. Previous inductees include Michael A. Saltman, Howard Hughes, William F. Harrah, Robert Lewis, James Rogers, Si Redd, Claude Williams, Kitty Rodman, Del Webb, and Stephen Wynn.

Sun Sets on Season

A young Rebel fan enjoys festivities at a UNLV football game. The Rebels finished the season with their best record in several years. Highlights included an overtime win, which was sealed by blocking a field goal attempt, over the then-15th-ranked Arizona State Sun Devils in Tempe, Ariz. The following week, UNLV beat Iowa State at Sam Boyd Stadium in overtime.

Across Campus

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Engineering First Annual “Jam” Session Held

Minority high school juniors and seniors got some hands-on opportunities to learn more about engineering through the college’s first “jam” session earlier this fall.

Hosted by the multicultural engineering program, the event attracted 30 students from Cimarron, Foothill, and Laughlin high schools. UNLV engineering students and full-time multicultural engineering program director Ana Marrero organized the jam session.

Hands-on activities broadened the participants’ understanding of the tasks an engineer might perform. One activity included building towers with straws to see how much weight the straws could support; the winning design held 12 full soda cans. They also constructed rockets using a variety of materials. The rocket with the highest launch won.

Engineering students representing the American Indian Society of Engineering Students, the National Society of Black Engineers, and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers talked to the high school students about their college experiences.

“It is extremely important for students to mentor students,” Marrero said. “Our students do an excellent job illustrating why engineering is a viable, creative field that all should explore. For many of our participants, the jam session was the first time they heard about engineering careers.”

Graduate College Launches Electronic Initiatives

The college launched two electronic initiatives this fall to improve access to information.

A new online VIP page allows the college to communicate with graduate students with greater ease and also provides students 24/7 access to their current status. Students can check their application, admissions, and residency status; which forms they have submitted already and which they still need to submit; scholarship information; and graduate assistantship information.

The second initiative involves the storing of all graduate student files online in a new database. This database allows graduate faculty to have 24/7 online access to their graduate students’ official documents.

These initiatives are part of a larger project to use online and electronic resources to dramatically
reduce paper consumption, increase efficiency, and better serve graduate applicants, current students, faculty, and graduate programs. More electronic initiatives are scheduled for implementation in the coming months.

Hotel Graduate Research Showcased at Conference
The Hotel College will host its 14th annual Graduate Student Research Conference in Hospitality and Tourism starting Jan. 4 at the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa. The three-day conference provides an opportunity for graduate students, program administrators, and faculty to meet and exchange information and ideas about research and to explore contemporary and near-term issues and opportunities in research and graduate education.

Save the Date for UNLVinio
The 35th annual UNLVino will be held April 16-18 at various locations around the valley. Presented by the Hotel College and Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada, UNLVinio provides wine enthusiasts and winemakers the opportunity to sample the latest releases, the best vintages, and the finest varietals from more than 350 wineries. Proceeds from the event support the advancement of higher education at UNLV.

Additional details will be posted soon to hotel.unlv.edu.

Law Students to Serve as Mediators in Bankruptcy Court
Starting next month, law students will have the chance to act as mediators in real-life disputes. Under a new clinical program, students will act as mediators between disputing parties at Las Vegas’ Neighborhood Justice Center and at U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

The Strasser Mediation Clinical Program is funded by a gift from Steven Z. Strasser, CEO and chairman of the board of Power Efficiency Corp. The program will be offered through the law school’s Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution in conjunction with the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic.

Students in the program will begin the semester with a four-day training program, learning the theory and practice of mediation. For the rest of the term, they will spend four hours a week at their assigned placement, handling cases that the center and the bankruptcy judges send to them. But they won’t be alone. Professors Ray Patterson and Peter Reilly, faculty at the Saltman Center, will supervise and critique their performance. Patterson, who participated in a mediation program when he was a law student and taught in a mediation clinic at the Cardozo School of Law, developed the program.

“The experience is wonderful,” he said. “It’s an incredible feeling to help two—or more—parties work out their differences in mediation and settle their disputes. In litigation, one side wins and the other loses. In mediation, both sides can feel like they won.”

More Info: Go to law.unlv.edu/clinic.html.

Liberal Arts
Philosophy’s Finocchiaro Keeps Researching, Publishing
The philosophy department employs several active young scholars, continually producing a substantial output of articles and books. However, it is still hard for them to keep up with Maurino Finocchiaro, emeritus distinguished professor. His research productivity has not slowed since his retirement from the classroom. Finocchiaro’s 10th book, The Essential Galileo, a new collection and translation of Galileo’s most important essays, was published in September by Hackett.

Michael H. Shank, professor of the history of science at the University of Wisconsin wrote, “Finocchiaro’s new and revised translations have done what the Inquisition could not: They have captured an exceptional range of Galileo’s career while also letting him speak—in clear English. No other volume offers more convenient or more reliable access to Galileo’s own words.” This book follows two well-received books: Retracing Galileo 1633-1992 and Arguments About Arguments: Systematic, Critical, and Historical Essays in Logical Theory. He also published six articles in the last year. “Maurice sets a standard that is inspirational, if a bit daunting for all of us,” said Ian Dove, the department’s director of logic and critical thinking. With his record of productivity that goes back decades and includes grants from The National Endowment for Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and the Guggenheim Foundation, it’s unsurprising that Finocchiaro recently won the coveted Distinguished Research Award from the International Society for the Study of Argumentation (ISSA), Dove said. The award comes with a prize of 500 euros and also covers the cost of his attending the next ISSA conference at the University of Amsterdam to deliver the keynote address.

Libraries
Libraries Accepted to Participate in New National Group
UNLV Libraries recently joined the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA), a prestigious group of 32 academic research libraries from 17 states.

“UNLV brings many strengths to GWLA,” including excellent general and special collections, an excellent digitization operation, the Oral History Research Center, and the world-renowned Center for Gaming Research,” the GWLA Board of Directors stated in accepting UNLV’s request for membership. “The GWLA deans and directors felt that UNLV would be a strong partner in the alliance’s projects, including scholarly communication, resource sharing, digital libraries, and other cooperative activities. UNLV is already a significant contributor to the Western Waters Digital Library and participates in several licensing offers.”

The membership process included a rigorous yearlong evaluation, an onsite visit with more than 22 library staff, and an interview with the executive vice president and provost. It concluded with a unanimous vote of the directors of 31 member libraries.

“The Libraries staff is very proud of the invitation to join this research library alliance,” said Patricia Iannuzzi, dean of University Libraries. “I believe that membership in GWLA will provide an important path for professional development and contribution for UNLV library faculty and professional staff, and will allow the Libraries to both benefit and contribute in new ways. This affiliation will help us keep connected to the work of large research libraries while providing a forum for us to influence the future of other research libraries.”

Concentration
Tuba player Huston Pullen, a sophomore music education major, focuses on the music as he performs during a recent UNLV Symphony Orchestra concert. The orchestra’s spring semester schedule is not set yet, but information will be posted on pac.unlv.edu once it is available.

Across Campus
Sciences
Astronomers Use Federal Grant to Shed Light on Black Holes
Two physics and astronomy professors are using a nearly $450,000 federal grant to study black hole feedback and galaxy formation. Kentaro Nagamine is principal investigator, while Daniel Proga is co-principal investigator on the project funded by a three-year, $449,317 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Their research focuses on supermassive black holes (SMBHs). Observations have established that SMBHs reside in the centers of galaxies, and that they evolve as galaxies grow. It has been suggested the energy/momentum feedback from the central SMBH regulates the star formation in the host galaxy,leading to the tight correlation between black hole mass and stellar mass.

Nagamine and Proga will study the effects of black hole feedback on galaxy formation using both cosmological and non-cosmological hydrodynamical simulations.

Wanda Taylor, interim dean, said, “I am delighted that NSF continues to recognize our outstanding young scientists. Ken and his colleagues are at the forefront of astrophysics studies and their research promises to redefine our understanding of the world around us.”

“This is one of the hottest topics in the field of cosmology and structure formation, and the competition to solve this mystery is intense,” she said.

With the NSF funding, Nagamine will hire a postdoctoral scholar to work with his research group of both graduate and undergraduate students for three years. Proga’s studies of the accretion of matter onto black holes using numerical simulations will be integrated with Nagamine’s large-scale cosmological simulations.

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Liberal Arts
Philosophy’s Finocchiaro Keeps Researching, Publishing
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Spotlight On Accomplishments
E-mail entries to inside@unlv.edu. Items should be no more than 100 words.

— Leroy H. Petlon (Social Work) conducted a research study, “An Examination of the Reasons for Child Removal in Clark County, Nevada,” that was published in the July issue of the Journal of Children and Youth Services Review.

> George Ebner (Facilities Maintenance) was named a classified employee of the month in the technical/secretarial category for his involvement in the maintenance specialist, he is assigned to the Shadow Lane campus. While he primarily assists in heating, ventilating, and air conditioning work, he said the staff at Shadow Lane is called upon to do a wide variety of tasks. As a result, he also does sheetrock, gardening, building repair, painting, and light carpentry. He celebrates his five-year anniversary at UNLV this month.

> Ann McDonough and Liz Baldizan (Academic Success Center) are spearheading a Nevada System of Higher Education project titled, “No More No More.” Funded by a grant from the Lumina Foundation, this project identifies “ready adult learners” who have college credits and wish to return to school. Case managers and entry concierge or re-entry advisor who will help to assist these students. Academically, the project will provide courses and offer concrete advice.

> Su Kim Chung and Katherine L. Rankin (Libraries) had an article published recently. The information criteria of the Western Association of Map Libraries titled “A Cartographic Journey Through Las Vegas History: Tracing the Las Vegas Landscape Through Maps.” The two-part article appeared in the March and July issues. All the maps they wrote about are owned by the Libraries’ Special Collections Division. For more information on these maps and other collections documenting the history of Southern Nevada, visit library.unlv.edu/spc.

> William Cross Jr. (Counselor Education) recently was named recipient of the 6th Annual Social Justice Action Award by the Teachers College, Columbia University. The award commemorates his contributions as a scholar who exemplifies the integration of multicultural initiatives with social action in the fields of psychology and education. His work incorporating social justice issues of oppression, racism, and discrimination into theories about identity and psychological counseling has positively affected many people. Additionally, his work has played a profound role in helping people understand the “diverse lifestyles of individuals and their lives’ as well as their own lives. The award will be presented at the Teachers College Winter Roundtable on Cultural Psychology and Education on Feb. 21.

> Stacey Hardy-Desmond (Social Work) was named the 2008 Social Worker of the Year by the Nevada chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). She was recognized for her professional development in teacher education. The federation encourages the development of teacher education in developing countries and serves as a vehicle for collaboration and professional development in teacher education around the world. She will serve as a representative of the United States Association of Teacher Educators.

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> Vicky Albert (Social Work) has written an article, “Survival Analyses of the Dynamics of Sibling Experiences in Care,” in Families and Society. It was selected by the publisher for the journal’s online continuing education series — one of only five of the issue’s 14 articles to be chosen.

> Karen F. Rice (School of Social Work) was named classified employee of the month in the administrative category for October. She was selected for her ability to manage multiple responsibilities, her strong organizational skills, and the overall impact she has had on the School of Social Work. Ms. Rice is the proud mother of a 2008 UNLV graduate, daughter Micah King.

> Jeffrey Hedricks (Harry Reid Center) co-chaired a symposium on international archaeology with William White of the Nevada State Museum, and the symposium was held in a Basin Anthropological Conference in Portland, Ore. Hedricks also co-authored a paper during the symposium with David Smere (Harry Reid Center) and Alex Heindl of Desert Walkabouts Inc. titled, “Meal, Combat, Individual: Identifying Cold War Era Military Food Cans.”

> Britain Henderson (Academic Success Center) are spearheaded a Nevada System of Higher Education project titled, “No More No More.” Funded by a grant from the Lumina Foundation, this project identifies “ready adult learners” who have college credits and wish to return to school. Case managers and entry concierge or re-entry advisor who will help to assist these students. Academically, the project will provide courses and offer concrete advice.

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Debi Shaffer  
Criminal Justice Professor

Rebel since: 2005  
Typical day: Work with students on various projects, whether in the classroom or one-on-one, and on my own research and writing. I also teach one graduate and two undergraduate classes this semester.  
Biggest challenge: Not having enough time to do everything. It would be nice to have more hours in the day.  
Your area of study: I am fascinated by prisons and have been in prisons all across the country. I love the challenge of going into prisons to learn how they operate and look at how to do things better.  
Why you do what you do: I love the cultural impact. I like the fact that my work will be here long after I am gone. Also, I get calls all the time with people asking me how to save the family Bible or their grandparents’ photo collection.  
People would be surprised to know: In April, my dissertation advisor at the University of Cincinnati was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. It is a devastating disease and has one of the highest mortality rates. In addition to running in the Miami Marathon on Jan. 25, some of my fellow alumni and I are each committed to raising $2,900 that will go to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.  
More info: Go to pancan.kintera.org/miamimarathon/shaffer.

Michael Frazier  
Conservator, University Libraries

Rebel since: 2002  
What you do: I conserve books, which can include page repair, spine replacement, or a complete rebinding. I also service photographs, maps, and archival materials such as letters and artifacts. Preservation, which includes environmental monitoring and emergency preparedness, is also an important part of what I do.  
What makes you successful? Perseverance. There are not many jobs like mine out there. Currently, our laboratory is the only one in the state. The job requires specialized training and experience. It requires dedication to turn this into a career.  
Why you do what you do: I love the cultural impact. I like the fact that my work will be here long after I am gone. Also, I get calls all the time with people asking me how to save the family Bible or their grandparents’ photo collection.  
Can’t work without: Scalpels, bone folders, straight edges, and paste — we make our own paste.  
People would be surprised to know: I manage the Balance Café inside the Student Recreation and Wellness Center on weekends. I love interacting with people I wouldn’t otherwise.

Bridget Byrne  
Administrative Coordinator, Men’s Basketball

Rebel since: 2005; previously worked in the athletics business office, but joined men’s basketball in June 2007, just after the team’s trip to the Sweet 16.  
What you do: I handle all administrative functions, including accounts payable, team travel, requests from coaches, mail-outs to recruits, and assisting in the organization of coaching clinics and summer camps. My primary goal is to ensure that daily operations run smoothly so that our staff can focus on coaching.  
Perfect day: A Rebel victory at the end of the day.  
Biggest challenge: Being able to multitask and not losing sight of what I am doing since there is a constant level of activity in the office.  
Can’t work without: A smile and a positive attitude. It sounds rather cliché but I interact with the public a great deal, and it’s important to establish a friendly rapport with everyone we meet.  
This year: There are high expectations and a buzz surrounding the program. We have a good group of guys this year. I am confident that they will live up to those expectations.  
Game day: I host the former players before the game, but come tip-off, I’m in my seat in Section 102.  
People would be surprised to know: I was a tap and jazz dancer for 14 years but quit to concentrate on softball. I played for UNLV from 2001-04.
Garth Brooks famously sings about bulls and blood, dust and mud, boots and chaps, and cowboy hats in the thing they call rodeo. It’s an accurate description of what can be seen at the 50th annual National Finals Rodeo (NFR) Dec. 4-13.

The 10-day event will bring approximately 180,000 people and $60 million in non-gaming revenue to Las Vegas, said Daren Libonati, Thomas & Mack Center executive director.

The Thomas & Mack staff has perfected the daunting transformation over the years. “Because we have been doing this for 24 years, we have pretty much mastered the process,” Libonati said. “We have great people who communicate and understand what needs to get done.”

After the Runnin’ Rebels played Nov. 29, Thomas & Mack crews spread 400 cubic yards of dirt on the arena floor. Another 600 cubic feet of dirt is used for walk paths and the space where the livestock is stored.

The dirt is stored on campus by the Butler Building. Crews “manicure” the dirt daily and chemicals are added to allow it to compact properly. “Lots of love is put into the dirt to allow it to be packed and used to benefit the stock and contestants,” Libonati said. “It’s no different than a racetrack for horses.”

Although breaking down the event is easier than setting up, it has to be done quickly. The Rebels play Dec. 17, just four days after NFR.

The dirt, together with all the droppings from the livestock, is taken back to the Butler Building, where it is compacted and piled to resist wind and other weather variables. With special additives, the dirt can be used year after year, Libonati said.

The livestock begin arriving in mid-November to acclimate to the desert climate. Both the animals and athletes must compete throughout the year to win the right to compete in NFR, the Super Bowl of rodeo.