Oasis

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Dear Friends of UNLV,

We are pleased to present another issue of Oasis, the magazine of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As alumni, friends, faculty, and staff, you continue to be invaluable sources of support to the university community. It is our goal to keep you apprised of UNLV’s advancements through this publication by sharing the campus’ good news in the following pages.

We want to tell you about our outstanding alumni — some of whom may have been your classmates — who went on after graduating from UNLV to pursue interesting and successful careers. We want to acknowledge the accomplishments of our exceptional faculty and staff, including their teaching, research, and programs. We also want to recognize the generosity and involvement of our friends from the local community whose support has enabled the university to flourish in many areas. The pages of Oasis are filled with stories about the people who make UNLV a great university.

We feel it is important to share their stories with you because, collectively, you all have helped to shape UNLV into the fine institution it has become.

Sincerely,

Lyle Rivera
Vice President for Development and University Relations
features

5 A Tale of Two Authors
Award-winning novelists Douglas Unger and Richard Wiley have shared a passion for writing since their college days together. Now, they have a new challenge: instilling it in others.
BY DIANE RUSSELL

8 Taking the Fight Out of Cancer
UNLV biochemist Steve Carper researches the way cancer cells react to treatment.
BY TOM FLAGG

15 From the Campus to the Capitol
UNLV alumnus Jerry Reynolds helps shape environmental law as a legislative aide in the nation's capital.
BY BARBARA CLOUD

16 History in the Making
The first official history of UNLV will offer perspective on the "road we've traveled" — plus some colorful stories about the good old days, according to historian Bob Davenport.
BY SUZAN DIBELLA

19 Wit and Wisdom
Las Vegas Mayor and university supporter Jan Laverty Jones believes good humor and good leadership go hand in hand.
BY LISA STORY
University to Offer Master of Liberal Studies Program

A new master of liberal studies program—a design to allow students to pursue academic topics in a degree program tailored to their individual interests—is now being offered at UNLV.

Program director David Dickens said the topics of study available in the program could be as diverse as German literature, ancient Hebrew civilization, theories of evolution, or new trends in art and theater.

"The possible range of topics is almost endless," Dickens said. "The idea is to allow a student to tackle a topic or issue that he or she finds particularly interesting and then examine that issue from a variety of academic perspectives."

A student choosing to study ancient Hebrew civilization, for example, might look at the subject in terms of archaeology, history, and sociology.

Because of the cross-disciplinary approach of the program, faculty members from many colleges and departments will be involved, said Dickens, who is also a sociology professor.

All students are required to take a few core courses, but their other classes are tailored to their chosen topic, which must be focused in one of four areas—arts, humanities, natural science, or social science.

He said he expects that most students enrolling in the program will be people who have already established their careers.

"Many people studied subjects in college that they found fascinating, but that didn't have anything to do with their chosen careers," Dickens said. "A program such as this provides those people with a chance to go back and study those subjects just for the pleasure of learning more about a topic that interests them."

Because organizers expect that most students enrolling in the program will also be holding down full-time jobs, courses for the program will be offered at night.

For more information on the master of liberal studies program, call Dickens at 739-3322.

Health Issue Hot Line Established

A newly established hot line at UNLV will offer callers 24-hour access to information on a variety of health issues, including alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and AIDS.

David Dickens

The hot line may be reached by dialing 597-4679 or 597-4680 and then selecting a three-digit code for a specific message. Copies of the brochure listing the topics and the code numbers may be obtained by calling Rex Parkmes, coordinator of UNLV's Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program, at 739-3627.

Among the messages available on the hot line are "Your Money and Your Life: Cocaine Takes Both," "Suicide: Facts and Myths," "Date Rape," "How to Quit Smoking," "What Is Alcoholism?" and "What Are the Symptoms of AIDS?"

Grant Funding Up at UNLV

UNLV received 23 percent more grant funding for sponsored programs during fiscal year 1991 than during the previous year.

Grant support for funded projects, including research, totaled $12 million for fiscal 1991, up from $9.7 million during fiscal 1990.

An additional $2.9 million in Environmental Protection Agency funding for expansion of the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies brought the total grant funding for fiscal 1991 to approximately $15 million.

"Grant funds, which come to us from federal, state, and local government, as well as the private sector, make it possible for us to carry on important scientific and social science research," said UNLV President Robert C. Maxwell.

"Without outside support, much of our research would be impossible."

According to David McNelis, associate vice president for research, the protection for fiscal 1992 indicates that this growth in funding for sponsored programs will continue.

The rate of growth in research funding at UNLV compares very favorably with the national average, placing it in the top few percent of colleges and universities, in terms of growth, McNelis said.

The federal government provided the largest portion of the research funding at more than $8.5 million. Of that, the Environmental Protection Agency provided $6.5 million, including funds for the expansion of the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies and for Superfund environmental cleanup projects, biological studies, and visibility studies.

State government provided $1.6 million, local governments provided $560,000, and the private sector provided $1.6 million in sponsored program funding, McNelis said.

UNLV Receives Major Donations

UNLV recently received three major gifts, one for the construction of a student service building and two for support of academic programs. All of the donations came through the UNLV Foundation.

The university received $4 million from the Don W. Reynolds Foundation to support construction of a new student service building on the university campus. Reynolds is the founder of the Donrey Media Group, which publishes the Las Vegas Review-Journal and operates Donrey Outdoor Advertising Co. in Southern Nevada.

UNLV President Robert C. Maxwell said Reynolds' gift is the second largest single gift UNLV has ever received.

The student service building will contain such programs as the Student Development Center, Student Financial Services, Multicultural Student Affairs, Career Planning and Placement, Registrar's Office, Disabled Student Services, and the Academic Advancement Program.

UNLV has also received a $2 million gift from the family of the late Tom Bean to support music education in the College of Fine and Performing Arts.
UNLV Physics Professor Awarded Smithsonian Fellowship

Kwong, who specializes in laser physics at UNLV, is attempting to make complex measurements of silicon ions. These measurements require a working knowledge in particular areas of plasma physics, atomic physics, and laser physics. Scientists at Harvard have made several unsuccessful attempts to get these measurements in the past six years.

“If we are successful, these measurements will be used by solar physicists to determine precisely the electron density and temperature in the atmosphere around the sun,” Kwong said. “This will allow an accurate model of the solar atmosphere to be made.”

Kwong, who developed a unique “ion trap,” which allows him to capture and study rapidly moving charged particles, has lectured on ion storage at the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and at Lyman Laboratory in Harvard's physics department.

Kwong presented a paper concerning the use of his ion trap at a conference on “Atomic Processes in Fusion Plasmas” in Portland, Maine, last year. He was also invited to the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara to participate in a workshop on the surface interaction of highly charged ions.

Kwong has been a member of the UNLV physics department faculty since 1984.

UNLV Named Up-and-Coming for Third Year in a Row

For the third year in a row, U.S. News and World Report has named UNLV one of the nation’s “up-and-coming” universities, UNLV President Robert C. Maxson announced recently.

The news magazine's 1992 edition of the book, America’s Best Colleges, lists UNLV as the number one up-and-coming university in the West in the regional colleges and universities category.

UNLV was also named as an up-and-comer in the 1990 issue (second place) and 1991 issue (first place) of the college guide.

“We are thrilled to be recognized as a rising star in American higher education for the third consecutive year by U.S. News and World Report,” Maxson said. “At UNLV, we truly feel that we are ‘up-and-coming.’ It is most gratifying to find that our colleagues at other colleges and universities agree with us.”

This year’s U.S. News and World Report based its college rankings on responses to a nationwide questionnaire by 2,425 college and university presidents, deans, and admissions officials.

Up-and-comers are those institutions that are judged by their peers to be advancing most rapidly, based on recent educational innovations and improvements.

A Tale of Two AUTHORS

Award-winning novelists Douglas Unger and Richard Wiley have shared a passion for writing since their college days together. Now, they have a new challenge: instilling it in others.

BY DIANE RUSSELL  
ILLUSTRATION BY TINA SMITH

Gathering late at night at The Mill bar in Iowa City or at a friend's home, the group of aspiring young writers would talk and argue until the early hours of the morning.

The setting varied, but the topic was always the same—writing. How to do it. And how to do it better.

“Obsession” is the way UNLV associate professor Richard Wiley describes the devotion he and his fellow University of Iowa graduate students had toward their writing. “We were hopelessly serious about it.”

Douglas Unger, now also an associate professor of English at UNLV, was part of that same Iowa Writers' Workshop back in 1974. He remembers well the frequent latenight sessions in which he, Wiley, and the other student writers would eagerly read and discuss each other's works.
Unger recalls it as "a conspiracy of writers." There the group would be, "over a jug of wine at 11 at night, pulling out our manuscripts and reading them in too-loud voices."

The after hours, informal sessions were like a refueling stop for the Japanese-Americans in Japan during business conglomerate takeovers on their work. "I personally was good for another five or six days at the typewriter."

Fast forward to 1984. Unger publishes his first novel, Leaving the Land, a book using the fictional experiences of a family of South Dakota turkey farmers to explore the effects of business conglomerate takeovers on American agriculture. For his first published novel, Unger is nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

Forward again, this time to 1986. Wiley publishes his first novel, Soldiers in Hiding, a book about two displaced Japanese Americans in Japan during World War II. For his first published book, Wiley wins the prestigious PEN/Faulkner Award for best American Novel. Although he is an "inexperienced" writer, he is "a master of the craft." He is "the writer of the moment."

Sideling over the way, the sleepless nights, the long, solitary hours spent hunched over a typewriter, and the endless rewriting paid off for both of them. Each has had three novels published. Wiley's fourth novel, set in West Africa and titled idiagalu, is scheduled to be published later this year by E.P. Dutton. Unger is wrapping up work on a fourth novel, titled The Disappeared, which is set in Argentina.

Today, Unger and Wiley find themselves consumed by a new obsession — this time it's an obsession shared by a number of UNLV English professors who are working together to develop a master of fine arts program in creative writing.

In that program, Wiley and Unger hope to kindle among young UNLV writers the obsession and passion they themselves felt about their work in their graduate school days. Both men say they believe UNLV has an excellent opportunity to establish a first-rate program, one with a difference that would set it apart from those offered at other universities. That difference would be a creative writing program with an international slant.

"The whole idea of including the world is not something that's very common to American fiction," Wiley says. "American fiction tends to be inward looking."

Both Unger and Wiley have spent substantial amounts of time living in other countries; they say those experiences have proved invaluable to their writings.

A creative writing program with an international emphasis could make a valuable contribution to American fiction, and also provide a welcome opportunity to establish something at UNLV that has an excellent opportunity to establish itself as a first-rate program, one with a differentiating international emphasis could make a substantial contribution to American fiction and also provide a welcome opportunity to establish an international emphasis.

Unger and Wiley say the English department staff is excited about the potential,

"...that three or four years after the program starts, our trouble will not be finding students, but deciding who to let in and who not to let in," he says.

Wiley believes that UNLV has a "terrific creative writing program" that will be encouraged to spend a semester abroad and be required to achieve fluency in a foreign language.

Unger and Wiley say the English department staff is excited about the prospect of such a program and that the administration has responded favorably. Establishing an international creative writing program at UNLV "has terrific potential," according to Wiley. "It could change the face of the whole university."

"If that three or four years after the program starts, our trouble will not be finding students, but deciding who to let in and who not to let in," he says.

Wiley says that UNLV "has an excellent opportunity to establish something at UNLV that has an excellent opportunity to establish something at UNLV that is really, really good for its students," he says. Watching students at Syracuse pay as much as $18,000 a year for an education and then graduate facing major debt was discouraging, he says.

While both Unger and Wiley teach literature classes at UNLV, their bigger challenge is teaching creative writing workshops. They agree that teaching creative writing is not an easy task.

"You can teach technique, but I look at it more as though one can teach writing the same way a director can direct an actor," Unger says. "You direct writing, you don't teach it."

Continuing the analogy, Unger says, "The director often times can't tell the actor what to do and have the result be anything that is worth anything on stage. The director has to do something to the actor that gets the results the director wants."

"I look at myself as having to do something to the writer or to the writing that gets the result that I think the young or developing writer should be working toward," he says.

The young writer needs determination and a good story to tell, but does not necessarily need talent," Unger adds.

"I would like to take the word 'talent,' where writing is concerned, and kind of put it aside. It sounds as though this is some gift of the gods and some fairy godmother waved a wand and this is a gifted person," he says.

"I think there are people who have the guts and hard work as well as the ability not to know when to quit."

Both Wiley and Unger can tell their students a great deal about the frustrations of writing and about the need for perseverance.

"I am always made to feel as someone with a little talent and a lot of tenacity," worked six years on Soldiers in Hiding, a book of 199 pages. 

Returning to the way of life when he began submitting the finished manuscript to publishers. It was rejected about 25 times before it was finally published.

"Then, it ends up winning a major fiction award, which means that a lot of publishers are full of it," Wiley says.

"They're just not really reading it or they're too scared or they're not really looking for something new."

After Leaving the Land was rejected for the 16th time, Unger gave up. At the time, he was living in Washington state, so he decided to "patch together a living from gift-giving for salmon and long-lining for dogfish, and doing pick-up teaching jobs."

Then he was hired to work on a project for HBO that required him to travel to New York.

He was halfway down the muddy driveway that led from his trailer in the woods when he decided on a whim to take the manuscript with him to New York. He slugged back up the driveway, grabbed the manuscript, and threw it in the trash can. Once he had reread it, he resubmitted the work. A couple of months later, it was accepted for publication.

"This happened when I least expected it and least counted on it to happen," Unger says.

Both Wiley and Unger say that they don't have to go looking for stories — the stories find them.

"I have certain moments that I know I want to have in the story, but the plot, by and large, and a lot of the characterization, comes out of the writing, not the other way around," Wiley says.

"I will always have, before I begin, a setting and a time that feel fairly well-
Steve Carper, a biochemist in UNLV's chemistry department, is trying to find a cure for breast cancer. If he succeeds, a great deal of renown will come his way. But he is the first to say that the kind of work he is doing in his lab — as important as it is — would be impossible without the quiet achievements of scientists who do pure research.

Carper, who does applied research, is studying the way cells respond to stress. Although he is interested specifically in cancer cells, he explains that all cells — bacteria, plant, and human — are continually bombarded by various stresses, and they respond in very similar ways. These stresses might include an increase in temperature, exposure to drugs, or the lack of a nutrient in the environment.

When cells are stressed, by an increase of heat or otherwise, they respond by making so-called heat shock proteins, which help the cells survive future stresses, Carper explains. While different stresses cause cells to produce different sets of proteins, heat shock proteins are almost always present in stressed cells.

"All cells will produce these proteins, and they [the proteins] are all very similar to each other, so there must be something fundamentally important about them," Carper says. "This becomes clinically important when you consider that we use different kinds of stress to try to treat and eradicate cancer."

Taking the Fight Out of Cancer

UNLV biochemist Steve Carper researches the way cancer cells react to treatment.

By Tom Flagg

continued on page 10
Common cancer treatments include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and hyperthermia. In the last two of these treatments, when the stress is sufficient, the cancer cells die.

"But some of the cells are left behind after these treatments, and they express stress proteins," Carper explains.

"When they receive a second stress, they are better able to survive. Those cancer cells that can survive the stresses can eventually go on to kill the patient."

Carper points to a recent study of breast cancer patients in which the cancer had spread to their lymph nodes. Researchers found that those patients whose cancer cells expressed heat shock protein 27 (hsp 27) did worse clinically: their cancers came back sooner, and eventually the patients died from them.

"Somehow, genetically, these cells that normally don't express hsp 27 except following stress, expressed it all the time," Carper says. "So when stress was applied in the form of treatment, those cells could escape and go on to kill the patient."

Following up on the observations that came out of that clinical study of breast cancer patients, Carper has genetically engineered cells to express hsp 27 constantly. He has found that they are better able to withstand the stresses of heat and drugs, but not of radiation. Now Carper is trying to understand what it is about hsp 27 that protects cancer cells.

"If we understand the function of that protein, we might be able to go in and knock out its function, which would make those cells more susceptible to chemotherapy," he says.

Carper's work is funded by a $500,000, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. He is collaborating with researchers in the department of surgery at the University of Wisconsin, where he spent three years doing post-doctoral cancer research before coming to UNLV in August 1991. He and his collaborators believe hsp 27 may be a valuable biomarker for breast cancer — and very possibly other cancers, as well.

A biomarker, he explains, is something that is biologically present in a patient — in this case, in cancer cells. If physicians knew the function of that material, it could provide them valuable information about how to treat their patients.

"Not all breast cancers is the same," Carper says. "In fact, each patient has slightly different medical problems that have allowed a cancer to arise. A slow-growing tumor may require one type of therapy, while a fast-growing one requires something different. If the physician only knew what type of tumor a patient has, he or she would be better able to choose the best treatment."

Carper and his collaborators have succeeded in isolating certain cells that can recognize hsp 27 and kill the cells that over-express the protein, without damaging other cells. This works with culture cells growing in the lab, but Carper and his associates won't be sure it is ready for clinical testing on human patients until tests are done using an animal model.

"The question is, will it work in an animal model in the same way," he says. "If it does, then we would be ready to go on with clinical trials in a couple of years."

Animal modeling is done with nude mice — that is, mice that have no functioning immune system and, incidentally, have no hair. Carper takes human breast cells that he has genetically engineered to express hsp 27, and puts them into the nude mice, where they grow tumors. He could not use regular mice, because their immune systems would recognize the implanted cells as foreign material and destroy them.

"Once we successfully get a human tumor to grow in a nude mouse, we can take as many as 10 million cells from that tumor and inject them into a slightly modified variation of the nude mouse, known as a SCID mouse, which has been given a human immune system. We can then have a human immune system fight human tumor cells, all inside a mouse," Carper says.

Carper and his associates know they can preferentially kill hsp 27-producing cells at the cellular level. The animal model will tell them if it will work with a functioning immune system and a solid tumor.

"If the answer is 'yes,' we are ready to go to the FDA and say, 'Look, it works in animals really well, and we'd like to try it in patients, because we think it would benefit them.'"

Although Carper's work appears to the layman to border on the miraculous, he modestly refers to it as "cookbook science." To accomplish the fairly complicated process of genetically engineering cells, he uses "a variety of techniques that real scientists have developed and won Nobel prizes for."

Real scientists?

"What I'm doing is very much applied science," he says. "The people who a lot of times don't get the headlines are the scientists who do the basic research. They don't get a lot of recognition, but it's because of all their hard work that I'm able to come in and do all my research. They have gone ahead and made the path really clear and easy to follow."

Carper feels strongly about the value of pure scientific research. During a recent conversation, he mentioned a newspaper item in which someone was pubic about the federal government supporting research on stress in plants.

"Why would anyone care about stress in plants? This person wanted to know. Well, it turns out that a lot of the ideas I got on this protein came from plant physiologists who have studied stress in plants. The protein I am interested in is very abundant in plants," he says.

"Now, you would never think that a scientist working on stress in plants is actually doing cancer research, but their work directly impacts mine." Carper says that a lot of good, basic science is done before any applied research can happen.

"The stuff that I do, although it's important, is sort of cookbook," he says. "I think the general public thinks science is fast, but it takes a long time to get all this stuff done. That's why supporting basic research is very important — often in ways that aren't obvious. The pay-offs can be very large."

There is a significant amount of uncertainty for scientists, Carper says. Unlike technology, in which the application of sufficient funding will result in a better car or a faster airplane, there are no such guarantees in science.

"In science, researchers are given money to do the best job they can," he observes. "Some may hit the pot of gold; others hit a brick wall. But you never know. The path to that brick wall may be very important to another researcher."

Carper admits that, in the grand scheme of things, hsp 27 might not be important. He hopes that he and his fellow researchers will be able to prove that hsp 27 is a good biomarker that clinics can use for screening patients. If he can figure out exactly what makes the protein protect cells, he may be able to develop a way of killing the cells that produce it. He may discover that hsp 27 is a key to the formation of all types of cancer.

Or maybe not.

"There may be some other protein that we're not aware of now that is much more important than hsp 27. But at least we are developing the techniques, collecting the breast tissue, and developing the animal models. So if some smart guy comes along behind us, he can say, 'You guys were doing pretty good, but if you did it this way....'"
April ♦ 1992

1-10 Exhibit: “Annual Juried Student Show.” Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. 739-3893.

2 International Film Series: “Torrents of Spring.” 7pm. Wright Hall 103. 597-NFL.

Softball: UNLV vs. Cal Poly Pomona. 1pm. Lady Rebel Diamond. 739-3207.

2-12 University Theatre: “Too Close to the Sun.” April 2 & 6-11, 8pm; April 5 & 12, 2pm. Black Box Theatre. 739-3801.


Softball: UNLV vs. New Mexico State. 1pm. Lady Rebel Diamond. 739-3207.

3-5 University Dance Theatre: “Dance ’92.” April 3 & 4, 8pm; April 5, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 739-3801.

Baseball: UNLV vs. Long Beach State. April 3, 7pm; April 4 & 5, 1pm. Barron Field. 739-3900.

6 Chamber Music Southwest: Master class with Robert Bluestone, classical guitarist. 12:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.


8 Concert: Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

9 International Film Series: “The Aviator’s Wife.” 7pm. Wright Hall 103. 597-NFL.

University Forum Concert: “Sixth Annual Home Concert.” University Chamber Chorale. 7:30pm. Tam Alumni Center. 739-3401.

10 Women’s Tennis: UNLV vs. CS-Northridge. 1:30pm. UNLV Tennis Courts. 739-3207.

11 Festival: UNLV Fourth Annual Invitational Choral Festival. 9am & 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

Track & Field: UNLV Invitational. All day. Partridge Track. 739-3207.

Women’s Tennis: UNLV vs. Fresno State. 1pm. UNLV Tennis Courts. 739-3207.

Celebration: Earth Day. Booths, speakers, food & entertainment. For details, call 739-3377 or 798-2168.


13 Softball: UNLV vs. Pacific. 1pm. Lady Rebel Diamond. 739-3207.

16-18 Basketball: UNLV vs. UN-Irvine. April 16 & 17, 7pm. April 18, 1pm. Barron Field. 739-3900.

19-20 Softball: UNLV vs. UC-Santa Barbara. April 19, 11am; April 20, 1pm. Lady Rebel Diamond. 739-3207.


Fall Semester 1992: TOUCH registration begins.

21 Baseball: UNLV vs. Southern Utah State. 4pm. Barron Field. 739-3900.

22 Master Series: Emanuel Ax. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

Jewish Film Series: “Tiddle on the Roof.” 7pm. Wright Hall 103. 732-0555.

23 Ceremony: Honors Convocation. 10am. Artemus Ham Concert Hall.


Community Concert: Dallas Brass. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

25 Ceremony: Dedication of Health Sciences Building. 10:30am.

University Forum Concert: “Recording in Progress (a performance).” Sierra Wind Quintet. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

26 Concert: University Musical Society Orchestra. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.


27 Southwest Gas Series: Master class with Doriot Anthony Dwyer, principal flutist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. 4:30pm. Alta Ham Fine Arts 103. 739-3207.

28 Concert: UNLV Choral Ensembles Spring Concert. University Chorus, Chamber Chorale & Warsity Men’s Glee Club. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

Concert: UNLV Brass Ensemble. 4:30pm. Black Box Theatre. 739-3332.

29 Concert: Chamber Ensemble. 4:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

May ♦ 1992

1-3 Baseball: UNLV vs. Fresno State. May 1 & 2, 7pm; May 3, 1pm. Barron Field. 739-3900.

1-29 Exhibit: “UNLV Art Student BFA Exhibit.” Weekdays, 8am-5pm. Tam Alumni Center. 739-3237.

2 Festival: Desert Winds Band Festival. All day. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3332.

3 Concert: UNLV Wind Ensemble. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

5 University Forum Lecture: “Japan-Soviet Relations in the Post-Cold-War Era.” Mayumi Itoh. 7:30pm. Wright Hall 103. 739-3401.

7 University Forum Lecture: “ATEC: The World of Maitreza.” Jane Day. 8:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall lobby. 739-3401.

9 Softball: UNLV vs. CS-Fullerton. 11am. Lady Rebel Diamond. 739-3207.

11 Concert: Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.


16 Concert: Kologrini Concert. 7pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.
**From the Campus to the Capitol**

UNLV alumnus Jerry Reynoldson helps shape environmental law as a legislative aide in the nation’s capital.

**By Barbara Cloud**

The first time I met Jerry Reynoldson, he was stirring a huge pot of chili over an open fire at Christmas Tree Pass, between Searchlight and the Colorado River. A group of university folk had trekked to the site to do our bit for the Christmas spirit of water — matters dear to most Nevadans.

“Some of these issues don’t have a clear cut right or wrong answer. They are great issues, for me at least, being an outdoors person and concerned with the environment.”

Reynoldson joined Reid’s office on a full-time basis a year ago after serving as an intern there. The internship was organized through UNLV’s political science department. Previously, he had served in the U.S. Army, attended the University of South Dakota, and dealt poker and blackjack in Las Vegas casinos for about a dozen years.

Fives years ago a broken wrist sidelined him from the gaming tables, and he decided to return to college to finish his bachelor’s degree in political science. One course led to another. He has since completed his coursework and thesis and expects to have his graduate degree in hand this May.

“The balancing of interests inherent in the political process intrigues Reynoldson. “Some of these issues don’t have a clear cut right or wrong answer. There has to be a cooperative attitude. You can’t look at the environment as something that’s got to win and lose.”

Reynoldson has been described as being adept at grassroots politics. “I was raised with rural kinds of people,” he says, “and I suppose I just picked an area that I like more or feel I am better attuned to.”

“I don’t think I could have picked an area that I like more or feel I am better attuned to,” the 47-year-old UNLV alumnus says of his assignment. “I like working with the people who are involved in these issues — the forest service, BLM, and others. They are great issues, for me at least, being an outdoors person and concerned with the environment.”

Reynoldson joined Reid’s office on a full-time basis a year ago after serving as an intern there. The internship was organized through UNLV’s political science department. Previously, he had served in the U.S. Army, attended the University of South Dakota, and then dealt poker and blackjack in Las Vegas casinos for about a dozen years. Five years ago a broken wrist sidelined him from the gaming tables, and he decided to return to college to finish his bachelor's degree in political science. One course led to another. He has since completed his coursework and thesis and expects to have his graduate degree in hand this May.

“I’ve always had this thing about political science,” he says. “Back when I went to college the first time [at the University of South Dakota] I didn’t really know how to apply political science in the real world, but I’m living proof that you can.”

Reynoldson says that before he went back to school, he was like most citizens, sitting around carping about the political process but feeling helpless.

“I always felt that if I could do anything about it or have some input close to where I could make a difference, I would. I always had it in the back of my mind that if I could work in this kind of capacity, I would — and it just worked out that way.”

Reynoldson has been described as being adept at grassroots politics. “I was raised with rural kinds of people,” he says, “and I suppose I just picked an area that I like more or feel I am better attuned to.”

“I don’t think I could have picked an area that I like more or feel I am better attuned to,” the 47-year-old UNLV alumnus says of his assignment. “I like working with the people who are involved in these issues — the forest service, BLM, and others. They are great issues, for me at least, being an outdoors person and concerned with the environment.”

Reynoldson joined Reid’s office on a full-time basis a year ago after serving as an intern there. The internship was organized through UNLV’s political science department. Previously, he had served in the U.S. Army, attended the University of South Dakota, and then dealt poker and blackjack in Las Vegas casinos for about a dozen years. Five years ago a broken wrist sidelined him from the gaming tables, and he decided to return to college to finish his bachelor’s degree in political science. One course led to another. He has since completed his coursework and thesis and expects to have his graduate degree in hand this May.

“I’ve always had this thing about political science,” he says. “Back when I went to college the first time [at the University of South Dakota] I didn’t really know how to apply political science in the real world, but I’m living proof that you can.”

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History in the Making

The first official history of UNLV will offer perspective on the "road we've traveled" — plus some colorful stories about the good old days, according to historian Bob Davenport.

BY SUSAN DIETZ

A SMALL BAND OF NEVADA Southern University fraternity brothers — organized under the punkish moniker of "Mills' Marauders" after their leader, Chip Mills — plotted an elaborate strategy to steal a World War I cannon from the UNR campus in 1965. Their colorful caper failed just short of completion when a UNR security officer spotted them loading the cannon onto a trailer for transport. UNR's dean of students at the time, who seemed amused by the escapade, ordered the fraternity boys released — without the cannon, of course.

Though the attempted prank spawned the idea of a revolving trophy for athletic competition between the two schools, Mills' Marauders never gained much in the way of public notice for their mischievous effort at making a name for their small but burgeoning school to the south. Yet, the pranksters will finally gain their small share of notoriety when their mischievous effort at making a name for their small but burgeoning school to the south.

The rest of the history, which Davenport is still writing, will include chapters on the university's early expansion of both the campus lands and programs, student life during several notable periods, and each UNLV presidential administration.

Davenport hopes to paint a lively portrait of the campus, complete with spirited anecdotes about its people and events — like the one about the dedication of Frazier Hall.

"The community was fascinated by the dedication," he says. "We had a thousand people standing out here in the dirt. The Masons were there, sprinkling water and corn for their ritual, and there was a quartet singing Rock of Ages in the background. The whole Boulder City High School Band was there, too. It was quite an event."

Another of Davenport's favorite anecdotes was the one about the 1955 theater department production that never made it to the stage.

"Years ago, when they wanted to put on one of the first plays, they had a student typing up the scripts for the play. In those days, there were no Xerox machines, just typewriters and carbon paper. Well, the typist announced one day that the play was off because the typist had left school and taken the play with her. They asked if anybody knew whereabouts and if they'd contact her because they couldn't hold the play without her. They never did have the play."

Davenport maintains that anecdotes of this type show how limited resources were in those days. But, more important, they add a personal touch to the past.

Davenport has already finished writing a chronicle of the early years of the university, up to the dedication of Maude Frazier Hall in 1957; that period will form the first two chapters of his book on UNLV's history. (Davenport has since condensed those chapters into an article and submitted it to the Nevada Historical Society Quarterly for scholarly publication.)

In addition to unfounded rumors, Davenport has run into his share of mysteries as well.

"One thing I'm doing is trying to find out what happened to UNR's Merrill Hall bell. It was exchanged as a trophy in basketball competition very early on — like the Fremont Cannon is used today in football. The bell was from their [UNR's] oldest building, installed in the late 1880s. And it disappeared in Las Vegas in the early 1970s. Six hundred pounds of bell, and it just disappeared.

Such colorful anecdotes bring animation not only to the historian's manuscript. Davenport himself is clearly delighted to share these stories when he talks of the project; he comes to his mind effortlessly, almost arbitrarily. He smiles as he tells them, especially those about student activities. To Davenport, they seem to bring UNLV's past to life. At the same time, tall stacks of notes and Xerographying on his desk attest to his high regard for documentation. Finding middle ground, he admits, will be his challenge.

"I have encountered faculty who believe it is the historian's job simply to tell what happened, to narrate the events, and not to interpret. But that's not the historian's job. Obviously, we have limitations on what we can do. But we ask questions. Why did this place develop as it has? What limitations have our presidents faced? Have they achieved their goals? I want to make it possible for people to understand how and why administrators, regents, and faculty behave the way they do."

Though he plans to provide a thorough depiction of the nearly 40 years of university history, Davenport finds it important to weigh the value of each fact, anecdote, and statistic before including it in his manuscript.

"It's not a decision of what to put in;
A Tale of Two Authors

continued from page 7

defined character," he says. "Then I'll have anywhere from a half dozen to a dozen or so moments — "touchdown points" — that I think the story will touch down on. Not scenes particularly. Maybe just a line.

"When I'm writing it, I follow it and see where it goes."

But where it goes is not always the right direction.

Wiley says he is used to false starts — "false starts, false middles, and false finishes. Loss of dead-end streets. You know, it's like a maze. You find the right way, but you have to be able to recognize the wrong way.

"Sometimes you can spend a horrible amount of time going down what ultimately will be a dead-end street. Then you have to go all the way back. It can be pretty defeating," Wiley says. "I have done it for as long as a year. You get kind of suicidal when you realize that it's no good."

Unger says that wrong turns are certainly not unknown to him. But rather

than being a problem, they often are an integral part of the writing process.

"If you know where you're going, you think you know where your going and what you're doing," he says. "But, if the novel’s worth anything at all, by the time you're a certain distance into the whole process, you realize that everything’s changed and the story has changed.

"You have to be in control with those changes. You have to learn to live with those changes. You have to learn to throw what you think is your best work away and start over again.

"I don't think a novel is knowable until you've gone through the process of writing and rewriting at least three times," Unger says. "For me, it's a glacial process. It takes years."

He recalls the time that a fire destroyed half of a book he was writing. He went back to the first draft and started again. "I could just about see the pages of the lost draft in front of my face, and I tried to reconstruct them, but there was always something missing, something wrong."

Finally, he returned to Argentina for nine months to do additional research for the project before starting to write again.

When he sat down again and began rewriting, he took a whole new approach to the story. The new approach was so much better than the first that he now thinks he was lucky that one draft burned.

When a story is working, it propels itself along. Unger says. "But, then craft comes in and you have to know where to make it work when it doesn't want to.

"Once a story's working well, I think the author is the last person who should get in the way of it," Unger says. "The author should just let it happen."
in their home state, but would also increase the academic credibility of the university.

As an elected official trying to change the perception of the city she serves, Jones believes earning national respect for both the university and the community is no laughing matter.

"This is how we know the reality of Las Vegas is far different from what people perceive it to be. The university's growing reputation gives me something to showcase when I'm trying to prove those perceptions wrong," Jones says. "With its improved academic reputation, UNLV also encourages a high quality of people and businesses to relocate to Southern Nevada, which gives the community a real pool of talent to draw from.

In addition to supporting the university through the UNLV Foundation, Jones also has guest lectures at university President Robert C. Maxson's leadership class for the past three years. "I tell the students that success is not really how people perceive you, rather success is how you perceive yourself," Jones says. "In politics, I find that is very important. If I base my decisions on everyone else's perception of what I'm doing, I'll lose sight of my goals and objectives."

One could consider Jones a master of seeing beyond public perceptions and changing them. Before running for office, she was best known as a car dealer who did amusing, occasionally silly, TV advertisements featuring her in some of these environmentally sensitive areas for a long time. Jones insists that sometimes you have to be creative in your role as facilitator. "You're looking over at what people are drafting, and then looking at what you're trying to accomplish. You're also listening to people and trying to imagine what it is that you can do that they can live with out there and what will give everyone some mutual benefit. That part is fun, and I hope I'm good at it." Jones adds that moving to the urban surroundings of Washington, D.C. has made some trade-offs: "I grew up in a hunting and fishing type of environment in Nebraska. And, after living in Nevada for nearly two decades, I love it out there in the Southwest. But Washington is a neat city; you gain a lot when you come to a city like this."

She adds that he has found hunting, fishing, and backpacking opportunities in the area, as well as a wealth of museums and cultural events. "There are days when I long to be in the Santa Rosas of northern Nevada, where you can see for miles. But the truth of the matter is, I'm really enjoying this. And it's just not because of the work. There are museums, plays, and other events on a continuous basis here. I find myself weekending downtown to the Smithsonian museums where it's nice and relaxing."

"It is really the work that makes Reynolds hope for a long stay in Washington. It's such a challenging place. You certainly are not surrounded by mediocrity. It's so intense, busy, that I often come to the office and the day's over before I know it — and it's day in and day out like that." Working in a highly competitive environment can have its disadvantages though. Reynolds acknowledges that having colleagues with degrees from places like Harvard and Princeton can sometimes result in academic one-upmanship. Reynolds handles it all in a forthright, but easy-going manner.

"Oh, when people say things about UNLV or Las Vegas, I just say, 'Oh, you hate yourself, you're so snug and you just wonder why we can be as accomplished and more relaxed about it.' I just tell them to go visit where we come from and see for themselves.

She values this day.

With several years of management experience under her belt, Jones returned to the family business in 1976 as Thriftmart's director of research and development. In the early 1980s, Jones moved to Las Vegas, married her second husband, Fletcher "Ted" Jones Jr., and helped the growing company develop the Fletcher Jones Management Group. And, as the car dealership's new spokesperson, she became a television commercial personality.

"Before the election, it didn't matter that people perceived me to be the dippy blonde who did the commercials. I didn't matter because I knew what I had achieved in the corporation," Jones says of her pre-campaign image. "I think people intrinsically liked me and felt I was running for the right reasons, but I had to convince them I had the intelligence to do the job."

During her bid for office, Jones focused the public's attention on her business experience, and she presented a much more conservative persona in the Fletcher Jones television ads.

Since taking office last year, Jones has not served as company spokesperson; her television commercial appearances are now limited to public service announcements for charitable organizations. She acknowledges that while serving as an elected official, she must be careful about the message she projects.

"It's been one of the most difficult things for me to realize because I love a tendency to just go with something," Jones says about keeping her sense of humor in check.

The mayor's staff often comments about her ability to stay calm and keep laughing even when things get tough. Jones insists lightheartedness and laughter are important tools in both the business world and the political arena because they keep her from taking things too seriously. 

"If you get caught up in yourself or a circumstance, you can lose your objectivity. When you lose your objectivity, your decisions are going to be affected," Jones says, who admits there are times when she gets angry, especially when dealing with some of the chauvinism that still exists in business and politics.

Although she has had to face some gender bias, Jones is the only real businesswoman, Fletcher "Ted" Jones Jr., and his and the Fletcher Jones Management Group.

"They live here now.

The reality of Las Vegas is far different from what people perceive it to be. The university's growing reputation gives me something to showcase when I'm trying to prove those perceptions wrong.

"I feel very good about my UNLV degree," Reynolds says. "I guess people who work very hard for a degree probably feel good about it."

Reynolds has seen UNLV from both sides of the classroom — as student and as instructor, having worked as a graduate teaching assistant while obtaining his master's degree.

"When Dina [Titus] first suggested I should try for a teaching assistantship, I said I didn't think I wanted to work with young students who probably didn't care that much about school," Reynolds recalls.

But at Titus's urging, he tried teaching.

"It turned out to be wonderful. There are a lot of good young students, and it was a joy to interact with them. There were certainly some frustrating moments, too, because you see some who are ill-prepared and you wonder why. But the majority of students were good students, and I hope they are able to make the tie between what they are learning and what they are doing to do.

Reynolds says he frequently thinks back to his classroom experiences when he goes about his assignments.

"I'll be tracking the Senate on my monitor," he says pointing to a small TV monitor he uses to keep track of breaking news and Senate activity. "They'll be talking about floor motions, and I'll think about how we talked about that in class. This is nice, this is something you learned, and it's happening here. I just wonder how many young people understand that there is something out there that they can grab on to.

Reynolds grudges the thinking of young Nevadans to consider jobs in Washington, D.C.

"There are jobs here for young people," he says. "I won't say they pay so much, but it's an exciting place to work. It's a great opportunity to come here for three or four years and get some experience."

Although Reynolds himself hopes to be a part of the Washington scene for more than just a few years, he isn't planning too far into the future. Like the politicians they serve, legislative assistants tend not to look beyond the next election. For now, he maintains, his fascination with the research, the meetings, and the negotiations is enough to keep his longing for the Santa Rosas at bay. -

Barbara Cludde is an associate professor in UNLV's Greenspun School of Communication. She is a regular contributor to OASIS.
Class Notes

60s
Paul B. Steffins, '65 BS Accounting, serves as a staff supply logistics officer for the U.S. Navy. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Battle "E" Ribbon, the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, and the Vietnam Service Medal. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Honolulu.

Thomas Wilson, Jr., '65 BS Accounting, is the assistant director of the Denver district of the IRS. Prior to his current appointment, he served as chief of the quality assurance division in San Francisco.

Thomas Brooker, '69 BS Accounting, is managing shareholder of the Las Vegas office of Koffert, Demmung & Co. His wife, Angela D'Vicenzo Brooker, '68 BA History, teaches English at Chaparral High School.

70s
Robert Cole, '70 BA Philosophy, is an animator. His 1993 forecast can be read in the DDI Dossuscope Yearbook.

Janice Fullman Jolley, '70 BA Spanish, married her high school sweetheart in November 1990 after reconnecting with him at a Las Vegas High School class reunion. She and Craig live in Sacramento, Calif.

Mary Campbell, '70
Mary Mortimer Campbell, '70 BS Education, is president of the Matrix Energy Corp. She lives in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Fred J. Samuels, '70 BS Hotel Administration, is a club manager at the Hawaii Yacht Club in Honolulu.

Robert M. Wood, '71 BS Hotel Administration, was promoted to vice president of operations and general manager for the Americas Hotel in Atlanta in 1991. He also received his certified hotel administrator certificate in 1991. He and his wife, Mitzi Boettner Wood, '73 BS Business Administration, live in Fayetteville, Ga.

Malcolm Aron, '73 BA History, is an art critic. He participated in Operations Desert Storm and Operation Sea Angel while serving with the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Donna J. Dockery, '73 BS Hotel Administration, is a food and beverage cost accountant at the Mirage. She is also pursuing a master's degree in business administration at UNLV.

Lee A. Gates, '74 BA Political Science, is a Clark County District Court judge. He served several years in private law practice before becoming a judge. He is married to Yvonne Atkinson Gates, '78 BA Political Science and Communication Studies, '82 Master of Public Administration, who is a member of the Clark County School Board and is a research manager for Clark County's social services department.

Louise G. W. Crevels, '74 MA English, wrote "Safe Machine Music" and "Video Poker Music" with her son, Dwight.

Patricia Ann Watters, '74 BA Economics, '77 MA Economics, has finished her doctoral work in financial economics at the University of California at Riverside and is now working on her dissertation.

Richard Wright, '74 BA Art, is part owner of Gale Breytenbacht Associates, a sales and marketing firm in Incline.

Jon J. Clay, '75 BS Business Administration, is an independent appraiser with Timothy J. Moore & Associates in Las Vegas. He was formerly chief appraiser with the Clark County Assessor's Office.

Phillip H. Harrell, '76 BS Engineering, is the nuclear engineering manager for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Atchison, Kansas.

Steven W. Turner, '75 BS Education, has his own computer school in Reno and is a consulting analysis consultant specializing in Microsoft products for Macintosh and DOS companies.

Jean Pettis, '77 BS Finance, is vice president of risk management for the Mirage Resorts, Inc. He is also president of GNMO Corp., an insurance subsidiary of the Mirage. Additionally, he owns Jett Pettis & Co., a risk management consulting firm. Pettis also serves on UNLV's advisory committee for the Insurance and Risk Management.

Class Notes

80s
Joan Eulogio Perez, '79 BS Biology, is a resident physician in internal medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Judy Diane Ransdell, '79 BA Political Science, is an associate attorney at FitzGibbons and Anderson in Las Vegas.

Aibno Tai, '79 BS Hotel Administration, is a manager of the Chung Shan Hot Spring Golf Club in Hong Kong.

Jill C. Lucco, '81 MA Nursing, '81 BS Nursing, is attending graduate school where she is majoring in critical care nursing. She keeps active in clinical nursing through reserve activity with the U.S. Air Force. She lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Timothy Sturman, '80 BA English, served as a vice president of Service Roofing & Sheet Metal of Martinezville, Va., until 1991 when he became president of Martin Service Roofing and Air Conditioning Co. of Ocala, Fla.

John Allen Hunt, '79 BS Accounting, is currently practicing law at the firm of Nersvig, Randolph, and Hunt in Las Vegas.

Hannah Kohs, '79 Master of Business Administration, recently returned from Japan, where he taught graduate accounting courses for the MBA program offered by Chapman College.

Linda Kay Jacobs, '82 BS Business Administration, has been promoted to director of police records for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Mark J. Leonard, '82 BS Business Administration, recently formed a law partnership, Leonard & Souches, in Encino, Calif. He is licensed as an attorney in both Nevada and California.

Michael J. Small, '82 BS Accounting, joined the certified public accounting firm of O'Brien, Dunne & Co. as a partner after nine years as a senior tax manager at Deloitte & Touche.

Shawn Bondin, '82 BS Marketing, is sales manager at the Rio Suite Hotel and Casino.

Ralph J. Cittone, '82 BS Hotel Administration, is a sales executive for Macher-Tooker Printing Co. in East Rutherford, N.J.

Class Notes

We'd Like To Hear From You!

We would like to invite all UNLV alumni to submit information about themselves to Class 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.

Name:
Year Graduated:
Major:
Telephone Number:
Address:
Office Phone Numbers:
Fax:
Career or Personal Information:

Additional information should be mailed to: Class Notes, University News and Publications, UNLV, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89104-1912.
disadvantage to being the first female mayor of Las Vegas has been the excessive scrutiny of her actions.

"I really believe a man coming into this office would not have nearly the visibility in the media during the first six months that I have had," she says. "Many more people seemed to have been waiting to criticize my performance and make statements about my ability or perceived lack of ability — to integrate effectively in a male structure."

The real challenge for Jones has not been dealing with public opinion, but rather the demands of her family. The mother of two teen-age stepkids and three young children (aged 5 to 12), Jones says it is difficult for working mothers to reconcile their own personal goals and the needs of their families.

"You feel guilty all the time," Jones says, adding that kids often demand more from their mothers than from their fathers. "My children's focus is not on where Ted is or isn't. Their focus is on where I am."

Because of the demands our culture places on women, Jones believes there will be a long transition period before her daughters are on an equal playing field with men.

"Ninety-eight percent of the CEOs in this country have full-time wives. These men can work 60 or 70 hours a week because they have a structure at home that allows them to be singly focused," Jones says. "Women can do several things at one time because they have to — men don't. And that's one thing you better keep your sense of humor about."

Despite the challenge of balancing a successful career and family life, Jones seems to have unlimited energy and enthusiasm. Again, she credits her father for giving her the drive to succeed and an appreciation for laughter. She stands by his advice that in order to have a sense of humor, you have to be able to laugh at yourself.

"Until you can laugh at yourself in your own ridiculousness, you can't really move forward."
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