6-2009

Inside UNLV

Diane Russell
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, diane.russell@unlv.edu

Shane Bevell
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Mamie Peers
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv

Part of the Civic and Community Engagement Commons, Construction Engineering Commons, Curriculum and Instruction Commons, Higher Education and Teaching Commons, Landscape Architecture Commons, Other Education Commons, and the Other Medicine and Health Sciences Commons

Repository Citation
Available at: http://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv/47

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the UNLV Publications at Digital Scholarship@UNLV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Inside UNLV by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.
School’s In for Summer

Most UNLV Students Take One or More Summer Courses During College Career

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

“Get ahead. Graduate sooner.” It’s more than a slogan. It’s the truth.

In 13 weeks, students can take an entire semester’s worth of classes, helping them graduate sooner, said Trish Suske, Summer Term director. Classes are offered in three sessions: a three-week session followed by two five-week sessions. Course content is the same, just compressed. Classes are typically every day rather than two or three days a week.

According to Suske, nearly 96 percent of students attend a summer session during their time here. Last summer, approximately 18,000 students took one of the more than 3,000 courses offered.

“Summer Term is becoming less of an optional semester; it’s becoming more and more a part of the fabric of the university,” she said.

No State Money

Summer Term was set up as a self-supporting entity by the Board of Regents approximately 45 years ago, Suske said.

None of the state funding set aside for higher education is used for Summer Term. All money for instructors and staff comes from student fees. Fees for summer school are approved by the regents and are separate from fall and spring fees.

Want to Take a Class?

The third summer session runs July 6-Aug. 7. You don’t have to be admitted to UNLV to take a summer class. Suske said those taking classes include:

• Current UNLV students

Question Corner

How do I open a flexible spending account?

Open enrollment for flexible spending accounts (FSAs) for the next fiscal year will end later this month.

So now is the time for employees to decide how much money — if any — they wish to place in a pre-tax FSA account for medical or childcare expenses. To calculate your FSA savings, go to asflex.com.

In calculating how much money to set aside, employees should factor in cost increases that will begin Nov. 1, said Pat La Pult, benefits manager. The PPO plan deductible, for instance, will increase to $725.

Prescription costs are projected to increase for both HMO and PPO members. For details, go to unlv.edu/budget/pebp and click on the May 8 PEBP board meeting update.

More info: Call the benefit counselors at ext. 5-0924 or visit hr.unlv.edu. Enroll in the FSA online through the UNLV employee self-service/EDU/U System through June 27. Paper forms will be accepted until June 22.

Got a burning question? We’ve got an answer. Each month, Inside UNLV will answer a question of interest to the campus community. Submit your question to inside@unlv.edu.
Tips for Avoiding Spam

1. Uncheck “Yes” on web forms that ask if you want to receive information from the vendor.
2. Read privacy agreements when making purchases to assure that the company is not selling your information to third parties.
3. Stop revealing your real e-mail address on web forms or for temporary transactions. Instead, use a "honeypot" or "spam trap" e-mail address. Spamgang.com offers free temporary accounts that do not require passwords or activation. Read the website for more details and ways to use this service to your advantage.
4. Use two e-mail addresses, one for personal and one for professional correspondence. For example, use a Hotmail or Gmail account for communications between friends, family, and doctors. Use your @unlv.edu address for professional purposes only.

Tech Savvy

Spammed a Lot?

OIT Offers Advice for Keeping It Under Control

By Mamie Peers | OIT

Rolex replica watches! 40% Off Training Videos!
Have you noticed such unsolicited e-mails in your inbox? You’re not alone.
"The days of a spam-free inbox are gone," said DeAnna Schoendienst, manager of client services in the office of information technology. "We can only take precautions to avoid unwanted e-mail and to manage spam when it arrives."

The more public your e-mail address, the more spam you’re likely to receive. Some unwanted e-mail may come from your participation on open mailing lists, forums, or from purchases that require an e-mail address. Many online forms require an e-mail address and contain obscure privacy notices that say you will be added to mailing lists. But keeping your e-mail address private will not eliminate spam.

Spammers create Internet robots to scan websites for addresses. They also generate e-mail addresses, hopping that they are legitimate. Once spammers collect a good list, they sell those e-mail addresses to companies that distribute advertisements. In worst-case scenarios, spammers sell their lists to criminals who create phishing scams. They mimic organizations you trust and ask for credit card numbers and passwords via e-mail. This is the spam that you may really want to avoid, but can’t.

Manage Spam in Lotus Notes

Spam is unavoidable, but tools in your e-mail program can help you manage it. Lotus Notes uses a spam manager system called Proofpoint, which scores e-mail based on the likelihood that it is spam. (A message marked 90 percent is probably spam.) Each day Proofpoint sends you an e-mail called "UNLV Spam Digest." It shows all the messages that have been quarantined as spam.

Through settings, you can have Notes quarantine more or less spam, set safelists to always allow messages from specific addresses to come through, and create blacklists to always block specific senders.

More info: Go to oit.unlv.edu and click on the Lotus Notes link, for easy, step-by-step instructions on managing spam. The OIT help desk can also walk you through the steps; call ext. 5-0777.

Insider: OIT welcomes comments and suggestions. Please e-mail oit@unlv.edu.

A Greener Day

Dozens and dozens of elementary school students traveled to UNLV in April to participate in the annual Earth Day celebration. (Above) Children learn about recycling from Chloe Klangos of UNLV’s Rebel Recycling program. (Right) Nicholas Arocha, a third-grader at Paradise Elementary School, sorts recyclables as part of an obstacle course.
Family Members Provide New Lease on Life

“DoNATe”

For Aurali Dade, the decision wasn’t particularly difficult. Her husband’s kidneys were failing. Dialysis would help in the short term, but was not a good long-term option.

As someone who had had childhood-onset diabetes for more than two decades, her husband knew his kidneys might fail someday. Luckily, when they did fail, Dade was found to be a match. So, a year after beginning dialysis, her husband received one of her kidneys during a transplant operation at the University of Minnesota. The date was Dec. 12, 2006, her birthday.

“He immediately was taken off dialysis, the transplant worked so quickly,” she said. “He felt so much better afterwards, it was incredible.”

The UNLV group is planning to continue their nerve-wracking wait.

“This all stems from my high blood pressure and the medicine I’ve taken to keep it in check,” D’Acunto said. “I had to stop work in March after my ‘Why did it happen to me?’ days like everybody else, of course, but I can’t say we were happy.”

“I am optimistic that things will work out well,” he said. “I have my days like everybody else, of course — my ‘Why did it happen to me?’ days. But I believe everything happens for a reason.”

“Ash’s Turn”

In Ash’s case, the early heads-up about the kidney problem gave her time to take steps, such as modifying her diet, to slow the progression of the disease and to prepare for the transplant process.

The people closest to Ash, her husband and two adult daughters, were tested immediately. Unfortunately, none of them has Ash’s blood type, one of the requirements for donation.

Like most people, Ash knew little about kidney disease before her diagnosis. What she knows now is something she wants to share with others.

Kidney disease is a “silent” disease that generally yields no symptoms. It can happen for unknown reasons, it can happen for unknown reasons, it can happen for unknown reasons.

Theriault said. “I felt so much better and the color returned to my face.”

“My kidneys started to function otherwise healthy.”

She also knows that while kidney disease is a “silent” disease, it can happen for unknown reasons. It can happen for unknown reasons.

“The Wait”

Meanwhile Ash and D’Acunto will continue their nerve-wracking wait.

This month marks D’Acunto’s one-year anniversary on the transplant list. Three times a week he visits the dialysis center where he is hooked to machines that filter his blood. Each session lasts four hours and five minutes. He also is losing weight at his doctor’s request. D’Acunto calculates that he needs to lose another 50 pounds.

D’Acunto was diagnosed with end-stage renal failure in February 2007.

“This all stems from my high blood pressure and the medicine I’ve taken to keep it in check,” D’Acunto said. “When I was diagnosed with high blood pressure in 1992, the doctor didn’t tell me there was any risk involving my kidneys. No one mentioned it.”

D’Acunto said he misses his campus colleagues, but keeps up with the campus blood drives to see if the person who is generous enough to donate blood to help a stranger might also be generous enough to donate a kidney,” Baldizan said.

Organ Donation ... Did You Know?

• More than 100,000 U.S. patients are waiting for an organ transplant; nearly 4,000 new patients are added each month.
• Americans waiting for kidney transplants currently total nearly 80,000.
• Every day, 18 people die while waiting for a transplant of a vital organ, such as a heart, liver, kidney, pancreas, lung, or bone marrow.
• The survival rate for people who receive a kidney from a living donor is 97.9 percent.
• All costs related to the donation of organs are paid for by the donor program.

“I've taken to keep it in check,” D’Acunto said. “I had to stop work in March after 13 years at UNLV. With the fatigue factor, I just couldn’t do my job. ’I am optimistic that things will work out well,’ he said. ‘I have my days like everybody else, of course — my ‘Why did it happen to me?’ days. But I believe everything happens for a reason.’

“This article, for instance, will make people more aware of the need for organ donations. That’s a positive thing.”

Joe D’Acunto, pictured at the Book-N-Bean in 2004, is awaiting a kidney transplant. He stopped working in March, after 13 years at the university, because of exhaustion.

Ash has been on transplant waiting lists for eight months. Some people are on lists for years before a kidney becomes available. Sadly, for some a match is not found in time to save their lives. Patients sometimes can stay on dialysis for many years.

Ash said she is grateful for her friends’ efforts on her behalf. “My hope is that people will learn more about kidney disease and about the possibility of becoming a living donor. Maybe these efforts will help me, but even if they don’t, hopefully they will help someone else.”

“I've taken to keep it in check,” D’Acunto said. “I had to stop work in March after 13 years at UNLV. With the fatigue factor, I just couldn’t do my job. ’I am optimistic that things will work out well,’ he said. ‘I have my days like everybody else, of course — my ‘Why did it happen to me?’ days. But I believe everything happens for a reason.’

“This article, for instance, will make people more aware of the need for organ donations. That’s a positive thing.”

Joe D’Acunto, pictured at the Book-N-Bean in 2004, is awaiting a kidney transplant. He stopped working in March, after 13 years at the university, because of exhaustion.

Ash has been on transplant waiting lists for eight months. Some people are on lists for years before a kidney becomes available. Sadly, for some a match is not found in time to save their lives. Patients sometimes can stay on dialysis for many years.

Ash said she is grateful for her friends’ efforts on her behalf. “My hope is that people will learn more about kidney disease and about the possibility of becoming a living donor. Maybe these efforts will help me, but even if they don’t, hopefully they will help someone else.”
Across Campus

Academic Success Center Tutoring Program Grows
By midsemester, more than 100 students had taken advantage of the newly established campuswide tutoring program. The center offered tutoring across the disciplines at UNLV. While most students requested tutoring for math and science, it also was available for many more subjects, including accounting, philosophy, music theory, and political science. A team of 15 tutors provided more than 100 hours of tutoring a week.

Services will continue this summer. Please let students know that if they need a tutor or would like to be a tutor, they should call ext. 4-4623.

UNLV Advisors Organize National Conference in Las Vegas
Cheryl Tillotson, the center’s associate director of advising, chaired the region V National Academic Advising Association conference at the Tropicana Hotel in March.

More than 170 people attended. Several center staff members made presentations, including Rami Marwah, Oak Vichaikul, and Anne Hein. The keynote speaker was Punam Mather, then senior vice president of corporate diversity and community affairs for MGM Mirage.

Other employees serving on the host committees included Adam Sikula (Urban Affairs), Tiffany Schmier (Honors College), Derek Furukawa (Liberal Arts), Ebony Igeleke (Urban Affairs), and Ruth Radke (Hotel College).

Education

Educational Leadership Becomes Home to Top Journal
The tier-one journal Career and Technical Education Research (CTER) will be headquartered at UNLV beginning July 1. Its refereed articles examine career and technical education, career development, human resource development, career issues in grades K-12, postsecondary education, and workforce education.

CTER presents:
• Empirically based manuscripts reporting results of original research, either quantitative or qualitative
• Reviews or synthesis of empirical or theoretical research
• Essays derived from original historical or philosophical research
• Reviews of recent books

More info: Contact Howard Gordon at howard.gordon@unlv.edu.

Engineering

Students’ Energy-Saving Power Meter Takes Grand Prize
A power meter to give homeowners more control over electric consumption won the grand prize at the college’s senior design competition. Mechanical engineering student and 2009 outstanding graduate Kenneth Hynes collaborated with electrical engineering student Devon Taylor on the project. The duo worked under the direction of faculty members Brian Landsiedelger and Paolo Gionboli and research engineer Rick Hurt of the Center for Energy Research.

Hynes and Taylor credit their “expensive power bills and the chal- lenge of moving toward a cleaner and more sustainable lifestyle” as the motivation for their design — factors that are also motivating homeowners to seek energy-efficient technologies.

Currently, homeowners have no real-time information on energy usage and therefore are limited in their ability to control consumption. The product provides the homeowner with the instantaneous power demand of the home and tracks energy consumption over a specified period of time. So the homeowner receives information on the usage of the electric devices at any given moment as well as a running total of the power bill. This information is provided in a small, user-friendly, indoor unit with a graphical touch screen interface.

Fine Arts

“Angels and Insects” Opens June 15
The Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery hosts an exhibition of new work by art professor Mary Warner titled “Angels and Insects” June 15-July 31. The gallery is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Admission is free.

NCT Announces 2009-10 Season
The Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV announces its 2009-10 Main Season:
• The Women, Feb. 19-28 in the Judy Bayley Theatre. By Clare Booth Luce.

More info: Call ext. 5-2787.

Graduate Remind Your Grad Students About Upcoming Deadlines
A number of important Graduate College dates and deadlines are just ahead, so please share this information with graduate students:
• Graduate and research assistant request forms are past due. If you have not submitted your GA or RA request forms, please submit them to the office of graduate financial services immediately.
• Childcare scholarship applications are due June 1.
• Graduate and research assistant contract signing will run July 13-Aug. 13. Contract signing will take place 8:30-11:30 a.m., Mondays through Thursdays in FDH, Room 312.
• For students who are planning to graduate in the summer: The last day to defend a thesis or dissertation is July 17. The last day to submit a thesis or dissertation is July 24.
• New graduate student/professional student orientation is Aug. 18.

Hotel

College Honors Industry Execs
Five individuals and one corporation recently were honored at the annual Vallen Dinner of Distinction. For their ongoing commitment to the fields, the Industry Executives of the Year are:
• Don Ross, vice president of catering, conventions, and events, Las Vegas Meetings by Harrah’s Entertainment
• Sam Semola, associate for Warner Gaming
• Kevin Rabbitt, president and chief executive officer for CES Exposition Services
• Stan Fulton, entrepreneur and philanthropist

Bob Boughner, president of Echelon Resorts, was named Alumnus of the Year for his ongoing service to UNLV and the community. Tapcoze, an entertainment and hospitality software company, was awarded the Harrah’s Excellence in Innovation Award for pursuing innovative approaches to solving hospitality-related problems. The annual event honors Jerome Vallen, founding dean of the Harrah College of Hotel Administration. It also helps raise funds to bring distinguished industry and educational leaders to teach at the college.

Law

School Moves Up in Rankings
The law school moved up 13 spots to 75 — its highest rank ever — in the annual national rankings of the best law schools and specialty programs by U.S. News & World Report.

The move constitutes a 25-place improvement in the past two years for the school, which was established just 11 years ago.

“The law school — with new, innovative programs and top faculty to lead them — is continuing the momentum that began with a solid foundation,” said Dean John V. White. “The U.S. News rankings of
law schools are but one indication of our continued success at building a world-class faculty and cutting-edge program of legal education.

“The law school’s achievements in recent years are many, and, irrespective of recognition of outside rankings, we are proud of our work to provide students with an excellent legal education that emphasizes academic rigor, professionalism, skilled representation, and community service,” he said.

The school also achieved the following specialty rankings:

• Boyd’s Lawyering Process Program—which emphasizes professionalism and the relationship between legal analysis and lawyering skills, including legal writing, research, oral advocacy, client interviewing, counseling, and negotiation—was the third best program of its kind.

• UNLV’s Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution ranked the nation’s ninth best dispute resolution program.

• The Thomas and Mack Legal Clinic ranked 20th in clinical training.

• In a new category ranking part-time law programs, UNLV’s law school was ranked 34th.

• The law school also ranked 34th nationally in the diversity of its student body.

Liberal Arts

Anthropology Profs Heading Around the Globe

Anthropology professors are heading out across the nation and the globe this summer to pursue their research.

Here’s some of what the professors will be doing this summer:

• Levent Atici will be taking students to Turkey to work on a large archaeological site called Kanesh. This site is redefining what is known about the origins of complex societies.

• Heidi Swank will be continuing her linguistic anthropology research with Tibetan youth in India. Accompanying her will be an undergraduate honors student working on codeswitching among Tibetan youth.

• Pierre Lienard returns to Africa to work with the Turkana, a pastoral tribal people. He is studying the life history of violence and ritual behavior.

• Lisa Fink, winner of the Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award this year, works as an ethnoarchaeologist in Alaska and will be returning there with graduate students to do research on subsistence and Native health.

• Daniel Benyshek will be working on a National Institutes of Health-funded diabetes prevention research project with urban Native Americans in Las Vegas.

• Alan Simmons is taking graduate students to Cyprus to work on epipalaeoethic and Neolithic archaeological sites.

• William Jankowiak is conducting fieldwork in the People’s Republic of China on love, intimacy, and globalization.

• Barbara Roth is heading to New Mexico with a large team of students to continue excavating a large precontact archaeological site.

Libraries

Researchers Strike Gold in Boomtown Archives

University Libraries has launched its latest digital collection, “Southern Nevada: The Boomtown Years 1900-1925,” which tells the story of Southern Nevada’s mining boom and bust and the coming of the railroad.

Drawing on a broad range of collections including those of UNLV Libraries, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, and the Clark County Museum, this digital project presents a wealth of rarely seen letters, newspapers, maps, photographs, family albums, mining company records, and local clubs’ meeting minutes. The information is available for the first time in a fully accessible online format.

“Southern Nevada: the Boomtown Years 1900-1925” provides online the largest collection ever available for the first time in a fully accessible online format.
Melvin Russell
Maintenance Repair Specialist I, Facilities Maintenance
Rebel since: 2003
What you do: I'm like a watchful eye. I work swing shift checking generators, fire pumps, and securing any problem that may occur to any of the facilities.
Oddest repair: Climbing into a tiny area in the Lilly Fong Geoscience Building to make a repair. I could barely fit and had a hard time getting out.
Why you do what you do: I enjoy taking care of facilities and making sure everything is running properly.
What do you like about working here? Meeting different people and establishing meaningful relationships.
Worst day at work: When I am running from place to place but at the end of the day it seems like I haven't completed anything.
What can people do to make your job easier? Communicate. Communication is the key to everything we do at this university. The English department is well-known for picking up the phone. If you have a question, just call.

Tony Duron
Maintenance Repair Specialist II, Landscape and Grounds
Rebel since: 1993
What you do: Maintain the grounds — from concrete and asphalt to landscaping and plants.
Why you do what you do: I like being the person who can fix anything. I enjoy the challenges and diversity of my work.
Biggest challenge: Ensuring that everyone stays on task and the job gets done.
Can't work without: A skid loader, a backhoe, and my construction crew.
People would be surprised to know: That I have a softer side. At work, people mostly see my serious side, but that is because I have to ensure that everyone goes home safely at the end of the day.

Tips for a new employee:
- Stay busy, look sharp, volunteer for projects, and be happy.
- First job? I worked with my uncle in a diesel shop. He always stayed busy and paid attention to detail — something I have always tried to do. I want everything to be perfect, even the little things.
President's Professional Staff Member of the Year

Vaune Kadlubek
Director of Advising Center, Division of Health Sciences

Rebel since: 1984 (at least as a full-time employee)

What you do: I oversee an advising center that assists approximately 2,000 students enrolled in 18 majors, six minors, and seven certificate programs. Sometimes I also teach for the kinesiology department.

Work isn’t her only UNLV connection: I received my BS in physical education in 1980. Then in 1983 I earned an MS in exercise physiology. I added a gerontology certificate in 2006. During my undergraduate years I was a member of the first UNLV women’s swim team.

Can’t work without: My awesome staff. They are qualified, knowledgeable, and totally student-focused. Deans in my division are incredibly supportive of academic advising.

Yes, she still swims: I'm part of the Team Vegas/Henderson Master’s Water Polo Team. I will compete in the Master’s Championships in Irvine, Calif., this month and the 2009 Summer National Senior Games at Stanford University in August. This is the first time water polo will be included. Last year I participated in the FINA — Federation International de Natation — World Master Games in Perth, Australia. My team won the gold for our age group. Next year I’ll be traveling to Sweden for the competition.

People would be surprised to know: During my freshman year I was half of a “team” that set a record for the Guinness Book of World Records for longest underwater kiss — 1 minute, 34 seconds. David Frost emceed the competition, which took place in a tank at Circus Circus.

Why she was nominated, according to her supervisor, Tish Smyer, associate dean of the School of Nursing: “(She) is known for her energy and optimistic attitude. She is a pleasure to work with. She has a ‘can-do’ spirit that is contagious. Her interpersonal skills with conflict and personnel management are always based on assisting the other person to be the very best they can be.”

Classified Rookie of the Year

Summer Mudd
Account Technician I, Accounts Payable

Rebel since: 2005

What you do: I educate employees about what they need to do to get a check.

Perfect day: Being able to cross something off my own to-do list.

What can people do to make your job easier? Ask questions before preparing any paperwork. An error in paperwork causes delays. A simple phone call can speed up the process.

Can’t work without: Music — I like Christian rock, classic rock, and folk music.

First job? Working in a daycare center taught me compassion. A lot of people who call our office are frustrated and looking for answers. I help by showing compassion and solving their problems.

What character from The Office would you be? I would like to say Jim because he is funny and witty, but he does things I would never do. He breaks the rules, and I would never do that.

People would be surprised to know: I went on an adventure trip to New Zealand over winter break. I mountain biked, skydived, ice climbed, kayaked, bungee jumped, and hiked. In July, I am participating in an adventure race — a 42-mile mountain biking, trail running, kayaking, and swimming event.

Worst injury: Tearing the cartilage that connects the ribs to the breast-plate after crashing into a rock on my bike. It hurt to breathe for about six months.

Your name: People constantly comment about my name. Try making a doctor’s appointment with my name. I say my name is Summer Mudd — Summer like the season and Mudd like earth and water mixed. I kept my maiden name as an additional middle name, so I have double consonants throughout: Summer Lynn Mills Mudd.

Employee perk: I graduated from high school in 1996. Stuff happened and I wasn’t able to go to school full time, but have been slowly taking classes for the past several years. I hope to graduate in the fall of 2012 with a degree in business management.
A Room With a View

Lucky are the UNLV employees who have offices with views worth bragging about. Some can see planes depart from McCarran, view the Strip’s skyline, or watch as the last of the snow melts at Mt. Charleston. Others see students hustling to class, studying, or soaking up the beautiful weather. Enjoy the view from some of your colleagues’ offices.

(Above left) Media studies professor Paul Traudt has floor-to-ceiling windows looking south down Maryland Parkway in his Greenspun Hall office. (Above) Judith Osterman, distance education director, loves the peaceful view of birds in the palm trees outside her office, located on the second floor of the Carol C. Harter Classroom Building Complex. (Left) Carolyn Yucha, dean of the School of Nursing and the School of Allied Health Sciences, looks out over the Thomas & Mack Center and can see airplanes taking off and landing at McCarran International Airport or can look down at the mall from her office on the fifth floor of the Bigelow Health Sciences building.