Inside UNLV

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Success Center (ASC), said the center is partner endeavors than they are now,” he said.
so will improve retention, and students “will in (the students’) educational experience.” Doing math, such diagnostics are critical to student suc-
cess, Smatresk explained.
“We need to diagnose their skills gaps, pre-
scribe custom solutions, and fill those gaps early in (the students’) educational experience.” Doing so will improve retention, and students “will be far more successful at pursuing their major endeavors than they are now,” he said.
Ann McDonough, dean of the Academic Success Center (ASC), said the center is partner-
ing with several units on campus to develop such a comprehensive diagnostic tool for incoming stu-
dents. The goal is to have the tool ready for use by summer so that students entering next fall can benefit from it, she said.
The ASC is already helping students master writing skills through the Writing Links program that was begun by the English department. A reading program now is being developed in con-
cert with the educational psychology department. Throughout the fall and spring semesters, the center will work with a number of departments to develop a learning support program for students who struggle with math, McDonough said.

Once the diagnostic tool is in place, it will be easier to make sure students needing help are channeled to the appropriate resources, she said.

A Plan for General Education
Smatresk said completing a revision of the general education core will be the first priority of the person hired to fill the newly created position of vice provost for undergraduate educa-
tion. Working in collaboration with the deans, the vice provost will develop recommendations for a phased-in implementation of a new curric-
ulum that will embed critical skills into all major curricula.

3 Digital Measures Implementation
Doing the database is anticipated to be a three-year effort, but once it is up and running, it will make it much easier to accomplish tasks such as preparation of faculty, department, and college annual reports, said David James, associate vice provost for academic programs.

Development of templates for data entry and the

News You Can Use

Winter Break Reminder
Winter Break will be here before you know it. All nonessential business offices will be closed Dec. 25 through Jan. 3.

Employees are responsible for accounting for break days. You can work on non-holiday break days, if you choose, without being required to take time off. Those plans must be confirmed with your supervisor.

If you elect to take time off on scheduled break days, employees may use accrued annual leave, compensatory time (if applicable), or request leave without pay.

Before you leave, remember to:
• Shut down your computer
• Turn off your lights
• Record “out of office” in voice mail
• Set up an “out of office” message on your e-mail

More info: Go to hr.unlv.
edu/winterbreak for a list of offices and services that will remain open.

Lincy, Brookings Propel UNLV

$14 Million Gift Helps Tackle Community Issues

The Lincy Institute will be made possible by a $14 million gift from The Lincy Foundation — will serve as a hub to connect community nonprofits with each other and with UNLV researchers to solve issues in health care, social ser-
vices, and education.

Meanwhile, the BMW initiative — a collaboration with UNLV and the Brookings Institution, a Washington D.C.-based think tank for public policy — will focus on the infra-
structure and quality-of-life challenges facing the Intermountain West states (Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah).

Building on the Mountain Megas Report
A 2008 report by Brookings called “Mountain Megas: America’s Newest Metropolitan Places and a Federal Partnership to Help Them Prosper” identified Las Vegas as one of five areas in the West that need sustain-
able, productive, and inclusive growth in order to prosper (Albuquerque, Denver, Phoenix/Tucson, and Salt Lake City are the others.)

The report stated that these regions have benefitted from growth in many ways, but need policy changes and investments in infrastructure to end their boom-bust cycles. It noted the need for greater involvement of research universities in addressing the region’s challenges, particularly in the areas of transportation, water, education, immigration, health care, and energy. This aligned well with the Focus: 50 to 100 plan, which called for UNLV’s research efforts to foster the economic and social development of the region.

UNLV already has a number of programs in these areas, Smatresk noted. The Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, for exam-
ple, recently reconceived to focus on infrastructure issues in renewable energy, transportation, radiochem-
istry and nuclear engineering, pub-
lc land use, and water resources.
And, there are a number of strong research and policy programs in several colleges related to social ser-
vices. The Lincy Institute will serve as a hub for linking those programs in education, health care, and social services systems.
entry of the data itself are expected to be very time intensive, James said. Once the templates are created, the project will go through a pilot phase involving a small number of colleges and departments before the database is made available campuswide.

4 New Student E-Mail System

Anyone using the current RebelMail system will be migrated transparently to a Gmail system, the president said. One benefit of the new system is that it will make it easier for UNLV to continue communication with its alumni as students graduate.

5 Continue iNtegrate Implementation

The admissions portion of the new iNtegrate system, which is a systemwide computerized infrastructure for handling all things related to student records and information, went live this semester. The next phases to be implemented will be financial aid, enrollment, billing, transcripts, and advising.

The system, which will provide students more self-service capabilities, will be more reliable and easier to use than the current system for faculty and staff. It should be fully functional by fall 2010.

6 Launching The Lincy Institute and Brookings Mountain West Initiative

These major initiatives will offer something for every single unit at UNLV, Smatresk said. “Whether it is a human capital issue, a hard infrastructure issue, or an economic development issue, I know everyone can play” a part in the development of these initiatives. (For more detail, see “Lincy, Brookings Propel UNLV,” page 1.)

7 Completing the Invent the Future Fundraising Campaign

The Invent the Future campaign is in its final months. Already at more than 90 percent of its $500 million goal, the campaign has provided support to myriad areas across campus and is supporting the university’s goals of providing outstanding educational and research opportunities for students, the campus, and community.

“Inclusive giving has become even more important in these challenging economic times, providing critical support — scholarships, programmatic and research funds, buildings, etc. — that simply would not be possible without the generosity of our donors,” said Smatresk.

8 Accreditation Visit April 19-21

UNLV is in the process of being reviewed for its full 10-year accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). In a separate interview, Smatresk noted that the team under Michael Bowers, now interim executive vice president and provost, has been preparing UNLV for the grueling 10-year accreditation site visit.

“There’s a tremendous, almost back-breaking number of criteria to be met and reviewed,” Smatresk said. “Michael has assembled an excellent team, and I’m proud to say that we are ready for the visit.”

The NWCCU team will visit campus and conduct interviews with faculty, staff, and students in April. “They need to know that we are working hard,” the president said. “They need to know that our university is pushing ahead and that despite tough times, we are still making progress.”

Honoring Our Past

As part of University Days, more than 100 people gathered for the dedication of Pioneer Wall, which pays tribute to three Nevadans who played significant roles in helping establish the university. They are teacher and lawmaker Maude Frazier; James R. Dickinson, the first faculty member and campus administrator; and Donald Moyer, the school’s first president. The wall is located where Frazier Hall used to stand.

The Lincy Institute at UNLV

lincynstitute.unlv.edu

The big goal: Work with local nonprofits to address needs of the region in social services, education, and health care.

How: The Lincy Institute will be a resource hub for regional nonprofits, bringing expertise in research and data analysis and fostering collaboration with other organizations on overlapping issues. Nevada ranks last in federal grants per capita, partly because nonprofits lack such crucial resources as grant writers.


Brookings Mountain West Initiative

brookingsmntwest.unlv.edu

The big goal: Help the five major cities in the Intermountain West — Las Vegas, Phoenix/Tucson, Albuquerque, Denver, and Salt Lake City — end their boom-bust cycles and achieve sustainable, economically productive growth.

How: BMW will conduct public policy research and build an agenda for federal reforms in key infrastructure areas of transportation, water, education, immigration, health care, and energy.

Backstory: The Brookings Institution traces its beginnings to 1916 and the founding of the first private organization for public policy analysis. Its achievements include contributing to the formation of the United Nations, creation of the Congressional Budget Office, deregulation, broad-based tax reform, welfare reform, and the design of foreign aid programs.

More Federal Funding

One area in which Nevada definitely can use help is in securing more federal funding. An October 2008 report published by the U.S. Census Bureau ranked Nevada last among states in the amount of grants per capita received from the federal government. The Lincy Institute will help Nevada nonprofits identify federal, state, and local funding opportunities. Working with UNLV researchers, it will assist in providing baseline data and follow-up assessments of agency activities.

The institute eventually will fund up to 10 positions at UNLV, including an executive director, outreach and program directors, grant writer, and statistician. In addition to a dozen faculty fellows, the institute will fund graduate assistantships and undergraduate scholarships when it is fully operational.

The BMW initiative, likewise, will bring new resources to UNLV. A full-time research director will be housed at UNLV. Nine Brookings Scholars are visiting UNLV for one- to three-week residencies this academic year. Their interactions with faculty and students will include seminars, lectures, and research activities. (Visit brookingsmntwest.unlv.edu for the full schedule.)
Faculty and Staff Asked to Help At-Risk School

Reward Kids As Part of Homecoming

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

The UNLV Alumni Association is challenging faculty and staff to help some of the valley’s most deserving youth get a big dose of Rebel pride.

UNLV is piloting an Adopt-A-School program that pairs the UNLV community with Cunningham Elementary School, where many of the students are homeless or living below the poverty line.

Alumni Step Up

The Alumni Association has purchased 100 of the $50 Rebel Fun Packs — a combination of football tickets and food vouchers — to reward students who are excelling in Cunningham’s accelerated reading program. The association is challenging faculty, staff, and alumni to send more high-achieving students to the game by matching its contribution.

The Rebel Fun Pack is for the Oct. 17 homecoming game. Students will get four game tickets and a voucher for hot dogs and drinks. Cunningham will also receive $5 for every Fun Pack sold, and students will receive a T-shirt.

“My hope is that the enthusiasm of the campus community will rub off and provide a memorable experience for each of these youngsters.”

Earnest Phillips, marketing and public relations director

Beyond the Game

The program also serves as a way for faculty, staff, and students to give back to the community that supports the university. The homecoming committee and the Rebel Pride Council are planning a book drive for Cunningham’s accelerated reading program. The books will be available for purchase at the UNLV bookstore. Additionally, UNLV athletes will visit Cunningham to help strengthen the school’s accelerated reading program.

Seventy percent of the students at Cunningham, which is located near Sam Boyd Stadium, are on free or reduced lunch. Cunningham is located very close to the campus of UNLV, yet for some students, the reality of attending college seems so far away,” said principal Stacey Scott-Cherry.

“This will be the first time that many of these students and their families have been exposed to UNLV. Our partnership is an avenue for UNLV athletics, admissions, marketing and public relations, alumni relations, the Alumni Association, the Rebel Pride Council, and the office of civic engagement and diversity.”

Get Involved

To purchase a Rebel Fun Pack that will be donated to Cunningham, go to unlvtickets.com/adopt.

To learn more about the Adopt-A-School program, go to homecoming.unlv.edu/adoptSchool.

Get Ready for Homecoming 2009

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Be a hero and help UNLV celebrate homecoming 2009.

While the football game isn’t until Oct. 17, a number of homecoming-related events are scheduled throughout the week.

The theme of this year’s homecoming is “UNLV Rebel red.”

Among the activities are:

• Oct. 12 — Homecoming Kickoff: Help the campus jump start homecoming 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Student Union’s Pida Plaza.

• Oct. 12 — Window Decorating Competition: Come to the Student Union 11 a.m.-1 p.m. to see the artwork and pride of UNLV students, faculty, and staff.

• Oct. 15 — Rally: Join the football team, marching band, and Rebel Girls on the North Field at 7:30 p.m. for the annual rally.

• Oct. 16 — Rebel Red Day: Show your pride

and join this citywide celebration by wearing your Rebel red.

• Oct. 16 — Alumni Cocktail Reception and Dinner: Activities include a silent auction benefitting scholarships and alumni programming and recognition of George J. Maloof Jr. as Outstanding Alumnus of the Year and Thalia Dondero as the Silver State honoree. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom.

• Oct. 16 — Running Rebels First Look ’09: Get a sneak peak at the men’s basketball team during its opening practice at the Thomas & Mack Center beginning at 9 p.m.

• Oct. 17 — Football Tailgate and Game: UNLV hosts Utah at Sam Boyd Stadium in the 7 p.m. matchup. The Alumni Association tailgate begins at 4 p.m. For game tickets, call 739-3267 or visit unlvtickets.com.

• Oct. 17 — Parade: The parade will wind its way around Sam Boyd Stadium at 5 p.m.

More info: Go to homecoming.unlv.edu.

Timely Topic

From left: Former Vice President Al Gore, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, and energy executive and financier T. Boone Pickens participated in the National Clean Energy Summit 2.0: Jobs and the New Economy at UNLV in August. Approximately 900 people attended the event, which focused on developing a clean energy economy.
and laboratory services; worker’s compensation administration; institutional insurance, property, and general liability claims administration)
• TMC/ICA Business, Auxiliary Financial Service, & Campus Audit
Research and Graduate Studies
• Research (sponsored programs, research services, federal agency initiatives, technology transfer, research compliance, protection of research subjects, and animal care & use)
• Sustainability & Multi-Disciplinary Research (Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, Brookings Mountain West, The Lincy Institute, Public Lands Institute, National Supercomputing

Student Affairs
• Campus Life
• Enrollment & Student Services
• Student Wellness and SA Technology
• Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach
• Police Services
• Student Affairs Development
• Student Affairs Administration

Want a Printable Version?
To print a smaller version of the organizational chart, go to facultystaff.unlv.edu.

University Advancement
• Alumni and External Relations
• Community Relations
• Government Relations
• Marketing and Public Relations
• Public Affairs
• Reprographics/Design Services
• UNLV Foundation
New Faces

Markie Blumer
Professor, Marriage and Family Therapy Department

Hometown: Houston, Alaska.
Graduated from nearby Wasilla High School.
Family: Husband Tim; son Leif; and cat Dax.

Describe your job to a 12-year-old: I’m someone you can talk to about relationships, problems, or anything that might be going on in your life.

How did you become interested in your field? As a child and through most of my undergraduate schooling, I wanted to be a psychological profiler for some government agency. But, in my last semester of college, I was a teaching assistant for a Sociology of Sexuality course. After that experience, I knew I wanted to conduct research and instruct in the area of human sexuality.

Biggest misconception about your field: That we only clinically work with, are interested in, or are knowledgeable about married couples and their families. I see the name of the field itself, ‘marriage and family therapy,’ as truly a misnomer. It would be more apt to refer to the field as ‘relationship therapy.’

Cocktail party anecdote: Marriage and family therapists tend to have one of the higher divorce rates.

Drive from Alaska to Las Vegas: This was my seventh trip to or from Alaska to the lower 48 via the Alaska-Canadian (Al-Can) Highway system. There is a shared ideology among Alaskans — if you can survive the Al-Can as a couple then you can survive anything together. This was our second trip together and we are still happily married.

Trekkie trivia: I love Star Trek, particularly Star Trek the original series. My favorite character of all time is Spock. Hence, we visited Vulcan, Alberta, on our drive here. It would not be at all inaccurate to refer to me as a ‘Trekkie’ or ‘Trekker.’

Your worst habit: I am obsessed with brushing my teeth. I probably brush five times per day. One of my secret dreams is for my son to become a dentist.

Your first job: I was an unofficial pyrotechnician for a fireworks stand. I got to safely play with fire and look at pretty colored lights. It was a blast (pun intended).

If you were on the show Jeopardy!, what anecdote about yourself would you tell? I cheered in both junior and senior high school, in college, and professionally. In fact, I led a college cheerleading squad to a national title as a collegiate coach through a graduate assistantship position. Cheerleading paid for a good portion of my graduate schooling. My mother and others joke that I have a “doctorate in cheerleading.”

Being from near Wasilla: People used to say, “Was—and—what?” Now they say, “Oh, really? What do you think of Sarah Palin?”

William Bauer
Professor, History

Hometown: Covelo, Calif. I am an enrolled member of the Covelo Indian Community of northern California’s Round Valley Reservation.
Family: Wife Kendra; daughters Temerity and Scout.

Describe your field to a 12-year-old: I research, write, and teach about American Indian history. In particular, I am interested in the stories of native people who live and work on their home reservations.

How did you become interested in your field? Growing up on my home reservation, I always had an interest in my community’s history. However, I intended to be a journalist when I went to college. Then, one of my friends at college suggested that I pursue a Ph.D. after he spent spring break at my home.

Why UNLV? I look forward to working with Ph.D. students (my previous department only had an M.A. program) and being close to the area of my research (California). I cherish the proximity to my home, as it is only a day’s drive from Las Vegas. And after spending several years enduring Wyoming winters, I long for warmer and more hospitable weather.

What do you hope to accomplish here? I hope to develop a course on California Indian history and write a book that focuses on the California Indians in the 19th century as well as one that examines questions of aging in California Indian nations.

Biggest misconception about your field: When people think of American Indian history, they have images of Plains Indian people from the 19th century. However, I find the everyday stories of native people far more interesting — what kind of jobs did native people have and how did they get through the winter? I think these stories and histories are more universal to American Indian life in the United States.

An experience where you learned from a student: At the University of Wyoming, I worked with an Arapaho woman who is working with Arapaho elders to record oral histories and traditions. From the moment I met her, she played a strong commitment to her community and nation as well as a scholarly interest in Arapaho history. As a professor, I find it extremely enjoyable and rewarding to cultivate those interests and skills with native students.

Favorite movie: Although it does not necessarily portray native people very well, I enjoy John Ford’s movie The Searchers. Produced in the 1950s, the movie speaks to a nation that was entering the Civil Rights movement and struggling with the consequences.

Something you like to do for fun: I am a bit of a sports fanatic, especially football. So I enjoy following college and professional football.

After work: I should say that I go to the gym and workout. However, I usually go home and watch ESPN.
Garage Opens, Parking Policies Changed

More Than 1,000 Parking Spots Added
By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Employees on the south end of campus now have another option for parking.

The Tropicana Parking Garage, which was completed in mid-August, adds a little more than 1,000 parking spots west of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

The four-story garage will have pay-and-display machines at both entrances so visitors can buy an hourly or one-day parking pass. If the garage is full, the pay-and-display passes can be used for surface lots around the Thomas & Mack Center as well.

“This is probably the fastest parking garage I have ever seen constructed,” said Ted McDowell, parking and transportation services director. “The actual construction of the facility, not including the design and earth work, took approximately four and a half months.”

Faculty and staff can park on all four levels of the new garage. The first floor includes spaces for patients of the Student Health Center. Student parking will be on levels two through four. The best entrance for those floors is on the south, while the west entrance is the most convenient for first-floor parking, McDowell said.

Permit Fees Pay for Garage

Permit fees are used for maintenance and development of parking on campus, including the Tropicana Parking Garage.

Structured fees are to maintain small, steady increases, McDowell said. “The alternative is to increase fees dramatically at the time a parking garage, lot development, or major maintenance is required.” This fall, the cost for a faculty/staff annual permit is $250, up $2 per month. This represents an 8.7 percent increase over last year’s rate. Other permits, including semester only, monthly, and reserved, are also available.

Employees Must Buy Employee Pass

All faculty and staff must purchase a faculty/staff permit. Previously, employees could purchase a student permit, at half the cost, and park in student parking. McDowell noted that the new policy is fairer and more equitable to everyone on campus.

Faculty and staff can still park in student spots, but they will have to purchase a faculty/staff permit.

Handicap Permits Curb Abuse

A policy implemented last year has dramatically decreased handicap parking abuses, McDowell said. There are now plenty of open handicaps throughout campus.

Previously, anyone with a state-issued handicap placard could park free of charge.

Now, faculty, staff, and student drivers are required to purchase and display a UNLV-issued handicap parking permit along with their state-issued handicap placard. These permits can be purchased at the parking and transportation services office; they are not available online. The driver must present their state-issued placard along with the letter issued by the DMV saying they have specific needs allowing them to purchase the UNLV permit.

More Info: Go to parking.unlv.edu.

Tech Savvy

Did You Know?
- UNLV began processing student applications through the new student information system, iGraduate, last month.
- The license cost for BlackBerries was reduced from $150 per year to $100 per year, because of an increase in the number of customers using the service. The more customers we have, the more we can share costs, and the cheaper it is for everyone.
- OIT’s website now provides information on setting Lotus Notes mail on iPhones.
- OIT offers free two-hour courses for the online help request form, help desk hours and locations, self-help guides, and training course registration.
- WebCampus hardware was replaced and redesigned in August to improve stability and availability.
- OIT will soon offer “guest” wireless accounts for campus visitors who need Internet access. OIT will pilot the program this fall in the Student Union and plans to offer it throughout campus after the pilot.
- OIT is testing a bicycle to use for computer hard-ware delivery and repair. The bikes are cheaper, cleaner, and require less maintenance than electronic golf carts.
- If you are interested in getting more immediate notice when a university system is unavailable, OIT posts incident notification and news to its homepage. You can also follow OIT at Twitter.com/unlv_oit.

More Self-Help Resources Available
By Mamie Peers | OIT

A single help desk for both students and employees as well as more self-help options are among the changes OIT has made to continue providing high levels of service despite budget cuts. These measures mean you may be able to help yourself more quickly when technicians are unavailable.

A Single Help Desk

Merging the employee and student help desk technicians provides the campus support on the weekends and at two locations instead of one. The help desks now share staff, training resources, and contact information.

“We wanted faculty and staff to have a number to call after 5 p.m. and we wanted everyone for both groups at more locations,” said DeAnna Schoendienst, manager of client services. “We also created an enhanced knowledgebase so that our technicians can quickly answer routine questions while they have your phone, rather than escalating the call to a specialist.”

Because of decreased staffing, escalated work requests might take longer than they have before.

The help desk continues to employ both students and full-time technicians. “We enjoy having student workers at our help desks. It’s excellent job training for them. Each one is paired with a full-time employee who models customer service behaviors and shares troubleshooting tips,” said Schoendienst.

Online Resources

OIT continues to expand online resources. For those who would rather not spend time on a phone call, you can quickly make help requests through a short online form. You can also find many self-help guides on OIT’s website, such as:
- Windows computer maintenance instructions
- Instructions to configure your handheld device to read Lotus Notes
- New computer specification recommendations
- Technology-enhanced classroom instructional videos and quick-start guides
- Employees interested in software can begin at the OIT website. The software database describes purchasing

Courses Available

OIT offers free two-hour courses on Lotus Notes and Microsoft Office. Learning about and using the advanced features in the applications can save you time.

More Info: Go to oit.unlv.edu for the online help request form, help desk hours and locations, self-help guides, and training course registration.
Great Start to Fall Semester

Students arriving at UNLV for the start of fall semester were met with a variety of activities, including the annual Premier UNLV complete with bands and fireworks.

And, for the first time this year, new students benefited from the SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration) program. Designed by the office of orientation and parent programs in conjunction with the campus’ academic advisors, SOAR is designed to increase student success.

More than 3,000 new students and 2,000 parents participated in the one-day program that was held 16 times during the summer. The program focuses on academic success, social integration, and campus resources. Students met with academic advisors in their colleges and then went to computer labs to register for classes, leaving campus with their fall class schedules and Rebel Cards in hand.

(Above) Honors College student Michelle Nam, right, talks with a friend during the college’s ice cream social in August. (Below) Orientation leaders Donovan Kaneshiro, left, and Krista Mullen try to convince incoming freshmen to participate in Premier UNLV as part of the New Student Welcome program. (Left) Approximately 4,000 people attended Premier UNLV, an event that officially welcomes new and returning students to campus. Premier included a welcome cookout and live music. The event ended when everyone gathered on the field to form the letters UNLV, complete with flashlights and pyrotechnics choreographed to the university fight song.