Soyinka’s Play to be Staged in Greece

by Jennifer Vaughan

Nobel Prize-winning faculty member Wole Soyinka and a group of UNLV theatre faculty and students are on their way to Greece where Soyinka will direct his adaptation of Sophocles’ Oedipus at Colonus.

The play will be presented July 5-12 in Delphi during the XI International Meeting on Ancient Greek Drama. It will be produced by the Nevada Conservatory Theatre (NCT), a professional company housed in Judy Bayley Theatre.

Soyinka’s version of the play is set on an island off the Australian coast and is woven around the recent standoff that occurred between a boatload of Afghan refugees and the Australian government, which denied the passengers sanctuary. The standoff lasted weeks and received worldwide coverage. Other governments and human rights bodies intervened. The refugees went on a hunger strike and, at one stage, members of the Australian Navy boarded the ship.

In this adaptation, “Oedipus” is the patriarch of a group of small mountain tribesmen who live near the southern border of Afghanistan where they have maintained a near-independent existence for centuries, keeping their customs and forms of worship.

“Our history has been one of wandering, settling, uprooting and wandering yet again – ever since they escaped as slaves from the salt mines of the Tigris,” said Soyinka, who won the 1986 Nobel Prize for Literature and now holds the endowed chair of creative writing in UNLV’s International Institute of Modern Letters. “The crime of which continued on page 7

Stephen Rosenbaum to Head Honors College

by Diane Russell

Stephen Rosenbaum, the new dean of the Honors College, says he will begin work at UNLV on Aug. 1 ready to build on what he describes as an “already outstanding” honors program.

Rosenbaum, who for the past four years has headed the honors program at Illinois State University (ISU) in Normal, said he decided to move to UNLV after 30 years at ISU in large part because of the positive things he had heard and learned about honors education at UNLV.

What initially prompted my attraction was the knowledge that Len Zane, who has an excellent reputation in honors education circles nationally, had basically developed the UNLV Honors College from scratch and had developed a very nice curricular,” he said.

Rosenbaum said that when he learned that Zane, who was founding dean of the Honors College, had returned to the physics department and that a replacement was being sought, he thought to himself, “If it’s the right situation, I could have a great chance to make a contribution to honors education at UNLV.”

Once he had met with people on campus, he was convinced that he and UNLV were a good match.

“My impressions of Carol Harper and Ray Alden is that they are really concerned, caring, able administrators who are able to take the university forward. That was one of the things that encouraged me to come here.”

He said he also liked the fact that honors education at UNLV is a separate college rather than being at the program level as it is at so many institutions.

Having an Honors College helps with recruiting students and raising money and also tends to provide the person heading the program with more direct access to the academic leadership of the university, he said.

Rosenbaum, who is a philosophy professor, said that he has thought for some continued on page 6
Deacon Retires after 41 Years
by Diane Russell

Fish in the desert.
Those oh-so-tiny, under-studied and under-rated little creatures that take refuge in amazingly small pools of water in otherwise inhospitable landscapes.

That’s what brought biologist Jim Deacon to UNLV. He was pursuing a doctoral degree in zoology at the University of Kansas and already was committed to the field of ichthyology when one day he attended a seminar about desert fishes. That was it, he decided, desert fishes would become his area of concentration.

UNLV, located as it is in the Mojave Desert, seemed as if it would be a good place to pursue that specialty, so Deacon applied, was interviewed by Dean William Carlson in Missouri, and headed to a campus he’d never seen, thinking he’d be there only a few years. He even decided to participate in TIAA/CREF when it became available so that he could easily take his retirement money with him when he moved on.

Somewhat, a few years turned into several, several turned into decades, and those decades turned into a life’s career.

And during that life’s career, Deacon certainly did study desert fishes, but also did much more. He played a pivotal role in saving at least one threatened fish species – the Devil’s Hole pupfish – from extinction by working toward having its habitat designated a national wildlife refuge. He also raised interest in the importance of endangered species in Nevada and founded UNLV’s environmental studies program.

But when Deacon moved to Las Vegas on Labor Day 1960, all he knew was that he was joining a young university that would put him in a good position to study the desert fishes that had come to interest him so.

“It was unbelievable that I was going to get to be the only biologist studying desert fishes who actually was based in this desert,” he recalled. There was a professor at UNR studying desert fishes, but that was hundreds of miles away, and no one at ASU was doing that kind of work at that time.

When Deacon arrived at UNLV, he was the campus’s second biology professor. That put biology ahead of chemistry and physics, which had only one professor each. They all were housed in Frazier Hall, but then so was half the campus since Frazier and Grant Hall were the only two buildings. The gym, which since has been converted into the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, was under construction.

Deacon found himself working closely with the campus’s other biologist, Glen Bradley. “He was a field biologist and we worked together on each other’s projects. We did a lot of field work with our students in those days.”

Not long after his arrival in Southern Nevada, Deacon made his first trip to Devil’s Hole, home to the now famous, 1-inch-long Devil’s Hole pupfish. It was February 1961.

A number of years later, Deacon found himself involved in a fight for the survival of that tiny fish whose existence was threatened by the pumping of underground water in the Ash Meadows area for crop irrigation. Ultimately, the federal government filed suit against the farmer, claiming the groundwater depletion infringed on the implied water rights held by the federal government by virtue of the fact that Devil’s Hole was located within Death Valley National Monument.

Deacon explained. The government won, and the fish was saved. Eventually, crucial nearby land that was not part of Death Valley was designated the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge – another step forward for conservation and preservation efforts.

Deacon said that while the Devil’s Hole pupfish and other desert fishes may be small, they are not insignificant.

“These desert fishes present fascinating stories and equally intriguing questions,” he said. “How did they get where they are today? How did they manage to survive once there? What happens to them over time? What are the survival mechanisms they have developed?”

He also has been involved in the preservation of many other fish species, including the woundfin, Virgin River spinedace, and Virgin River chub. In recognition of his research and conservation accomplishments, two endemic species in Southern Nevada were named in his honor. One is Rhinichthys deaconi, the extinct Las Vegas dace, while the other is Periophthalmus deaconi, otherwise known as the Spring Mountain snail.

But Deacon hasn’t spent all his time on the animal kingdom; he’s also been closely involved with students during his decades at UNLV.

Perhaps his most noteworthy effort in that area was spearheading the creation of UNLV’s environmental studies program.

Established in 1991 with Deacon as its first chairman, the program has always been, he says, “a different approach to undergraduate education.”

“We knew that most of our students would be working while going to school, so we wanted them to continued on page 3
Building Services Workers Support Campus Growth

by Cate Weeks

With more than 31,000 work orders every year, the 70 classified workers in building services draw upon experience as trained craftsmen to get their jobs done efficiently.

Part of the department of facilities management and planning, building services includes experienced painters, movers, carpenters, locksmiths, electricians, welders, and heating and air conditioning specialists. Kevin Raschko began in the paint shop as a student worker in 1990. After getting a bachelor’s degree in history in 1994, he took a full-time position as a carpenter. Currently he supervises the paint and sign shops on campus.

“I was very fortunate to have learned from craftsmen with decades of experience,” he said. “People on campus are often surprised at how a skilled painter or carpenter can get in and out with minimal interruption.”

He said the paint shop has gotten more sophisticated in recent years with the addition of equipment and systems to track a room’s paint history. Campus classrooms and offices are painted every seven years, and each department has the choice of 12, relatively neutral, colors.

“Keeping to standard colors is extremely important to our inventory management,” Raschko said. “Before we enforced standards, we ended up with a lot of leftover paint in our warehouse. Two years ago we had to dispose of 1,200 gallons of paint that were leftover from various jobs and went bad before a particular color was needed again. Today we just don’t have that waste.”

Raschko said the campus’s top paint color – cielo blanco – has a hint of brown that matches well with virtually any interior color scheme.

His greatest source of frustration is graffiti, but the real challenge lies in scheduling jobs. “We’ve got to work around the campus’ schedule,” he said. “It can be especially hard to find a good time to paint classrooms – some are used virtually around the clock.”

Karl Reynolds, assistant director of building services, said the heating and cooling specialists seem to draw the most attention from the campus community. “Their job is challenging because one person might be perfectly comfortable with a room’s temperature, but the person sitting next door is absolutely freezing,” he said. “It’s hard to meet everyone’s needs, but these employees certainly try their best.”

In addition to the building services crew, facilities management also includes four workers in planning and construction services. Most often working with outside contractors, these employees oversee all building projects on campus from design to completion.

Béné Sweert joined UNLV 17 years ago as a draftsman and is now a construction project coordinator II. She says construction project coordinators must master every detail of a building project. They ensure contractors complete projects as specified. Occasionally, problems arise with contractors who bid low and then unnecessarily file costly change orders.

“Part of my job is avoiding problems and confrontations,” she said. “I stay on top of the details to make sure everyone is clear about what has to get done. I absolutely won’t put up with a contractor who wants to take our money and run.”

Sweert said over the years she’s also had to deal with some sexism from contractors. “Fortunately, I don’t encounter that nearly as much as I used to,” she said. “Men in the business have evolved to accept women. They realize that we know how to get the job done as well as they do. “I don’t worry much about the few men who haven’t evolved. My focus is on getting the job done for the client on campus. Once we all focus on the client, the job becomes really rewarding. I love seeing the deans and department heads work with thrilled with a completed project.”

Sweert’s co-worker, Jerry Dove, joined UNLV in 1976. With a degree in architecture, Dove has served in a number of positions, including draftsman, university architect, and construction supervisor. He’s contributed to a number of major projects, including the building of new residence halls and the Thomas & Mack Center.

“I really was attracted to the homelike atmosphere here,” he said. “It’s funny to look at old phone directories – back then they listed everyone’s home phone numbers and the names of their spouses. Everyone knew everyone else.

“I don’t know everyone on campus anymore, but I still like being able to serve the clients on campus with a personal touch.”

Deacon Retires

continued from page 2

work in jobs that could lead to careers for them instead of working in unrelated fields,” he said. To that end, the department carefully fostered an internship program through which students can be placed in jobs relevant to their studies. In more than one instance, these internships have led to permanent jobs, he said.

Also, the program is the only one on campus to require a thesis from every student earning a bachelor’s degree, Deacon said. “We knew that it was a common complaint of employers that students graduat­ ing from college didn’t necessarily know how to write and speak well,” he said. “We decided that that wouldn’t be true of our students.”

The undergraduate theses usually are on topics relevant to the Las Vegas community, he said, citing numerous examples. In some cases, their projects have led to the establishment of programs that still exist today. A noteworthy on-campus example is Rebel Recycling – a program that grew out of then-student Tara Pike’s undergraduate thesis. Today, Pike heads that program.

“An education is something you do. It’s not something you get,” said Deacon.

Even in retirement, Deacon will continue to do. While he says he eventually may allow himself to be persuaded to return to campus to teach the occasional class, he plans to spend the next several months doing research, writing journal articles, and traveling with his wife, retired Dean of Libraries Mary Dale Deacon.
News FROM THE COLLEGES

Business

Private financial support has made it possible for some of the college faculty to continue and enhance their research activities. Because quality research is very time-intensive, this support allows faculty to focus on research during the summer.

Richard J. Acord, assistant professor of management, is involved in research that analyzes the effects of self-selection and industry-level context on firm performance in a number of specific strategic situations, including alliance activity in the information technology sector, private IPO (Initial Public Offering) differences between Internet and non-Internet ventures, and the corporate-level choice of business portfolios.

Tomas Mantecón, department of finance, is researching the value of certification by underwriters at the moment of the IPO, trying to determine the factors that affect the IPO first day of trading return. In a different project, he continues work on the valuation effects on joint ventures. The research analyzes factors that explain the value created for shareholders of partners in joint ventures, undertaking the value created by the relationship and the reduction of asymmetry of information between parent entities that conduct business in a joint venture. Also from the department of finance, Jeff Brookman is working on a paper concerning layoffs and chief executive officer compensation that he will present at the Financial Management Association conference in October.

Dental School

The faculty start-up team has been busy in recent months on courses to be offered to our first class of dental students this fall. New faculty members are being recruited for the start of the academic year in August. As of June, searches were underway for nine faculty positions.

The accreditation site visit was very successful, and a follow-up report is being prepared for the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The first class of students has been admitted, and student orientation is planned for the week of Aug. 18.

Planning for renovations of the dental school facilities on the Shadow Lane campus have moved from schematic design to the design-development phase. Several of the Dental School start-up team members are participating in developing detailed descriptions of the clinical and educational spaces in building "A" on the Shadow Lane campus for future students, faculty, and staff.

Officers of the Nevada Dental Association volunteered their time and expertise to assist with the search for a permanent dean for the Dental School. UNLV faculty and administrators served on the search committee as well.

Education

Educational psychology is one of five departments in the college. During the past five years, the department has increased its graduate student FTE by 30 percent, and much of the increase is due to the leadership of Ralph Reynolds.

The department is welcoming two new faculty members—Randy Astramovich and Deborah Perry-Romero. Astramovich has already established a strong initial research record. He specializes in the development of school counseling professionals and in research methodology. Perry-Romero brings expertise in qualitative research methodology and family literacy. These two faculty members will be vital to the graduate programs and to the department's research mission.

The college has completed a highly successful year in terms of research and publication. Publications by faculty members nearly doubled when compared to the 2000-01 academic year. Equally impressive, publications in the top journals in educational psychology more than doubled.

Last year, the department, in collaboration with colleagues from educational technology, initiated a Ph.D. program in learning and technology. The program has admitted 15 new doctoral students, who are slated to matriculate fall of 2002, bringing the number of students in the program to 20. This group includes Nevada residents as well as out-of-state and international students. The program is growing at a faster-than-expected pace and promises to be a vibrant one.

The faculty has focused on grant writing this year. Most faculty have submitted, or are in the process of submitting, several major grant proposals. If funded, these grants would provide support for several graduate students. The growing interest in granting activity shows broad support on the part of our faculty for our growing graduate programs.

Engineering

The College of Engineering continues to hire quality, experienced personnel for the new academic year.

Biswajit Das will join the department of electrical and computer engineering as an associate professor in the area of nanotechnology. He has earned a degree in electrical engineering—a B.Tech. degree from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur, India, an M.S. degree from the University of Southern Illinois, and a Ph.D. from Purdue University. Das most recently has served as an associate professor with the department of electrical and computer engineering at West Virginia University. He has published more than a dozen journal articles and has several active funded research projects in the area of nanotechnology.

John Harrison will join the department of computer science as an assistant professor in the area of computer science. He graduated from UNLV with a B.S. in computer science and applied mathematics and a master's degree in computer science. He earned his Ph.D. from Arizona State University. Harrison brings many years of both academic and industrial experience to UNLV. Oracle Corporation heavily funded his research in database technology. More recently, he has performed applied research and development for a leading Silicon Valley-based cybermedia company. He has also published work regarding innovative teaching strategies.

Fine Arts

The UNLV Wind Orchestra recently returned from a tour of Japan. The Hokkaido Band Directors Association, which had invited the orchestra, donated more than $40,000 to help sponsor the tour. Wind orchestra music is very popular in Japan and UNLV had the top-selling CD for wind orchestra
music in the country. Guest artist Eric Marienthal, a saxophonist who has been associated with famous jazz pianist Chick Corea, and special guest conductor Harry Beahan joined the 62-member orchestra on the trip.

Shahnaz Khan, a theatre design student, recently won the College of Fine Arts Creative Graduate Award, which included a $1,000 prize. Each department nominated an exceptional student to compete for the award. As part of the competition, the students prepared a 30-minute presentation for a panel of faculty judges. Other students competing for this year’s award were Rochelle Wallis, an architecture design student; Atsushi Machida, a painter; and Marc Soltes, a jazz and multiple instrument specialist. Faculty judges for the competition were Ellis Price-Jones (theatre), Grant Gromenciew (music), Mary Warner (art), and Dian Clark (film), Zoubir Hashem (architecture), and Graduate College Dean Paul Ferguson.

Graduate

The UNLV Graduate Council met in its spring plenary session to hear annual reports of the Graduate College committee chairs. Gale Smuts reported on the curriculum committee’s discussions about defining evaluation criteria for graduate courses, about reviewing the School of Dentistry first-year curriculum, and about reviewing and approving 12 new graduate courses and 77 graduate course revisions.

Barb Brens of the graduate student funding committee reported on the awarding of 15 summer session scholarships, six GSA scholarships, and 35 GREAT summer assistantships. The 2002-03 President’s Fellows were announced to be Sondra Cosgrove (history), Monique Diehrich (sociology), Jef Jacobs (biology), and Jocelina Santos (hotel administration). The 2002-03 Barrich Fellows are John Van Hassel (geosciences) and Pete Simc (sociology).

Mark Rudin of the program evaluation committee discussed the new M.S. in physical education and the M.S. in management information systems. Dick Papenreus reported on participation of the program review committee in campus academic program reviews in architecture, educational leadership, transportation, and sociology.

Dean Paul Ferguson provided a three-year perspective on Graduate College enrollment/graduation trends as well as progress toward reaching the university goal of becoming a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University – Exemplar. He also introduced James Busser, associate dean of the College of Hotel Administration, as the recipient of the 2002 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award.

Honors

The college is excited about the variety of special topic seminar offerings scheduled for the fall semester. Digital projects librarian John Mess will teach a seminar called Digital Documents and New Media: Creating and Working with Digital Technology, while communication studies professor Beth Semick will teach the seminar, Competence in Interpersonal Conflict. Japanese culture and politics will be taught by political science professor Mayumi Itani. Theatre professor Nate Bynum will teach Entertainers: Their Medium and Their Influence. Honors alumnus Robert Smale, an Honors College adjunct faculty member, will be teaching a seminar, Native People in 20th Century Latin America, this fall. Faculty members interested in teaching special topic seminars in the future are asked to contact the college for further information.

The college is pleased to have two UNLV President’s Scholar award recipients joining its incoming freshmen class this fall. And, the college has selected five recipients for the Dean’s Scholar Award. Congratulations to Lisa Akbari, Anjan Grewal, Cheryl Gustafson, Jennifer Horsley, and Erin Hume.

Hotel

The college is fortunate that its alumni possess a lifetime connection to both UNLV and the college. The college has a great deal of responsibility to ensure that its student-centered philosophy translates into a commitment to support and engage alumni throughout their lives. Alumni are perhaps the greatest untapped asset as unofficial student recruiters, enthusiastic event attendees, generous donors, committed mentors, employers of UNLV students, and tireless volunteers.

For these reasons, the college and the UNLV Alumni Association recently hired Judy Nagai-Allison as the college’s first alumni affairs coordinator. Her responsibilities involve alumni communications and outreach programs. The renewed focus on engaging alumni in the life of the college is intended to promote a greater awareness of university activities and result in an increased level of alumni participation.

As an initial step toward reuniting alumni, the inaugural Harrah Hotel College Alumni Brunch took place during the UNLVino weekend in April. This event reunited nearly 90 alumni, guests, and faculty as Dean Stuart Mahn shared updates about the college and informed alumni of their importance. Future alumni receptions will be held at national and international professional conferences and conventions to offer opportunities for alumni to network, reconnect with former classmates and faculty, and renew interest in local and regional alumni activities.

Law School

The school will add five new, but experienced, professors this academic year, and at least two more in fall 2003. Christopher Blakosky, an expert on terrorism and international criminal law currently teaching at University of Miami, will arrive this fall to teach international law, criminal law and procedure, and family law. Also arriving will be Robert Lawless (fall 2002), Sylvia Lazos (spring 2003), and Jean Sterngren (fall 2003), all of whom currently teach at the University of Missouri – Columbia. Lazos specializes in corporate law and bankruptcy. Lazos specializes in constitutional law, business organizations; and race, gender, sexual orientation and the law. Sterngren, a senior fellow at Missouri’s Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution, is an expert on civil procedure and dispute resolution, a nationally renowned critic of mandatory binding arbitration, and the co-author of a leading mediation text. Lawless, the associate director, Roberta “Bobbie” Studwell, will arrive this fall after serving as associate dean of library and information services at the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law. Until then, the library’s associate director, Kathy Staheli, will serve as interim director and will undertake the immense challenge of supervising the library’s move into the school’s new quarters.

Also arriving this fall are two professors who will split their teaching time between the clinics and the traditional curriculum. Katherine Bruce, currently at the University of Wisconsin Law School, will teach juvenile justice clinic as well as criminal law and professional responsibility, and David Thomas, currently at New York University School of Law, will teach immigration clinic (a new program) as well as courses in immigration law and civil procedure.

Liberal Arts

The International Institute of Modern Letters (IIML), in partnership with the department of English and the M.F.A. in Creative Writing International, has received the “Living Writers” Arts Learning Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. This $40,000 award is the first organizational grant from the NEA in the history of the college. It will be combined with $46,374 in ARI funding (Applied Research Initiative funds through the vice provost for research and office of sponsored programs) and with considerable additional funding from IIML private-patron and corporate sponsorships to mount the “Writers-in-the-Schools” (WITS) project at UNLV during spring semester 2003.

The project will be an innovative arts learning experience, hosting visiting writers of international reputation and WITS students selected from the Clark County School District. With the assistance of UNLV’s Center for Business and Economic Research, the project will attempt to break through some of the barriers of teaching and public events programs in the literary arts.

This $150,000 project is in the organizational stage. The project will offer new arts learning partnerships for UNLV, the National Endowment for the Arts, the school district, the city of Las Vegas, and the greater Las Vegas community. The IIML and the M.F.A. in Creative Writing International program thank everyone on campus who assisted during the grant process. This cooperative effort reflects well on the high aspirations for the arts and humanities at UNLV.

Libraries

Dean Kenneth Marks hosted the inaugural meeting of the UNLV Libraries Community Advisory Board on May 7. This new board is composed of business and community leaders interested in assisting the Libraries achieve its mission and goals. The individuals represent a number of prominent Las Vegas businesses as well as a mixture of old, established Las Vegas families and some who are new to the campus. The board will assist the dean in engaging the Libraries with the Las Vegas community, making the collections and programs at the Libraries more visible, identifying additional supporters, and hosting events. It will assist in identifying people and resources to promote and sustain the UNLV Libraries as a premier urban academic library and the primary information resource center for the Las Vegas community. The board will meet four times a year with subcommittees assigned to assist in specific library programs and objectives.

Inside UNLV  Page 5
Spotlight

ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Leslie Johnson (Food and Beverage Management) was honored at the Nevada State Dietetic Association meeting this year. A registered dietitian, Johnson received the award for the Outstanding Dietitian of the Year for the State of Nevada. This award recognizes long-term service to both the Nevada State Dietetic Association and the American Dietetic Association.

Mark P. Buttnor (Harry Reid Center) authored a chapter titled “Bioaerosol Sampling and Analysis” in the Encyclopedia of Environmental Microbiology, published by John Wiley & Sons.

Steve Johnson (Law) was recently cited by the U.S. Supreme Court. In its opinion, the Supreme Court sometimes cites particularly important or pertinent scholarly writings as support for its conclusions. In a recent decision concerning the extent of the federal tax lien, the court cited a 2000 article by Johnson. See United States v. Craft, 122 Supreme Court Reporter 1414, 1424 (April 17, 2002).

Sharon A. Coomes (Bursar’s Office) received the President’s Professional Staff Member of the Year Award for 2002. She has been employed at UNLV since 1977, when she joined the bursar’s office as an accounting clerk in training. She became bursar in 1990. Coomes has implemented many policies to improve the efficiency of tuition payments and collections in the bursar’s office.

Kimberly Frank and Jordan Lowe (Accounting) recently presented their paper, “An Examination of Alternative Work Arrangements on Perceptions of Performance and Career Success in Private Accounting Practice” at the American Accounting Association Western Regional Meeting in San Diego. Their paper won the award for best research paper.

Roy Hill (Purchasing) was named Classified Employee of the Month for April. A senior buyer, he has worked at UNLV since 1990. In his job he is responsible for transactions related to 52 commodities, including food, athletic, scientific, medical, transportation, and lodging requirements. He says he can think of no place he would rather work than UNLV.

Tom Sharpe (Educational Leadership) authored an article titled, “Comparative Effects of Sequential Behavior Feedback and Goal Setting Across Peer-Teaching and Field-Based Practice Teaching” in the Journal of Teaching in Physical Education.

Jarret Keene (English) has written a book of poems titled Monster Fashion, which was published this year by Manic D Press. His essays, fiction, and verse have appeared in recent issues of Utne Reader, sub-TERRAIN, and the Absolute Literary Review.

Patrice E. M. Hollrah (Writing Center) presented a paper titled “The Strength of Native Women in James Welch’s Winter in the Blood” at the Native American Literature Symposium, held at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community venue of the Mystic Lake Casino Hotel in Minneapolis in April.

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component of university-wide efforts to streamline the way we conduct business with our students. The physical distance between Frazier Hall (the current location of the registrar and admissions offices) and the Student Services Complex creates unnecessary difficulties for all; the greater convenience provided by the new plan is expected to contribute to the improvement of recruitment and retention of students, as well as to an increase in the productivity of faculty and staff. Bringing these functions together in one place just makes good administrative sense.

Once the registrar and admissions offices have been relocated to the planned addition, the aging Frazier Hall facilities that previously housed those offices will be renovated for use by other university departments. Plans for future use of these facilities will be announced at a later time.

This addition/renovation project, which is expected to cost approximately $7.1 million, has been prominently placed on the UCCSN's capital improvement funding list for three reasons without receiving funding. There seems to be strong support for the project, given the widely accepted success of centralizing student services and the well-acknowledged need to improve recruitment and retention. It is our hope that these factors will aid our efforts at garnering support for funding of this project, which is ranked fourth on the list of UCCSN priorities.

Our third capital improvement priority is funding for a project that would once again serve to centralize related units that are currently scattered across campus. The proposed Greenspun Hall would house all of the offices and departments in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, which are currently dispersed among five different locations on campus. Hence, the Hank Greenspun School of Communication, along with the School of Social Work, the Advising Center, and the departments of Counseling, Criminal Justice, Environmental Studies, and Public Administration would be centralized under one roof for the first time in the college's history.

The site planned for the building is the 2.3 acres formerly owned by the Boy Scouts of America, located to the north of the Moyer Student Union; that property was recently acquired by the university at a cost of approximately $2 million. (The former Boy Scout building will be razed.) The new state-of-the-art facility, which is expected to cost $23.4 million, will house high-tech classrooms, journalism labs, broadcast studios, faculty and administrative offices, and much more.

The Greenspun family has pledged a generous 40 percent of the costs for planning and building the facility. Their preliminary pledge is $9.4 million, and that amount will increase to $12 million should actual construction costs reach $30 million. The project, which is ranked 14th on the list of UCCSN priorities, will be a wonderful addition to the campus. I believe it will become a manifestation of our commitment to serving Southern Nevada, as it will be the new home of a college that seeks to address the varied needs of our state, both literally and figuratively. I look forward to watching them come to fruition.

President's Column
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Soyinka's Play
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‘Oedipus’ is guilty is the same, committed in all innocence, but the circumstances that led to the crime are different, and of a much more antique origin, rooted in an incident of their slave days.”

The NCT received a $60,000 grant from the European Cultural Center of Delphi to produce Soyinka’s adaptation. In addition, the organization provided 25 round trip tickets to Athens and hotel and meal accommodations. NCT also received a $30,000 Planning Initiative Grant from UNLV to help produce the play.

“We appreciate President Harter’s generosity and are grateful to her for providing these funds,” said professor Robert Brewer, managing director of NCT.

“Dr. Harter has always supported the performing arts, and this is yet another example of that support.”

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Lied Library Reserve Reading Goes Digital

by Diane Russell

Trekk ing to the library to read an article placed on reserve by a professor will be less common for UNLV students this fall as the Lied Library switches to a largely digital reserve reading system.

While it will still be necessary for students to go to the library to view some of the reserve reading materials, the majority of those items will be available via computer, which means students can access them around the clock, seven days a week. And if the entire environmental studies class simultaneously choose to read the same reserve reading article at 3 a.m. some sleep-deprived night, that won't be a problem at all. Via the Internet, there is no waiting list.

The decision for the reserve reading section to "go digital" was made for the convenience of the students, said information systems librarian Kyle Felker, one of the staff members involved with the transition, which will begin during the second summer term and may take several months to complete.

"It seemed to us that a lot of students are comfortable using their computers to access online resources, so we decided reserve readings were one more thing we could offer them online," Felker said.

Students will be able to access the reserve readings from home, from a cyber cafe, or from anywhere else they use a computer by simply entering their library barcode number or a password issued by their professor, according to library supervisor Tonya Thomas, who works with reserve readings. Which method — barcode or password — will be used has not yet been determined, she added, explaining that copyright issues will play a factor in the decision.

While the new system will be quite a change for students, professors won't notice much difference, Thomas predicted. For them, the system will be much the same; they will bring reserve-reading materials to the library, drop them off, and fill out a request form.

Library staff then will scan the materials into PDF files, using a new high-speed scanner, and make them available over the Internet, Felker said.

With approximately 3,000 items being placed on reserve per semester, the more lead time the library staff has to process reserve readings for the fall semester, the better, Thomas said, adding that it's not too soon for professors to begin bringing in fall items now.

While most reserve reading items will be available online, students still will have to visit the library to use some of the materials, Felker said. Those include CDs, videos, items on paper that is larger than legal size, extremely lengthy items such as entire books, and items that must be viewed in color. All the scanned items will be available only in black and white.

The Lied Library Reserve Reading system will go digital this fall as the library switches to a largely digital reserve reading system that will allow students to access those materials from their homes via the Internet. Library supervisor Tonya Thomas, left, says now is the time for faculty to bring in items they want on reserve for fall semester.

"We've tested the online reserve system on a limited basis this semester and the response has been positive," Thomas said. "We think that when we launch the new program this fall, people will be pleased."

Thomas warned that professors and students should not expect online reserve items to look better than the originals submitted to the library. The scanning done by the library will closely replicate the original document, meaning that if the original is of poor quality, the online version will be of poor quality as well.

"We've tested the online reserve system on a limited basis this semester and the response has been positive," Thomas said. "We think that when we launch the new program this fall, people will be pleased."

From the Dean’s Desk

Human services majors are attracting more and more strong students to the college. The college is moving ahead to implement an undergraduate major in public administration to meet community demand. And faculty across the college have developed a proposal for an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in public affairs. Initial public response has indicated significant community interest in such a program. Thus, as UNLV continues its quest to become a major urban research university, the Greenspun College will continue to be in the forefront of that mission.

Computer Help Desk

Summer Hours

The Computing Resource Center Help Desk is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. during the summer. The help desk will resume its regular hours (7 a.m.-6 p.m.) on Aug. 19.

The CRC serves as a single point of contact for UNLV faculty and staff, providing front-line technical support.

The Help Desk can be reached at ext. 0777 or by e-mail at crchelp@ccmail.nevada.edu.

DEPICTING a student's journey of discovery and growth at UNLV is the idea behind the mural being painted in the alcove of the Moyer Student Union by artist Oswaldo Villate. A UNLV art major, Villate says the mural, titled Pathways, is intended to help students create an understanding of themselves as they strive for the successful completion of their academic careers.