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Inside UNLV

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UNLV Creates New Look for Home Pages

by Cate Weeks

UNLV recently “went live” with a new home page featuring photos that change with every click. The new look is already filtering throughout UNLV’s 100,000 Web pages, but the site’s overhaul will go far beyond slick visuals, according to members of the Web services team.

The redesign, which uses a color palette of red, black, and desert sand, is part of both short- and long-term plans to raise the level of sophistication and overall accuracy of UNLV’s site while boosting its usefulness to people both on campus and off, said Earnest Phillips, director of marketing and public relations.

The Web services unit – including manager Susie Greene and designer Jaimee Newberry – recently were reassembled from the information technology office to the office of marketing and public relations. That change signifies the administration’s decision to make UNLV’s site one of the primary vehicles used to deliver information about the university, Phillips said.

“Anecdotal evidence shows that stakeholders – potential students, current students, faculty and staff, donors, opinion leaders, and decision makers – view the sophistication and accuracy of an organization’s Web site as a reflection of its management expertise, professionalism, and cohesion,” he said. “We want people to look at our site and think, ‘I want to be involved with this organization’.”

The Web team’s short-term goals include upgrading site navigation, improving the faculty and staff page, aligning the college Web sites, adding information on all of UNLV’s degrees and majors, and developing a five-year management plan.

“A link to the president’s new Web site

The faculty/staff page will be redesigned early next year.

The banner across the top and the gray information bar along the side are carried over to all major pages to offer consistency in look and navigation.

All photos and information in the University Highlights section rotate every time the page is refreshed.

‘Now that we’ve developed a friendlier and easier-to-maintain design, we’ll use the next several months to focus on the architecture – or how the site is organized from click to click,’ Greene said.

The architecture will be audience-driven, meaning navigation will be tailored to the student, the staff member, the donor, or the local businessperson clicking the mouse, Phillips said. “The university is too complicated to expect someone to know who to call to schedule a room or where to go for information on forming a partnership with the university.”

The audience-driven architecture is also driving Web services’ job priorities. The first priority goes to the pages aimed at student recruitment, admissions, and retention. As work on enrollment management’s Web presence progresses, Web services will work with the appropriate department.

Continued on Page 3
Motor Pool Keeps Campus Moving

by Gian Galassi

For most of us, automotive maintenance is more an afterthought than standard practice—one that usually occurs to us after we're already critically overdue for our next scheduled oil change or tuneup. We love our cars, to be sure, but feel so inconvenienced to provide the proper upkeep, let alone keep track of all the accompanying paperwork.

So imagine if, in addition to taking care of your own vehicle's repairs and records, you were also responsible for every other automobile in your neighborhood.

While that might not be an appealing prospect for the mechanically un-inclined, it's one that suits the classified employees in UNLV's motor pool department just fine.

With more than 90 university-owned automobiles and 250 golf carts on campus—each of which will eventually make its way into the motor pool garage—there is never a shortage of maintenance, repairs, or administrative work to be done. And lead equipment mechanic Pat Heinrich said that's exactly what he enjoys most about his job.

"There's so much variety in our work that we never have to worry about getting bored," Heinrich said, his voice barely audible above the sound of repairs going on in the work bay behind him. "Today I might be changing the brakes on one of the police cars and tomorrow I could be working on the hydraulic system for a forklift. There's something different every day."

Heinrich began his career at UNLV in 1977 as a custodian on the night shift. It wasn't until a few years later that he turned his lifelong affinity for cars into a full-time position on campus.

"I was working as a maintenance laborer back in 1981 when I was sent to help tow a four-wheel drive truck that had broken down in the middle of the desert," Heinrich recalled. "But when I got there, I discovered the problem was with the truck's starter, so I just ended up fixing it on the spot. Not long after that I was hired as an assistant mechanic, and I've been here ever since."

These days Heinrich has two full-time mechanics and four to five student employees working for him in the garage. Heinrich admits he doesn't get under the hood as much as he used to anymore, but he still tries to get his hands dirty at least a few times a day.

When he's not changing car batteries, fixing flat tires, or troubleshooting electrical problems, it's Heinrich's job to make sure the rest of the department is running smoothly. Which means, among other things, keeping track of the supply inventory, ensuring that the tools and other diagnostic instruments are in good working order, and coordinating the pick up and repair schedule with the department's administrative clerk, Valerie Nehmer.

Nehmer, who just celebrated her one-year anniversary at UNLV, works at the Campus Services Building fielding phone calls and managing the rental schedule for the 34 cars, trucks, and vans that faculty and staff use for official UNLV business. And if her telephone log is any indication, there's a lot of business being done.

"Most days the phone starts ringing at two minutes past eight and doesn't stop until two minutes after five," joked Nehmer, who admits that sometimes all the phone work can get tedious. "But when I'm not on the phone, I'm usually swamped with logistical things, like adjusting the schedule to accommodate unforeseen changes that come up, taking care of billing, and managing the vehicles' files."

And that's no easy task. Nehmer constantly needs to update the files of each vehicle the university owns with information about repairs, rental history, and mileage. According to her records, UNLV's cars were driven almost 500,000 miles in fiscal year 2001— that's almost 9,000 miles per vehicle.

So where is everybody going? Nehmer said her customers come from just about every department on campus, from physics to continuing education to athletics. Some of the more frequent renters include faculty and students from the geoscience and biology departments who require four-wheel drives to access remote locations for fieldwork. UNLV's off-campus adventure club and continuing education often rent the larger passenger vans and Suburbans to haul passengers and gear on field trips and other off-campus excursions.

Nehmer moved to Las Vegas two years ago following a particularly harsh winter that dumped more than 40 inches of snow on her hometown of Milwaukee—and that was just in December. Since leaving the Midwest, she has adjusted slowly to life in the desert and credits her job in the motor pool for giving her ideas about interesting places she'd like to explore.

"Sometimes when people come back from doing research or from a field trip, I ask them about some of the more interesting places they went," Nehmer said. "That way, in the future, I know which trips to go along with for quality-control purposes," she added laughingly.

Pat Heinrich, lead equipment mechanic for the motor pool department, uses compressed air to clean equipment. With more than 90 university-owned vehicles to take care of, Heinrich and his staff go through approximately 10 gallons of anti-freeze, 30 gallons of transmission fluid, and 65 gallons of oil per month.
Special Collections Preserves Southern Nevada History

by Cate Weeks

"Only recently has Las Vegas discovered that it has a history," declared Peter Michel.

And on the third floor of the Lied Library, where Michel stood amidst a highly organized sea of acid-free boxes, that history can be found.

The Lied Library's special collections section serves as the main historic repository for documents relating to Southern Nevada. Offering everything from 17th-century Italian treatises on gambling to aural photographs of the valley, its resources are open to scientists, historians, social commentators, and anyone with just a passing curiosity.

"The purpose of special collections is to offer something no one else can offer," said Michel. "We're building a specialized collection of depth that will support research at the university, in the city, and around the world."

The goal of the collections, according to Michel, is to answer a fundamental question: "Why do we all live in the middle of this desert?"

To answer that question, an urban planner can chart the growth patterns of housing developments through county records, an economist can analyze the annual reports of gaming corporations, or an environmentalist can dive into records relating to water rights at the turn of the century.

"There's a growing interest in all things Las Vegas, especially within academic circles," Michel said. "More and more, people see this city as an interesting subject of research because it offers a microcosm of social trends."

Witness the proliferation of Las Vegas-themed television shows, said Michel. The city is a popular subject of productions for A&E, the Travel Channel, and Discovery Channel as well as for the BBC and French television. The media is especially interested in the more than 60,000 photos housed in the collections. "It's not often that universities get A&E into their libraries," Michel said. "The national exposure makes the local community and potential donors aware that we are interested in their history and in making that history interesting and accessible."

Donations come into the library from all segments of the community. The personal papers of legendary entertainers such as Donn Arden, producer of the signature Las Vegas show "Lido and Jubilee," are housed along with documents from original Las Vegas residents Helen Stewart and C.P. "Pop" Squires. The records of the Union Pacific Railroad sit next to the corporate archives of the Young Electric Sign Co. The architectural drawings of Martin Stern Jr. and Homor Rosman, the inventors of the Las Vegas mega-resort hotel; the files of Howard Hughes' public relations office; and film and oral histories about the construction of Hoover Dam all offer researchers unique, multi-faceted resources.

"We often receive boxes and boxes of someone's personal papers," manuscripts librarian Su Kim Chung said. "We arrange and organize them so a researcher can use them efficiently. We also use preservation techniques and our own preservation/conservation lab to ensure they remain with us for years to come."

Depending on the size and condition of the collection, the process can take days, months, and even more than a year to complete. The materials are carefully inventoried with descriptions of a collection's contents.

Unlike the books in circulation at the library, the materials often can't be easily categorized and are open to individual interpretation. Wading through the information can be quite a mission for researchers, but is often well worth the time investment.

"The Internet is an incredible tool and resource for researchers, but it sometimes traps us into wanting, or believing in, the 'instant-info fix,'" Michel said. "The information in our collections can't be boiled down to a keyword. Using our collections can be difficult and time-consuming, but it can support very high-impact research. It's used in an amazing variety of ways."

An ongoing special collections project, funded through a generous gift of the late Dr. Harold Beyer, is collecting oral histories from longtime members of the Las Vegas Rotary Club.

"We go to various organizations or to individuals and tell them that they are part of Las Vegas' history, and they should take some responsibility in preserving that history," Michel said.

"Simply put, special collections at UNLV is the place where the history of Southern Nevada is collected and preserved so that academic researchers and members of the community can better understand the place all of us now call home."

The goal of the collections, according to Michel, is consistent and accurate," he said. That's a tall task, considering UNLV has more than 500 different people managing its pages. But it's doable with a comprehensive plan, thoughtful policies, and tools, such as templates, to help individuals across campus quickly create and maintain their pages, Greene said. "Our goal is to lay the foundation for everyone across campus to build upon."

"There's nothing really new in what we're doing," Phillips added. "In the business world, this sort of Web-based delivery of information and services has already worked successfully. We're fortunate in that we'll be applying their success strategies to our plan for managing our online services."

For more information on the Web services unit, go to www.unlv.edu and choose "Web Services" from the Quick Find pull-down menu. From the Web services site, you can:

- Apply for a Web account.
- Update information on existing accounts.
- Find answers to frequently asked questions.
- Submit a help request.
- Learn how to add enhancements, such as counters and forms, to your Web pages.
- Download UNLV images.
- Download UNLV Web templates.
Business

Significant changes have occurred in the international business major program. The college has designated a faculty coordinator and faculty advisory team for the program. The team revised the curriculum to permit each student to specialize in a chosen functional area of business. The revisions also raise the level of language competency required for the degree while increasing the flexibility of the language/area studies requirements. The college anticipates that these changes will strengthen the position of its graduates in the job market. International business students have organized an International Business Club to enhance their educational experiences through greater interactions with each other and with relevant business and cultural communities.

The college recently sent a survey to international business alumni encouraging them to stay connected to the program as it grows. Additionally, a number of students have gained experience through internships with local firms.

In other news, the college’s Executive Advisory Board, in association with Deloitte & Touche, has been at work selecting the next inductees for the Nevada Business Hall of Fame. Nominations were submitted and reviewed by a statewide committee. Inductees will be announced later this month and will be honored at a dinner event on Feb. 20.

Education

For the first time in the history of the United States, every state and each of the nation’s 1,200 schools, colleges, and departments of education are required to provide data related to the quality of their teacher education graduates. Mandated by Congress, the U.S. Department of Education prepares a national report or “report card” based on data reported by a battery of teacher tests known as the PRAXIS Series, developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The first test in this group is PRAXIS 1, a requirement for entrance into upper-division professional education courses in the College of Education. Teacher education candidates, state departments of education, school districts, and schools and colleges of education are faced with significant and immediate demands to provide evidence of quality across the board. School districts must place and support quality teachers in all classrooms, and colleges of education must supply quality teachers. The No Child Left Behind Act, Title II reports, national standards in content areas, and national accreditation present a challenge that requires collaboration, energy, and creative problem solving.

The college is responding to the pressures of national mandates by creating alternative programs, forming partnerships with the Clark County School District, and developing graduate and professional preparation programs for principals and school counselors. The college is to prepare educators for changing educational contexts by identifying which classroom practices make a difference in student learning and seeing to it that those practices are put into place.

Engineering

The Engineering Advising Center and Engineering Satellite Writing Center had their grand opening at the end of spring semester and now are located in the UNLV School of Dentistry will be complete shortly, and we look forward to beginning the renovations. It is
A dministration

Students will receive automatic e-mails apprising them of situations. Students who have expressed an interest in obtaining a degree from that department, Stephen E. Rosenbaum, arrived Aug. 1 and greatly improve efficiency in communication between the Graduate College and each department. This will reduce campus mailing and the Graduate College and each department.

The previous system, which relied upon regular mail for delivery of information, prospective students will encounter a drastically reduced lag time between their requests for information and actually receiving the information.

Implementation of the communication system and online admissions processes should be completed during the fall semester.

Honors

The college is excited about the arrival of its new dean, Stephen E. Rosenbaum. He arrived Aug. 1 and is busy making a contribution to honors education at UNLV. He is currently concentrating on recruiting the top students from Nevada and the nation. He is also working with admissions on the college’s application, which will be posted on the UNLV Web site.

The Honor Council, which consists of a faculty representative from each college, is scheduled to meet every month and serve as the advisory board to the Honors College.

The college is busy planning its Oct. 28 poster session, to be held in the Boyd Dining Room of Beam Hall. This poster session showcases the work in progress for honors students enrolled in HON 498 for thesis credit.

The college is beginning recruitment for the national scholarships that are open to all qualified UNLV students. Students or faculty who are interested in applying for the Rhodes, British Marshall, Goldwater, and Truman scholarships should contact the Honors College at ext. 2266.

Hotel Administration

The recent addition of an alumni affairs coordinator to the college’s professional staff has allowed for the further development of alumni programs, services, and activities. Perhaps the most noticeable change has been in the increased opportunities for alumni involvement with the college. The college is fortunate to have many local and national alumni and friends who have been unwavering sources of support to the college’s mentorship and internship programs. In addition, many alumni have served as part-time faculty in the undergraduate program.

The college now offers a greater variety of events and receptions so that alumni and friends of the college from across the country can reconnect. Recent receptions were held in Chicago and Las Vegas.

Current plans are under way for an event in New York co-sponsored by the UNLV Alumni Association. It will bring together alumni from all UNLV colleges.

During recent activities and through the college newsletter, alumni have had a chance to meet Dean Stuart Mann and hear or read about plans to involve alumni in numerous ways. The great interest in involvement expressed by alumni has led to the development of the Harrah Hotel College Alumni Association Board. This board is charged with being the voice of alumni; developing alumni recognition programs; and ensuring that the college is responsive to the needs and ideas of alumni.

The college is extremely excited about the potential of this board and is very pleased that alumnus Jim German, BS ’75, has agreed to serve as the first chair.

Law School

With the law school now situated at the center of campus, the ability to work with gifted colleagues from other disciplines is greatly enhanced, and faculty members are excited about pursuing these collaborations.

The school’s new Institute for Children and Families (ICF) offers law students an interdisciplinary approach to the study of children and families, which includes classroom, clinical, and research components. Law students will soon be working side by side with graduate students in psychology, counseling, education, social work, and other disciplines. The ICF will also be a center for local, national, and international research and policy development.

The interdisciplinary aspect of the ICF will be enhanced this fall through a collaboration with professor Rebecca Nathanson of the College of Education. Nathanson already serves on the Academic Advisory Board for the law school’s Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic, and has provided invaluable consultation on the educational and therapeutic needs of the clinic’s child clients. This fall, Nathanson will continue her consulting role, expanding her work at the law school in several respects, including the implementation of a court preparation program for children involved in judicial and investigative proceedings. She will also work with the clinical faculty to develop a plan for future collaboration, including the initiation of her own training program for county officers and lawyers involved in interviewing and preparing child witnesses.

The law school is extremely fortunate to work with someone of Nathanson’s stature.

Libraries

The University Libraries instruction department is once again offering its faculty seminar series with sessions designed to help faculty with both teaching and research. "Please, Not Another Paper on the Death Penalty," a session on helping students develop topic-selection strategies and critical-thinking skills for understanding disciplinary literature, will be held Oct. 1 between noon and 1 p.m. Also during the lunch hour this month, the Libraries will host "Copyright 101" (Oct. 15), "Electronic Journals in the Sciences" (Oct. 15), and "Beyond Term Papers: Alternatives for Large Classes" (Oct. 23). For a detailed schedule and information on signing up, visit www.library.unlv.edu/inst/seminars.html or call ext. 2123.

The instruction department would also like to remind faculty that it offers sessions to help students develop the research and information-literacy skills they need. To bring your class over for a tailored session, call Diane VanderPlo at ext. 2123. The department needs at least one week’s notice, but the earlier you call, the more likely you are to get your first choice for time and date.

Liberal Arts

The college recently hired several tenure-track and visiting faculty members. Stephen Brown joins the English department as director of composition. He previously directed a writing program at the University of Tampa. Visiting faculty Carol Condor, Ruby Fowler, and Elaine Bunker also will work with the program.

The English faculty was enhanced by the hiring of Nick Lollar, a Harvard graduate who will teach literature. Barbara Hirschorn takes over as director of the Honors Council, which consists of a faculty representative from each college, is scheduled to meet every month and serve as the advisory board to the Honors College.

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Luiz Ferreira (Public Safety) recently was promoted to the rank of detective. With his promotion, he assumed responsibility for crime scenes and forensic photography analysis; he also retains control of the department's mounted patrol program. A member of the department since 1988, Ferreira previously was employed by the Riverside County Sheriff's department in California where his experience included working as a forensics specialist and serving with the homicide unit, the scuba team, and the S.W.A.T. team.

Erika Engstrom (Communication) presented "Retro-kan: The Japanese Media Filter" at the Seeing Women through a Media Lens panel at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in Miami in August. The presentation focused on the Japanese culture's emulation of Western physical characteristics. She also has been promoted to the position of co-chair of the association's Commission on the Status of Women.

Jeff Koep (Fine Arts) received the Paddy Crean Award from the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. SAFD is a professional organization dedicated to training actors and choreographers in the art of stage combat. The award, which is named for the man considered to be the founder of stage combat as an art form and craft, is presented to an individual who has offered great service to the organization. Koep serves as chairman of the group's board of directors.

Gerald Weeks (Counseling) was the only American psychologist invited to present a preconference workshop at the international meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, which was held in Las Vegas. His workshop was based on his recently released 14th professional book on hypnotherapy and sexual desire. He also conducted a breakfast roundtable discussion.

Tom Bean (Curriculum and Instruction) published an article co-authored with Lisa Pazel Stevens of the University of Queensland, Australia, on "Scaffolding Reflection for Preservice and Inservice Teachers" in the June 2002 Taylor and Francis journal, Reflective Practice. Stevens earned her Ph.D. from UNLV with a specialization in literacy.

Rich Flaherty (Business) has been appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. AACSB International is the premier accrediting agency for bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral programs in business administration and accounting. It also is the foremost professional organization for management education. Flaherty’s work with AACSB International includes chairing the accounting accreditation committee and the peer review improvement task force.

Patti Shock (Tourism and Convention Administration) was recently selected by In Business Las Vegas for its 2002 Most Influential Businesswomen in Southern Nevada award. She was one of 16 women honored this year at an awards ceremony at the Palms Casino Resort in September. Previous inductees include Elaine Wynn and Jan Jones.

Joe McCullough (English) has had his article, "Mark Twain’s First Chestnut: Revisions in ‘Extracts from Adam’s Diary’," published in The Mark Twain Review, the official journal of the Mark Twain Circle of Korea. He also organized and chaired the Racial and Ethnic Humor panel for the American Humor Studies Association at the American Literature Association meetings in Long Beach, Calif., in May.

Quimby Melton (English) has had his article, "The British Reception of A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court," accepted for publication in The Mark Twain Journal. He also presented a paper, "Robinson Jeffers and the Tradition of Living Stone," at the 8th annual Robinson Jeffers Association Conference at Stanford University in May.

Stan Smith (Biology) and his research group published four papers in scientific journals during the summer. They reported studies on the effect of surface pavements on water flux in the Mojave Desert in Ecology, the effect of elevated carbon dioxide on growth and photosynthesis in a desert shrub in Environmental and Experimental Botany, pigment changes in desert yuccas in response to drought in Plant, Cell and Environment, and arbuscular mycorrhizae in Mojave Desert plants in Western North American Naturalist.

Rose Yake, (Teaching and Learning Center) represented UNLV at the 4th Annual WebCT Conference in Boston. WebCT is a course-management software licensed for use by all UCSCN institutions. It can be used as an enhancement for face-to-face courses, for FLEX courses that meet once a week in a traditional classroom and online the rest of the time, or for distance education courses that are taught solely online. Faculty and teaching assistants can visit the TLC Web site at www.unlv.edu/centers/tlc to register for workshops that will prepare them to use WebCT.


Erika Engstrom and Beth Semic (Communication) wrote a paper titled, "Portrayal of Religion in Reality TV Programming: Hegemony and the Contemporary American Wedding," which was accepted by the Religion and Media Interest Group of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Semic presented the paper at the group's annual convention in Miami in August.

All UNLV faculty, classified staff, and professional staff members are encouraged to submit items to the "Spotlight on Accomplishments" section of Inside UNLV. Items should be no more than 75 words in length. Please submit via e-mail to inside.unlv@ccmail.unlv.edu.

From the Dean’s Desk continued from page 4

again an opportunity to build a facility that will incorporate the latest technology, as well as allow for additional technology as is it is developed. In addition to building a state-of-the-art clinical facility, we are also planning a research center that will focus on biotech and cancer research. It is our commitment to be the leading cancer center in these two areas. While developing a world-class facility, it is imperative that we attract world-class researchers. A strategic plan is being developed that will guide us in achieving this goal.

On a personal note, I am extremely excited about the challenges and opportunities that are ahead for us. I am confident that we will far exceed our mission because of the quality and dedication of the people who are involved in the project. We are committed to making significant contributions to the university, the community, and the state of Nevada.

Urban Affairs

KUNV-FM, 91.5, is now officially part of the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. With the retirement of Don Fuller, the station’s former general manager, KUNV is now being headed on an interim basis by Associate Dean Erika Engstrom. Full-time employees include operations manager Ben Wilson, who also teaches the course “Contemporary Radio” for the Greenspun School of Communication; marketing director Lori Huerta, and office manager Gretchen Rexroad.

The National Public Radio-affiliated station features traditional jazz during the week. On Saturdays, KUNV offers an interesting mix of music, including Hawaiian, African, Latin jazz and salsa, reggae, blues, and hip-hop. On Sundays, the station plays smoother jazz, alternative women’s music, and a blend of folk and dance music from around the world.

Though located off campus at 1515 E. Tropicana Ave., Suite 240, KUNV will serve as a learning laboratory and internship site for communication students studying a variety of mass media-related subjects, including radio broadcasting, public relations, and advertising. KUNV also welcomes student interns studying marketing and music, especially jazz studies. As part of KUNV’s community service mission, campus departments are invited to submit information appropriate for public service announcements. KUNV also offers tax-deductible underwriting opportunities for organizations and individuals as well as individual memberships. For more information, call 798-9161 or visit the station’s Web site at http://kunv.unlv.edu.
Graduate College Restructuring Provides Benefits

by Cate Weeks

Initially begun to support additional duties assigned to the graduate dean, the recent restructuring of the Graduate College has provided the added benefit of placing the college in a better position to meet its strategic goals.

The restructuring was begun in 2001 when Graduate Dean Paul Ferguson was given the added responsibilities of UNLV senior vice provost. In that role he serves as chief of staff to Provost Ray Alden and has been involved in such projects as facilitating the initial accreditation of the School of Dentistry, restructuring the College of Extended Studies, coordinating development of research macrothemes, and chairing the newly formed Cabinet Implementation Oversight Committee.

“Without a personnel change, my new responsibilities would have begun to limit my effectiveness as dean,” Ferguson said. “Yet, while the general need for restructuring came from my added responsibilities, I believe the Graduate College is now better structured to meet the multiple needs of our graduate students.”

The restructuring dovetailed with the strategic goals the college is slated to achieve by 2005. Those goals include improving the college’s technology capabilities, developing formal assessment tools, and increasing professional development programs for students.

This semester, Gale Sinatra, associate professor of educational psychology, accepted a part-time appointment to the position of associate dean for academic affairs for the Graduate College. The newly created position entails handling faculty/student issues, coordinating the work of the Graduate Council committees, and overseeing assessment of college programs.

Harriet Barlow’s previous position as director of graduate student services was expanded to better serve student needs beyond academics. She is now the assistant dean for graduate student services.

“Dr. Barlow oversees what we provide graduate students in addition to their academic degree program— including our programs for recruitment, orientation, and compliance with degree requirements, and our services to guide students on writing their theses or dissertations,” Ferguson said. “While we are working to enhance our academic programs, we’re also focused on ensuring that we meet the students’ needs outside of scholarly research.”

For example, he said, the college has partnered with the campus Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) to prepare graduate students to be educators. The Graduate Student Professional Development Program in College Teaching recognizes students who have completed the program’s 12 workshops, a WebCT course, a reflective paper on each workshop, and a culminating paper on all 12 workshops.

“Our goal with initiatives such as the TLC program is to be a full-service organization,” Ferguson said. “Graduate students today need a highly scholarly academic experience— which, of course, we must provide them— but they also need mentoring and preparation for their future professional success.”

The third component of the reorganization is targeting the college’s information management systems. Janine Barrett holds the newly created position of systems analyst/information manager.

The college recently purchased the Enrollment Communications and Management System (ECOMS), a software package also used in undergraduate programs for managing recruitment and admissions.

President’s Column

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we had a billion dollars, my first two initiatives would be to ensure that we had the most diverse and able student body possible and that every student had the financial means to attend the university. I would likewise see to it that they were able to study abroad, to enjoy career-related internships, and to participate in both research projects and service-learning opportunities. I would also improve services and add convenience for students with greater staffing and better facilities. I estimate the amount required to create such conditions for students would be in the neighborhood of $130-$150 million.

Another strategic plan goal is “to hire, motivate, and reward superior faculty, professional staff, and classified staff” in the interest of creating the ideal, supportive learning environment. Fully implementing such a goal would mean that the vast majority of our faculty and staff would be full time and paid well; for faculty, it would mean facilitating their eligibility for tenure or for appointment to an appropriate research or clinical position. Every faculty member would be supplied with the very best equipment available, comfortable and suitable work spaces, ample staff, and all necessary intellectual tools. The professional and classified staff would likewise have all of the equipment, staff, and conditions they find necessary to perform their jobs extremely effectively. These initiatives, as I am sure you can imagine, could easily consume another $150-$200 million.

And so it would go with our other major goals, including supporting research and scholarship, serving our community and state, and expanding our campus facilities to meet our growth needs. Naturally, I recognize these are all extraordinary pursuits, befitting the billion-dollar fantasy described in the Chronicle; still, I find these imaginations worthy of our time if only because they remind us to think big, even when real funds are comparatively small.

So, we are left with the question of how to begin the pursuit of our billion-dollar dreams — without the billion dollars. The answer is simple: Start modestly and methodically, a piece at a time. First, we must maximize our state support to the best of our abilities, and then look beyond state funding to seek greater success in obtaining federal grants and contracts, establishing business partnerships, and raising private funds — all of which we have pursued vigorously in recent years. In fact, we have raised $171 million in the past seven years — no small amount for a university of UNLV’s relative youth. And we are currently considering conducting our first major capital campaign, a significant endeavor that will have an impact on the entire campus community.

For those unfamiliar with such a campaign, let me offer some background. A capital campaign is an announced public effort to secure an extraordinary level of gift support for specific, stated objectives during a limited period of time. Such a campaign, if done well, not only raises much-needed funds, it also achieves several other outcomes. It builds a strong cadre of volunteers and advocates on behalf of the university. It enhances an institution’s reputation regionally and nationally. It builds morale and provides a lasting infrastructure for ongoing fund raising. We are currently in the process of determining the feasibility of such a campaign, and when more details are available, we will share them with you.

In the meantime, let us bask in the glory of our recent accomplishments, which, after all, truly speak to “the state” of the university. In the past seven years, we have added three categories in the Carnegie rankings to the Research II level, constructed 15 buildings, acquired three more, and renovated six others. We have added 6,500 students, bringing our enrollment to just about 25,000. This remarkable feat has placed us among the largest and most prestigious universities in the United States. In fact, as of fall 2001, we were already 75th in size with 23,000 enrollment. I expect this year’s increase will place us in even more elite company. Moreover, we have prepared an unprecedented number of teachers and nurses for their professions and have added 500 new faculty members, 36 undergraduate programs, and 36 graduate programs — 15 at the doctoral level, including law and dentistry (two major professional programs unique in Nevada). We also have added three women’s sports, several nationally known coaches, $37 million per year in new research money, a research foundation, an internationally recognized Institute for Modern Letters, a Nobel laureate, a MacArthur Prize winner, and much more.

I truly believe that these accomplishments, combined with plans we are making, will transform UNLV into the national research university we not only aspire to be — but are rapidly becoming. While the challenges we face this coming year because of budget cuts, coupled with unprecedented growth, may seem daunting, we must not lose sight of our collective goals as they are outlined in the newly revised strategic plan. Even without a billion-dollar donation, I look forward to working with you to make those goals become reality.
Sophomore Harry Williams, right, takes a moment to light a candle at the candlelight reflection table on Pida Plaza. The table was sponsored by the office of multicultural student affairs and the Interfaith Student Center.

CSUN President Monica Moradian, far right, pins a memorial ribbon on sophomore Angela Zaffuto of Rochester, N.Y., just before “the hug,” an event that brought together hundreds of people to honor those killed in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Members of the UNLV community paused at several points throughout the day on Sept. 11 to honor those killed in the terrorist attacks one year earlier. Before sunrise, members of UNLV’s Army ROTC color guard, top right, placed a wreath at a photo of UNLV alumna Karen J. Wagner, ’82 BS Business Administration. Wagner, an Army lieutenant colonel who was killed while on duty at the Pentagon, was deputy chief of staff for medical personnel in the Army surgeon general’s office. Color guard members are, from left, St. Glenn Malimban, Ryan Gladding, Patrick Naughton, Rick Nazareno, and Chris Coles. At left, students visit “A Day Remembered,” a multimedia display in the Moyer Student Union showing the timeline of the tragic events.

Photos by Geri Kodey and Dick Benoit

KUNV Launches Fund Drive Oct. 11

KUNV 91.5 will begin its second fund drive for 2002 on Oct. 11. The drive will run for 10 days and will mark the first year KUNV has held two fund-raising drives in one year.

The staff of 29 volunteer disc jockeys will be soliciting new members for the station by offering premium incentives such as CD’s, station logo items, and tickets from various venues in town. KUNV is completely self-supporting and sustains itself almost entirely with contributions from individuals and businesses in the community. Revenue raised during the drive will go toward the general operating costs of the station.

KUNV is the only station in Las Vegas playing traditional jazz music 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, with an eclectic mix of genres on the weekends, including reggae, blues, hip-hop, Hawaiian, and Latin.

For more information, or to make a pledge, call 798-9161.

Graduate College Restructuring

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online (for more information on E-COMS, see “News from the Colleges” on Page 4).

“Obviously, managing graduate education results in a lot of paperwork,” Ferguson said. “The more we can use technology, the better able we are to process that paperwork and efficiently serve the students’ needs.”

The push to deliver services and information online already is reaping some significant savings. For example, the college once routinely sent its catalog to prospective international students. Now the college is reducing shipping costs by delivering that same information via the Internet.

“Beyond the cost benefits, our electronic services will make us much more responsive to both the student and the individual academic departments on campus,” Ferguson said. “Within a day, we will be able to respond to specific student needs and direct them to the department in which they are interested. That timely communication also raises the level of professionalism that students experience when dealing with the Graduate College.”