

11-2002

## Inside UNLV

Diane Russell

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas, [diane.russell@unlv.edu](mailto:diane.russell@unlv.edu)*

Mae Worthey-Flennoy

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Cate Weeks

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Gian Galassi

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside\\_unlv](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv)



Part of the [Communication Technology and New Media Commons](#), [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#), [Curriculum and Social Inquiry Commons](#), [Educational Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Commons](#), [Higher Education and Teaching Commons](#), and the [Other Education Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

Russell, D., Worthey-Flennoy, M., Weeks, C., Galassi, G. (2002). Inside UNLV. *Inside UNLV*  
Available at: [https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside\\_unlv/62](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv/62)

This Newsletter is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Scholarship@UNLV with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this Newsletter in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.

This Newsletter has been accepted for inclusion in Inside UNLV by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact [digitalscholarship@unlv.edu](mailto:digitalscholarship@unlv.edu).

# Inside UNLV

Faculty and Staff Publication

November 2002

## Center Receives \$32 Million in Federal Grants to Assist Low-Income Students

by Cate Weeks

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach recently learned it will receive more than \$32 million over the next five years to help prepare low-income middle and high school students for college.

The awards will help UNLV recruit and retain students while enhancing research opportunities for faculty.

Two grants were awarded through the U.S. Department of Education's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), which are designed to encourage youths to set high educational goals, complete high school, and then go on to college. The GEAR UP grants total \$4.46 million for the first year. The annual award amounts will increase each year as the number of students participating in the programs grows, bringing the total to \$30 million by the end of five years.

In addition, the center has received

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach invites the campus community to an open house at 10 a.m.

Nov. 14 to dedicate its new office space and to kick off the GEAR UP program. The center is located off campus at 1455 E. Tropicana Ave., Suite 650.



The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach will provide services to more than 25,000 youths and adults in the next five years. Tracy Cotton, left, and William Sullivan played key roles in securing new federal grants.

two other grants totaling \$2.2 million over five years from the U.S. Department of Education's Economic Opportunity Center program. These grants will support programs that assist displaced or underemployed workers.

"The new grants will allow the center to work with thousands of young adolescents so that they will be well prepared for college," said Rebecca Mills, vice president for student life. "When those individuals – after

six years of support – reach college, their chances for success will be tremendous. UNLV will benefit from the presence of those students, and we will continue to support them as they pursue a degree. As the university works to improve retention of students generally, the center's work with aspiring and current students will play an important role in that improvement."

### Recruitment and Retention

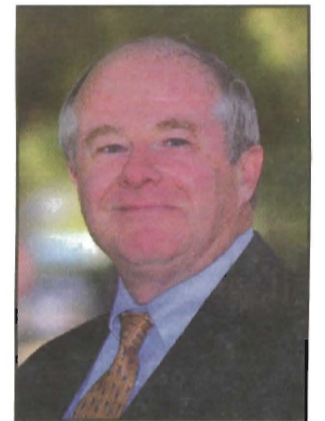
Such initiatives as the center's student support services unit, which offers study skills workshops, tutoring, and mentoring programs to more than 370 UNLV students annually, are already having a tremendous impact on student retention, said William Sullivan, associate vice president for retention and outreach.

"The student support services program is resulting in a phenomenal 80 percent graduation rate over five years," he said. "And we're achieving that with a population of students – low-income and first-generation college students – who traditionally have much lower college-degree-completion rates."

Tracy B. Cotton, executive director of the center, credits the retention success to early intervention programs that help ensure that students are fully prepared for college. "Our combination of programs allows us to

*continued on page 7*

## Contents



*Williams to Head Research Foundation*  
**Page 2**

*Viewbooks Promote UNLV*  
**Page 3**

*Points of Policy: Public Safety Progress*  
**Page 7**

*Liberal Arts Welcomes New Directors*  
**Page 8**

## Switchboard Personnel Keep UNLV Operational

by Gian Galassi

Lydia DelRio and Mary Anderson have heard it all.

As UNLV's primary phone operators for the last four and two years, respectively, they have fielded their fair share of unusual calls from the public:

"What's the weather like in Las Vegas today?"

"Is there anyone there who can get rid of the ghosts in my house?"

"Who does Carol Harter's hair?"

But this says nothing of the regulars who call every day just to chat, the students who want to know how long the lines are at the registrar's office, and the faculty and staff who call to complain about the air conditioning not working in their offices.

"It's all part of the job," said DelRio, speaking from the telecommunications office in the Campus Services Building. "People usually call us when they don't really know who they need to speak with, so it's up to us to figure that out and to connect them with the right person or department."

And they do – usually hundreds of times per day. Sometimes more.

*continued on page 3*



UNLV phone operators Mary Anderson, left, and Lydia DelRio often provide members of the public with their first impressions of the university. The pair fields hundreds of calls each day.



## Of Retention and Retreats

by  
*Carol C. Harter*  
*UNLV President*

At our recent Planning Retreat, I shared with those in attendance the newly refined strategic planning goals for our campus. As most of you know, I place great value on strategic planning and the goals that have resulted from this process; I believe these goals have and will continue to guide us extremely well as we become the “engaged research university” described in the title of the revised planning document, which will arrive in your campus mailboxes soon.

Given the importance I associate with these goals, I was pleased recently to revisit them with another campus group gathered for a different retreat, this one on the subject of student retention. At this retreat, some 70 members of the campus community, led by our consultants from the Noel-Levitz group, joined together for a day and a half to explore ideas, discuss issues, and develop goals related to student retention. From all accounts, this retreat was an extremely positive and productive meeting of the minds of faculty, staff, and students on a subject that we expect to grow dramatically in importance on campus in the coming months.

Why, you may ask, is retention becoming increasingly important at this time? This is a valid question; I have heard it voiced by several individuals recently in the context of discussion of our sizable enrollment growth this fall and the fact that our retention rates are fairly high when compared to those at other similar institutions. Why, they ask, should we endeavor to improve retention when we are so challenged by the numbers of students we already have?

There are a number of answers to this question, and I have space here to address only a few. But let me begin by noting that retention is generally viewed as a measure of the success with which a university serves its students and helps them achieve their academic goals; as such, retention has a direct impact on recruitment, as current students who are being served well tend to speak highly of their institutions. It could be said that solid retention rates reflect, for lack of better terms, a high level of customer satisfaction and service. When our students are satisfied with their experiences here, they share those impressions with prospective students, which, in turn, results in greater student interest in UNLV.

Satisfied students also take back to the community their positive impressions of our institution, which enhances our image and reputation. Thus, another advantage of improving student retention is that it serves to make the institution more successful and competitive, as well as perceived as more effective and efficient, and more attuned to the needs of its surrounding community.

On a very practical level, raising student retention rates also results in cost savings for the university. Simply put, it is more expensive to recruit new students than to retain existing ones. On a more philosophical level, however, it could also be said that once we have invested in a student’s development, we want him or her to remain with us and to excel. We feel a sense of responsibility for and pride in our students’ accomplishments; we want them to

*continued on page 8*

# UNLV Creates Research Foundation, Appoints Williams as Director

by Mae Flennoy

UNLV recently created the UNLV Research Foundation to assist in increasing the quantity, quality, and scope of research activities on campus. Thomas Williams, who previously worked for the Las Vegas office of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), joined the UNLV staff to serve as director of the new foundation.

Authorized by the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada in 2000, the foundation is a tax-exempt corporation that operates under the general auspices of the UNLV Foundation. The Research Foundation’s board includes both university and community leaders.

The Research Foundation will promote and support creative and scholarly work carried out by university faculty and students in collaboration with external partners, Williams said, pointing out that these activities will assist the university in achieving its goal of becoming a premier urban research university.

“This is an exciting and challenging opportunity to help the university realize its potential as an internationally and nationally ranked center of science and technology,” he said. “I expect that the UNLV Research Foundation will prove to be a valuable addition to ongoing efforts between UNLV and corporations, government, and private individuals to advance the pace of scientific endeavors within the university community.”

Williams said projects for the foundation might include land acquisition and development, establishment and operation of business incubators and research/business parks, management of intellectual property, and administration of research grants and contracts.

“We will seek opportunities in various areas of research in medical, biological, and behavioral sciences and applications and in energy technologies from both traditional and emerging sources,” Williams said. “We will also seek opportunities for research of national security, homeland security, and forensic science applications. Additionally, we will look for opportunities to conduct research involving information technology and physical and materials sciences.”

Fostering research at UNLV has great implications for students and employees as well as for the Southern Nevada community, he said. Becoming more focused on research enhances the university’s reputation and visibility and creates opportunities to improve the overall quality of life for residents and to improve the economic base



Thomas Williams will lead the newly created UNLV Research Foundation, which will promote creative and scholarly work carried out by faculty and students in collaboration with external partners.

within Southern Nevada, he added.

Stephen Rice, UNLV vice provost for research, said, “UNLV’s Research Foundation is central to the formation of public-private partnerships that apply university research to benefit the citizens of Nevada by solving problems and creating high-tech jobs.

“Tom Williams’ experience with federal agencies and in Washington will help us move to the next level in our research endeavors,” he said.

Williams, who joined UNLV after 21 years of U.S. government service in various capacities with the military, House of Representatives, Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, and the NNSA, most recently was the director of congressional, intergovernmental, and strategic programs for the Nevada office of NNSA.

During his career, Williams has been responsible for the development and execution of the congressional, intergovernmental, and public relations strategy for the \$10 billion New Production Reactors Program. He also directed the development of administration policy on that national security program during the administration of former President George Bush. Williams was a registered lobbyist with the U.S. House and Senate, as well as the Oklahoma and New Mexico legislatures.

Williams and the UNLV Research Foundation can be reached at ext. 2833.

## UNLV and Fire Department Launch Fitness Program

UNLV and the North Las Vegas Fire Department are collaborating on a three-year wellness and fitness program designed to improve the health of the fire department’s personnel.

Administered by the UNLV Center for Health Promotion, the comprehensive program will employ a five-step system to assess and improve individual and group health levels. The participants will include captains, chiefs, firefighters, paramedics, and staff.

“Reaching our long-term goals for this program will result in healthier, stronger employees who’ll be able to work at their highest levels when called,” said Terri Tarbett, assistant chief of the fire department.

Initially, the program will consist of assessment tests that measure physical health levels, including body strength, endurance, and flexibility. With these results, UNLV’s team of wellness experts will create customized wellness and fitness plans for each person. After six months, another round of assessment tests

will be conducted to measure the success of the plans and to adjust them if necessary.

Fire department personnel can earn university credit through UNLV’s peer fitness training program. Participants will become qualified peer trainers prepared to help fellow fire department employees conduct and adjust their individual fitness plans.

“Our goal is not only to help improve the health of department personnel but increase their knowledge about wellness and fitness issues,” said Chuck Regin, director of UNLV’s Center for Health Promotion.

“After completing the program, the department’s employees will be better equipped, both physically and mentally, to deal with the difficult conditions they work in every day,” he said.

“Our team is interested in making this program a model for other fire departments around the country.”

For more information, contact Regin at ext. 4030 or visit <http://education.unlv.edu/hpe/nlvfd>.

# New Viewbooks Help Promote UNLV Colleges

by Cate Weeks

UNLV's colleges now have valuable tools for communicating information about their unique programs to prospective students – a new generation of viewbooks that promote the individuality of each college while employing a style that is uniform across campus.

The new viewbooks were developed by the marketing and public relations department and representatives of the various colleges.

"Previously, no central group helped coordinate the marketing efforts for the different divisions of the university," said Barbara Childs, a public relations specialist in the marketing department. "Some colleges produced their own materials while others haven't had the resources to create their own. By coordinating our efforts, we've been able to create undergraduate recruitment tools that highlight each college with a design that reflects the university's image and prestige."

Targeted at potential undergraduates, each college's viewbook includes a message from the dean, a profile of a student in the college, and college-specific information about academic advising and career opportunities.

To develop the design and determine the overall content, the marketing department worked with a committee that included Hotel College Dean Stuart Mann, Urban Affairs Dean Martha Watson, and a representative from admissions. Using the committee's template, the marketing department then worked with each college to customize the content and photography.

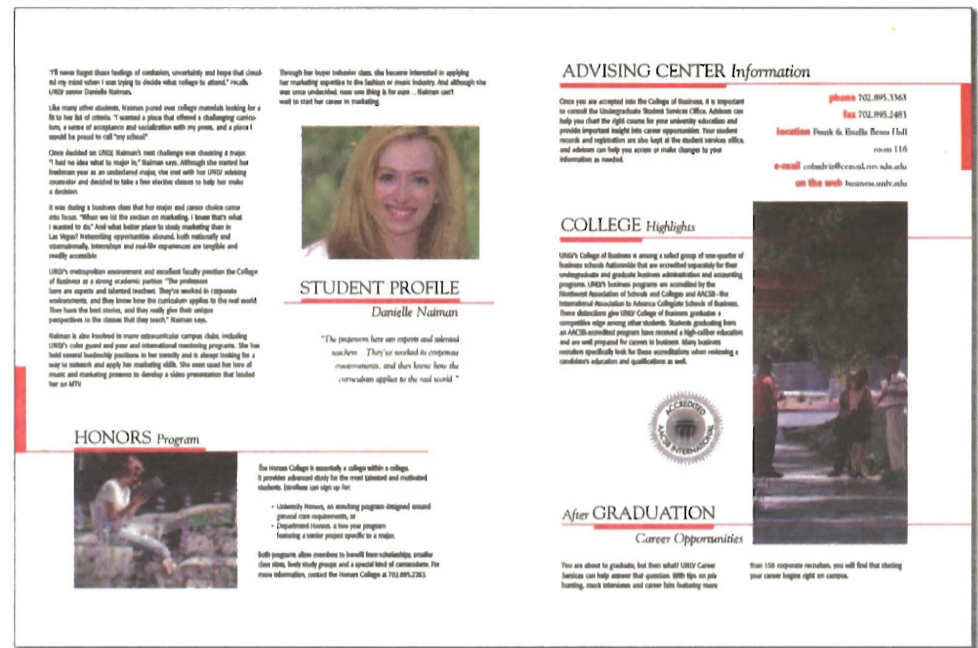


"The viewbook will help potential students understand the scope of our college, its faculty, and its various programs of study in a print form," said Erika Engstrom, associate dean of the College of Urban Affairs. "Basically, the viewbook is an 'all-in-one' package of information about the college that potential students can take with them and peruse as they consider their options regarding college."

Urban Affairs plans to distribute its viewbook in its advising centers and at information

fairs and new-student orientation sessions. The piece will also be sent to students who inquire about the various majors in the college. "Additionally, we hope to distribute them into the community to let the public know about the wonderful opportunities we offer," Engstrom said.

Nasser Daneshvary, associate dean of the Business College and director of its MBA programs, also expects the viewbook to fulfill multiple purposes. "The viewbook is an example of effective collaboration between the College of Business and the marketing office," he said. "The marketing and publications staff provided strategic direction and design consistency while being attentive to the need for presenting some unique



aspects of the College of Business. As a result, the college will be able to use the viewbook for not only its primary purpose of student recruitment but also with other audiences."

The viewbooks are available in two sizes. The six-page version is handier for mailing. The larger, eight-page version includes a folder flap for holding inserts about faculty, internships, and scholarships. UNLV's reprographics department has templates for the inserts so they can be updated and printed as needed.

Though the content and photographs vary by college, all of the viewbooks have a consistent style and structure, Childs said. "The college viewbooks build on the university's existing print recruitment materials so that a potential student knows at a glance that they are holding something from UNLV," she said.

## Switchboard Personnel

continued from page 1

"Right before the fall and spring semesters we're on the phone non-stop," said Anderson, her headset still attached as she continued to work the switchboard while being interviewed. "Even with three student workers helping us during those peak times, it's not unusual to have all of our lines tied up."

And that's saying something. Each operator's switchboard has six lines available for incoming calls. So if all five operators' consoles are full, well, you do the math.

Even during off-peak hours, DelRio and Anderson aren't just sitting around and waiting for the phone to ring. In their "spare" time, they're not only responsible for the paperwork and billing for the university's long distance services, but must also process the stacks of interdepartmental requisitions (IDRs) they receive each month.

"Whenever somebody is hired, retires, moves offices, or needs any kind of service to their phone, we have to process that request," DelRio explained. "Over the last few months, we've probably handled more than 300 IDRs."

Lauren Dean, UNLV's director of communication services, said the university operators fulfill a very important role.

"Many people get their first impressions of UNLV from our operators," she said. "Lydia, Mary, and their student employees all do a fantastic job of establishing a professional, efficient, and courteous rapport with the public, even while under very stressful con-

ditions. Their experience and dedication is a real asset to the university."

Needless to say, being a UNLV phone operator requires both skill and patience. DelRio and Anderson have both. Prior to coming to UNLV, they each worked for more than nine years as phone operators in high-stress positions: Del Rio as a police dispatch operator in Beaumont, Calif.; and Anderson as a switchboard operator with Sam's Town Hotel and Casino.

"Things definitely do get stressful around here," DelRio said, "But after dealing with bomb threats, hostage situations, and other crises for as long as I did in my last job, the stress level here is a lot easier to handle. It's kind of a relief to know that if I accidentally send somebody to the wrong number on campus no one is going to die."

Anderson is relieved as well. After nine years working in a casino, the graveyard shifts and long weekend hours were starting to take a toll on her. She was more than ready to get back to a normal life, one with 8-5 workdays and weekends and holidays off.

But beyond the good benefits, regular hours, and less stressful working conditions, they both say that it's the friendship they've developed that makes working at UNLV so much fun.

"We got along great from the first moment we met," DelRio said. "We're lucky because it's not always easy to find somebody you really enjoy working with. We make a good team."

DelRio and Anderson get along so well, in fact, that they even work together in the evenings as special ushers at the Thomas & Mack Center. "People always ask us if we get sick of each other," Anderson said.

"But we don't. We always seem to have fun when we work together."

Although the workload is heavy and the calls seemingly never-ending, they both take their jobs in stride, relying, when necessary, on each other's sense of humor and their respect for each other and their student workers.

And what about all the unusual phone calls and strange requests? Well, they have fun with those, too.

"Sometimes callers will ask us to sing them a song while they wait," DelRio said. "And sometimes, when it's not too busy, we will. In fact, the other day Mary sang a great version of *Old McDonald Had a Farm*."

Anderson, however, was quick to point out that she doesn't take requests.

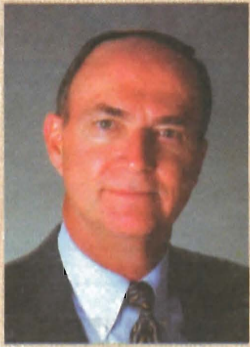
## Inside UNLV

### STAFF BOX

<p><b>Editor</b> <b>Writers</b></p> <p><b>Photography</b> <b>Production</b></p>	<p><b>Diane Russell</b> <b>Mae Flennoy</b> <b>Gian Galassi</b> <b>Cate Weeks</b> <b>Geri Kodey</b> <b>Publications/Reprographics</b></p>
---	--

Inside UNLV welcomes comments and suggestions from readers. Please send an e-mail to [inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu) or drop a note to Inside UNLV at mail code 1012. UNLV is an AA/EEO institution.

© Inside UNLV is a monthly publication published by the office of UNLV News and Public Information



## From the Dean's Desk

By *Richard Flaherty*  
Dean,  
*College of Business*

This is an exciting time for the College of Business. Solid progress has been achieved in developing a strategic plan; forging a clear vision for the college's future; recruiting, retaining, and promoting a talented and exceptionally well-qualified faculty; and, most importantly, attracting bright and highly motivated students.

We have a vision to be a premier business school in the West. This vision is an outgrowth of an intensive process to understand our mission and core values, and to develop realistic, attainable goals. To achieve these goals and emphasize a sense of urgency, we have developed corresponding action steps with timelines to track our progress. A very active executive board and a 15-member alumni board have also provided advice and counsel during our strategic planning process.

Essentially, our vision complements clearly what our focus has been all along: Quality drives everything we do. We are not interested in being everything to everybody. What we are interested in is focusing on things we do exceptionally well.

We have raised our admission requirements for the MBA and undergraduate programs, and it's gratifying to see that it is a challenge for our admissions staff to keep pace with the demand. Approximately half of our MBA candidates now come from out of state. We have high-quality programs and excellent faculty and staff – all of which contribute to producing well-educated and qualified graduates. And more people and organizations than ever before are becoming aware of these impressive facts, as evidenced by the solid demand from major corporations for our graduates.

A focus on quality also must involve an emphasis on an area prominent in the news today: the role moral and ethical obligations must play in the business decision-making process. This is a subject of great concern to me – and one that is clearly just as important as anything we do here. As an accountant, I've had to defend my chosen profession lately; although I still believe the U.S. accounting system is the best in the world, the recent headline-grabbing failures have forced us all to re-evaluate and re-emphasize our approaches to teaching and reinforcing business ethics across our curriculum. Those of us entrusted with educational responsibilities have a vital role to play in solving this problem. We must help produce future business leaders who have a strong moral and ethical outlook.

I am delighted by the wonderful progress we have made on a variety of fronts in our college. I offer my sincere thanks to those who have invested many hours of hard work and contributed their considerable talents and expertise to a noble endeavor: the creation of a vision for the future of the UNLV College of Business and the means by which we ultimately make it a reality.

## Dental School

The dental school has just moved into a new building. No, it is not the Shadow Lane campus, which will be renovated by the spring 2004 semester. The Herman Westfall Building (HWB), an adjoining building to the original FMA location of the new school, has just been occupied by dental students, faculty, and staff. If you pass by at 8:30 a.m. weekdays, you may see dental students pulling their shiny new laptops in strong black bags between the two buildings. Lectures and group work for dental students began on Aug. 26, and the first evaluations were held during the fourth week of class, Sept. 16-20.

Faculty and staff are also busy with classes, student projects and presentations, and community rotations to dental practice sites in Clark County. New curriculum is still being developed for the next three years of the program. Faculty are moving to Las Vegas from all over the country. A new accreditation document is being prepared. HWB is the temporary home to a few select dental chairs as the vendors bidding for the renovations demonstrate their products. The new dean, Patrick Ferrillo, has moved into HWB.

The dental school has moved from plan to reality. One sure sign: new applications for admission are arriving at twice the rate of last year.

## Education

Efforts to secure grant dollars have increased significantly in the college in recent years. The value of the grant awards totaled \$488,521 in 1988; in 2002, the amount exceeded \$3 million. Following is a description of some of the recent awards supporting program development and research.

A coveted U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) grant was awarded to Kyle Higgins (special education) to help classroom teachers learn the best techniques to teach special education students. Higgins and Randy Boone (curriculum and instruction) received funding for a second grant, "Stepping Stones of Technology Innovation for Students with Disabilities," to develop and validate software evaluation instruments.

In the department of curriculum and instruction, Linda Quinn and Lori Olafson are co-investigators in an IBM and Clark County collaboration, using a teacher education grant to "reinvent education" through IBM Learning Village technology. Also in that department, Cyndi Giorgis will direct a pre-service teacher education project in collaboration with the city of Las Vegas based on funding from the Department of Labor.

Chuck Regin and Jean Henry in the department of health promotion received funding to provide a wellness program for all North Las Vegas Fire Department personnel for the next three years. (See story, Page 2.)

The college will remain active in procuring grant funding to support a variety of efforts across the college. These efforts are central to the mission of becoming a research university and to building UNLV's reputation as a front-line metropolitan institution.

## Engineering

The National Committee on Student Activities of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) awarded the UNLV chapter of the ASCE a certificate

of commendation. Only 10 percent of the ASCE chapters in the United States receive this honor each year. In addition, Walter Vodrazka, Sr., was chosen as the ASCE's Outstanding Student Chapter Faculty Advisor for Zone IV. One of only four zones, Zone IV covers the entire Western United States.

The computer science department was recently granted full accreditation by the computer commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). The university was granted the maximum length of accreditation – until 2008 – following a program evaluation review conducted by ABET in 2001-02. The commission noted that the computer science department is in complete compliance with all applicable accreditation criteria. The other three departments in the college – electrical and computer engineering, mechanical engineering, and civil engineering – will be reviewed for accreditation by ABET in 2004.

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colo., has awarded \$500,000 to UNLV and the Desert Research Institute to perform a wind survey. This project will be a collaboration between researchers in the College of Engineering and DRI's climate center and atmospheric science group.

## Fine Arts

Cheryldee Huddleston, MFA playwriting graduate, recently won the prestigious PEN Center USA 2002 Literary Award for Drama. The judges described Huddleston's play, *Who Loves You, Jimmy Orrio?*, which she wrote while attending UNLV, as "a richly symbolic theatrical work with fresh characters, vivid dialogue, and a timeless theme." Love, race, magic, sexuality, and hope are explored in an engrossing story set in 1966 in a Tennessee trailer park, metaphorically located at the edge of the woods. Huddleston says she sees the characters in her plays as people who experience redemption tinged by the mildly miraculous. Her other plays are *Children of an Idol Moon*; *Madame John's Legacy*; *April 10, 1535*; and *Lysergic Acid Diethylamide*. Her work has been produced throughout the country, including Vital Theatre in New York City, Utah Shakespeare Company, and Oakland Public Theatre.

The UNLV Wind Orchestra presents its second concert of the season at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10 in Artemus Ham Concert Hall.

The Performing Arts Center welcomes the Shanghai Ballet performing *Coppelia* on Nov. 19. The Shanghai Ballet is an international award-winning company full of magnificently trained dancers. The troupe is touring throughout North America, Europe, and Asia.

The Regina Carter Quintet performs as part of the Performing Arts Center Best of the New York Stage series Nov. 22. Carter, a violinist, has won acclaim for her dazzling technical proficiency, combining her profound compositional and improvisational gifts with a fresh, aggressive approach to her instrument and a multicultural perspective.

## Graduate College

The continued increase in stature as a research university is a significant component of the strategic directions of UNLV. Integral to a successful research university are the number and quality of graduate

students involved in research activities with their faculty mentors. Furthermore, to be competitive in the recruitment of quality graduate students at the national level, UNLV must provide adequate financial support in the form of graduate assistantships (GAs) for teaching and/or research.

Consistent with the growth in extramural research funding obtained by UNLV faculty and staff, the number and type of GAs have significantly increased from 2001-02 to 2002-03. In 2001-02, the total number of GAs was 611, of which 81 percent were state-funded (498) and 19 percent were funded by extramural research grants (113). This year the total number of GAs increased to 702, with 75 percent being state-funded (527) and the remainder (175) being funded by extramural research grants. Additional numbers of GAs funded as part-time instructors (PTI-GAs) accounted for the remainder of the increase in the total number of assistantships.

This significant increase of extramurally funded GAs from the previous year is a strong indicator of the vitality and growth of the university's research programs and will contribute greatly to the ongoing growth of graduate education at UNLV.

## Health Sciences

The college has been busy with new faculty becoming oriented to the university and new students orienting themselves to the university and to the college's programs. The college also is working on the development of new college-community partnerships.

The focus of the department of nursing remains centered on graduating baccalaureate-prepared nurses to help alleviate the nursing shortage in Southern Nevada. In a similar situation, other allied health disciplines are experiencing shortages, and the college is graduating additional comprehensive medical imaging and nuclear medicine graduates. The nutrition sciences department, which is in only its third year, has increased its number of majors to 70 and is growing faster than had been anticipated. In addition to teaching nutrition science majors, the faculty also provides service courses to students majoring in other subjects.

The physical therapy department will be graduating its third class of students in December. The job market for those graduates is growing stronger each year. To date, 100 percent of UNLV's graduates have passed their licensure examination. Congratulations to both the students and faculty.

Faculty and students in the department of kinesiology have had a busy fall with students in the sports injury management (athletic training) program working hard in the classroom and on the football field as they assist the athletic trainers and the football team. Members of the college also are excited for professor Gaby Wulf who has been invited to present a keynote speech at a conference in Korea.

## Honors

The college's new application is now available online at [www.unlv.edu/Colleges/honors](http://www.unlv.edu/Colleges/honors). The college hopes that this will increase awareness of the college and what it has to offer top graduating high school students and, thus, will result in more applicants. The college also is conducting its annual fall recruiting efforts at local high schools.

The college hosted a number of events in September, including a new faculty reception, an ice cream

social, and the rededication of the Katz Lounge. In October, a reception was held for college alumni in the honors lounge.

Also in October, Dean Stephen Rosenbaum traveled to Utah to attend the annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

The December Graduation Medallion Ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 13 in the Southern Nevada Wine and Spirits Lounge and Boyd Dining Room in Beam Hall.

Looking ahead, the college is already searching for faculty interested in teaching a special topic seminar (HON 400) during the fall 2003 semester. To learn more about this opportunity, call Mora Snyder at ext. 2263.

## Hotel Administration

The Summer Studies in Switzerland program completed its 21st year of educating students and friends of the university through the five-week, three-course series. This program has strong academic and cultural components as participants live and learn in an international environment that enhances their hospitality education. This past summer, 34 students visited eight countries and took classes on the topics of European Travel and Tourism, Foods and Wines of Europe, and International Tourism Security Operations and Management. Harrah Hotel College faculty taught the courses.

The academic classrooms were located in France, Italy, and Switzerland. The very popular program offers hands-on learning through a series of field trips to European locations. Tours of famous wineries given by the vintners in Tuscany and Burgundy allowed students to learn about the process of preparing the soil for growing grapes and about making wine. The students were able to observe the heart and the soul of the wineries that have been managed by families for generations. Guest speakers included famous chefs and wine experts, whose presentations complemented the classroom learning.

The program is unique in the sense that students from other U.S. and international universities, as well as friends of the university, are invited to participate. The dates for the 2003 Summer Studies in Switzerland will be July 15 through Aug. 17.

## Law School

The school has been fortunate to receive a three-year commitment of funds from the E.L. Wiegand Foundation to support a named professorship in tax law. This generous gift of \$25,000 per year will assist the law school in supporting the research efforts of Steve Johnson, the new E.L. Wiegand Professor of Law. His current research focuses on tax procedure and tax simplification, and his teaching encompasses virtually every area of federal tax law. Johnson joined the Boyd faculty in 2001 after seven years on the faculty of the Indiana University (Bloomington) School of Law. Prior to that, he had extensive experience both in private practice and in the chief counsel's office of the Internal Revenue Service.

The E.L. Wiegand Foundation, which is based in Reno, supports programs and projects of exemplary organizations in the fields of education, health and medical research, public affairs, civic and community

affairs, and arts and cultural affairs. The law school is honored to be among its beneficiaries.

## Liberal Arts

The UCCSN Board of Regents approved the establishment of the Center for Democratic Culture at UNLV. This center, directed Dmitri Shalin of the department of sociology and housed within the College of Liberal Arts, is a service, education, and research facility committed to organizing community events and supporting research that is designed to enlighten and inform students and the community on various aspects of civic culture and American democracy.

The center will bring together scholars, performers, journalists, and policy-makers to share their ideas on political organization, particularly within emerging democracies. Civic education projects directed at K-12 schools will also be coordinated by this non-partisan center. Visiting international scholars will connect with UNLV faculty to coordinate research under the center's scope of activity. Grants and gift monies will support the center as it gets off the ground. An advisory board consisting of representatives from the community and UNLV faculty has been formed to assist the director with program development and fund raising. For additional information, contact Shalin at ext. 0259.

Tony Miranda, chair of anthropology and a member of the UNLV faculty for 25 years, was recognized by 2002 Portraits of Success, a program sponsored by KLAS-TV's Community Pride Program. Portraits of Success honors members of the Hispanic community who have made outstanding service contributions to the greater Las Vegas area.

Caryll Dziedziak of the Women's Research Institute of Nevada was a finalist for the Community Achievement Award from the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce based on her contributions to education. Congratulations to both.

## Libraries

UNLV Libraries is pleased to be included in a statewide program to provide access to information resources for the people of Nevada. CQ Press has been awarded a two-year contract from Nevada State Libraries and Archive for The CQ Researcher online. The contract includes statewide access to The CQ Researcher for all 565 school, public, academic, and special libraries in Nevada. A recent press release describes the product: The CQ Researcher, recent winner of the Silver Gavel award from the American Bar Association, offers in-depth, non-biased coverage of today's most important issues. Each report is on a single topic – more than 12,000 words in text and extensive bibliographies. The CQ Researcher covers a wide range of social, economic, political, and environmental issues and contains four expanded issues per year on topics such as war and terrorism and distance learning. The CQ Researcher online has an archive dating back to 1991 and has been voted one of *Library Journal's* "Best Reference Databases" for 2000 and 2001.

To access the CQ Researcher via the UNLV Libraries, start from the libraries' home page ([www.library.unlv.edu](http://www.library.unlv.edu)), click on "Research and Information," then on "Find Articles and More." CQ Researcher is available in the alphabetical list of resources.

*continued on page 6*

# Spotlight ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**An-Pyng Sun** (Social Work) has written a paper titled "Principles for Practice with Substance-abusing Pregnant Women: A Framework Based on the Five Social Work Interventive Roles" that has been accepted for publication in the journal *Social Work*. In addition, she presented a paper (co-authored with Margaret Freese of the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services) titled "Backgrounds of Drug-exposed Infants: An Exploratory Study" at the sixth annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research in San Diego.

**Amy Hyams** (Educational Outreach) has been elected secretary of the Western Region of the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). Hyams, who recently received her doctorate in educational leadership from UNLV and serves as secretary for the Nevada Adult Education Association, will facilitate the communication between the UCEA regional board and its membership. In addition, she delivered a presentation on "Continuing Education, Campus and Community Collaborations" at the UCEA Regional Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, in October.



Hyams

**Gerald R. Weeks** (Counseling) had a feature article published in the October issue of *Psychology Today* titled, "Sexual Healing: Restoring Lost Desire." *Psychology Today* is read by more than 3 million lay readers, students, and mental health professionals.

**Bob Aalberts** (Finance), **Lorne Seidman** (emeritus Finance), and **Thomas Boyd** (formerly of Marketing) recently had their article titled "Public Defender's Conundrum: Signaling Professionalism and Quality in the Absence of Price" published in the *San Diego Law Review*. In addition, Aalberts recently had an article titled "Can Tenants in Privately Owned Apartments Be Drug Tested?" published in the *Journal of Real Estate Research*.

**Patrice E. M. Hollrah** (Writing Center) presented a paper titled "Stretching Sexual Boundaries in Sherman Alexie's *Indian Country*" at Reconfigurations of Native North America, The Ninth Biennial Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference on North American Studies at the University of Helsinki's Renvall Institute in Finland in September.

**Martha Watson** (Urban Affairs) recently was elected second vice president of the National Communication Association (NCA), the country's largest professional association for communications scholars and practitioners. In that role, she will oversee membership activities and participate in executive governance of the association. The following year, she will become the first vice president and will be responsible for planning the NCA national conference. In 2004, the association's 90th anniversary, Watson will assume the role of president.

**Richard Hoyt** and **Bob Aalberts** (Finance) had their paper, "Appraisers and Toxic Mold: Legal and Valuation Issues," selected as the winner of the Real Estate Valuation prize for the best paper presented at the 2002 American Real Estate Society (ARES) annual conference. The notification letter reads, "ARES manuscript prizes are extremely competitive, so this award is a special honor and a testament to the high quality of your work." The prize includes an honorarium and publication in a special issue of the *Journal of Real Estate Research*.

**Patti Shock** (Tourism & Convention Administration) was named one of the 25 most influential people in the meetings industry in the August issue of *Meeting News* magazine. She was chosen for her significant contributions to the meetings industry and for her continuing commitment to shaping the future of meetings and convention education.



Shock

**David Fott** (Political Science) will have his translation of *On the Republic* and *On the Laws* by Marcus Tullius Cicero published by Focus Publishing, a division of the R. Pullins Company, publisher of books on philosophy, political science, and foreign languages. In addition to translations of those two works, the book will contain a substantial introductory essay and an index of key terms.

**John Unrue** (English) is the author of the book *J.D. Salinger*, published this year by Gale. Unrue's earlier book *J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye"* was published by Gale in 2001.



Unrue

**Doug Orton** (Management) simultaneously published his essay on French-American competitive intelligence issues in two research outlets. It was published as a book chapter in the edited book *Social Responsibility in the Information Age: Issues and Controversies* (Idea Group Publishing, 2002). It also appeared as a journal article in the fall 2002 issue of the *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*. This is his fourth journal publication since arriving at UNLV in the fall of 1999.

**Brad Eden** (Libraries) recently had his book *Metadata and Its Application* published by ALA Techsource as part of the "Library Technology Reports" series. The book includes an examination of the importance of metadata in today's digital environment, a survey of various metadata standards, and the application of metadata in the organization and description of digital collections and objects.

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.nevada.edu](mailto:inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu).

## Outstanding Graduates Sought for Commencement

The office of UNLV news and public information needs nominations for outstanding graduates to be recognized at winter commencement.

The profiling of outstanding graduates has become one of the highlights of the ceremony.

To be eligible for consideration, the graduating student must be planning to participate in the ceremony. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible.

Students may be deemed "outstanding" for any one of several reasons, including academic performance, research work, or service to the campus community or the larger Southern Nevada community. A student could also be selected for having overcome some significant hurdle in life.

Please send your nominations to Diane Russell via e-mail or campus mail (mail code 1012) no later than Nov. 4. All nominations must be in writing.

Include a description of why the nominee is worthy of recognition and provide the student's phone number whenever possible.

## News from the Colleges

continued from page 5

### Sciences

The various departments in the college, in cooperation with the colleges of Health Science and Engineering, are preparing for the annual Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET) Day. Once a year, the three colleges invite teachers and students from all state high schools to a daylong visit to the UNLV campus. This important outreach program focuses on high-achieving students who have an interest in science, engineering, the health sciences, and technology.

The day consists of campus tours, informal discussion with faculty and administrators, and, most importantly, the opportunity to visit research laboratories and research faculty. Faculty from the three colleges prepare two-hour long, hands-on laboratory experiences – usually more than 20 are offered – from which students can enroll for a morning session and an afternoon session. The goals are to introduce students to real experimental situations and research projects, further their interest in science and engineering, and promote UNLV.

SET Day is only one of three major outreach programs that the three colleges sponsor. Planning

already is under way on the annual Science and Engineering Fair and on the Science Bowl, both offered during the spring semester.

### Urban Affairs

The School of Social Work has been awarded two major grants totaling more than \$30,000 in the areas of child welfare services and gerontology.

The Title IV Curriculum Development Grant partners the School of Social Work with the state Division of Children and Family Services to train social work students in the delivery of child welfare services in preparation for practice in the field. Esther Langston, director of the school, is the principal investigator.

The Gero Rich Grant, awarded to 67 schools of social work across the country, will enhance gerontology content in the School of Social Work's core curriculum at both the bachelor's and master's levels. The school's advisory committee of gerontology social work practitioners from the community assists in developing the curriculum based on best practices in geriatric social work. The grant's co-principal investigators are assistant professor Sandra Owens-Kane and visiting assistant professor George Rajewski, with Langston serving as project director.



## Revisiting the Progress of the Department of Public Safety

By *Rebecca Mills*  
Vice President for  
Student Life

I appreciate this opportunity to share with the campus findings from a professional review of the management of police services in the UNLV department of public safety. I was especially pleased with the following excerpt from the report: "Every individual that the team met with echoed the same sentiments with respect to the department's significantly improved interactions and communication with the university community." I was gratified not only that many individuals outside the department expressed these sentiments but also that the officers themselves said they were encouraged by the support they have received from the university community.

In June, a three-person management team from the International Association of College Law Enforcement Administrators visited the campus to determine the effectiveness of the department's operations and make recommendations for improvement in operations and/or relationships. This follow-up visit involved the same three individuals who visited the campus in March of 2000 and authored a widely publicized report that has served to guide planning and decision-making for the department during the administration of Chief Jose Elique.

Therefore, the team members also were asked to share with us their perceptions of progress toward meeting the recommendations made in 2000.

Over the past two years, the department has adopted officially a community-oriented policing model that stresses both the law enforcement and public service aspects of its mission. With the support of President Harter, the department has received much-needed resources to hire additional personnel, to improve the working conditions for the men and women in the department, and to support additional training. President Harter asked the University and Community College System of Nevada to request a salary study for the officers, and that study has been undertaken by the state Department of Personnel; we are hopeful that it will be complete prior to next year's legislative session. Chief Elique has worked with the department staff to address recommendations about campus relations, department operations, hiring practices, and special events.

It is through the true cooperation of all members of the university community that the nationally recognized consultants were able to write the following: "The team can confidently state that the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, department of public safety has addressed all of the concerns that are within its ability to impact during this two-year period." What remains to be addressed are resource issues that affect facilities, equipment, and staffing. The institution's commitment to allow a portion of the department to move to the Paradise Campus (the former location of the law school) will address in remarkable ways the need for additional space and improved facilities. I feel certain that the remaining issues will be addressed as resources become available.

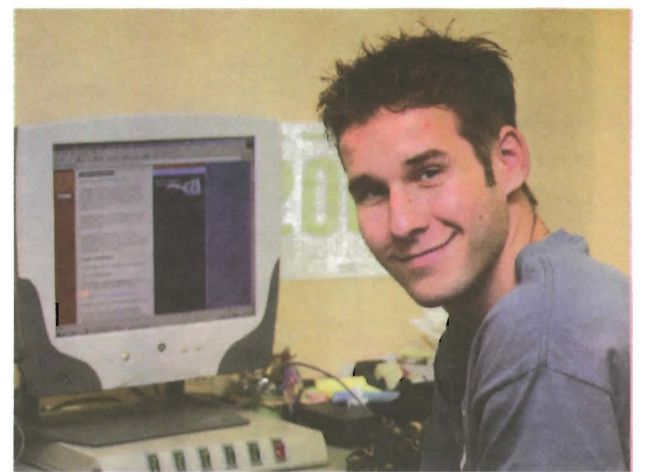
Most important, I feel confident that those who serve UNLV as police officers, dispatchers, and staff in the department genuinely understand and live their mission to serve and protect the university community. We will continue to assess the department's progress toward its stated goals. I invite you to view the department's Web site for more information.

## Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach Programs

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach houses a number of community outreach programs, all of which are designed to increase admission, retention, and graduation rates in secondary, undergraduate, and post-graduate programs. The center's comprehensive services include assistance with admissions and financial aid applications, academic and career counseling, tutoring, and workshops to enhance college study skills. All of the center's services are free.

Center programs include:

- **Upward Bound & Upward Bound Math/Science Center** – prepares youth for college studies.
- **Educational Talent Search** – offers an early intervention program for middle and high school students.
- **Student Support Services** – focuses on retaining students until they earn their bachelor's degrees.
- **Ronald E. McNair Scholars** – encourages and prepares underrepresented undergraduates for careers in college teaching and research.
- **Summer Food Nutritional Program** – provides meals for low-income children and adults.
- **Dislocated Worker Program** – helps those who lost their jobs as a result of the Sept. 11, 2001, events.



Student James Cordes works in the information technology department at the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, which provides services designed to improve admission, retention, and graduation rates.

- **Educational Opportunity Center** – helps displaced or underemployed workers choose a career path and reach educational goals.
- **Enterprise Community Educational Program** – offers services to residents in the Enterprise community of Clark County.

For more information about the center and its programs, visit [www.unlv.edu/studenterv/caeo/](http://www.unlv.edu/studenterv/caeo/) or call ext. 4777.

## \$32 Million Grant

*continued from page 1*

serve students from multiple directions," he said. "As GEAR UP targets youths beginning in sixth grade, our Economic Opportunity Center services will help their parents reach their own educational and career goals, which in turn puts them in a better position to support their children's education. Then, once the students get on campus, we'll continue to help them through our student support services and McNair programs."

At the same time, the center's contact with students has the added benefit of enhancing recruitment, Cotton said. "Our programs generally offer long-term, intensive services. For many of our students, the center has become the face of UNLV. When those students get ready to choose their institution of higher learning, they already have a strong connection with UNLV."

### Faculty Research

The center's research division and its partnerships with faculty members across campus are important elements of its programs. The partnerships help faculty members further research in their fields while helping the center improve its services.

As part of GEAR UP, the center will offer 57 research awards of \$1,000 each to UNLV faculty.

"In general, the center offers faculty excellent opportunities for developing their own research projects," Cotton said. "We're already working closely with a number of faculty members in the College of Education, and we hope to extend research opportunities across campus."

Past research has provided valuable feedback about the impact of center programs on both the community and the university. One recent study focused on the retention of UNLV's 2001 first-year students. That study examined the performance of students previously

served by the center in comparison with their peers who did not use center programs. Another study investigated the factors that lead to student requests for tutoring.

Under GEAR UP, the Education College and the center will partner with the Clark County School District to help secondary education teachers improve their skills in working with at-risk students.

### Growing with the Community

The center is already the country's largest provider of federal TRIO programs, which include Upward Bound, Ronald E. McNair Scholars, and Educational Talent Search. The new grants will enable the center to serve more than 25,000 children, parents, and community members in low-income areas. The grants bring the total amount of the center's external federal support to more than \$8 million a year.

The center's dramatic growth – in 1997 it served 965 individuals on a budget of \$800,000 – was only possible by leveraging community resources, Cotton said. The programs are often carried out in partnership with city and county government agencies, the Clark County School District, other not-for-profit organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada, and corporate sponsors including the Howard Hughes Corp. and The Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino.

"Although we are a public, not-for-profit organization, our approach follows a very traditional business model in terms of acquiring and managing our resources," Cotton said. "It's a somewhat unique model for a not-for-profit organization affiliated with an academic institution, but it has made us very efficient and it allows us to tap the resources of our many community partners. At the same time, it allows the university to use its resources to help the community."

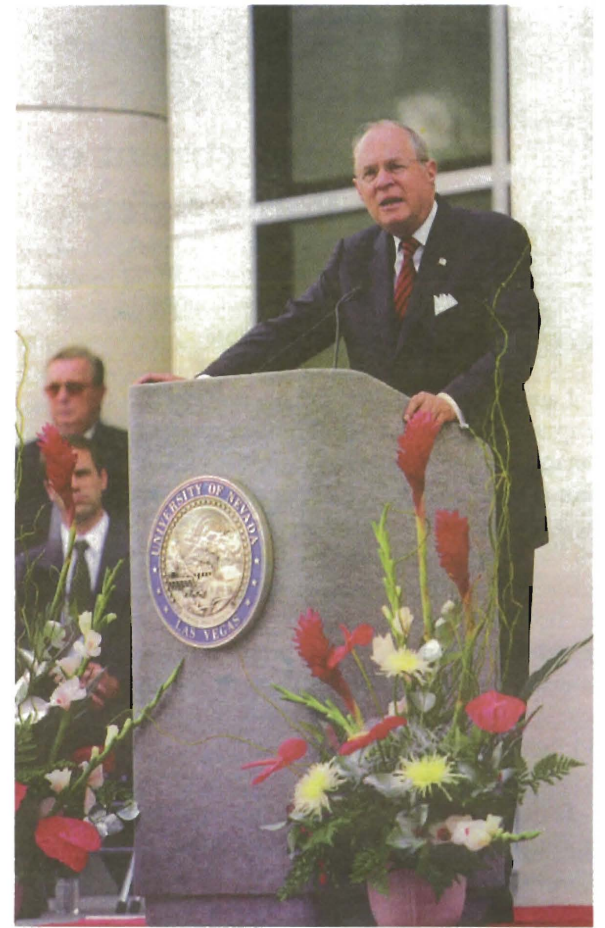
The center's success has gained recognition outside Clark County as well. Last month, the center was awarded another \$340,000 to train others in TRIO programs across the country over the next two years.

**Location, Location, Location:** The marketing and public relations department recently printed a new brochure with an updated campus map and visitor information. The new map includes frequently used phone numbers and guides visitors to various points of interest, such as arts venues, the Richard Tam Alumni Center, and the Moyer Student Union. The brochures are available for 38 cents each by calling Karleen Smith at ext. 3621.





Hundreds of people from both the campus and Southern Nevada communities attended the dedication ceremony for William S. Boyd Hall and the James E. Rogers Center for Administration and Justice on Sept. 27. The buildings now are home to the William S. Boyd School of Law. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, right, delivered the keynote speech.



## Ward, Hirshorn Join Liberal Arts College

by Gian Galassi

Janet Ward and Barbara Hirshorn recently joined the College of Liberal Arts as director of interdisciplinary studies and director of the Center on Aging, respectively.

Ward comes to UNLV from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she served as chair of the department of Germanic and Slavic languages and as undergraduate associate chair of the department of comparative literature and humanities. She will oversee UNLV's Asian studies, Latin American studies, cultural studies, linguistic studies, multidisciplinary studies, and social science studies programs.

"Dr. Ward brings a background of experience as a researcher and teacher that represents a diverse

range of expertise from urban architecture to Germanic languages and culture," said Jim Frey, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "She is a perfect fit for this position and will work with other faculty to solidify existing programs and to develop new interdisciplinary curriculums."

In addition to her administrative role, Ward is also an associate professor in the department of history and is currently teaching courses in the School of Architecture and in the Honors College.

"Interdisciplinary programs allow people to be informed by the best theoretical insights from a range of disciplines," said Ward. "I'm really looking forward to helping to promote UNLV's bold innovations in areas of interdisciplinary research and curricular design."

Ward received a Ph.D. in German studies from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in comparative literature from the University of Pennsylvania. She earned a bachelor's degree in



Ward

German and French from the University of London.

Before coming to UNLV, Hirshorn was director of intergenerational studies at the University of South Carolina, a faculty member at Wayne State University's Institute of Gerontology in Detroit, and a research associate at the Gerontological Society of America in Washington, D.C.

Hirshorn's research has most recently focused on multigenerational relations between family members and similar age groups in the community and on maintaining the self-sufficiency and productivity of seniors. She is particularly interested in research that promotes the well-being of older residents in a community context, especially with at-risk populations.

"Barbara Hirshorn's extensive experience as a gerontologist will be invaluable in making the center a leading research facility on aging-related issues," said Frey. "We are extremely delighted to have her join the college and equally as excited to see how the center will grow under her leadership."

The Center on Aging was created last year to strengthen and promote research at UNLV on aging-related issues, and to coordinate the interdisciplinary research currently under way. Hirshorn said the center will also work collaboratively with other community organizations to help formulate policy affecting seniors in Southern Nevada, as well as throughout the state and nation.



Hirshorn

Hirshorn earned her doctoral degree in urban and regional planning in 1983 from the University of Michigan, where she was also a post-doctoral fellow in the demography of aging at its Population Studies Center. She holds a master's degree in communications from Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## President's Column

*continued from page 2*

thrive academically, graduate within a reasonable period of time, and go on to become alumni who praise their alma mater.

But perhaps the most important and obvious reason to improve student retention relates back to none other than – surprise! – our strategic planning goals. The first of these goals and perhaps the most commonly recognized one on campus – to create and sustain a student-centered learning environment – is at the very heart of the retention issue. If we are to be truly student-centered, then it is clearly incumbent upon us to produce an environment that supports the students in the meaningful and constructive ways that they identify as important. Our consultants have already undertaken an effort to determine both what variables students find important in their experiences here and their satisfaction levels with those variables. The consultants, along with the participants in the retention retreat, are using this analysis to help shape a plan of action.

Initially, it will be the work of those deeply involved in retention issues on campus, including the retreat participants, to identify a course of action that will aid in this effort and to begin a far-reaching campus dialogue about it. Though we commonly associate retention with the support services provided students, the classroom experience will be integral to the discussion; hence, faculty and students will be called upon to participate actively in retention improvement endeavors. Over time, I expect this effort will spread to all corners of the campus as each and every member of the university community finds ways to contribute to the goal of enhanced student retention.

I believe our renewed commitment to this issue has the potential to produce tangible improvements to our institution's processes, culture, and reputation. As I said earlier, you will hear more about retention issues in the coming months; when you do, I invite you to begin thinking creatively about ways you can help us achieve our goal of creating and sustaining a student-centered learning environment. I am confident that each of us could identify today ways we could enhance our own areas to improve students' satisfaction with their experiences at UNLV. I look forward to hearing your ideas.