12-2002

Inside UNLV

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

Gian Galassi
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Richard Jensen
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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

Part of the Communication Technology and New Media Commons, Construction Engineering Commons, Curriculum and Instruction Commons, Curriculum and Social Inquiry Commons, Higher Education and Teaching Commons, Other Architecture Commons, Other Business Commons, Other Education Commons, and the Urban Studies and Planning Commons

Repository Citation
Available at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv/63

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

by Diane Russell

The planned 190,000-square-foot Science, Engineering, and Technology Building presents an opportunity to markedly increase the quality of scientific research and education at UNLV while also allowing the university to enhance its contribution to economic diversification efforts in the state, UNLV officials said.

"Timely construction of this building is critical to our being able to provide enough state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory facilities for the growing number of students seeking engineering and science degrees at UNLV," said university President Carol C. Harter. "Our ability to continue to recruit top-notch professors to teach our students and to conduct research—as well as to retain those excellent professors already on board—also hinges on a large degree on the near-term construction of this building.

"Completion of the building also is vital to the state and to the Southern Nevada community," Harter said. "It is essential if we are to provide the types of research and educational programs that entities such as the Nevada Development Authority have told us are necessary to support economic diversification efforts." If the building is funded by the 2003 Nevada Legislature, construction could begin as soon as July 2004 and be completed by 2006. If the funding is delayed until the 2005 legislative session, university officials fear that inflation will add another $3 million to the project cost—and delay construction of the facilities.

An artist's rendering shows one possible design of the proposed 190,000-square-foot Science, Engineering, and Technology Building. UNLV will seek funding for the building from the 2003 Legislature.

Students Serve Community by Serving the Homeless

by Gian Galassi

UNLV student Stephanie Rome walked cautiously toward the group of 100-plus people standing along a chain-link fence near the dismal underside of U.S. 95 and 1-15. She'd been warned about this part of town before, about the people that live on the streets here. Don't go to that area, friends back home had cautioned her, or you'll probably end up getting shot...or worse.

Such advice was hard to ignore, Rome admitted, when the entire crowd began to rush toward her—each person seemingly more eager than the last to get to her first.

But despite her uneasiness, she put the box of food she'd been carrying down on the pavement and stood her ground.

"Everybody get in a single file line," she shouted, surprising even herself with the volume of her voice. "We can't help you out until you get in line."

And they did—just as they always do for the group of UNLV students who come to distribute food to families and individuals living on the streets of Southern Nevada.

Rome is one of a growing number of UNLV students participating in Meals on Wheels, a relatively new service-learning program run by the office of leadership and citizenship initiatives. The program brings together groups of students to prepare and distribute bag lunches to the homeless population at the Rescue Mission and the Salvation Army of North Las Vegas. 

Continued on page 7
UNLV Pitches in to Combat Nursing Shortage

by Diane Russell

The statistics tell the tale. Nevada has a serious nursing shortage.

For example, the Department of Health and Human Services recently stated that Nevada ranking 50th among the states in terms of the number of nurses per capita. While the national average is 782 per 100,000 people, Nevada has only 520.

Now, as part of a statewide effort to combat the nursing shortage, the department of nursing has increased the number of students it accepts.

But increasing the number of spots isn’t as easy as squeezing more desks into a classroom, and such an increase will not, by itself, eliminate the shortage.

Other issues, according to Carolyn Sabo, dean of the College of Health Sciences, and Rosemary Witt, chair of the department of nursing, include promoting nursing as a desirable career option, making sure that students interested in becoming nurses succeed in their studies, and ensuring that there are enough faculty positions and qualified faculty to meet the demand.

For several years prior to 1999, the department admitted 32 new students per semester – those students being second-semester sophomores who had spent three semesters taking general requirement courses and now were ready to begin their actual nursing studies. Because there was such a lengthy waiting list, in 1999 the department was given funding to hire additional faculty members. It then began admitting 48 students per semester.

But despite such efforts, Nevada’s nursing shortage continued to worsen. A major contributing factor was the explosive growth in Southern Nevada, including a significant increase in senior citizen residents, who typically require more medical care than the general population.

At the start of fall semester, UNLV’s nursing program again increased the number of new students it accepted – this time to 56 per semester. With that increase, the waiting list was virtually eliminated.

However, because the college’s efforts to stimulate interest in nursing as a career have been successful, an increasing number of students are enrolling in pre-nursing classes. That raises some concern about whether there will be a sufficient number of nursing faculty to meet future demand, Sabo said.

“At this point, admitting 48 to 56 students per semester is stretching our faculty about as far as they can go,” she said.

Another difficulty is finding a sufficient number of “practicum” placements in specialty areas such as pediatrics, obstetrics, and psychiatric nursing, Witt said. The practicum experience requires students to apply theories they have studied and the skills they have learned to real-life situations under the guidance of faculty.

But Sabo said that a statewide effort being spearheaded by the Legislature may soon provide additional assistance in combating the nursing shortage.

In 2001, the Legislature mandated that the University and Community College System of Nevada develop a plan for increasing the capacity of the nursing programs at each of its institutions. The mandate calls for each school to double its 2000-01 academic year enrollment. The Board of Regents recently approved a report on the plan for the 2003 Legislature, which will convene in February. That report details what the institutions need in terms of financial support, faculty, and facilities to make the doubling of enrollments possible.

“We’re happy to be working with the Legislature to increase the number of nurses working in Nevada,” she said. “All of us realize what a critically important issue this is and what a continued nursing shortage could mean for the state’s future.”

The department, in collaboration with Student Financial Services, also offers support in the form of financial aid and is trying to increase the monies available. Several local hospitals offer loans to nursing students and later excuse those loans if the students work for them as nurses for a specified length of time.

The Legislature, as part of its effort to increase the number of nurses, established a loan program that provided $23,000 for UNLV nursing students during 2001-03. If a recipient works as a nurse in Nevada for a certain length of time, the loan is forgiven.

A difficult problem facing UNLV and other schools has been attracting more nursing students while combating the negative publicity about the nursing profession. Both national and local efforts – including Johnson & Johnson’s media campaign and locally produced materials such as videos, posters, and brochures – are proving helpful.

“While there is publicity about how challenging the working conditions for nurses are, there is very little information about the positive aspects of nursing – what makes nurses feel good about their profession and how they feel they are contributing to society,” Witt said.

UNLV is working diligently to promote nursing as an excellent career choice – one that offers varied job opportunities and a chance to provide a valuable service to society, Sabo said.

“Nursing allows you to draw on a number of skills – from your skills with people, to your technical skills, to your critical thinking skills, to your diplomacy skills,” said Sabo, who began her nursing career working with surgical patients and later became a cardiovascular clinical specialist.

“But, I think the biggest thing that really draws people into nursing is that ability to directly affect somebody’s life. In more cases than not, what you do or don’t do can make a huge difference in not only whether somebody lives or dies, but also in the quality of that person’s life,” Sabo said.

“Nursing is a fabulous career. It allows you to get very close to a person or a group of people – to be able to see an immediate difference that you are making in their lives.”
President Awards $250,000 for Campus Initiatives

by Richard Jensen

Each year, President Carol C. Harter awards approximately $250,000 in Planning Initiative Awards. Members of the University Planning Council solicit the applications and make recommendations to the president. The applications are grouped into two broad categories: grants between $1,000 and $14,999 and grants between $15,000 and $30,000.

During the last academic year, the council received 49 applications that totaled more than $1 million dollars. Fourteen of the applications were funded, but many more richly deserved to receive funding. The applications illustrate the tremendous diversity and quality of research being undertaken on the campus.

This issue of Inside UNLV will describe five of the successful proposals. Further information will be included in future issues. Among the successful proposals are those providing funding to create a data warehouse on campus; create a critical incidence response team, study how plant compounds can help treat head and neck cancer, and help improve the teaching of science in public schools. A fifth proposal helped send UNLV students and faculty to present a play in Greece.

Robert Brewer of the theatre department received $30,000 to help support the production of Nobel Prize-winning faculty member Wole Soyinka’s modern adaptation of Sophocles’ Oedipus at Colonus that was presented at the Theatre of Delphi in Greece in July. UNLV students and faculty participated in the production.

Kari Coburn, Diane Muntal, Mike Ellison, and Christina Drum of institutional analysis and planning received $20,168 to create a data warehouse that will make it easier for UNLV administrators and faculty to access data on courses, student FTE, and student characteristics. Users will request data through user-friendly Web forms.

Jamie Davidson of student counseling and psychological services received $8,000 for the creation, training, and implementation of a critical incidence response team at UNLV. The team will facilitate crisis intervention following a critical incident such as death or injury of a student or faculty member, suicide or suicide attempts, acts or threats of violence, natural disasters, and terrorism.

J. Abiodun Elegbede of the chemistry department received $9,990 to study the naturally occurring plant compound perillyl alcohol in the treatment of human head and neck cancer cells grown in culture. Perillyl alcohol is found in plant foods such as cherries, spearmint, dill, and other vegetables.

Aimee Govett of the department of curriculum and instruction and John W. Farley of physics received $30,000 to create a Joint Center for Science and Mathematics. The goal of the center is to improve science education and to enhance professional development for local K-12 science teachers.

Meals on Wheels continued from page 1

"I was a little nervous before going to the shelters because I'd heard so many bad things about the homeless in this town," said Rome, a freshman film major from Colorado. "But after actually seeing them out there and listening to their stories, you realize that a lot of them are just good people who had bad things happen in their lives."

And that's exactly the type of comment that leaders of the program like to hear.

"The great thing about Meals on Wheels is that it challenges the stereotypes that a lot of students have about the homeless," said Jen Peck, assistant program coordinator for the office of leadership development. "I think many of our students become more informed on the issue and realize that it's impossible to just generalize all homeless people as either angels or devils. It gets them thinking about the causes and solutions to the growing homeless population."

Students are doing a lot more than just thinking about it, according to the latest volunteer rolls. Since the program's inception almost a year ago, Meals on Wheels has more than doubled its number of student participants—from 85 to 186. That increase can be partly attributed, Peck believes, to the variety of ways in which students can get involved.

The most popular option—and the one responsible for the majority of the program's funding—allows students to donate one dinner per week from their meal plans to a donation drive held at the beginning of each semester. Those donations are then converted to dollar value and used to purchase the food necessary to make as many as 200 lunches per week, each of which contain a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a bag of chips, a piece of fruit, bottled water, cookies, and a napkin.

Yonna Polehn, left, and Faith Chan are among the UNLV students who participate in providing meals for the homeless. Much of the funding comes from students donating money from their meal plans.

But students who don't have meal plans, or who missed the chance to participate in the donation drive, are finding opportunities to get involved as well. Every Friday afternoon, a group of students gathers at the dining commons to prepare the lunches and load the UNLV van for the delivery to the shelters.

Although each part of the program is important to its overall success, it is the distribution experience that seems to resonate most with the students. During the return trip from the shelters, students are encouraged to share their feelings about the experience and to discuss what they learned from it. Often what emerges is a sharp contrast between their expectations of the program and the reality of their experience, Peck said.

"It blew my mind to see how many homeless people there really are in Vegas," said Steve Bunchshuh, a senior economics major who participated in his first trip in October. "You hear the statistics all the time, but until you actually see everybody lining up for food, it's kind of hard to believe."

It's that kind of feedback, Peck said, that is invaluable in measuring the personal growth of the students involved and in guiding the development and future success of the program.

"The goal of any service-learning program is to get people to think about how they can contribute to society," said Peck. "We want our students to come away from the experience believing that they can make a difference in the world." Although the program is designed primarily for students, Meals on Wheels encourages faculty and staff involvement. To volunteer as either a sandwich-maker or as a trip adviser, call Peck at ext. 3221. More information about Meals on Wheels is available at www.unlv.edu/studentlife/sia/leadership/.

Inside UNLV

Editor Diane Russell

Writers Gian Galassi Richard Jensen

Photography Geri Kodey

John Litty

Production Publications/Reprints

Inside UNLV welcomes comments and suggestions from readers. Please send an e-mail to inside.unlv@mail.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

Inside UNLV Page 3
Business

The college's Center for Business and Economic Research hosted the 56th Association for Business and Economic Research fall conference in October. The event included a session on the U.S. economic outlook and included a presentation by Harvey Rosenblum, director of research at the Dallas Federal Reserve and outgoing president of the National Association for Business Economics. Other sessions addressed the pattern of regional business conditions, federal statistics, analytical packages, survey research, and best practices for external audiences. A special hands-on workshop featured the college's new computer lab.

The marketing department's Forum Series spotlighted Bob Guntermuth, senior marketing manager for Dell Computer, in November. The department continued expansion of its mentor program this fall, successfully placing 23 students with marketing professionals in Las Vegas. The experience offers students a better understanding of the requirements, responsibilities, and demands of a marketing career.

UNLV President Carole C. Harter signed an agreement for cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences in Schmalkalden, Germany, through which German business students will pursue a portion of their studies at UNLV. This agreement further enhances the international business program.

In the economics department, Brad Wimmer presented his research on telecommunications policy at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Jeff Wadlow's presented research on insurance, uncompensated healthcare costs, and unions at the Center to Protect Workers Rights in Maryland: Steve Miller presented research on U.S. banking structure and performance at the Bank of England in London.

Dentistry

The school is moving ahead with this year's innovative curriculum and preparing for the next year. Cesar Acosta, a first-year student, represented the school at a national meeting of dental students, faculty, and academic deans in Milwaukee. Although two other representatives from UNLV's dental school—Dr. William Davenport, director of instructional technology, and Dr. Susan Silverton, associate dean of academic affairs—also attended the American Dental Association meeting, Acosta received the most attention. Students at the meeting were excited about the new school and asked how it differs from others. Faculty from other schools were interested in speaking with a student who was actually taking the new integrated curriculum. The UNLV School of Dental Medicine clearly is on the dental education map.

And the next academic year is coming faster than expected. The school already has received more than 700 applications for the second year of classes. If the pace of applications continues, the dental school will have twice as many applicants this year as last. Last year, the school received an application from one of every five students applying to dental school in the United States. Seventy-five students are presently attending classes and have completed their first eight-week block of integrated studies in either integrated biosciences or professional studies. At the end of this semester, students will switch places and take the other eight-week block during spring semester. Just added for the start of the second eight-week block are new courses in clinical dentistry. Soon, students will have hands-on assignments in dentistry in addition to the hands-on anatomy and hands-on community service that they are now involved in.

Education

"Preparing professionals for changing educational contexts" is the overarching theme for the professional preparation programs in the college. The theme conveys images and ideas relating to today's schools, and it also supports the college's expectations of students progressing through its programs.

"Preparing professionals" refers directly to the quality of work and vision the college holds for its graduates—teachers, school counselors, health educators, physical education teachers, coaches, and school administrators. The expectation that teachers and education leaders are professionals also means that the undergraduate preparation and advanced graduate programs must be relevant and rigorous.

College faculty expect students to become knowledgeable through mastery of the content that is taught. Students must become skilled in pedagogy, and they must exhibit positive dispositions toward students and enthusiasm for teaching and learning. Working in changing contexts also means that education professionals can make a difference; therefore, results and accomplishments in schools are the ultimate benchmarks for assessing the quality of UNLV graduates.

The three-word phrase, "changing educational contexts" addresses the education professionals' reality in today's schools. Children come to school with many special needs that are part of their out-of-school contexts. Teachers and principals work in changing contexts, too, creating pressure to respond to multiple factors that often create the dilemma of student needs, national, and subject area standards, state standards for student learning, and parents' expectations.

Understanding the overarching theme—"preparing professionals for changing educational contexts"—provides important insights into the multi-focused goals in the college. It also supports the College of Education's reach across campus and into schools.

Correction: The Education College entry in the November issue of Inside UNLV contained a typographical error involving a date. The entry should have read: "Efforts to secure grant dollars have increased significantly in the college in recent years. The value of the grant awards totaled $488,521 in 1998; in 2002, the amount exceeded $5 million."

Fine Arts

Three UNLV opera students swept the Metropolitan Opera House district auditions held in San Bernardino, Calif., in October. The students—Garfield Hammond III, baritone; Debra Siebert, mezzo; and Rozia Tulyaganova, soprano—were selected from a field of 18 singers.

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre University Company's holiday spectacular Cinderella continues its run in the Judy Bayley Theatre. This enchanting Rodgers and Hammerstein musical contains such classics as "In My Own Little Corner," "Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful," "Ten Minutes Ago," and "Impossible." Robert Brewer directs this holiday treat.

The UNLV Wind Orchestra presents a special concert in the Hard Hall on Dec. 4 with Mariab, a guest band from Australia.

The Performing Arts Center's Best of the New York Stage series presents the Rockapella Holiday Show on Dec. 21. Rockapella has appeared on stage with Billy Joel, Sting, Don Henley, and Styx at venues such as Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music.
Graduate

Twelve students participated in the 2002 UNLV McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute, a program providing opportunities for undergraduates to engage in intensive summer internships under faculty supervision. In October, these young scholars presented their work at a research poster session and reception. Hosted by the college and the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, this event is in its third year.

The 12 scholars and mentors (mentors are listed in parenthesis) recognized at the event included: Lisa Akbar, "Women in Afghanistan: A Look at the Social, Religious, and Political Forces Shaping Their Lives," (Satish Sharma, social work); Anjulience Barnes, "Automobile Dui Brakes: Method for Monitoring Brake Pad Wear," (Rama Venkat, electrical/computer engineering); Kimberly Crowell and Gary Simpson, "The Effects of Flexcalf and Contract Therapy on Hamstring Flexibility," (Mack Rubley, kinesiology); Amanda Habosh, "Self-Examination Therapy in the Treatment of Generalized Anxiety Disorder in Older Adults," (Mark Floyd, psychology); Danielle Jackson, "Internet Relationships," (Beth Semic, communication studies); Lorenzo Nichols II, "The Effect of Leaf Age and Sex on Leaf Regeneration in the Desert Moss Syntrichia caninervis," (Mark Stark, biological sciences).

Also participating were Joan Spur, "The Ghost Dance Religion of 1890: A Study of Native American Spirituality and How It Rapidly Spread Throughout the Western Tribes," (Willard Rollins, history); Giselle Stewart, "The Creation and Participation in On-Line Communities Dedicated to Evaluating Work Environments," (Lori Gossett, communication studies); Andy Purdy, "The Effects of Ankle Taping and Bracing on Peak Leg Acceleration and Ground Reaction Forces During a Lateral Jump," (John Mercier, kinesiology); Alicia Tabaco-Moniz, "Synthesize Phonemes and the Generation of Various Pitch Periods," (Evangelos Tantis, computer science); and Eric Talbert, "Health Information Processing in Older Adults," (Karen Kemmet, psychology).

Health Sciences

Faculty and students have been particularly busy with accreditation site visits during fall semester. The undergraduate and graduate programs in the department of nursing had site visitors on campus in mid-October for three days. The final report from the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) site visitors recommends reaccreditation for the eight-year maximum period. The NLNAC board will take final action in February. In the department of health physics, the master of science in health physics program became the first program in the nation to be reviewed for accreditation. The site visitors were on campus in late September, and a final determination will be received in early spring. The site visitors indicated that this was also a positive evaluation. Congratulations to both groups on the successful preparation for the site visits.

Another class of physical therapy students is finishing practicums as the students prepare for graduation later this month. The second annual Roy and Roxi Campaletta Golf Classic was held in November at the Spanish Trails Golf Resort to raise money for scholarships for physical therapy students. It was a fun and exciting occasion that benefited students. The college thanks all those whose hard work contributed to this event.

The college’s first newsletter has been delivered to friends, alumni, and constituents of the college. To obtain a copy, call ext. 3693.

Honors

In late September, the college and the UNLV Foundation hosted a rededication of the Lloyd Katz Lounge, a study lounge for students located in the Honors College offices in Lied Library. The event included two ceremonies, one for faculty and students during the day and another evening ceremony with friends and family of donor Edythe Katz Varchev.

Planning for next year’s entering class, the college has begun revising recruiting documents and developing recruiting strategies in cooperation with the offices of admissions and student financial aid. College representatives attended the Washoe County and Clark County college recruitment fairs in November.

Additionally, in light of recent changes in UNLV’s merit scholarship award structure, the college and the Honors Council are reviewing college scholarship programs for new and continuing students in order to make recruiting maximally effective.

The college arranged for UNLV to secure an institutional membership in the National Association of Fellowships Advisors. Sponsored jointly by the college and the office of international programs, this membership will contribute significantly to helping UNLV graduate and undergraduate students become interested in and apply for competitive national and international scholarships.

In association with homecoming, the college hosted a reception for its alumni, including the college’s alumna of the year, attorney Stefanie Shields, who graduated in 1989 with a bachelor’s degree in English. To maintain contact with alumni, the college is building an alumni database that will enable regular contact and correspondence.

The college is looking forward to its Medallion Ceremony for winter graduates, which will be held on Dec. 13.

Hotel Administration

Rebels Against Hunger (RAH) is a not-for-profit student organization that collects food items, both perishable and non-perishable, from local restaurants and casinos and distributes them directly to Las Vegas shelters and food banks.

Founded in 2001 by a group of 13 students in the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, this organization was started with a $500 grant from UNLV. The students developed a business plan for starting such an organization. They also learned about the applicable laws regarding the donation of perishable food and the generation of various pitch periods. (Evangelos Tantis, computer science); and Eric Talbert, "Health Information Processing in Older Adults," (Karen Kemmet, psychology).

Law

In October, the school received the report of the site inspectors from the American Bar Association (ABA) who had visited during the first (and very hectic) week of classes in August. The report is highly favorable. It describes the new facilities as “spacious, modern, efficient, and visually impressive,” and takes special note of the vastly improved library facilities as well as the modern computer technology. (This, in spite of the fact that some of these wonderful facilities were still works-in-progress during the inspection visit.) The report concludes that “in a very short time the UNLV Law School has assembled to itself the elements needed for success — an excellent faculty, well qualified students, a supportive university and generous private supporters.”

Following the October ABA report, the law school’s accreditation application came before the association’s accreditation committee Nov. 1. The committee members had nothing but praise for the institution, and voted unanimously to recommend full accreditation. This recommendation will go to the Council of the ABA Section on Legal Education this month, and if the council acts favorably upon it, the ABA House of Delegates will vote on the full accreditation in February.

Libraries

The UNLV Libraries strive to meet the needs of the scholarly community in Las Vegas. Therefore, it is a pleasure to announce that three new faculty members have joined the staff since June.

Susie Skar, who has a master of library science degree, is the federal depository librarian. She assists campus and community members with their government research needs. In the coming months, look for training on using government print and online resources, an updated government Web page, and improved access to government materials.

Priscilla Finley, who has a master of library science degree and a master’s degree in English, is the public services librarian for the humanities. She evaluates and selects print and electronic resources in the areas of literature, theater, film, communications, and philosophy. Anyone with specific research needs in these areas should contact Finley.

Reeta Sinha, who has a master of science in library science and a master of public health, is the new head of collection development. She oversees the development of the University Libraries collections and coordinates the work of the many subject librarians. Sinha brings with her experience from the health sciences libraries of Emory University in Atlanta, Texas Medical Center in Houston, and the Hoover Institution Library at Stanford University.

In addition, the Libraries is lucky to work with Dani Porter, the UNLV Foundation’s new director of development for the Libraries. She oversees major gift support for the Architecture, Curriculum Materials, Music, and Lied Libraries. Porter holds a bachelor’s degree in public relations and a master of library and information science degree.

Sciences

The department of biological sciences has received a National Science Foundation (NSF) award of approximately $1.7 million to develop and implement biotechnologies for understanding how organisms

continued on page 7

inside UNLV
from Southern Nevada who have committed themselves to service to the community.

It will be near a major interchange on the byway and adjacent to property that we believe will become sites for high-tech businesses. The park will probably house various research clusters in areas such as biotechnology, materials science, alternative energy, and other endeavors directly related to UNLV research programs and to economic development in Southern Nevada.

It is certainly a pleasure to move ahead with these plans. The creation of a research park will help us achieve so many of our goals; it will enhance our academic stature, advance our research agenda, contribute to our ability to serve our community and state, and provide new avenues for generating revenue. It is indeed hard to imagine a more beneficial plan as we work toward our goal of becoming one of the finest urban research universities in the country. I look forward to sharing more details about this wonderful development with the campus community as our plans evolve.
New Building

continued from page 1

UNLV needs to meet the growing demand in Nevada for technology, engineering, and science education and research.

“We believe that the new building will meet the highly sophisticated research needs of the natural sciences, such as chemistry, physics, biology, and geoscience, as well as the needs of the various engineering disciplines for the next decade,” said Fred Bachhuber, dean of the College of Sciences.

The new building, which will be located north of the Engineering Complex and west of the parking garage, will allow faculty and student researchers to increase their levels of collaboration with local industry as well as to create the academic environment sought by technology-based companies when they are deciding where to locate, according to UNLV officials.

They say it will help fuel the region’s economic engine and address some of the economic diversification challenges facing Nevada by producing highly trained and educated professionals; fostering new ideas and technological breakthroughs; creating programs based on the state’s research and technology needs and strengths; and helping Nevada establish the research base needed to support the growth of new business.

The Nevada Development Authority previously has identified four clusters on which it believes Southern Nevada should focus its economic development efforts. Three of the four — information technology, entertainment technology, and electronics design and assembly — will be impacted or supported by the new building.

The university plans to locate four interdisciplinary programs in the Science, Engineering and Technology Building. They are:

- Arid Lands Environmental Science, Policy, and Engineering. As a university located in a rapidly growing urban area in an arid environment, UNLV has a valuable opportunity to conduct research on how population growth impacts arid lands and the surrounding natural resources.

- Energy and Materials Science Engineering. This program will focus on developing renewable energy sources, such as solar energy and wind harvesting, to help meet the nation’s growing energy needs and on researching alternative fuels for mass transit systems.

- Entertainment and Convention Technology and Engineering. This program will focus on a wide variety of operations and services for performing arts and hospitality management, including robotics and animatronics, control systems for amusement and recreation designs, and virtual reality and the use of computers in entertainment.

- Information, Data, and Communications Technology. The proposed programs in this area include development of improved cyber-security systems, use of Geographical Information Systems to improve planning and communication in cities and counties, and improvement in Web and Internet capabilities to permit advances in highly specialized fields such as telemedicine.

“We are engaged in the engineering and science disciplines at UNLV — as well as members of the university administration — are extremely excited and enthusiastic about the important advances in academics and research that will be possible once this top-of-the-line building is complete,” said Darrell Pepper, dean of the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering, which includes civil and environmental engineering; mechanical engineering; electrical and computer engineering; and computer science. “It will be an incredibly valuable step forward for both the university and the community.”

Urban Affairs

The Center for Urban Partnerships (CUP) is an interdisciplinary applied research and service center affiliated with the college. The mission of this newly established academic research center is to create interdisciplinary university and community partnerships focusing primarily on research and program development that addresses contemporary issues and ameliorates rates risk factors facing both individuals and communities. Uniting the expertise of faculty with the experiences and needs of the community, CUP strives to stimulate applied research, develop needed programs, and provide a high level of services to the community.

CUP is comprised of faculty researchers who are nationally recognized experts in their fields. Ramona Denby of the School of Social Work was appointed associate dean for research for the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs in July. Denby administratively oversees and facilitates the creation of research collaborations and community partnerships for CUP.

Lawrence Scheier, associate professor of counseling, is the center’s lead grant writer. One of his current funded research projects operated through CUP is “Dynamic Models of Adolescent Drug Use: Prevention.” Helen Neill, associate professor and chair of environmental studies, is lead researcher of a project titled “Reducing Ultraviolet (UV) Radiation Risks.” Dick McKorkle, associate professor and chair of criminal justice, is another of the center’s lead researchers. The CUP professional staff includes project director Michelle Weibel and several computer personnel, statisticians, and research assistants. To learn more about CUP projects or to inquire about research collaborations, call ext. 2926 or visit www.unlv.edu/centers/cup.

News from the Colleges

continued from page 5

respond to environmental change. This research will help scientists identify the biochemical and physiological mechanisms of adaptation to stressful environments as well as understand the ecological consequences of global change. The award is part of a larger $9 million grant awarded from NSF’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to the University and Community College System of Nevada as part of a broad effort to improve the Nevada’s science and technology infrastructure, expand program offerings, pay for a variety of scientific projects, and increase diversity in the sciences. In addition to the biotechnology award, the larger grant includes funds for systemwide development of advanced computing capabilities and nanotechnologies.

The portion of the grant devoted to biotechnology and stress adaptation was written by biological sciences faculty members Carl Reiber and Stephen Roberts. The funds are being used to develop a core molecular biology laboratory with capacities for genomic profiling, to build a controlled-environment facility for housing study organisms, and to provide start-up supplies to new biological sciences faculty hires and stipends to undergraduate and graduate students with research projects related to stress adaptation. For example, UNLV students have received support for research of the biochemical mechanisms by which aquatic invertebrates cope with oxygen-deprived environments, of how important crop plants alter their gene expression to deal with drought and salt-stress, and of the response of insect gene activity to elevated atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

President Carol C. Harter requests that faculty, classified staff, and professional staff join her at

**UNLV's Annual Holiday Reception**

Tuesday, December 10 • 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History
Staff Members Find Paradise at New Location

by Gian Galassi

After working for the last 17 years out of a crowded office inside Frazier Hall, Ann Tate couldn’t wait to relocate to UNLV’s Paradise campus. And so far, the new location seems to be living up to its name. “This is the single most exciting thing that has happened since I started here,” said Tate, who is director of the Center for Professional Development.

“much of what we will be focusing on here will fit directly into the president’s macrothemes,” Neuman said. “And with the thrust of research on campus, we are well positioned to create new programs, courses, and certificates that will help support those goals.”

But the staff members of the division of educational outreach aren’t the only ones excited about moving to the new campus. Michael Murray, deputy director of public safety, said he has long been looking forward to having more space to accommodate his expanding department. This month, public safety is relocating its administration offices, investigative unit, and the squad room from its former location at the Claude L. Howard Public Safety Building on Harmon Avenue.

“Both the main and Paradise campuses will benefit from our relocation to these facilities,” Murray said. “In addition to being able to respond quicker to police calls, we also now have the opportunity to enhance our relationship with the surrounding neighborhood community.”

Other benefits for the department include increased space for central record keeping and for evidence processing and storage. Room also will be available to develop a state-of-the-art emergency operations center. Murray also noted that the relocation will free up space to improve the dispatch center, customer service facilities, and parking operations, which will all remain at the Harmon location.

The decision to house the College of Business’ MBA program at the Paradise campus was as much a function of service as design. Although it will not be relocating any faculty or staff there, the college’s entire lineup of evening MBA courses will be held at the Paradise campus. In doing so, administrators hope to both maximize the use of classrooms at the new location and help to alleviate the space crunch on the main campus. Administrators also hope that the location will help the program forge a stronger partnership with the business community, which already benefits from seminars and national conferences offered by the division of educational outreach.

These three units will occupy the majority of space at the Paradise campus; the few remaining offices and mobile units are slated to house yet-to-be-determined research functions and serve as “surgery space.”

“People seem really happy to be working here,” Neuman said. “When you make people’s working conditions more comfortable they end up being more productive as a result. And when you think about how many big things were accomplished out of that small office in Frazier Hall, just imagine what our potential is here.”

Students Gwen Yoon and Steve Hong view the Tunnel of Oppression exhibit at the Moyer Student Union. The exhibit explored disabilities, media and oppression, legal oppression, children’s issues, and genocide.

Dean’s Desk

continued from page 4

completely voluntary and confidential. Please contact my office at ext. 3401 or Dr. Swetnam at ext. 3590 for more information, or for a copy of the list.

Finally, the college has created a “Teaching Travel Fund” that supports faculty travel to conferences and workshops that are entirely devoted to teaching. These funds, while limited, have been used by a number of liberal arts faculty members to enhance their skills in implementing technology in the classroom, handling diversity and cultural differences, and increasing credentials for certification purposes. The College of Liberal Arts recognizes that research informs teaching, but that the teaching enterprise needs additional support and recognition. The College programs described above do that.

These are just a few of the recent developments in the College of Liberal Arts. If you are interested in learning more about the college, please let me know. I would be glad to share with you the college’s e-mail newsletter and other communication pieces about the college.