Inside UNLV

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Fall Enrollment Increases Dramatically

UNLV's enrollment figures increased dramatically this fall, jumping 5.7 percent in the total number of students and increasing an unprecedented 9.5 percent over last year in the important full-time equivalent (FTE) figure.

FTE, a figure that uses a formula to calculate the equivalent number of full-time students based on the number of credits taken by all students, determines the amount of per-student funding the institution receives from the Nevada Legislature.

This fall, FTE increased to 17,777 and the total count of students rose to 24,965.

"We have been posting spectacular growth over the past several years, but this fall's figures surpassed any we have seen in recent years," UNLV President Carol C. Harter said.

"UNLV is doing everything possible to accommodate the large number of new students. Despite base budget cuts and additional unfunded costs, we have filled the classrooms and provided the services students require," Harter said. "It is, of course, exciting to witness the remarkable growth of our maturing campus. UNLV is becoming better as well as bigger. We are among the largest 75 universities in the United States."

"At the same time, we are facing a significant challenge. UNLV welcomed 1,347 new students just this fall. I believe it is incumbent upon UNLV, as the state's largest university and fastest-growing campus, to serve those Nevadans who choose to pursue higher education."

Instant Feedback:

Online Admissions Speed Up Process

by Cate Weeks

It once seemed that enrolling in college was a hurry-up-and-wait process. There were deadlines to meet, forms to fill out, transcripts to request, and then the long wait for that acceptance letter to arrive in the mail.

UNLV has already streamlined the process with online application forms. Now the university is testing Fast Apps, an automated admissions system available to Clark County School District students who qualify for the Millennium Scholarships.

These students are sent letters encouraging them to apply to UNLV via a secure Web site. Once students fill out the online form, which takes about seven minutes to complete, the students are automatically accepted to UNLV, pending verification of the information.

"Fast Apps invites students to apply now rather than later when we are at our busiest time processing applications," said Christopher Stevens, director of client services for student enrollment and financial services.

The faster students can get through the admissions process, the sooner they will be able to receive academic advising and apply for campus housing, which may help alleviate the spikes in workload that staff in those areas experience.

"It's also giving us a vehicle for communicating with students the state has identified...continued on page 3
Preparing for the Legislative Session

by Carol C. Harter
UNLV President

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to campus after the holidays. I hope the celebrations of the season were as enjoyable for you and yours as they were for us. Mike and I had a wonderful time visiting with our family, eating well, and exchanging gifts. Our holiday gatherings are always delightful experiences that I would not trade for the world.

As we all return to our normal routines and start the new year, we must inevitably turn our attention back to work and the professional challenges that lie ahead. For most of us in the administration, this year (and all years ending in odd numbers) brings some additional post-holiday stress as plans for the next Legislature move to the front burner. It seems we hardly have time to take down the tree before we must attend to the pressing, last-minute preparations for the Legislature before the session begins Feb. 3.

Planning for the legislative session always demands a great deal of staff time, as copious calculations must be performed and myriad reports produced. Preparing this year has been especially challenging because so many critical institutional matters — particularly those related to funding — will be discussed this session. Given the significance of these issues, I believe it is important that I share with you information about some of our priorities, hopes, and expectations.

As I have previously discussed, one of our top priorities is gaining funding for three major capital improvement projects: the Science, Engineering and Technology Building; the renovation of and addition to the Student Services Complex; and Greenspun Hall, the new facility to house the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. As most of you have doubtlessly already read in the local papers, the likelihood of UNLV receiving funds for these buildings depends in large part on the levels of state revenue available for capital improvements. The revenue levels, in turn, will depend on several tax initiatives currently being considered by Gov. Kenny Guinn and the state's small business community, and we hope that, as the club grows, faculty members and students across the disciplines, the better they will be prepared to build small businesses after they graduate.

Although the club was established to help engineering students, it is open to students and faculty from all colleges. "We hope as the club grows, faculty members and students across campus will be interested in contributing to the club," Venkat said. "I think the greater exposure students have across the disciplines, the better they will be prepared to build small businesses after they graduate." The E-Club has received some funding from the Lemelson Foundation's National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance. In addition, Cox and his wife, Harriet, are providing endowment funding for the spring senior design competition. The competition is open to graduating seniors in the college, whose entries are judged on technical merit, presentation, and project clarity as well as innovation and commercial potential. The top three winning teams, selected by a panel of industry judges, receive the Harriet and Fred Cox Engineering Design Awards and prizes of $250, $500, or $1,000.

Venkat believes entrepreneurial education will be further integrated into the engineering curriculum in the future. "We think this is an important way that UNLV can further contribute to the diversification of Nevada's economy," he said. "We hope that, as the E-Club grows, it will be a vital link between students and the state's small business community, and we hope our students eventually establish their own small businesses here."

E-Club Fosters Entrepreneurial Spirit

by Catie Weeks

As today's engineering students are completing their degrees, a group of faculty members are hoping to instill in them a characteristic more often associated with their business college counterparts — an entrepreneurial spirit.

"Our engineering students have developed some innovative ideas," said Zhiyong Wang, a mechanical engineering professor and director of the Nevada Manufacturing Research Center at UNLV. "They have the ability and knowledge to design commercially viable products, but few have the management and business skills they need to ultimately bring their ideas to market. That's where the E-Club can help."

Wang and Rama Venkat, chair of the electrical and computer engineering department, launched the E-Club (that "E" stands for entrepreneurship) three years ago. Current members also include engineering professors Henry Selvaraj and Laxmi Gewali.

The club's goal is to broaden the educational experiences of students beyond the traditional engineering curriculum. "All engineering students are required to complete a senior design project before graduation," Venkat said. "They have to consider a problem, come up with a solution, and then simulate, build, and test their solution. The club helps them take that project to the next step — evaluating the product's commercial viability. We help the students develop business plans for marketing their products and introduce them to the process of getting venture capital."

One project Venkat hopes to see further developed was led by Kwame Coleman, who received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering last month. Coleman's mother inspired him to develop a passive-motion machine that exercises arm muscles. In 1997, his mother underwent brain surgery that left her left arm paralyzed.

"As a result of the atrophied muscles in her arm, she experienced a lot of discomfort and pain — she needed those muscles stretched regularly," Coleman said. "My idea was a mobile machine that would exercise the muscles for her, but one that wouldn't restrict her movement."

Coleman teamed up with fellow mechanical engineering student Kyle Kisebach and electrical engineering student Frank Oh. The engineering students also worked with physical therapy graduate students Edwin Suarez and Scott Hartung to ensure the machine worked the muscles correctly.

"This project was special to me for personal reasons, but the E-Club has helped me see how to take it from here to ultimately marketing it to others," Coleman said. "In the coming years, I'll make modifications, and I hope to eventually patent it."

An important aspect of the club is that it links students to local business leaders. The club sponsors a series of seminars on various engineering-business topics. More than 60 students attended a recent talk by Fred Cox, founder of four businesses, including the computer storage networking company Emulex Corp.

The club is also reaching across campus for expert speakers. Boyd School of Law professor Mary LaFrance led a seminar on patent law during the fall semester. Although the club was established to help engineering students, it is open to students and faculty from all colleges. "We hope as the club grows, faculty members across campus will be interested in contributing to the club," Venkat said. "I think the greater exposure students have across the disciplines, the better they will be prepared to build small businesses after they graduate."

The E-Club has received some funding from the Lemelson Foundation's National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance. In addition, Cox and his wife, Harriet, are providing endowment funding for the spring senior design competition. The competition is open to graduating seniors in the college, whose entries are judged on technical merit, presentation, and project clarity as well as innovation and commercial potential. The top three winning teams, selected by a panel of industry judges, receive the Harriet and Fred Cox Engineering Design Awards and prizes of $250, $500, or $1,000. Venkat believes entrepreneurial education will be further integrated into the engineering curriculum in the future. "We think this is an important way that UNLV can further contribute to the diversification of Nevada's economy," he said. "We hope that, as the E-Club grows, it will be a vital link between students and the state's small business community, and we hope our students eventually establish their own small businesses here."
UNLV Team in Place to Respond to Crises

by Diane Russell

Experiencing the unexpected death of a student, the serious injury of a co-worker, or even a "close call" that could have resulted in tragedy, can have a profound effect on a person.

In the aftermath of such an event, it’s unusual to have difficulty concentrating at work and trouble sleeping at night. Anxiety, depression, grief, and a feeling of helplessness also are common.

When such as occurrence affects an entire group of people - an office of co-workers or an academic department, for instance - the difficulties only multiply.

That’s where UNLV’s new critical incident response team comes in.

Spearheaded by Jamie Davidson, assistant vice president for student wellness and director of student counseling and psychological services, the team, which underwent training by a professional organization in the fall, consists of 27 faculty members, professional and classified staff, counselors, and students, as well as the mental health professionals from Davidson’s office.

If a group of people on campus experience a crisis and feel they need help dealing with the resulting issues, they can call Davidson at ext. 58027 and ask for the assistance of a peer team. He will pull together a team that consists of one mental health professional and several peers of the group asking for assistance. If the group requesting help is a department comprised of professors and clerical staff, for instance, the team sent by Davidson would include both professors and support staff personnel who have been trained to handle such crises.

“What the critical incident response team does is meet with the group requesting assistance to help them through the coping process,” Davidson said. “Team members encourage the people to talk about the experience and how it has made them feel. Members of the team then try to help the people understand that what they are feeling is normal - if it is - and try to provide information on what the people can do to help themselves and each other get through the difficulty.

"Much of the emphasis is on reassuring people that experiences such as trouble making decisions, extreme fatigue, muscle tension, and anger are normal - and on making sure that people understand the importance of taking care of themselves in the aftermath of a devastating incident,” he said. “People also need to be educated about the signs of stress so that they are alert to the possibility that an incident may have been more stressful for them than they first realized. One of the things we are trying to help people avoid is posttraumatic stress disorder.”

The mental health professional is there both to help other team members facilitate the interaction and to determine if anyone in the group might be in need of professional counseling, Davidson said. If counseling seems warranted, students will be guided to student psychological services, while professors and members of the classified and professional staff will be referred to off-campus agencies.

Police and fire departments across the country have used this kind of training for a number of years with positive results, including decreases in stress-related illnesses and in absences from work, he said.

The value of critical incident response training was brought home too clearly to the staff of student psychological services immediately after they underwent the training two years ago, Davidson said. They completed their training just before a holiday. When they returned to work two days later, they learned that a co-worker had died unexpectedly. Davidson was able to use his training to help those employees who had been close to the worker cope with the loss.

Davidson said he long has wanted to implement a team at UNLV, but it was not until the president’s office selected his proposal to receive an $8,000 planning initiative award that money was available to hire the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation to come to campus to train the peer volunteers.

While UNLV is not the first university to establish a critical incident response team, it is one of the few to do so before experiencing a large-scale crisis, Davidson said.

“Usually, a campus decides to take this step only after it has had the misfortune of experiencing a crisis and realizing that it should have been better prepared,” he said. “We should be proud that we’re being proactive rather than waiting for something to happen and then trying to respond without adequate preparation.”

Online Admissions

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as Millennium Scholars,” Stevens said. “As Millennium Scholars, these students clearly are qualified applicants. This allows us to notify them of their acceptance very early in the application season.”

Fast Apps is a precursor to a full online admissions program, which eventually will offer instant admissions for all qualified applicants.

Pamela Hicks, director of undergraduate recruitment, said greater automation will streamline the process for both students and staff. The goal is to eliminate unnecessary data entry, thereby enabling the staff to keep pace with UNLV’s tremendous growth.

“Just as important is the benefit this has to students - recruitment,” she said. “Quick acceptance is especially important to attracting students who apply early. They typically are highly motivated to attend college, have high grade point averages, and have taken college preparatory courses. We will be more successful in enrolling these students if we enable them to make their decisions early.”

Judy Belanger, executive director of student enrollment and financial services, added, “Students today are making decisions about the academic strength of an institution based on its Web presence and computing resources. How they view an institution’s ability to interact with them online strongly influences their enrollment decisions.”

Online admission will be based on the students’ self-reported grade point average, test scores, and completion of course requirements. If students meet admissions criteria, they will be automatically notified by e-mail of acceptance, contingent upon UNLV’s verification of the information.

“Many other universities already use online admissions because it’s the best way to communicate with today’s students,” Hicks said, adding that California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo is using a system similar to the one UNLV plans to implement. “Cal Poly’s accuracy rate for the students’ self-reported information is nearly 100 percent.”

UNLV is working with the school district to obtain high school transcripts electronically. “That will result in a tremendous savings for both the school district and UNLV,” Hicks said. “There’s no need to print, stamp, and mail when we can receive the same information faster and more accurately electronically.”

Belanger said sophisticated online systems also eliminate the need for students to go to several different departments on campus to pay tuition, apply for financial aid, and register for classes.

“Our goal is to make the business of being a student efficient and seamless,” Belanger said. “We want to free up student time so they can focus on their academic affairs and become involved in the social aspects of higher education. All of that, we believe, will lead to an improvement in student retention.”

Eventually, enrollment services plans to develop electronic systems for reporting student grades and for faculty to authorize enrollment in a filled class.

“We are working with the academic units to see what paperwork can be eliminated by simple, electronic means,” Stevens said. “By giving students real-time service online, we’re better able to marshal our resources and ensure all students receive equitable services. A major benefit to students is that they can access our services when it is most convenient for them - whether that’s 12 noon or 12 midnight.”

UNLV is already seeing positive benefits from automated financial aid processes. The department has been able to process aid applications much faster this year using online forms.

“This past spring, we notified UNLV scholarship winners a full seven weeks earlier than the previous year,” Stevens said. “The result was an extraordinary jump in our offer/acceptance rate.”

The offer/acceptance rate of UNLV scholarships from the 2002-03 academic year was 91 percent, compared to about 60 percent the previous year, he said.
Business

Irwin Molasky, one of Nevada’s most notable developers; Claudine Williams, a highly respected business executive and entrepreneur; and the late Howard Hughes, world-renowned philanthropist and businessman, have been named as the 2003 inductees for the Nevada Business Hall of Fame. The college created the Nevada Business Hall of Fame to honor top business leaders who have significantly contributed to the economic prosperity of Nevada and have brought positive recognition to the state. A dinner to honor the inductees is scheduled for Feb. 20 at the MGM Grand Conference Center. The event is being presented by UNLV’s College of Business in association with Deloitte & Touche. The Howard Hughes Corporation was honored in November as the third recipient of the state. The event was presented by the college’s Lied Institute of Real Estate Studies. The Lieder Award is presented annually to an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to real estate development in Southern Nevada, including in the residential, office, industrial, and retail markets. Sharon Fuso, who previously worked in the college’s Nevada Small Business Development Center, has moved to the role of coordinator of communications and external relations for the college. She will work with the college’s director of development on publications, board relations, alumni relations, and special events.

Dentistry

Once more, the UNLV oral cancer screening buses have started their voyages to Nevada high schools. Under the direction of Dr. Steven Smith, the former interim dean of the dental school, the mobile units depart from Reno and Las Vegas and sweep across the state, stopping at most Nevada high schools. Students are screened for oral disease and counseled on tobacco cessation and the risks of smoking and chewing tobacco. Thousands of students have participated in the screening program during the last two years. The state Health Division has collaborated with Dr. Smith to analyze data from this program. News about the results of the program is expected in the near future. This semester, half of UNLV’s dental students will be going back to second grade. This experience is a required part of the first-year dental school curriculum. Dental students will work with classes in targeted at-risk Clark County schools, presenting a program for youngsters prepared by the National Institutes of Health. The goal is to fight the epidemic of oral decay in Nevada children by emphasizing preventative measures at an early age. The UNLV students have prepared their lesson plans and will be instructing second-graders on oral health and on how to prevent tooth decay. Accompanying the dental students to the elementary schools will be large and toothy stuffed animals used to show children how to care for their teeth. Toothbrushes and toothpaste will be given to children, many of whom have never seen a dentist. Parents will be provided information in English and Spanish showing how to care for their children’s oral health.

In keeping with that goal, the department of educational psychology is pursuing two initiatives. One is to create a new Center for Evaluation, Assessment, and Measurement to provide services to the campus community, the local business community, and schools and school districts statewide. The center also would serve as a resource for university-based grant writers and project directors. The center would be funded through grants and contracts as well as through community support. Faculty from throughout the college would provide staff support. It is hoped that the center will begin its initial phase of operation in the fall.

The second initiative relates to educational psychology faculty working with the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy to improve the educational experiences of at-risk children. LeAnn Putney is chair of the Alliance for Educational Promise, an interdepartmental and intercollegiate group of UNLV faculty and academic staff. The group’s purpose is to document the process of the academy’s evolution as both a charter and a professional development school. Additionally, UNLV graduate students helped with the evaluation, and some are conducting supervised research at the site.

Efforts such as these extend the college’s role in developing state-of-the-art assessment and evaluation processes.

Engineering

More than 75 high school students participated in the 16th annual UNLV Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Day on Nov. 18. As many as three students and their teachers from each of 26 high schools in Nevada and California attended the event, which is sponsored by the colleges of Engineering, Sciences, and Health Sciences. SET Day informs high school seniors and juniors about science, engineering and technology education opportunities at UNLV and also provides them a look at college and research environments. Students are selected by their teachers to participate.

Highlights included 20 hands-on, interactive lab sessions in all areas of engineering, science, and nursing. Ten of the sessions were in engineering and covered such subject matter as the dish washing solar collectors, bridge building, and earthquake research. Students from as far away as Lincoln County, Panaca, and Alamo and from Yucca Valley, Calif., took part in the event.

Many faculty members, staff members, and administrators contributed to the plenary session, including Barbara Cloud, Stephen Rosenbaum, Sunny Martin, Pam Hicks, Bryan Spangelo, Walter Vodraska Sr., Jeanette Sorensen and members of the College of Engineering Advising Center staff, Debra Grandberry, and Elaine Barzen. A proclamation from Gov. Kenny Guinn in support of SET Day was read during the plenary session.

The colleges of Engineering, Sciences, and Health Sciences wish to thank all the faculty and staff members whose hard work made this successful event possible.

Graduate

Graduate coordinators play an important role in managing graduate education at UNLV. In addition to their individual contributions of coordinating specific activities within the graduate programs of their academic departments, these coordinators serve with Graduate College administrators and staff on committees that review new academic programs, curriculum, graduate student funding, and program issues. This structure provides an integrated, multidisciplinary peer review for all aspects of graduate education.
The fall semester was an active one for the college's committees, including the New Program Committee (chaired by Mark Rudin of health physics), Curriculum Committee (chaired by Kate Haubeck of sociology), and Student Issues Committee (chaired by Chris Heavey of psychology), and Graduate Student Funding Committee (chaired by Joe McCullough of English).

For example, as a newly revised Graduate Catalog will be published this summer, the Curriculum Committee has been especially active in reviewing new and revised courses. During the fall semester, it reviewed approximately 200 courses to ensure that this vital publication contains the most current information. Additionally, the Curriculum Committee is working with Associate Dean Gale Sinatra to transition to online curricular forms that will facilitate completion and submission of requests for new and revised courses.

Any questions regarding revisions to the Graduate Catalog should be directed to Harriet Barlow, assistant dean for graduate student services, at ext. 54992.

Honors

The college was involved extensively in recruiting activities in November and December, cooperating with the office of undergraduate recruitment and other campus units. Additionally, the college independently contacted Nevada National Merit semifinalists and about 800 Honors-eligible students from around the country who in their ACT and SAT registrations had expressed interest in UNLV.

In December, winter honors graduates enjoyed the Medallion Ceremony recognizing their academic achievements. At the ceremony, they received medallions to be worn at the commencement. To enhance recruiting, the college for the first time invited to the ceremony this year's Clark County National Merit semifinalists and Jane Kadoich, Clark County director of guidance services.

The college has been working with the office of marketing and community relations on revisions to the college's Web site — both to enhance the site for recruiting new students and to more effectively serve the needs of current Honors students.

In November, the Honors College and the College of Sciences' Pre-Professional Advisory Committee sponsored a program for students considering postgraduate work in various medical schools. Honors alumni David Shapiro and Tim Baker, both in medical school, generously volunteered to speak about what it is like to attend medical school and how their work in Honors helped prepare them. The Pre-Professional Advisory Committee addressed the issue of how to compose a maximally effective medical school application.

Hotel Administration

As a result of the success of Indian gaming, the tribes that operate casinos are seeking advanced training for members of their operations teams. Interest also exists in providing education for all employees in order to improve operations and enhance customer service. The tribes are often turning to outside sources for this training and education.

The Barona Tribe, owners and operators of the Barona Casino near San Diego, turned to the college's Hospitality Outreach Services Division to design a customized program for its casino employees. A primary goal was to improve employee morale.

The program taught employees about the interdisciplinary focus of casino departments. An overview of casino operations in theory and in practice was included. Additionally, Barona management wanted employees to learn methods for improving personal performance.

Ten modules were developed for the program. Prior to those presentations, the UNLV instructors went to the casino and met with members of the appropriate departments. The instructors gathered information that allowed them to customize their presentations for the Barona Casino. Instead of using general industry examples, each presenter tied the material to specific situations within the casino. Those attending the classes were better able to understand the principles being taught because they recognized local situations. Because it was their program, attendees were more animated, asked more questions, and performed better on the assessment that followed each of the programs. At the end of the program, each participant received a certificate of completion.

Law

The school is in the process of expanding the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic. New for the spring semester is the Capital Defense Clinic, taught by professor Joan Hirth. This clinic will assist in the representation of persons accused or convicted of capital crimes both at the trial and appellate levels and in habeas corpus proceedings. The Capital Defense Clinic joins our two existing clinics, Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice, in providing free legal representation to indigent children in their developmental years and thereby contribute to their destructive behaviors as adults.

The Immigration Clinic is still in the planning stages, but it is expected to be up and running in the fall. That clinic will be taught initially by associate professor David Thronson, who will be joined by professor Alberto Benitez, director of the Immigration Clinic at the George Washington University School of Law. Benitez, who has an extensive background in civil rights litigation, immigration law, and clinical teaching, will spend the spring semester at the Boyd School of Law.

Liberal Arts

The departments of anthropology, history, and political science and the Wilson Advancing Center have vacated Wright Hall and moved into the Central Desert Complex (CDC), which consists of six one-story modular units located on what was formerly the Lady Rebel softball field. The complex also includes laboratories for five faculty members in the department of psychology and a student computer lab that will soon be ready. The staff of each of these units works with Capitol-North American Indians to facilitate the transition to the new facility; this was a major task carried out with relatively few problems. In addition to the move to the CDC, anthropology moved its research and teaching laboratories from Wright Hall and the North Trailer complex to the vacated Westfall Building that formerly housed the office of human resources and other university administrative and business units. Asbestos abatement was completed in mid-December; demolition is now on schedule. Bids for the construction of Wright Hall are being evaluated.

In addition, the UNLV Child School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic moved from its location adjacent to the new Paradise Elementary School to a complex of modular units located on the southeast corner of campus just across the road from the Sogg Architecture Building. This clinic, under the direction of Christopher Kearney, associate professor of psychology, is a research-based outpatient facility that assesses and treats youths who refuse to go to school or who experience anxiety problems — such as panic, worry, or fear — that can be attributed to the school setting and which may be compounded by family issues. Fees are charged on a sliding scale based on each family's ability to pay.

Libraries

Seven excellent classified staff members have joined the UNLV Libraries. Two of the new staff members, Victoria McMahan and Jessica Adler, were recruited from the Libraries' own student employee workforce. McMahan joined the circulation department, and Adler works in the library administration office. Both women are completing their undergraduate degrees at UNLV.

The library administration office also hired Osa O'Neal. She manages the library administration front office and the UNLV Libraries' online catalog. O'Neal also provides clerical support. O'Neal worked for student financial services before joining the Libraries.

The knowledge access management division of UNLV Libraries hired three new employees, Kelly Robinson, Debbie Hunt, and Michael Yunkin. Robinson moved to UNLV from the library on the Cheyenne campus of the Community College of Southern Nevada. She catalogs new library materials into the UNLV Libraries' online catalog. Hunt also catalogs new materials, but her focus is on serials materials. She was previously employed as the media/reserve services coordinator in the Stewart Library at Weber State University in Utah. Yunkin is a digital projects intern and will assist the digital projects librarian, the Libraries' webmaster, and the head of cataloging to increase digital access to resources.

Michael Frazier joined the Libraries' special collections preservation laboratory. He treats library materials and supervises student employees. All seven of the new employees are pursuing degrees either at UNLV or through a Web-based master of library science program offered through the University of North Texas.

Sciences

Under the leadership of its new chair, Dieudonne D. Phanord, the two divisions of the department of mathematical sciences that existed before July 1 have been dismantled. The unified department is moving ahead and focusing on excellence in teaching, research, and service.

The department is revamping its curriculum to meet the needs of the 21st century. In addition to developing a teaching concentration in the master of science degree, faculty members are intensely engaged in developing a new doctoral program in mathematical sciences. This new program has four emphases — statistics and applied, computational, and pure mathematics.

Recognizing that mathematics is the language of all natural sciences, the department will pursue vigorous collaboration with all connected disciplines — both with in and outside the college. In keeping with this goal, an effort is being made to establish strong ties with NASA and to seek summer internships for graduate students. Moreover, the new leadership of the department is encouraging faculty members to seek external funding and to pursue research collaboration with all appropriate federal agencies.

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Spotlights on Accomplishments

Jonathan Strand (Political Science) recently hosted the 2002 annual meeting of the International Studies Association-West Region in Las Vegas. Scholars from five countries and more than 20 states were on the program. He is currently serving as president of ISA-West.

Timothy Erwin (English) recently gave a slide-illustrated lecture on William Holgarth at the Passmore Edwards Symposium on Ekphrasis at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The meeting brought classicists and modernists together to discuss the visual legacy of ancient literature. He also participated in a meeting, hosted by the Huntington Library and the Dark Library at UCLA, of the Johnsonians and the Samuel Johnson Society of Southern California. Erwin serves on the board of the latter organization.

John Massengale (Kinesiology) presented a paper titled “An Analysis of the Teaching of Risk Management in Sport Law,” at the annual meeting of the Western College Physical Education Society in Reno.

Mike Ellison (Institutional Analysis and Planning) had his presentation, “Web-based Tools for Collecting and Reporting Faculty Workload,” selected as the winner of the Best Presentation Award at the Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research meeting held in Wyoming in October. The presentation demonstrated the benefits of the user-oriented collection and reporting tools that he developed for UNLV’s faculty workload studies. Ellison, who competed with presenters from six states, now will compete at the national level at a meeting in Florida in May.

R.R. Apache (Educational Leadership) authored an article, “Use of Reaction and Movement Time as a Measure of Lower Extremity Functioning in Multiple Sclerosis,” which appeared in the fall issue of Clinical Kinesiology.

Brackley Frayer (Theatre) accepted the second annual Martin Intelligent Lighting Technology Grant on behalf of the theatre department in October. The award, valued at $62,000, supports a variety of Martin fixtures and control products, technical training and support, and quarterly seminars on emerging technologies and application discussions. The grant, which is awarded each year to an accredited university by Martin Professional, Inc., will allow UNLV to teach students with state-of-the-art equipment and will help establish an entertainment engineering program.

Thomas W. Bean (Curriculum & Instruction) co-authored a book chapter on “Reading in the Digital Era: Strategies for Building Critical Literacy.” He also had an article on “Making Reading Relevant for Adolescents” published in the November issue of Educational Leadership.

Ellis Pacey-Jones (Theatre) recently designed a critically acclaimed set for the South Carolina Shakespeare Company production of Much Ado About Nothing. While in South Carolina, he delivered guest lectures in classes at Benedict College.

Andy Nazarechuk (Tourism and Convention Administration) is serving as a visiting professor at Zhijiang University, China. He has been representing UNLV in a variety of ways, including making an invited presentation on “Tourism Development and China’s 2008 Olympics” at theCursorTiz Foundation Scholarship Conference in Suzhou and delivering a presentation on “Commerce, Trade, and Culture” at The People’s Government of Haishu District of Ningbo Business and Culture Interaction Forum.

Dr. Dean Gronemeyer (Music) recently added “attorney” to his long list of accomplishments. He graduated from the Boyd School of Law in May and subsequently received a letter that he had passed the bar exam.

Sue Fawn Chung (History) presented a paper on diversity and historic preservation at the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) National Conference in Cedar Rapids. She is a member of the Board of Advisors and Diversity Council of the NTHP and adviser to Preserve Nevada, the statewide preservation organization.

Diane Montal and Christina Drum (Institutional Analysis and Planning) took second place in the Best Presentation Award competition at the Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research meeting held in Jackson Hole, Wyo., in October. Their presentation, “How Do You Make a Provost Smile? Plug It In, Plug It In...,” was a demonstration of an Excel application that estimates the impact of individual course offerings on university revenues.

The national association represents institutional researchers from all states and territories, and the presentation is just one example of the work being done at UNLV in the field of institutional analysis.

President’s Column

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One of the funding matters is another of our highest priorities: ensuring that our enrollment growth is funded at appropriate levels. UNLV’s enrollment figures rose dramatically this fall, increasing an unprecedented 9.5 percent over last year in the important fall-to-winter equivalent (FTE) figure. This fall, FTE increased to 17,777 and the total headcount of students rose to 24,965. We have been posting spectacular growth over the past several years, but this fall’s figures surpassed any we have seen in recent years.

While it is the goal of both the university and the Legislature to have the funding formula funded at 100 percent, we were budgeted for only about 81 percent of it by the last Legislature; with recent budget cuts and additional unfunded costs, we are operating now at approximately 75 percent of the formula. Frankly, we cannot be expected to continue providing the current level of service and/or adequate operating funds for our students if we remain funded at this level. Realistically, I believe we must be funded at least 87 percent of the formula just to accommodate existing enrollment and maintain current levels of service.

Another critical issue for us during the upcoming legislative session will be replacing funding for programs previously covered by the estate tax. Recently passed federal tax laws call for the estate tax to be phased out over time; within the next two to three years, UCSCS’s portion of the estate tax—more than $62 million—will no longer be available for use. Consequently, university program funding now being supplied by estate tax revenue—such as the operating budget for the Dental School, funds establishing equity between the state’s higher education institutions and gender equity in sports, and part of the budget for the Boyd Law School’s legal clinic, just to name a few—must be absorbed by the state’s general fund.

Given the fairly bleak financial situation facing the state, it is a difficult time for us to feel the effects of the estate tax repeal efforts. Indeed, these trying economic times may make it challenging for us to obtain a number of our requests. For instance, the Board of Regents has requested a 4 percent cost-of-living increase for UCSCS faculty and staff for the first year of the biennium and 3 percent for the second; although I believe the raises are deserved, we have been told such increases are highly unlikely in the current financial climate and that we should expect lower percentage increases, if any. On the brighter side, however, we hope to receive the merit funding we often receive, and we are asking for some additional benefits for two specific groups: health insurance coverage for graduate assistants and a salary increase for part-time instructors. We are also requesting $4.7 million for dental school equipment, which is, of course, critical to the functioning of the Dental School.

These are just a few of the priority issues we will bring to the Legislature this year; there are, of course, many others of great importance that will be discussed as well. Despite the often-cited prediction that funding will be extra tight this biennium, I am hopeful the session will be a productive one for UNLV. I have the utmost faith in the ability of our legislators to recognize and support the needs of higher education in Nevada, and we will be working closely with them to communicate our priorities. In the meantime, I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the preparations for the session; I believe your hard work will help us make our case in the months to come.
PIA Grants Fund Faculty and Staff Projects

by Richard Jensen

The last issue of Inside UNLV discussed several of the Planning Initiative Awards that were granted by President Carol C. Harper for the 2002-03 academic year. This issue discusses five more grants that illustrate the richness of the work being done by UNLV's faculty and staff.

These grants provided funds for a series of speakers in psychology, for staffing of a clinic to help youngsters who experience chronic absenteeism, for producing a film, for providing self-management skills for students, and for a pilot recycling program.

Christopher Heavey of psychology received $9,000 to create a speakers program that will bring to campus three nationally recognized speakers to give extended presentations and to offer professional development workshops. The workshops will be free for members of the UNLV community; members of the public will be charged an appropriate fee.

Christopher Kearney of psychology received $13,000 to expand services of the UNLV Child School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic, which evaluates clients with severe/chronic school absenteeism. The funds will make it possible for the clinic to be staffed and open year-round.

Psychology professor Christopher Kearney received a $13,000 grant that will allow the UNLV Child School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic to operate year-round. The clinic helps children and their families deal with chronic school absenteeism.

Francisco Menendez of the film studies department received $30,000 to create a film project titled Primo, which will give film students and other members of the UNLV community an opportunity to crew and perform on a professionally run film set. The project also will continue building a bridge to the Latino community by involving them in the production. Susan Michael of the department of nursing, Jean Henry of the Center for Health Promotion, Lori Winchell of the Student Life Wellness Center, and Jeanne Clark of the Student Health Center received $29,430 to establish an Integrative Health Collaborative that will provide students with a series of self-management skills to enhance academic achievement and promote retention. Clark has retired since the application was filed, but continues to work on the project. Winchell has left the university and Cone Spano of the Jean Nidetch Women's Center has replaced her on the project.

Tara Pike of the Rebel Recycling Program received $3,700 to create a recycling pilot project in Frank and Estella Beam Hall. The program will be conducted in conjunction with hotel management students enrolled in the hotel facilities management course.

Rebel Copy Online Saves Time, Money on Paper Supplies

by Donna McAleer

The online Rebel Copy service does more than save departments money. It does something even more valuable — it saves employees' time. Ordering standard items such as business cards, stationery, and even quick-print jobs via the Web can result in discounts of up to 40 percent, while saving staff time associated with filling out forms and waiting for proofs.

"I love it," said Sandie Smith, an administrative aide for the department of counseling. "I've placed orders for everything — business cards, letterhead, envelopes — and everything comes out just as I've ordered in a much shorter amount of time." Smith especially appreciates the ease of the latest system version, RebelCOPY V2. "I just click on boxes and fill in the blanks. It's so easy, and it saves money to boot. It's been a lifesaver, freeing me from having to type up all those forms."

Saving time and money are compelling reasons to order online. Business cards, ordered via RebelCOPY, cost $15.20. Business cards requested on a paper work order cost $25.20. Part of the 40 percent savings is achieved because clients create their business cards online according to UNLV graphic standards and see their proofs instantly on their own computers. Their orders do not have to be tapeset, and there's no need to fix proofs back and forth. Customers ordering letterhead and envelopes online save $19.40 on each item for an order of 500.

The RebelCOPY system was first developed in 2000, but technology systems manager Jason Peraza and graphic artist Josh Rankin developed the new version of RebelCOPY V2 to make the system easier to use. Customers can now register to use RebelCOPY V2 through the Reprographics Web site without going through a cumbersome approval process.

The first thing people notice is the personalized customer interface. After your first visit, RebelCOPY V2 remembers your department information and preferences, retrieving them on subsequent visits," said Peraza. The system also keeps track of all the account numbers clients are authorized to use. "You just select the appropriate account from your customized list."

Another feature of the system is "preview billing" for business cards, stationery, stock forms, and routing slip orders. RebelCOPY V2 automatically calculates the total cost of those orders before they are processed. "Before you decide to submit an order for your department's letterhead, for example, you can see exactly how much it will cost. Then you can make adjustments to the quantity, if necessary," said Peraza. Such features make budget tracking easier, and the system automatically debits the selected account when the job is completed.

It's even possible to order quick-print jobs, like a letter to all faculty and staff, on the RebelCOPY system. Clients can attach a word processing file to their electronic work order and save a penny per copy on orders up to 3,000. The billing preview feature is not available for quick-print jobs with attached files, however, because of the variability of such things as the number of pages and bindery options.

RebelCOPY V2 also offers a new product to the campus community — customized routing slips. In the past, personalized routing, or "buck slips," with an individual's name on them were discouraged because of the high costs associated with creating, maintaining, and storing negatives and plates for them. Now these slips, which are printed on digital copiers instead of press, can be personalized to the precise needs of a person or department. The template for the routing slips offers a selection of standard options like "Immediate action" or "For your review." In addition, it allows customers to type in more specific instructions directly related to their department's operations, making the slips a useful and inexpensive tool.

"With budgets shrinking, it's important that departments spend their limited resources as wisely as possible. It's impossible to ignore the savings of online ordering," said Les Raschko, director of publications/eprographics. Departments continuing to order standard items on paper forms will be charged the higher traditional rates because those orders are more costly to process.

"While the paperless office has not yet materialized, it's ironic but true that the best way to order standard printed paper products at UNLV today is via the paperless system Jason and Josh developed right here — RebelCOPY V2," said Raschko.
KNPR Donates Jazz Library to Shaw Center

by Jennifer Vaughan

Twenty years ago, public radio station KNPR began local broadcasts of jazz performances originating from the Four Queens Hotel and Casino in downtown Las Vegas. What jazz impresario Alan Grant started as a six-week trial turned into an unprecedented 15-year run with a "who's who" of jazz musicians appearing both on the stage and on the air.

This part fall, that collection of 364 hours of performances by Las Vegas jazz giants Joe Williams, Marlena Shaw, and Carl Fontana, and other jazz luminaries such as Charlie Byrd, Mose Allison, Lew Tabackin, Billy Eckstein, Woody Shaw, and Bobby Shew was officially presented to the Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center at UNLV.

"KNPR is very pleased to be able to make this one-of-a-kind collection of jazz broadcasts available to scholars through the donation of all of our tapes and ancillary material to UNLV's Arnold Shaw Center," said Lamar Marchese, KNPR's president and general manager. "Center director Ken Hanlon deserves a lot of credit for realizing the value of these tapes in Las Vegas' jazz history," Marchese added.

"Former Four Queens executives Jeanne Hood, Ed Feuslo and, of course, producer Alan Grant deserve recognition for making the series happen. Most remarkable is that over the 13-year history of the national broadcast series Four Queens Jazz Nights from Las Vegas we never had a written contract. It was a handshake deal with folks who honored their word," Marchese said. "The importance of any historical research center is gauged by the portion of its collection that is unique," said center Director Ken Hanlon. "The one-of-a-kind tape collection of Monday Night Jazz at the Four Queens immediately gives the Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center a very high profile among jazz researchers. It can truly be said that KNPR's donation of this collection to UNLV has put the Shaw Center on the map."

Grant launched Monday Night Jazz at the Four Queens in 1982. His thought was that Mondays would be a good night to try a jazz format at the casino's now-defunct French Quarter Lounge because Mondays traditionally were "dark" nights in Las Vegas lounges. Monday Night Jazz caught on, and KNPR soon began local broadcasts. In 1988, the broadcasts went national on American Public Radio, now Public Radio International. Within a few years, the show was heard on more than 150 public radio stations.

In 1988, the series won the gold medal in the prestigious International Radio Festival of New York and was recognized by the Australian Academy of Broadcast Arts and Sciences as the Best Radio Music Program. Other landmarks include entry of the program in the Museum of Broadcasting in 1989, broadcast of the show on the Radio New Zealand network in 1990, and broadcast of the program in Japan in 1997 and 1998.

With the change of management at the Four Queens in 1997, the program ceased production. The archives of press materials, correspondence, photographs, and contracts, plus hundreds of reel-to-reel audiotape masters, however, still resided at KNPR.

The Arnold Shaw Center is jointly managed by the College of Fine Arts, the department of music, and the University Libraries. It collects, catalogs, and preserves important material in the history of popular music in Las Vegas. As part of the KNPR-UNLV agreement, the center will digitize the donated recordings to assure the preservation of the contents and will make the material available to jazz scholars and other interested academics, as well as to the public.

In 1985, author/composer Arnold Shaw founded the UNLV Popular Music Research Center and became its first director. Upon his death in 1989, the center was renamed in his honor. Shaw's colleague Bill Willard was named his successor and directed the center until his death in 2000. Shortly thereafter, Hanlon was named as director.

In the fall of 2001, the center moved into the music library in the new Beam Music Center. Today, the Shaw Center's collection of recordings includes approximately 20,000 records and more than 300 taped interviews of popular music artists. The remainder of the collection, including more than 1,000 manuscript scores and parts as well as miscellaneous memorabilia, is housed in the special collections section of the Lied Library. Among the items held in special collections are the music libraries of bandleaders Si Zentner and Dick Stabile.

News from the Colleges continued from page 5

Soon, the department will be engaged in a campaign to make mathematics more "user friendly." All UNLV students will be encouraged to complete their required mathematics courses as early in their college careers as possible.

Urban Affairs

The college's Student Advising Center (SAC) serves 1,886 Urban Affairs majors and makes nearly 4,000 personal advising contacts per year. It was one of the first advising units at UNLV to implement a comprehensive college probation/suspension policy, which involves the tracking of students who are on probation or suspension by office manager F. Lee Gregory. Because of an almost 30 percent increase in undergraduate FTE during fall 2002 and no increase in staffing, the SAC has trained its two student workers, Nic Mesco and Erica Ross, to serve as peer advisors to selected majors in the college.

Recently, director Carol Jensen and professional staff advisors Martha Shoemaker and Nancy Torno presented a poster description of their successful "Advising in the Classroom" program to the regional National Academic Advising Association conference. The program was developed over several years with the aim of meeting the advising needs of Urban Affairs majors.

Also among SAC's notable activities, Shoemaker developed and taught COM 100, a first-year-experience course designed to help students achieve academic success. The SAC's full-time professional staff members are active in UNLV's Academic Advising Council, serve on several university committees, and volunteer at Career and Welcome Week events. Jensen serves as vice chair of the Advising Council and next year will serve as chair. During spring semester, Torno will convene a task force within the council that will be charged with creating a mission statement and accompanying goals.