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## Inside UNLV

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# Inside UNLV

Faculty and Staff Publication

February 2003

## New Faculty/Staff Info Web Site Launched

An improved "Info for Faculty/Staff" Web site was launched recently to provide a better, more convenient way for faculty and staff to link quickly and easily to Web pages that are useful to them as employees.

The site provides links to more than 40 pertinent UNLV Web pages, offering quick access to a variety of subjects, including human resources, parking, classified ads, purchasing, e-mail and telephone directories, the calendar of events, and WebCT.

To view the new site, go to <http://facultystaffinfo.unlv.edu>. The page is also accessible from the UNLV home page. Look for the "Information for:" section on the gray bar on the left side of the page, and then click on "Faculty/Staff."

The UNLV news & public information office and Web services collaborated on the redesign project as part of an ongoing effort to improve internal communication on campus.

"We conducted a survey last spring to gather feedback from faculty and staff on what kinds of Web information they found most useful as employees," said Sue DiBella, assistant director of news & public information. "Using the survey results for guidance, we improved the site in ways we believe will better serve the needs of the campus community."

Several new features were introduced to the Info for Faculty/Staff site, including an interest box with photos in the upper left-hand corner. From the interest box, you can link quickly to several sites identified in the survey as most useful. Also, on the right side of the Web page, portions of the top articles from the most recent issue of *Update* are included; if readers would like

The interest box quickly links users to popular employee sites.

The top stories from the current issue of *Update* are highlighted in this section. To see the full issue, click on "more."

The directory links offer fast access to employee contact information.

The Human Resources section links users to benefits and training information.

UNLV  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

A-Z Index Campus Map Directories Contact UNLV

Quick Find Search UNLV

### INFO. FOR FACULTY / STAFF

Welcome to the Info for Faculty/Staff page. This website is designed to help members of the campus community find web information that is pertinent to them as employees. You will find links to more than 40 useful UNLV web pages, offering quick access to subjects ranging from human resources to purchasing to WebCT. Links to recent articles from *Update*, UNLV's campus newsletter, are also included below on the right.

**Need benefits info?**  
Click Here!

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFO:**  
• Administrative Offices  
• Board of Regents, UCCSN  
• Committees & Constituent Organizations  
• President's Office

**ADDITIONAL ADS**

**Community Links**

**Commuting**  
• Access Your Nolas E-Mail Account  
• Access Your Pioneer E-Mail Account

**Diversity Initiatives**

**Emergency Response Plan**

**Employee Directories**  
• Campus Telephone Directory  
• Email Address Search  
• Employee Locator  
• Experts Directory & Speakers Bureau

**Facilities**  
• Facilities Management  
• Submit a Work Request (iService Desk)  
• Guidelines for Scheduling University Facilities

**Human Resources**  
• Benefits  
• Employment Opportunities  
• Forms  
• State Training Classes

**Libraries**

**Parking**

**Photo Services**

**UPDATE**  
UNLV's Official Campus Newsletter

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: HARRY REID SILVER STATE RESEARCH AWARD**

In 2001 President Harter created the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award to honor the significant contributions of Senator Reid to research at UNLV. The award is funded by a grant from the UNLV Foundation. [More](#)

**NEVADA CONSERVATORY THEATRE HOLDS AUDITIONS FOR SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION**

UNLV's Nevada Conservatory Theatre will hold non-equity auditions for John Guare's "Six Degrees of Separation" on Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Paul Harris Theatre at UNLV. [More](#)

**UNLV STUDENT HONORED BY NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE**

UNLV undergraduate Ian Jankelowitz was honored Dec. 4 at New York City's Harvard Club for placing third in the annual Elie Wiesel Ethics Prize Essay Contest. Noted author and Nobel Peace laureate Elie Wiesel presented Jankelowitz with his award and a \$1,500 scholarship. [More](#)

to view the rest of one of those articles – as well as the rest of that week's *Update* – they can just click on the "more" button at the end of each article.

"Our goal is to provide the faculty and staff with quick and convenient access to the information they need, and use of the Web seemed to be a natural choice," said Tom Flagg, director of news & public information. "This is part of a larger effort to improve internal communication on

campus, which has involved both the creation of *Inside UNLV* and the distribution of more information on e-mail. We continue to seek ways to serve the communication needs of the campus."

Flagg encouraged members of the campus community to offer feedback about the Info for Faculty/Staff Web site. Questions or comments about the page should be directed to DiBella at ext. 50898 or at [dibella@cmail.nevada.edu](mailto:dibella@cmail.nevada.edu).

## Computer Science: 'What's Not to Like?'

by Gian Galassi

UNLV's School of Computer Science shares many of the characteristics that define the technology it teaches: cutting-edge, rapidly evolving, and in demand.

It should come as no surprise, then, that enrollment in its burgeoning programs has more than doubled since 1995 to approximately 700 students. And with a record number of new students being admitted every semester, the growth shows no signs of slowing.

Hal Berghel, director of the School of Computer Science, believes the increased interest is both a reflection of a strong job

market and the inherent fascination people have with technology. "There is no question that the plentiful supply of high-paying jobs in the field is an important motivator," he said, "but you can't dismiss the fact that computer science is just a lot of fun. It has all the elements that people want in a career these days – high salaries, interesting work, and plentiful jobs. What's not to like?"

Computer science courses have been offered at UNLV since the early 1970s, but a formal department was not established until 1980. Since then, UNLV has been conferring bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science upon an ever-growing number of students. In 1995, the

department added a Ph.D. program designed to accommodate the intense scholarly interest that emerged as a result of the computer industry's rapid growth. And just this past year, the department was formally designated as its own school of study within the College of Engineering.

But while the increased student interest may be partly a reflection of the job market, the school's focus has evolved along with the rest of the university. What was once strictly a teaching program is now a research-intensive academic discipline. Numerous faculty are engaged in important research activities and are publishing their

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## Preparing for the Legislative Session

by  
Carol C. Harter  
UNLV President

Many of you may have heard or read about the university's recently adopted "macrothemes." Though I have discussed them on several occasions and they have been described in various publications, I believe the campus community could benefit from knowing more about these macrothemes and what they mean.

By way of background, I should note that the senior leadership on campus began working with some 150 faculty members more than a year ago to help identify the major academic and research strengths of our institution. This effort grew out of the belief that it is critical for UNLV both to be recognized as a research institution and, in keeping with the goals of the system's master plan, to distinguish its mission from that of other UCCSN institutions. We felt a critical part of doing so was to acknowledge and publicize our areas of strength and to create a structure through which they could be identified and supported. We felt this would also serve to enhance our ability to set university-wide priorities and manage our resources more efficiently. This kind of institutional "self-reflection" is occurring at major research universities across the nation with greater frequency, particularly given the current era of limited state funding.

Identifying our areas of strength was the first step. We began by seeking to pinpoint current or emerging areas that characterize the contribution UNLV is making to Nevada and the nation. The goal was to identify the scholarship and research clusters that most keenly represent our commitment to partnering with our community, that support economic diversification efforts, and that illustrate the interdisciplinary nature of the programs active on campus. Over time, the initially identified macrothemes were expanded and refined with faculty input; we expect that they will continue to evolve as the institution grows.

For now, the number of macrothemes stands at 11; they represent a broad range of academic subjects, touching on nearly every discipline within the university. They include the following:

**Hospitality, Gaming, Tourism, Recreation, and Entertainment Management; Entertainment and Convention Technologies.** This macrotheme involves the analysis of how current and emerging technologies are used to support operations in hospitality management and the performing arts. These activities include efforts in the entertainment industry to design and control lighting systems, robotics, and animatronics; to develop control systems; and to use virtual reality to enhance entertainment value.

**Arid Lands Environmental Science, Policy, and Engineering.** This interdisciplinary research area focuses on the Mojave Desert and, by extension, all arid lands in the world in order to assess the effects of expanding urbanization and increased population on fragile desert environments.

**Language, Literacy, Literature, and Communications.** Researchers in this area explore the elements that form the basis of human communication. This involves examining the concept of literacy in its many applications; improving citizens'

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# UNLV, Henderson Create Rec Program

UNLV and the Henderson parks and recreation department have collaborated to create YouthFirst, a youth sports orientation program for parents.

The goals of the program are to encourage parental involvement, emphasize fun in sports participation, and boost retention of children in the programs.

"An added expectation is that parents, by learning their role in youth sports, will display appropriate and supportive behavior when watching games," said R.R. Apache, assistant professor of educational leadership.

Under Apache's direction, students enrolled in UNLV's sports education and leadership program developed and conduct a one-hour orientation session that all parents enrolling their children in a city of Henderson sports program are required to attend.

The orientation discusses the roles of the parent and the coach, as well as why children quit youth sports and what parents can do to foster participation. Parents complete a certification quiz and sign a code of conduct pledge at the conclusion of the orientation program.

In addition, UNLV students developed parental

training manuals, a resource Web site, and a series of newsletters to educate parents on sports participation issues on an ongoing basis.

Sue Weakland, Henderson recreation supervisor, said the partnership with UNLV allows the city to offer a parent education program tailored for the local community.

"We wanted to take a proactive approach to curbing violence in youth sports," she said. "The unique thing about this program is that it was tailored specifically for our community and gives us direct access to experts in this field. We're very fortunate to have found the resources to create this program right here in Southern Nevada."

Teresa Jordan, chair of the department of educational leadership, said, "YouthFirst represents university and community collaboration at its finest. With continued support and active involvement of the sports education and leadership students, the program has the potential to make a considerable impact on the quality of life of families in the city of Henderson."

## Computer Science

*continued from page 1*

work in some of the most respected journals in the field, Berghel said.

Since 1995, the faculty have produced more than 50 refereed journal publications and book chapters, seven books, and 73 conference papers, and have given nearly 500 invited presentations and keynote addresses at professional conferences.

This fiscal year, Berghel projects, the department will bring in more than \$2 million in external research funding. Research projects currently under way include a NASA-funded study of hand signals aboard space-ships; research into information-customization technology that scans e-mail and digital documents for threatening, mission-critical, or time-sensitive information; and research into Internet forensics, or the study of Internet "hacking."

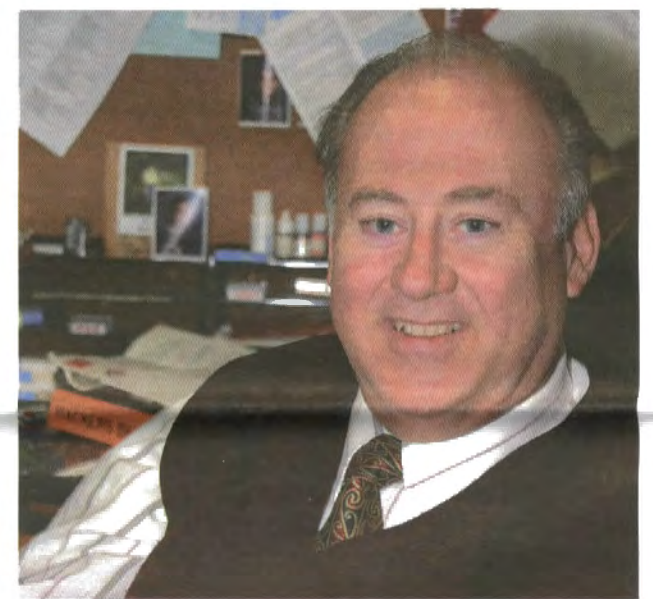
An important component of the research effort is the university's Information Science Research Institute, which supports about 25 percent of the department's graduate students and employs more than 10 researchers. All computer science students have the opportunity to work on projects at the institute as well as at other research labs, including those dealing with graphics and computer visualization, multimedia, and Internet security. Berghel said he believes that these kinds of research opportunities not only benefit the students, but also local business, industry, and government.

Berghel is already looking forward to what the future holds. Plans are under way to add several new programs that will cater to unique employment opportunities in Southern Nevada, including multimedia and graphics, and Internet technology and the Web.

"It goes without saying that Las Vegas is particularly appealing to computer scientists who have an interest in the entertainment, gaming, and hospitality industries," said Berghel. "But Southern Nevada is developing a computing and information technology base that goes well beyond those key industries. I fully expect that Las Vegas will establish its own unique identity in software development and host scores of software companies in the near future."

But Berghel knows that the students graduating from his program won't have to wait for that to occur. Labor analysts forecast that computer-related jobs will remain among the hottest career paths for many years to come.

"Our graduates tend to be highly sought after, highly rated, highly paid, and should have no problem



Hal Berghel

finding rewarding, attractive jobs both within and without Nevada," Berghel said. "Ultimately, our goal is to provide our graduates with an educational foundation and skill sets that will make them highly marketable today as well as prepare them to be lifelong scholars."

This past fall, the department received a six-year accreditation by the Computer Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, which is the longest such accreditation a university program can receive.

For more information about the department, visit its Web site at [www.cs.unlv.edu](http://www.cs.unlv.edu).

## Inside UNLV

### STAFF BOX

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# Planning Initiative Award Grants Detailed

by Richard Jensen

The last two issues of *Inside UNLV* have outlined 10 of the Planning Initiative Awards that were granted for the 2002-03 academic year. This issue discusses the final four grants. These grants focus on the purchase of badly needed equipment to train students for careers in health sciences, the future of the arboretum on campus, an archaeological study in Cyprus, and a service learning program that will help integrate service-learning into the curriculum across campus.

I hope that these three discussions have provided an indication of the richness of the work being done by faculty and staff on campus and have given an indication of the effect that the Planning Initiative Awards have on the campus.

Carl L. Reiber of biology received \$30,000 to purchase physiological equipment for biomedical/dental education. The equipment will be used to train students who are majoring in a health science field with intentions of attending dental, medical, or nursing schools.

Dennis Swartzell of landscape and grounds and Susan B. Jones of the landscape architecture program received \$8,000 to determine the future of the arboretum on campus and to create an interpretive plan that addresses the arboretum's educational role within the university and the community. Swartzell has left the university, but the grant continues under the direction of Mark E. Hoversten, coordinator of the landscape architecture and planning programs.

Alan H. Simmons of anthropology received \$19,902 to launch an archaeological study involving UNLV students. The study will investigate the colonization of islands and human-induced environmental impacts by undertaking interdisciplinary excavations at Ais Yiorkis, an archaeological site in western Cyprus.

Cheri A. Young of hotel management, Cynthia Carruthers of tourism and convention administration, Deborah Young, director of development for hotel administration, Robert Ackerman of educational leadership, and Jonathan Paver of the Teaching and Learning Center received \$9,838 to create a service-learning program that will help integrate service learning into the UNLV curriculum.



Anthropology professor Alan Simmons, above, received a \$19,902 grant to launch an archaeological study in western Cyprus. At left, UNLV anthropology master's student Kasey O'Horo and Ph.D. student Gwyn Madden participate in the expedition last summer.

## Celebrated Authors to Give Public Readings at MSU Ballroom

Noteworthy visiting writers will give public readings on campus this spring as part of Writers-in-the-Schools (WITS), an arts-learning program that promotes the teaching of contemporary literature in area high schools.

The readings will be held at 7 p.m. in the Moyer Student Union ballroom on:

• Feb. 14 – Tom Perrotta, a fiction writer and author of *Bad Haircut: Stories of the Seventies* and *Joe College*. His book, *Election*, was made into a movie in 1999. He is a graduate of Yale University and studied creative writing at Syracuse University. He currently lectures at Harvard University and lives in Belmont, Mass.

• Feb. 28 – Sandra Cisneros, a fiction writer whose works include *The House on Mango Street*. Her latest book, *Caramelo*, is a multi-generational story of a Mexican American family. She earned a master's of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa



Perrotta



Cisneros



Karr



Miller

Writers' Workshop and has won two National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) fellowships and a MacArthur fellowship. She lives in San Antonio.

• March 28 – Mary Karr, a poet and non-fiction writer of *Cherry* and *Viper Rum*. Her memoir, *The Liar's Club*, was a national best-seller and was selected as a notable book of 1995 by *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*. She was a Bunting Fellow at Radcliffe College and is now the Jesse Truesdale Peck Professor of Literature at Syracuse University.

• April 11 – E. Ethelbert Miller, a poet and author of the memoir *Fathering Words: The Making*

of an African American Writer. He is also the editor of many anthologies, including *In Search of Color Everywhere: A Collection of African American Poetry*. He is director of the African American Resource Center at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Prior to their public lectures, the authors will work with students in UNLV's MFA in creative writing international program and with the high school students and teachers participating in WITS, a project of the International Institute of Modern Letters, the English department, and the NEA.

The program received a \$40,000 grant from the NEA and \$46,374 in applied research initiative funding from UNLV.

The project is also funded by more than \$62,000 in private patron support through the International Institute of Modern Letters, including a generous donation from Park Place Entertainment.





## From the Dean's Desk

by Kenneth Marks  
Dean of Libraries

According to the UNLV Libraries spring 2002 assessment of service quality, graduate students rated library services below minimum in two dimensions: "access to information" and "personal control." Four focus group sessions were held with graduate students during the fall semester to further specify the areas of low performance; in general, they were expressed as:

1) a desire for the UNLV Libraries to communicate regularly with graduate students, perhaps through personal contact with librarians who serve as subject specialists and/or through a series of electronic communications, such as newsletters,

2) a desire for more information on how to search for and locate discipline-specific resources, and

3) a desire for improvement in the speed and convenience with which library materials can be retrieved (faster interlibrary loan delivery, shorter bindery cycle times, improved response times for the Lied Automated Storage and Retrieval System, and improvement in the ease and reliability of connecting remotely to library databases and electronic resources).

Efforts are under way within the appropriate library divisions to improve performance in these areas.

Even before our conversations with graduate student focus groups, remote access to library databases and electronic resources was an area of concern. It was difficult in some cases for faculty, staff, and students to connect to library resources (such as indexes, statistical databases, and electronic books and journals) when using off-campus computers. Connecting from computers at remote sites such as homes or workplaces required users to reconfigure the computer's Web browser, which sometimes proved to be difficult and frustrating. Now this problem has been resolved.

During the fall semester, library staff began testing software that allows authorized users to connect from off-campus locations without the need for Web browser reconfiguration. Testing has confirmed, as of this writing, that 98 percent of the electronic resources listed at [www.library.unlv.edu/resources/eralpha.html](http://www.library.unlv.edu/resources/eralpha.html) are now directly accessible. Students, faculty, and staff connecting from off-campus need only select the resource, provide a correct name and library barcode number, and proceed with their search.

As in the past, a useful guide to connecting from off campus can be found online at [www.library.unlv.edu/resources/remote](http://www.library.unlv.edu/resources/remote). We will continue to work with the vendors/providers of the remaining 2 percent of electronic resources that are currently in conflict with this new method for connecting from off campus. Please bear with us as we work out any minor glitches encountered during the spring semester.

## Business

The college, in association with Deloitte and Touche, will host the Nevada Business Hall of Fame dinner at 6 p.m. Feb. 20 at the MGM Conference Center to honor three of the state's top business leaders. This year's inductees are Irwin Molasky, Claudine Williams, and the late Howard Hughes.

The Fannie Mae Foundation in Washington D.C., awarded the college's Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies a \$38,000 grant to conduct research on "Rates and Race: An Analysis of Racial Disparity in Mortgage Rates." The institute will combine efforts with UNLV professors Alan Schlottmann of economics and Paul Thistle of finance, as well as with the University of Tennessee, to conduct the research.

Economics professor Jeff Waddoups received a \$25,000 grant from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and the Center to Protect Workers' Rights to conduct a research project titled "Injuries and Cost Shifting in the Construction Industry." This study will research uncompensated health-care costs of construction workers in the Las Vegas Valley.

In January, the college's Nevada Small Business Development Center relocated from an off-campus location to UNLV's new Paradise campus.

Keith Schwer, director of the college's Center for Business and Economic Research, presented Economic Outlook 2003 in December. Approximately 200 people attended the event. The center offered the conference twice to accommodate increased attendance.

## Dentistry

The school's first semester ended with all the students passing their fall courses. Faculty members now are involved in another busy and intensive semester with a wonderful inaugural class, whose motto is "Paving the Way." This semester continues the school's innovative integrated curriculum for oral health professionals and adds a first-year clinical dentistry course.

"Firsts" for the school this past semester included the hiring of the first permanent dean, Pat Ferrillo. Additionally, Millie McClain became the first faculty member funded for a research proposal. Several new clinical faculty members have come on board. Also, the school will be recruiting faculty members for integrated biosciences and professional studies.

The renovations of the Shadow Lane campus, where the school will have educational, clinical, and research facilities, are in progress with a spring 2004 date projected for occupancy. In the meantime, instruction will continue on the main campus with the second class of students entering in August. Already, applications for admission have exceeded last year's number. At the end of fall semester, there were more than 1,100 applications, compared to approximately 900 at that time the previous year. Interviews for dental students are conducted most Tuesdays and Thursdays; 128 applicants had been interviewed by the end of the semester.

## Education

The college is developing an assessment system to respond to accreditation standards and institutional needs that ensure program fidelity and measure

candidate success. Additional purposes are to track programs and to identify program strengths and weaknesses. Aggregate candidate information will be analyzed to inform program development, and a broad goal is to prepare professionals capable of responding to changing educational contexts.

Eunsook Hong, professor of educational psychology, recently assumed the role of director of the college's assessment system. She has begun data alignment of critical course learnings (CCLs) in which faculty designed syllabi that reflect national and professional specialty association standards, identified benchmarks, and created rubrics and course expectations that clarify the relationships between what candidates are expected to do and how these expectations are assessed. Current assessment practices include CCLs, course grades, field evaluations, candidate work samples, and course evaluations. Some of these are used to provide candidate and faculty feedback, some are used to evaluate curricular effectiveness, and others are used to refine the college's conceptual framework alignment and to project future needs.

Selected faculty members from each department as well as computer support staff are members of the college's Assessment System Committee. Such cross-college input is essential to developing a computer-based system designed to integrate data from UNLV's office of institutional analysis and planning and the state Department of Education.

The process of formalizing assessment ensures a long-term commitment to assessment as an integral part of program development and evaluation.

## Engineering

Professor Walter Vodrazka was appointed interim chair of the department of civil and environmental engineering in December. He has served as associate dean for the college and has also fulfilled the duties of chair at both UNLV and his previous university. He will continue to work as the coordinator of the college's Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Vodrazka's appointment follows the departure of Ken Fridley, former interim chair and associate dean, who accepted an offer at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Assistant professor Thomas Piechota of the department of civil and environmental engineering recently was awarded the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award. According to NSF, the CAREER program "recognizes and supports the early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who are most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century."

The college congratulates the following fall 2002 graduates who were recognized in the Honors College Medallion Ceremony in December: Timothy Atobatele, computer science, magna cum laude; Alan Frantti, computer science, cum laude; Andrew Hooker, mechanical engineering, magna cum laude; Mehlika Kiser, mechanical engineering, cum laude; James Traynor, civil engineering; and Nathaniel Whittacre, computer science. All six students earned University Honors.

## Fine Arts

The Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery was honored by *Las Vegas Life* magazine in December in the publication's annual "Vegas 100 Listing." The gallery was



named as "Best Place to Get Your Art Fix." In addition to the Beam Gallery, the write-up noted the Alumni and Grant Hall galleries and the lobbies of Ham Hall and Bailey Theatre as the places to go to see good shows of contemporary art.

The University Company of Nevada Conservatory Theatre presents Moliere's *Tartuffe* in the Bayley Theatre Feb. 7-16. Michael Lugerling will direct this hysterical comedy that has kept audiences laughing for more than 300 years.

From Feb. 21 through March 2, The Adventure Theatre Series presents *Dance of Bees* in the Black Box Theatre. When a group of friends is stranded in a mountain resort, things are not what they seem to be. In Darren Pine's suspenseful script, there is a dark secret that must be faced before the truth washes it away. It promises to be an evening of intrigue and mystery.

The Performing Arts Center is pleased to present Twyla Tharp Dance on Feb. 7. Twyla Tharp has created more than 125 dances and choreographed five Hollywood movies, including *Hair*, *Ragtime*, *Amadeus*, and *White Nights*. She has received two Emmy Awards, 17 honorary doctorates, and a MacArthur Fellowship. Twyla Tharp Dance has been touring to critical acclaim, performing a repertoire of popular favorites and new works.

## Graduate

As described in past communications, the college has been developing several electronic initiatives to enhance management and student services. The new E-COMS information request system was implemented in late fall and has enabled prospective graduate students to fill out an online "interest page." These students then gain access to personalized "VIP pages" which are customized according to the information they entered. Students receive automatic e-mails enabling them to access admission application forms, to receive specific departmental and program information, and to be apprised of relevant deadlines and events. Prior to availability of the E-COMS system, the Graduate College received an average of 360 inquiries each month. In the first three months of E-COMS operations, the college averaged 886 inquiries each month, an increase of 146 percent.

A second major initiative implemented this semester is the online submission and management of new graduate courses as well as revisions to existing graduate courses. Significant amounts of paperwork will be reduced and the efficiency of submitting curriculum changes to the college's Curriculum Committee will be greatly facilitated with these new procedures. Kate Hausbeck, associate professor of sociology and chair of the committee, has worked with Gale Sinatra, the college's associate dean for academic affairs, to design and implement this program. Instructions for submitting curriculum materials may be found on the college's Web site under "information for faculty."

## Health Sciences

The department of nursing continues to work particularly hard at recruiting and graduating undergraduate and graduate students to meet the nursing/health-care needs of our community. This process has been facilitated by the new "RevUp" program for at-risk students in the nursing major and by increased

recruitment of top high school students into the major. The graduate pediatric and geriatric nurse practitioner programs will also help to fill a much-needed niche in our community's health-care agenda.

Faculty in all departments have been very successful in expanding external funding for research initiatives from both federal and private sources. As a side benefit, national and international travel opportunities have increased as faculty have presented their research findings while at the same time helping spread the news about the depth and breadth of scholarly endeavors in the college and at UNLV.

## Honors

The college recently began two initiatives that will provide it more direct contact with faculty and students in the various academic departments and enable it to raise awareness of scholarship on campus, both for honors students and for the campus community. Honors has established a program of faculty liaisons to the various undergraduate departments. The liaisons will provide information about the college to students and faculty in the departments and will relay departmental information to the college, including nominations of students for awards and scholarships.

Additionally, the college, in cooperation with the Honors Council and the academic departments, is launching an athenaeum at which various faculty will informally discuss their research with students and colleagues. The college anticipates that this will be a regular forum for ideas, occurring about every two weeks during the semesters, and will help make honors students aware of undergraduate research opportunities. For more information and a schedule, contact the Honors College.

The college will begin a review of its curriculum over the next few months in keeping with the university's review of the structure of general education. The purpose of the review will be to improve and refine the curriculum for honors students pursuing the distinctions of University Honors Scholar and Departmental Honors Scholar.

The college expects soon to launch a comprehensive new Web site, which comes from extensive cooperation with the office of marketing and community relations.

The college also invites faculty to submit ideas for interesting Honors College seminars for talented undergraduates.

## Hotel Administration

Professor Shannon Bybee, director of the UNLV International Gaming Institute and professor at the Harrah Hotel College and Boyd School of Law, received a special achievement award for responsible gaming at the American Gaming Association (AGA) Awards dinner honoring America's gaming greats, which was held in conjunction with the Global Gaming Expo. He is the first individual not currently affiliated with a gaming company to receive this annual award.

Bybee is influential in addressing gambling addiction issues, which has led to problem-gambling regulations in the state as well as to promoting the need for industry involvement in responsible gaming. Bybee notes that some companies still may not give the problem the attention it deserves. He maintains that the gaming industry has a social and financial

responsibility to train its employees and be concerned about its customers. Nevada law now requires casinos to provide hotline information for addicted gamblers.

He began his gaming industry career in 1975 as a regulator with the Nevada Gaming Control Board. In 1991, Bybee was elected to the board of directors of the National Council on Problem Gambling. He has been teaching at UNLV since 1994. He was the first to introduce the topic of problem gambling into the classroom and, over time, the topic was incorporated into all coursework for introductory hospitality courses.

## Law

At its December meeting, the Council of the Section of Legal Education of the America Bar Association voted unanimously to recommend full accreditation for the William S. Boyd School of Law. Meeting with Dean Richard Morgan and a number of friends and benefactors of the law school, the members of the council had nothing but praise for the school's achievements since it opened its doors in the fall of 1998.

The law school received its provisional ABA accreditation in 2000, a status which qualified all of the school's graduates to sit for the bar examination in the state(s) of their choosing.

The final step in achieving full ABA accreditation will come this month at the meeting of the full ABA House of Delegates. With a favorable vote at that meeting, the law school will have achieved full accreditation at the earliest date permitted under ABA rules.

In addition to ABA accreditation, the law school is also seeking membership in the prestigious Association of American Law Schools (AALS), which is the learned society for legal academics. Many of our experienced faculty have been active members of that organization throughout their academic careers, but have had to forego participation in its activities since arriving at Boyd. They look forward to resuming their leadership roles in the AALS as soon as our membership is secure.

## Liberal Arts

The achievements of faculty members in the department of anthropology and ethnic studies in recent months have been many.

In addition to receiving the high honor of being named a UNLV Distinguished Professor last year, Martha Knack received news that her book, *Boundaries Between: The Southern Paiutes, 1775-1995*, had won the prestigious John C. Ewers prize from the Western History Association. Gary Palmer co-authored a paper, titled "The Filipinos," which will appear in a forthcoming book, *Peoples of Las Vegas*. He is a co-editor of the book *Cognitive Linguistics in Non-Indo-European Languages* and also is lead editor of a special issue of the journal *Cognitive Linguistics* on the topic of "Talking About Thinking Across Languages." Both will be published this year.

Jennifer Thompson's recovery work involving ancient human skeletons found around the Dakhleh Oasis in the western desert of Egypt is being highlighted on the British Broadcasting Corporation production *Secrets of the Sands: Neolithic People from Dakhleh Oasis*. The skeletons are from about 3000 B.C.

Karen Harry's book, titled *Economic Organization and Settlement Hierarchies: Ceramic Production and*

*continued on page 7*



# Spotlight ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Hal Rothman** (History) received the Texas Philosophical Society Award of Merit for Best Book in 2001 for *LBJ's Texas White House: "Our Heart's Home,"* published by Texas A&M University Press.

**Melanie Hanson** (English) delivered a paper, "Isabella Whitney – The Submerged Voice," in a session on Early Modern English Women Writers at the annual conference of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, which was held at UNLV.



Sinatra

**Gale M. Sinatra** (Educational Psychology), along with Paul R. Pintrich (University of Michigan), recently published a co-edited volume titled *Intentional Conceptual Change*. The book brings together international scholars investigating the role learners play in changing their own ideas. The contributors go beyond the traditional view that teachers, instructional materials, or developmental maturation are responsible for changing students' thinking. Instead, they suggest that students can become critical agents of knowledge change when learning in academic domains.

**Kathy Baker** (English) delivered a paper, "Cleopatra, The Darkest Lady of All," in a session on Shakespeare and Africa at the annual conference of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, which was held at UNLV. She also chaired a session on Early Modern English Women Writers.

**Rainier Spencer** (Anthropology & Ethnic Studies) has had his book chapter, "Census 2000: Assessments in Significance" published in *New Faces in a Changing America: Multiracial Identity in the 21st Century* (Sage, 2003).



Spencer

**Thomas W. Bean** (Curriculum & Instruction) gave a presentation on "Research on Teacher Reflection: Promising Directions" at the annual North Central Regional Lab Literacy Research Network Meeting in Naperville, Ill., in November.

**Robert H. Woods** (Hotel Management) has been recognized twice in the *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Education* for his contributions to scholarship in hospitality management education. An article published in November recognized him as the third most prolific author of scholarly publications in hospitality management education. A December 2001 article ranked him as the second most influential scholar in the field.

**Karen Lovat** (English) delivered a paper, "Dislocated Identities: William Shakespeare's *Othello* and Tayeb Salih's *Mustafa Sa'eed*," in a session on Shakespeare and Africa at the annual conference of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association at UNLV.

**Timothy Erwin** (English) has written an essay, "The Ecliptic of the Beautiful," that will appear in a forthcoming volume of *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*.

**Andy Nazarechuk** (Tourism and Convention Administration), who is serving as a visiting professor at Zhejiang University in China, recently addressed the faculty at the Shanghai Institute of Tourism on the topic, "Meeting, Incentive, Convention, and Exhibition Education Trends." At the Chinese General Manager's Training Program in Hangzhou, he spoke about "Convention and Exposition Management." As one of the recipients of UNLV's 2002 New Investigator Awards, he also is collecting data for his research project – a tourism assessment of China's Huang Shan (Yellow Mountain).



Landwer

**Jerry Landwer** (Educational Leadership) was inducted into the Northwest Missouri State University M-Club Hall of Fame, which is the highest honor given to an athletic alum or coach. When Landwer was wrestling coach there, his teams were nationally ranked with a record of 18-1 against Division 1 Big 8 schools. His career-winning percentage of .910 in dual meets was the highest compiled by any Northwest Missouri coach in any sport. His undefeated 1964-65 and 1962-63 teams were previously inducted into the M-Club Hall of Fame.

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

## President's Column

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ability to identify and critically evaluate and use information in its various formats; ensuring the availability and creation of literature; helping individuals understand cultural differences; and preparing communication professionals to use a variety of media effectively.

**Social and Urban Issues: Outreach and Collaborations.** This macrotheme calls for work with and in a diverse community to address critical social and urban problems. The goal of this effort is to reach out to and collaborate with community partners to identify and solve social and urban problems, focusing on issues such as child welfare, provision of health services, urban growth and development, public leadership, assessment of public programs and projects, and criminal justice practices.

**Informatics.** The focus of this macrotheme is the convergence of information, data, and communications technology. This convergence is evident in the telephone and video communication devices that are reshaping many aspects of society, including entertainment, health, and personal lifestyle. New developments driven by computing and information science are becoming essential within virtually all academic disciplines and sectors of society.

**Analysis and Preservation of History, Culture, and Society.** Researchers studying this macrotheme analyze and document social, cultural, economic, and historical patterns, enhancing our ability to understand the past, present, and future. They emphasize the collection of data and the subsequent management and archiving of that data.

**School Improvement, Assessment of Learning, and Educational Research.** Research in this area seeks to provide understanding of the roles education and learning play throughout our lives. This effort is based on preserving and enhancing a seamless view of

education from preschool through higher education, including the preparation of teachers, school leaders, and university faculty.

**Biomedical and Health Sciences/Biotechnology.** This area provides a broad array of research opportunities directed at understanding the causes, treatments, and cures of human diseases, as well as development of strategies promoting and maintaining human health. Current research and creative activity include the study of the underlying causes and treatment of cancer; applications of biotechnology to forensic science; innovations in prosthesis design, forensic dentistry, and mobile testing of student oral health; environmental toxicology and health; and environmental health promotion.

**Business and Economic Development, Diversification, and Management.** Study in this area involves the evaluation of the factors and processes within the community that determine job creation, increase job skills and wages within the labor force, and promote development of regional industries and businesses. Research in this area provides critical analysis of economic trends and technical needs, offering insights to local and regional stakeholders such as city, county, and state governments; development authorities; enterprise corporations; and area chambers of commerce.

**Energy and Material Science.** Within this macrotheme, there are two areas of emphasis: 1) renewable energy and alternative fuel sources and 2) materials science and engineering. The study of renewable energy and alternative fuel sources explores Nevada's natural energy resources – including wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal – that can be used to meet the energy needs of the region and nation. Research on new materials and composites involves experimental, analytical, and theoretical work on the component materials of natural and man-made systems.

**Development and Protection of Community Infrastructure: Ensuring Homeland Security.** Researchers in this area are responding to the national

demand for improved training and research associated with threats to the safety and stability of community infrastructure. They focus on multidisciplinary approaches in the study of homeland security, including examination of emergency response and management by fire and police; public transportation; public health and bioterrorism; engineering and construction; and strategies to ensure efficient interactions of local, regional, and national governments.

As you can see, many of these macrothemes were developed with an eye toward encouraging the pursuit of and collaboration on research subjects of concern to the community and region. This not only focuses research attention on matters often unique to our specific area, but also strengthens our relationship with the surrounding community. I have long maintained that given our relative geographical isolation, we have a heightened responsibility to pursue a research agenda that serves and nurtures our area.

I should note, however, that we likewise believe that faculty interest, expertise, and creativity must lead where they may; thus, we recognize not all research will fall into the categories defined by the macrothemes. As we have in the past, we will continue to support faculty efforts in all academically sound research, creative, and scholarly endeavors; I believe that any such activity serves our community and society at large by contributing to the expansion of knowledge.

In the meantime, the development of these macrothemes helps us identify and build on our strengths, distinguishes our endeavors from those of other system institutions, encourages team building and interdisciplinary collaboration, and promotes service-oriented research opportunities. Like many initiatives that we are pursuing, it achieves a variety of goals. I look forward to seeing how these macrothemes help us focus and contribute to the success of our research agenda and, indeed, to the campus as a whole.



## News from the Colleges

continued from page 5

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## Science

This month, the department of geoscience would like to highlight its newest faculty member.

Catherine Snelson joined the faculty last spring, having completed her Ph.D. in geophysics at the University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP) in 2001. As the first geophysicist on the geoscience staff, Snelson adds a new dimension to the department's teaching and research mission. Her primary research interests lie in seismology, the structure of the earth's crust, and earthquake hazard assessment.

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## Urban Affairs

The department of counseling is proud to announce the development of a new minor in compulsive gambling. This is the first minor of its kind to be developed in the country and has already been nationally recognized as a major step for the addictions field. The minor consists of six courses for a total of 18 semester hours. It is scheduled to be available beginning this fall. Students who complete the minor will be in a position to apply for national certification as gambling counselors.

The department of counseling is leading the country in addictions training with minors in treatment, prevention, and now gambling. The department also offers minors in human services counseling and family studies.

Students majoring in human services counseling will be in a strong position to provide counseling and to enter the department's master's program in community counseling. This program emphasizes addictions or marriage and family therapy. Many students are choosing to complete both programs of study and become dually licensed by the state.



UNLV President Carol C. Harter presents the Nevada Centennial Medallion to UNLV graduate Lesley Marie Peña. The award, co-sponsored by the Las Vegas Rotary Club and UNLV, is given each year to the graduating senior with the highest grade point average. Peña, who graduated in May 2002 with a bachelor's degree in business administration, earned a perfect 4.0 GPA. She now is attending Boalt Hall Law School at the University of California, Berkeley.

# FAQs on Classified Staff Retirement Benefits Answered

**Editor's Note:** *Inside UNLV* asked Mary Fischer, benefits manager in human resources, to answer the top questions her office gets regarding retirement benefits. This month, we'll address benefits issues for classified staff members. In an upcoming issue, we'll look at the retirement benefits of professional staff.

**Overview:** Classified staff members who are employed at least half time at UNLV contribute to the retirement fund of Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Nevada ([www.nvpers.org](http://www.nvpers.org)). There are two options when electing to make contributions under the Nevada PERS System. The first option is employer-paid contributions, which are calculated at 18.75 percent. With this election an employee's salary is adjusted to compensate for the fact that there is no retirement deduction from their paycheck. If an employee elects employee/employer-paid contributions, the employee and UNLV share equally in the contribution to PERS, currently 9.75 percent each. These after-tax contributions are refundable upon termination of employment if an employee does not receive a monthly retirement.

### How much will I receive when I retire?

The amount of retirement benefits an employee receives is based on the employee's years of service and average compensation during employment. Benefits are paid to a retiree for life. A retiree has several payment options from which to choose. PERS will review these options with an employee prior to retirement.

### What can I do to increase the amount of my retirement benefits?

Employees who have five years of creditable service, may purchase up to five years of additional service. An employee electing this option must pay the full actuarial cost associated with their age and average compensation at the time of purchase as calculated by PERS. The cost to purchase one year of service averages about one-third of an employee's average annual salary. The employee can purchase the additional service in a lump sum or by installment payments.

### Can I withdraw my contributions or the state's contributions to the plan early?

No. You are eligible to receive an unreduced retirement benefit with five years of service at age 65; with 10 or more years of service at age 60; or with 30 years of service at any age. If you earn the years of creditable service necessary to retire but have not reached the required age, you may retire with a benefit actuarially reduced by 4 percent of the unmodified benefit for each full year you are under the appropriate retirement age and an additional .33 percent for each additional month.

### Can I work while receiving retirement benefits from PERS?

There are no restrictions regarding private employment or public employment outside Nevada. However, there are very specific restrictions regarding work for a public employer in Nevada. Contact PERS for more information.

### What happens if I leave before retirement age?

Employees contributing under the employee/employer paid option who leave prior to retirement age have the option of leaving their contributions in place in case they return to public employment at a later date, or requesting a refund of the contributions they have made under the employee/employer-paid plan. Employees under the employer-paid contributions plan do not have the option of requesting a refund of contributions. They will have service credit available should they enter public employment at a later date.

### What happens to my retirement benefits if I die?

If an employee dies prior to retirement, eligible survivors would be entitled to survivor benefits:

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# Athletic Trainers Provide Key Assists

by Gian Galassi

They arrive hours before each game and stay long after the crowds have gone home. They are critical to the success of every team, though they never enter the game. They often help athletes make the highlights reels, but you'll seldom find their names in the pages of any sports section.

Certified athletic trainers are the unsung heroes of the sports world.

Since the early 1980s, the athletic training/sports injury management program, located in the College of Health Sciences, has been preparing students for jobs in this increasingly popular and growing profession.

"Initially, I think students become interested in athletic training because it seems like a cool job, especially for those who have an interest in sports," said Bill Holcomb, athletic training program director. "It's a hands-on profession that can provide some pretty exciting experiences, but not all of the work takes place out in the field. The responsibilities of athletic trainers have become much more comprehensive."

In addition to the more traditional courses, such as rehabilitation and assessment, students are required to study less obvious subjects as well, including nutrition, psychology, counseling, and even health-care administration. That variety, said Holcomb, speaks to the widening scope of the profession.

"A lot of people think that athletic trainers are very similar to physical education teachers, but in reality the profession is much more closely aligned with nursing and physical therapy. Our students have to be able to address a variety of issues, each of which are determined by the environment they end up working in."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, athletic trainers are most often employed in secondary schools, colleges and universities, sports medicine clinics, professional sports programs, and in business and industrial settings.

UNLV currently offers two degree programs: the preprofessional program in sports injury management, which prepares students for advanced study in medicine,



Assistant athletic trainer Ann Dovenmuehler, an instructor in the athletic training program, demonstrates a wrapping technique.

physical therapy, or other health and allied health fields; and the more rigorous clinical program in athletic training, which is designed for students who intend to become certified athletic trainers. The athletic training curriculum is the only program in the state to be accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

But interested students must have more than just a combined interest in sports and medicine to gain admission to the program, explained Holcomb. With a limited number of openings available each year, the admission requirements are among the university's most stringent, he said.

"We set the standards high to attract quality students who will be able to handle the rigorous clinical program and to help our preprofessional students prepare for demanding graduate work," Holcomb said.

In the clinical athletic training program, students must prove themselves competent in hundreds of skill areas, including prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic-related injuries. In addition to working

with UNLV team physicians and designated staff athletic trainers in the training rooms and in the field, students must also spend additional hours observing surgical procedures and assisting physicians in an office setting.

"The National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification only requires 800 hours of clinical work to sit for the certification exam," Holcomb said "but our students end up with more like 1,450 hours because our program consists of an additional semester. We believe the hands-on, clinical instruction not only complements the educational experience, but also provides excellent field-based learning and networking opportunities for each student."

During the program, students have the opportunity to work with a variety of athletes. They will work with both men and women and with athletes competing in both individual and team sports, including high-risk programs such as football and basketball. In all, athletic training students help provide medical coverage for 17 intercollegiate athletic programs at UNLV.

Athletic training students also have the opportunity to apply to a number of high-profile internship programs. Over the years, UNLV students have worked with such teams as the Arizona Diamondbacks and Dallas Cowboys.

The department of intercollegiate athletics offers seven graduate internships each year. These positions are typically filled by students pursuing master's degrees in kinesiology with an emphasis in sports medicine.

Although UNLV's program and the profession's various accrediting organizations have gone through some changes recently – including significant educational reform – Holcomb believes it is a change for the better.

"The market has been quite good for certified athletic trainers lately, and it seems to be getting better every year," he said. "Which might explain why we're currently looking at a record number of students applying to our program for next year."

For more information about the athletic training program, visit [www.unlv.edu/athletics/training](http://www.unlv.edu/athletics/training).

## GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK ON INSIDE UNLV!

We want to hear back from our readers about what they have found valuable in *Inside UNLV*. So please take a few moments to complete the following form, and then clip it out and send it to us at UNLV News and Public Information, mailstop 1012.

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 Did you find the information in *Inside UNLV* useful? Yes  No   
 Did you find the information in *Inside UNLV* accurate? Yes  No

Which part did you enjoy the most? The least? Why?

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Name and campus extension (optional)

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