3-2003

Inside UNLV

Gian Galassi
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Jennifer Vaughan
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Carol C. Harter
Black Mountain Institute

Carolyn Sabo
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, carolyn.sabo@unlv.edu

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Law School Receives Full Accreditation

UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law received full accreditation last month from the American Bar Association’s House of Delegates during its meeting in Seattle. “We are, of course, thrilled with this much-anticipated news,” said President Carol C. Harter. “A great many people have worked hard to make the William S. Boyd School of Law a first-rate center for legal education and a wonderful resource for our community. Our dedicated faculty and staff, as well as the donors, regents, and the Nevada Legislature, are to be commended for building such a successful and well-regarded program. We are also grateful for the tremendous support we have received from the community, including numerous professional and business organizations.”

Richard Morgan, dean of the Boyd School of Law, said that the awarding of full accreditation is confirmation of the school’s high quality of education. “Our goal was to achieve full accreditation as soon as possible under the ABA’s guidelines,” he said. “Happily, we have now achieved this just four and a half years after opening our doors to students. While the decision of the House of Delegates is not surprising, coming as it does following unanimous votes from the ABA Accreditation Committee and the ABA Council of the Section of Legal Education, it is still very satisfying. To earn the approval of this prestigious organization is very, very meaningful for our law school.”

Morgan added that with the rigorous accreditation process complete, the law school will continue to enhance its programs. “As a result of the accreditation process, our already strong law school has been improved, and we have justified our admission to the select ranks of this nation’s accredited law schools. Of course, accreditation is just a step—a major step—in building an excellent law school for Nevada. We will continue to improve our program and its service to our community.”

The Boyd School of Law is the only law school in Nevada. It was created by the Nevada Legislature in June 1997 and opened its doors to students in August 1998. It received provisional accreditation from the ABA in July 2000, which means that all its graduates have been eligible to sit for bar examinations throughout the United States. In May 2001, the school celebrated the graduation of its first class of students.

The school moved into its permanent home in the William S. Boyd Hall and the James E. Rogers Center for Administration and Justice in August. The law school also houses the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic, which offers free legal services to low-income people who otherwise would not have access to representation. It focuses on legal areas related to children and families, including juvenile justice, child welfare, and capital defense cases.

Professor Finds Time on Reservation Life-Changing

by Gian Galassi

Jane McCarthy thought she’d experienced some pretty interesting things during her career as a teacher. But that was before the sweat lodges, baby-smiling ceremonies, and goat sacrifices.

For six months, McCarthy, a professor in the department of curriculum and instruction, lived and worked in a remote community on the Navajo Reservation in northern Arizona, providing training to teachers and staff in one of the poorest school districts in the country.

“I think I worked harder while on sabbatical than I do at my regular job,” said McCarthy, who is back teaching at UNLV this semester. “There is a whole different set of challenges that you encounter out there (on the reservation) because the area is so remote. We had to cancel school for a couple of days because the roads were too muddy for the buses to get through.”

McCarthy first began working with Piñon Unified School District four years ago...
Planning Better Union and Recreation Facilities

by Carol C. Harter
UNLV President

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some background with the campus community about our plans for improving both the Moyer Student Union and the McDermott Physical Education Complex. Later this month, UNLV administrators and students will make a presentation to the Board of Regents regarding plans to expand and/or renovate these two facilities, and I felt the rest of the campus should be aware of these plans.

Students, faculty, and staff have long expressed dissatisfaction with these two facilities, maintaining that they are not adequately meeting campus needs. The union, which was built in 1968, was designed to serve 5,000 students; the MPE was built in 1974 to serve 7,500. Naturally, both facilities are now considered undersized and outdated, particularly when compared to similar facilities on other campuses across the country. We have received increasing feedback from UNLV students, faculty, staff, and visitors in recent years indicating that these aging facilities should be enhanced.

In 1997, UNLV's then-student services division began examining the possibility of expanding and/or renovating the MSU and the MPE. Last year, students were asked to participate in the planning process and to serve on the Rebel Renovation Committee; since then, they have worked with members of UNLV's student life division to help shape the university's plans to improve the two facilities. In fall 2001 UNLV also retained the services of professional consultants who conducted extensive research to determine student needs and opinions. They received formal input from more than 4,000 students through surveys, focus groups, and interviews. Their results confirmed what many universities across the country have already acknowledged: Student unions and recreation centers are extremely important in enhancing the overall quality of campus life and are an integral part of the educational mission of a college or university.

Based on the analysis offered by the consultants, the Rebel Renovation Committee has concluded that the current MSU and the MPE facilities are indeed inadequate in size to meet the university's goals and student needs. The survey results indicate current and future use patterns and offer us some idea of what features students would like these facilities to include. For instance, many students indicated that they would enjoy having greater food service options in their union, as well as additional meeting and lounge space, a coffee house, a postal center, a movie/performance theater, and expanded computer services. In a recreation center, students envisioned some of the facilities found in more contemporary campus recreation facilities, such as multi-activity courts, a rock climbing wall, a sauna whirlpool, group exercise rooms, a juice bar/ vending area, and state-of-the-art fitness rooms. One of the other problems with the MPE facility, according to the survey results, is that it is not perceived as

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PAC Team Looks to the Future

by Jennifer Vaughan

With decades of service to UNLV's Performing Arts Center (PAC) between them, Larry Henley and Lori James proved to be the ideal choice to lead the venue when Jeff Koep, dean of the College of Fine Arts, began searching for a new director last spring.

Ultimately, Koep decided to split the director's duties between James and Henley.

"Larry Henley and Lori James most likely understand the needs of the PAC better than anyone," Koep said. "Larry, for example, has worked with a variety of performing presenters in his tenure here. He personally knows all of the local users of the PAC from the Las Vegas Philharmonic to the Clark County School District.

"Lori oversees the business aspects of the center and is able to fully implement patron-friendly services that we hope present and potential patrons will appreciate," Koep continued. "Together, they understand the Las Vegas community, as well as the needs of UNLV and its students. Las Vegas is their home, and they have a personal commitment to bringing the best cultural offering to the community, as the PAC always has."

Almost 20 years ago, Henley became the PAC's first official staff member, assisting then-director Rick Romito with everything from lighting to event scheduling. As a theatre facilities specialist, Henley's duties were numerous and diverse.

"I gradually took on more responsibility and learned a great deal," Henley said. "I was promoted to facilities manager in 1988 and had, by that time, a wealth of experience to draw upon."

Around the same time, Lori James was managing the PAC box office, having worked her way up from her first position as an usher.

"In 1981, I was still a high school student when I began ushering at the PAC," James said. "When I moved to the box office, I loved it. I really developed an appreciation for the business of ticketing."

James soon began managing the entire PAC business office and was responsible for ticketing, payroll, and other day-to-day business operations. "The biggest challenge for me at the time was learning to manage several different areas," she said. "I wore many hats."

Today, Henley and James have combined their years of knowledge and experience and together direct what many believe to be Las Vegas' most prestigious performing arts venue. Both say they are excited about the future of the PAC and up for the challenges they will encounter in their new roles.

"The dean is presenting a unified effort," James said. "We are both grateful to get this opportunity. He has faith in us and believes that this will work. It wouldn't be right any other way. It's innovative and exciting."

"We want to be the best PAC in the city for a long time," Henley said. "We have had some great developments recently from being blessed with a fantastic new parking garage to having the lobby renovated to learning to be leaner and more efficient."

Other goals for the duo include raising funds to improve the seats and upgrade the sound and lighting equipment.

"With the right funding and support, there are no limits," Henley said. "We are a microcosm of the overall arts community. No place provides as much as we do. We need to continue to exceed our reputation for delivering the best and most original programming in a great facility."

Larry Henley and Lori James now share responsibility for overseeing the university's Performing Arts Center. Together they have nearly a half century of experience at the PAC.
by Diane Russell

Looking for an architecturally interesting shot of your college's building?
Seeking photos of students on campus to illustrate your brochure?

Need a photo of a faculty member interacting with students?

Dozens of photos, including those of people, buildings, and activities, now may be ordered online from the recently improved and expanded photo library found at http://photo.unlv.edu.

"While it has been possible to view some of the campus photos online for some time, the new online photo library is expanded and much easier to use," said Tom Flagg, director of UNLV news, public information & photo services. "The online ordering capability, coupled with the addition of many new photos, will make the photo site increasingly useful to people on and off campus."

Photos are divided into the categories of academic life, administration, alumni, buildings and grounds, campus at night, historical, performing arts, Powerpoint, and student life. New categories will be created as they are needed. Clicking on one of the categories brings up a number of photos from which to choose. Currently, more than 100 images are available from the photo library.

"We continually are adding photos to the site, so people who produce multiple publications each semester probably will want to check back periodically to see what new images we have added since their last visit," said campus photographer Geri Kodey. "Our goal is to have as broad a photographic representation of UNLV as possible."

"The photo library also will be of interest to the many faculty and staff members who make PowerPoint presentations," said Earnest Phillips, director of marketing and public relations, whose web services office worked with UNLV news, public information & photo services on the project. "Images formatted to download easily into a PowerPoint presentation now are included in the library for the first time."

Ordering a photo is easy. Clicking on "ordering information" will provide explicit directions, including tips on which type of formatting to select when ordering a digital photo.

Digital photos cost $10 for a high- or low-resolution image. Burning a CD also costs $10. Print orders are $10 per sheet, with each sheet containing either one 8x10, two 5x7's, three 4x6's, or eight 2x3's.

PowerPoint images are free.

"Our division always is looking for ways we can improve the many services we offer the UNLV community," said Fred Albrecht, vice president for university and community relations. "Expanding the online photo collection and offering online photo ordering are part of that continuing effort."

Editorial Style Guide Now Available for Campus Use

An Editorial Style Guide, designed to assist people preparing publications about the campus or its colleges or departments, is now available online.

The guide can be found under "publications" on the faculty/staff info page. The URL, for those wishing to go directly to the site, is http://facstaffinfo.unlv.edu/editorialGuide.html.

Included in the guide are tips on a variety of subjects, including capitalization and use of abbreviations.

The guide was developed by the university publications group — a committee of communicators from across campus.

"We encourage the UNLV community to use the guide to assist them in their writing efforts," said Barbara Childs, public relations specialist. "Our goal was to produce a reference document that would help campus communicators adopt a style that is consistent and appropriate for university use."

UNLV Launches Enhanced Online Photo Library

This photo of the Classroom Building Complex is one of the dozens of pictures now available through UNLV's expanded online photo library. Users can order prints or digital images. PowerPoint images can be downloaded free of charge.

UNLV Mourns Loss of William McCool

Astronaut William McCool, the son of UNLV faculty members Barry and Audrey McCool, was killed Feb. 1 in the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia.

A commander in the U.S. Navy, "Willie" McCool was the pilot of the Columbia. It was his first space mission.

Born Sept. 23, 1961, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy where, in 1983, he graduated second in a class of 1,083. He earned a master of science degree in computer science from the University of Maryland in 1985 and a master of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1992.

Audrey McCool is assistant dean of research in the William R. Harsh School of Hotel Administration. Barry McCool is an adjunct professor in the Hotel College and also a doctoral student in the College of Education. William McCool also is survived by a wife and three sons.

Honors Convocation Replaced with Academic Recognition Week

In a move driven by budget constraints and a desire to improve attendance at events honoring students and faculty, the universitywide Honors Convocation is being replaced this spring by numerous smaller ceremonies.

"The current budget situation made the continuation of the Honors Convocation impractical at this point," said Barbara Cloud, associate provost for academic affairs. "Perhaps equally important, attendance at the Honors Convocation had declined in recent years. Last year we moved it to an evening hour, hoping that the smaller, more intimate gathering of students to a national academic competition of some sort may, for instance, want to recognize those students at its ceremony — something that the size and length of the Honors Convocation did not permit."

For more information on the April 9 reception, call Kristene Fisher at ext. 51267. For information on the individual college ceremonies, call the deans' offices.
This continues to be a very exciting time for the faculty and students in the College of Health Sciences. As is evident in the national and local media, new demands are being placed on health sciences programs across the nation to meet various health-care professional shortages and emerging health-care needs of our citizens. All of the departments in the college are being called upon to assure that our graduates are entering the workforce prepared to meet the challenges of today and the future.

In the kinesiology department, the faculty has revised the undergraduate curriculum to enhance the educational opportunities and competitiveness of its more than 500 students. The department also recently joined with other campus departments to offer a series of biomedical science lectures. In the last lecture, held in February, presenters came from Harvard and UCLA to discuss memory and human performance.

The nutrition department is now bustling at the seams as it has grown in its initial three years to approximately 140 majors. The program is designed to not only provide the knowledge and skills necessary to earn a bachelor of science in nutrition sciences, but also to complete the didactic requirements necessary to become a registered dietitian. The first nine graduates of this new program have all successfully been placed in the American Dietetic Association-approved internships or professional programs of their choice.

The researchers in the Lake Mead/Mojave Research Institute received more than $475,000 in 2002 from a cooperative partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey to continue research in both Lake Mead and Lake Mojave. The research institute also is continuing the geophysical mapping of Lake Mojave and the collection of sediment cores in Lake Mead's Las Vegas Bay and Boulder Basin; the latter process enables them to study geophysical data in these areas of the lake to determine the physical characteristics of the sediment so that they can assess sediment deposition processes.

Much of this work has been done in partnership with the USGS Coastal and Marine Geology Team from Woods Hole, Mass.

Also in the health physics department, professor Steen Madsen continues his collaborative work on photolaser technology related to brain tumors. We welcome professor Phil Patron back from his armed forces duties, which had him away from the campus for all of last year.

After having received full initial accreditation of the graduate physical therapy program, a record 450 applications have been sent to potential students requesting the documents. At least 125 completed applications are expected for the 20 slots that will be available this fall. All of the graduates of the program have passed their licensure examinations and are employed throughout the valley and the region; a number are working in rural or underserved areas of the state.

The nursing department continues to engage...
experience that students in the college receive while planning an event that serves and entertains more than 9,000 people. These are 24 graduate students on the management team involved with the detailed planning that is essential to making this popular event such a grand success. For students, this is a hands-on academic experience that allows them to gain an insider's view into wine industry production, distribution, event planning, and business development. Students also learn how wine has had a socio-economic and cultural impact on American society. Working on UNLVino is consistently one of the highlights of the students' college experience. Of course, it wouldn't be possible without the support of the more than 650 student volunteers on the day of the event and the food and beverage department faculty and staff. As this event continues to grow, so has the support from the community. Each year attendance increases as more and more people discover the opportunity to learn about wine tasting, choosing from more than 500 varieties of wine. UNLV alumni from around the country also use this event as an opportunity to plan reunions with friends and classmates.

All proceeds from this event support scholarships and student activities within the college. On April 26, the ballroom at the Paris Hotel and Casino will again serve as the location for UNLVino. Members of the university community are invited to support this event.

Law

The law school recently completed its latest round of historic materials whose subject matter ranges from colonial life, slavery, and gentler issues to the exploration, settlement, and development of the American West. Literary scholars can peruse the substantial body of prose fiction written by Americans between 1851 and 1875. These works include such noted authors as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Herman Melville, as well as a host of more obscure authors. The collection as a whole offers a broad overview of the development of American society.

This effort was made possible through the Library of Congress' American Memory Project, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, and the efforts of UNLV's law firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson. After two years acquiring litigation experience, she joined MALDEF full time as a staff attorney. She continued this work until joining the Boyd Law School faculty this fall.

Liberal Arts

The English Language Center (ELC) provides language instruction for international and domestic students whose first language is not English. Courses focus on both academic and communication skills and are designed to enable students to transition to their major courses of study in a reasonable amount of time. Currently, students from more than 50 countries are participating in the program, making each ESL class a microcosm of the world. Intercultural communication is the hallmark of the program and deep friendships are often forged in these classes. In addition to language instruction specifically geared to each student's level of comprehension, the ELC provides opportunities for students to interact with native speakers in social settings. The EXCEL community generously donates time to meet ELC students on a weekly basis for conversational exchanges. Picnics, hikes, field trips, and parties are arranged each semester by the department so that students can experience another side of Las Vegas and Nevada.

The ELC testing center offers language testing for undergraduate admissions and for graduate student teaching assistants (TAs). In conjunction with testing graduate students for speaking comprehensibility, the program offers a course for graduate TAs that was specially designed to enhance their oral presentation skills. This course has opened the door for some graduate students whose weakness in oral communication had prevented them from being able to assist in the classroom.

Recently, the ELC began offering contract instruction to businesses that have non-native-speaking employees. This outreach offers opportunities for businesses and their employees to participate in university-level instruction in their own facilities.

Libraries

In an effort to promote our scholarly research collections on microfilm and to be more responsive to the needs of the UNLV community, Lied Library is linking microforms library catalog records to full-text resources that are available on the Internet. Accessing these sources is as easy as selecting the URL listed on the library catalog record. Historians, liberal arts scholars, and students can examine a large collection of rare materials whose subject ranges from colonial life, slavery, and gentler issues to the exploration, settlement, and development of the American West. Literary scholars can peruse the substantial body of prose fiction written by Americans between 1851 and 1875. These works include such noted authors as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Herman Melville, as well as a host of more obscure authors. The collection as a whole offers a broad overview of the development of American society.

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In light of the ongoing review of UNLV's general education curriculum and for the sake of having an excellent and effective curriculum, the college and the Honors Council are continuing their review of the core curriculum, both for the University Honors Scholars and Departmental Honors Scholars programs.

Hotel Administration

UNLVino, now in its 29th year, is the largest single-day wine tasting event in the country. For the university community and the Harrah Hotel College, it is also an opportunity to highlight the educational experience that students in the college receive while planning an event that serves and entertains more than 9,000 people. These are 24 graduate students on the management team involved with the detailed planning that is essential to making this popular event such a grand success. For students, this is a hands-on academic experience that allows them to gain an insider's view into wine industry production, distribution, event planning, and business development. Students also learn how wine has had a socio-economic and cultural impact on American society. Working on UNLVino is consistently one of the highlights of the students' college experience. Of course, it wouldn't be possible without the support of the more than 650 student volunteers on the day of the event and the food and beverage department faculty and staff. As this event continues to grow, so has the support from the community. Each year attendance increases as more and more people discover the opportunity to learn about wine tasting, choosing from more than 500 varieties of wine. UNLV alumni from around the country also use this event as an opportunity to plan reunions with friends and classmates.

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Bill Holcomb and Mack Rubley (Kinesiology) recently were presenters at the 23rd annual meeting of the Southwest Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). The symposium was titled "Strength Training: Multidisciplinary Approaches." The topics presented were "Electrical Stimulation in Strength Training" and "Isokinetic vs. Isotonic Training," and the DAPRE Technique." Larry Golding (Kinesiology), who is editor-in-chief of the ACSM Health and Fitness Journal, served as moderator.

Doug Hill (Theatre) has written a one-act play, Groom and Doom, which will receive a staged reading at Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, Va., on April 16. The script was originally developed at UNLV in the Playwright's Lab class and then received a workshop reading at The Asylum Theatre under the direction of Chris Mann, who earned an MFA in playwriting at UNLV last year. It follows five women into the basement of a church in Southeast Oklahoma during a wedding; the bride must decide if marriage is the right choice for her.

John Bowers (English) had his 57-page article, "Two Professional Readers of Chaucer and Langland: Scribe D and the HM 114 Scribe," accepted for publication in Studies in the Age of Chaucer. This first-tier journal is sponsored by the New Chaucer Society and is considered the top journal in the field internationally.

Jerry Landwer (Educational Leadership) recently presented a paper, "Faculty Governance and Fables, Proverbs, and Fairy Tales: With Apologies to Aesop, et. al." at the 47th annual conference of the Western College Physical Education Society, held in Reno. Fables, proverbs, and fairy tales were used to identify the critical issues; solutions were proposed for expanding the role of shared faculty governance in the university.

Josh Rankin (Publications) received a Best in the District Award of Excellence in Visual Communication for the "enlightenment" poster from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, District VII.

Genevieve Genèrux (English) delivered a paper, "The Development of Queen Guinevere: Idealized Foil Turned Political Fiction," in a session on Women and Medieval Literature at the annual conference of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association at UNLV.

R.R. Apache (Educational Leadership) participated in two sessions at the 47th convention of the National Association of Physical Education in Higher Education, which took place in Long Beach, Calif., in January. He presented two papers, "YouthFirst: A Travel from Theory to Practice," and "A Youth Sports Parent Behavior Assessment System."

Vicki Holmes (English Language Center) recently presented a paper, "The Writing Process in Multicultural Settings," at the Conference on Language, Communication, and Culture at the University of Evora, Portugal. This intercultural communication meeting was attended by linguists, anthropologists, and culturalists from Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the United States.

Tom Bean (Curriculum & Instruction) presented three research papers at the 52nd annual meeting of the National Reading Conference in Miami in December. The papers included, "An Examination of the Doctoral Mentoring Process," "Sociocultural Influences in Content Area Teachers' Selection and Use of Multiple Texts," which was presented along with Nancy Walker, University of La Verne, California; and, "Drawing on Activity Theory to Design Reflective Environments." He also participated in a symposium on the first topic along with John Readence (Curriculum & Instruction) and Diane Barone and Terry Sylvester of UNR.

Tom Sharpe (Educational Leadership) has published a research methods textbook titled Behavioral and Sequential Analysis: Principles and Practice (Sage Publications). This text is now required for PED 714 in the College of Education, which focuses on behavior analysis methods for the education and social sciences. In addition, he presented a paper (co-authored with educational leadership graduate students) titled "Interagency Collaboration: Practice, Implications, and Lessons Learned" at the National Association for Physical Education in Higher Education annual conference held in Long Beach, Calif.


Adele Bentley (English) delivered a paper, "Carnival and the Carnivalesque: Cleopatra's Political Strategy," in a session on Shakespeare and Africa at the annual conference of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association at UNLV.

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.edu.

From the Dean's Desk

in activities that will assist in reducing the nursing shortage. Emphasis continues to be placed on both recruitment and retention of qualified students. To recruit students, faculty and members of the Student Nurses Association initiate contact and/or respond to requests to visit high schools and participate in on-campus pre-nursing programs designed to let prospective nursing students know about career opportunities in the profession. The department has also developed a new course titled Orientation to Nursing (NURS 100), in which nurses in the community who engage in myriad health-care roles present course content. A new program called "REV-UP" enables faculty mentors in each tiered semester of the nursing program to help students with study patterns, strategies for understanding content, and other techniques for ensuring their academic success. The clinical laboratory sciences program continues to prepare students to use technologies to work in the varied laboratories around the valley. All in all, it is a dynamic time at the College of Health Sciences. If you have questions about any of our programs, please feel free to contact the college office at ext. 53693.

President's Column

This is a true recreation center; although it does offer some recreation facilities, it also supports several academic programs and some athletics functions. (In fact, MPE was built as an academic and athletic facility. Only after the Lied Athletic Complex opened were we able to offer some hours for student recreation.) Given the requirements of these existing programs, a new facility will probably be required to provide what is more commonly recognized as a recreation center.

It is clear that many members of the campus community feel both facilities should be improved. The survey results showed wide support for funding to do so; more than 50 percent of students surveyed support the proposed expansion and funding necessary to make the plans reality. Given the tight economic times our university and state are facing, we realize it is quite unlikely state funding will be available for such a project in the foreseeable future, if ever. Hence, the committee and the division of student life are recommending that a student fee be established to fund the enhanced facilities; this is a common funding model for these types of projects. Though plans for such a fee have not been finalized,

we believe it is most logical and fair that the fee would be phased in over time so that students who will use the facilities would pay a greater percentage of the fee.

If the Board of Regents supports this plan, the project could begin as soon as fall 2003, when the design process would be initiated. Construction could begin as soon as fall 2004, and an initial phase of the project would open in fall 2005. The date of completion is estimated to be fall 2006 or spring 2007.

Although we are never enthusiastic about advocating fee increases, we recognize the need to improve these facilities. If UNLV is to remain attractive to prospective students, we must offer the types of services and venues they seek when they make their decisions about which colleges to attend. Beyond such market-driven concerns, however, I believe we must also consider a holistic view of students' needs: A university campus should be a lively, robust center of activity of all kinds - intellectual and social, physical and recreational - intended to encourage both student learning and personal growth; as such, our campus should have adequate facilities for student recreation and social interaction, as well academic pursuits.
Facultv and Pro Staff Retirement Benefits Discussed

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're addressing benefits issues for professional staff and faculty. Benefits for classified staff were detailed in the February issue.

Overview: Retirement Plan, all faculty and profession­al staff members establish individual 401(a) accounts. Each participant automatically contributes 10 percent of his or her gross salary, and UNLV matches that contribution. This retirement plan is referred to as the Retirement Plan Alternative (RPA) account.

How are the contributions invested?
Employees determine how the contributions are invested. There are currently three providers from which to choose, all of which offer a number of investment options, including fixed-rate annuities and mutual funds in various risk categories. The variety of options available helps employees diversify their retirement portfolios.

To learn more about individual options, visit:

Human resources also has information packets available. Call ext. 5804 to request a packet.

Can I contribute more to my retirement plan than is automatically taken out of my paycheck?
Yes, through a supplemental retirement annuity (SRA). The additional amount an employee can contribute is determined by a number of factors. SRA contributions are not matched by the university. Employees wishing to find out how much they can contribute should contact the employee benefits department at ext. 53886.

Can I withdraw or “borrow” money from my retirement account before retiring?
Employees cannot borrow against their retirement funds while actively employed. However, employees can start to draw funds from their RPA account once they reach age 65, regardless of employment status.

If I'm not happy with the plan alternative I've chosen, when can I make changes?
Company changes can be made at any time. The effective date of this type of change would be the first of the month following the date a new allocation form is signed.

Fund allocation changes can be made at any time by contacting the retirement company directly.

When can I start collecting retirement benefits?
Employees participating in the Retirement Plan Alternative Program can start to draw a retirement income upon retirement or upon reaching age 65 while actively employed.

What happens to my account if I leave UNLV before retirement age?
Employees can leave their retirement accounts intact until such time as they choose to begin receiving a retirement income.

Or, if the employees have less than five years of serv­ice or are over age 55, they can withdraw or rollover the entire balance of their accounts. Rolling over funds to an approved funding vehicle may avoid taxes and IRS penalties. Cashing out prior to normal retirement age would be subject to taxes and IRS penalties.

Life on Reservation

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ago when its middle school joined the Accelerated Schools Program—a national educational reform effort that provides at-risk schools with resources to improve academic performance—McCarthy quickly realized that to help both the reservation schools and UNLV's own Accelerated Schools Program, she would have to invest more time than her busy teaching schedule would allow.

"Being in residence was the only way to truly under­stand the needs that the schools need to overcome in order to improve their academic performance," said McCarthy, who also serves as director of UNLV's Accelerated Schools Program. "I established a level of trust between myself and the Navajo teachers and community that made the transition much easier. I was lucky enough to be adopted into two Navajo clans and was allowed to take part in many of their ceremonies and celebrations. By immersing myself in the Navajo culture—instead of simply visiting it—I was able to develop a greater appreciation for the strengths and challenges unique to the students and teachers there."

And the challenges certainly are unique. Located in one of the most remote regions of the United States, the Pithon Unified School District serves seven small Navajo communities. Among its students, fewer than 50 percent have running water in their homes and more than 90 percent live below the poverty level. Many of the students must commute four to six hours per day or live away from their families in dormitories located on the school campus.

"In some ways the kids on the reservation are just like regular school kids," McCarthy said. "But when you consider the difficulties they endure just to get to school and the added responsibilities at home of taking care of livestock and crops, you realize that their lives are anything but typical."

McCarthy's projects on the reservation included establishing an intervention program to help increase student attendance; developing disciplinary policies with the faculty and staff; mentoring new teachers; and providing professional development opportunities on classroom management, lesson planning, and teaching techniques.

But she didn't do it alone. McCarthy credits her many UNLV colleagues—some of whom traveled to the reservation to deliver workshops—with the overwhelming success of the program. Among the many who visited from the College of Education were Dean Gene Hall and associate professors Virginia Usnick, Neal Strudler, Aimee Govett, LeAnn Putney, and Nancy Gallavan. A visit by President Carol C. Harter was a highlight for the district teachers and students.

"Visiting the school was truly a wonderful experi­ence," Harter said. "I was very proud to see the many accomplishments that Dr. Jane McCarthy and the staff have made in helping these young people excel academically. The Accelerated Schools Project is help­ing the Pithon schools offer an enriched, relevant, and successful education to these students." The program was such a success, McCarthy said, that UNLV will continue its work on the reservation and other classes that will lead to a reading endorse­ment for the teachers and an initial teaching licensure for the district's teacher's aides.

"Being out there was a personally life-changing experience," McCarthy said, "and I know that the less­ons learned will help to enrich both UNLV's educa­tion program and improve the assistance we can give to Nevada schools with high percentages of Indian students."
Libraries Improve Remote Access to Databases

by Diane Russell

Facility, staff, and students attempting to access the resources of the University Libraries from home or other off-campus locations should find the process easier now that the system has been retooled, according to library officials.

The system had required members of the UNLV community working from home to reconfigure their Web browsers in order to access material using the libraries’ list of databases, but now the technology has been updated to make reconfiguration unnecessary in most cases, said Wendy Starkweather, the libraries’ director of public services. The result, she said, is a much more user-friendly system.

“This change was made directly in response to the concerns of the university community,” said Ken Marks, dean of libraries. “Last spring the Lied Library took part in a national library survey called the LibQual+ survey. The area that UNLV library users cited as the greatest concern was the issue of remote access—a problem which, by the way, was also cited as a problem by the users of many other academic libraries around the nation.

“We took the concerns seriously and soon began exploring ways we could improve access,” he said.

“It took us several months to accomplish the task, but we did,” said information systems librarian Kyle Felker. “And, judging by the decrease in the number of calls I’m receiving this semester asking me to advise people who are having trouble making the connection, the new system is a success.

“Previously, we believed people with what we believed were good directions for reconfiguring their browsers, but the truth is that there were just too many chances for people to make a mistake,” Felker said. “If you made a single typo or clicked one wrong box during the process, it wouldn’t work and you would have to start over.” It became clear that too many of our patrons were finding the process difficult and frustrating.

“Now,” Starkweather added, “the typical user won’t need to do anything to the computer on his or her end. The work to make the connection transparent is done on our end.”

News from the Colleges

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projects would be funded extramurally.

The physics department is already successfully engaged in several interdisciplinary projects and seeks to engage in more such projects. This approach in physics meshes well with the multidisciplinary vision of research to be carried out at UNLV in the future, as embodied in the proposed new building. For example, existing as well as future experimental and theoretical activities fit comfortably into the UNLV research macrothemes labeled “Energy and Materials Science,” and potential development in nuclear physics and nuclear engineering at UNLV dovetail nicely with interests and activities in astronomy and astrophysics in the physics department.

Urban Affairs

The college experienced the highest increase in full-time equivalency (FTE) enrollment of all of UNLV’s academic colleges between fall 2001 and fall 2002. Overall FTE numbers within the college grew a staggering 22.7 percent. The college’s total FTE grew from 1,260 in fall 2001 to 1,546 in fall 2002.

Lower-division undergraduate FTE increased by 36 percent. The addition of distance education courses helped the department of environmental studies increase its lower-division undergraduate FTE by 182 percent. Units experiencing growth at the lower-division undergraduate level were communication (24.7 percent), criminal justice (24.8 percent), and social work (22 percent). New degree programs in counseling and public administration helped these units increase their upper-division undergraduate FTE to 50.7 percent and 43.4 percent, respectively. Other units experiencing upper-division FTE growth were communication (24.3 percent), environmental studies (43.4 percent), and social work (2.6 percent). The college’s master’s-level FTE also increased by 1.2 percent, with the largest gains experienced by communication (25 percent), criminal justice (42.9 percent), and environmental studies (13.6 percent). Graduate FTE (master’s plus doctoral) totaled 247.7.

Points of Policy

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Hence, the traveler should purchase liability coverage when using this method of purchase.

If the traveler does not have the Diners Club Corporate Card or a credit card that provides this collision damage waiver protection, the traveler should accept the full insurance coverage from the non-contracted rental car company and pay for it as part of the rental. Insurance is generally costs between $15 and $35 a day. More specific information on what insurance should be purchased when renting from a non-contracted company can be found at http://disbursements.unlv.edu/Trvlman/ap_s.htm.

The next step in the process, according to Felker, will be for the library to make it just as easy for those working from off-campus locations to access the electronic journals that are listed in the libraries’ online catalog.

“Until this work is complete,” he said, “catalog access to the electronic journals from off campus will still require patrons to change browser settings so that our vendors’ systems can recognize that the person seeking access is an authorized user.”

Instructions describing the one-time set-up process can be found at www.library.unlv.edu/resources/remote/.

“We’re already working on this next stage and will let the campus community know as soon as the work is complete,” Starkweather said. “We want remote access to the electronic journals to be just as seamless as the access to the databases now is.

“Of course, to access any of our resources electronically, the patron must be registered with us as a library user,” she said. “Faculty, staff, and students must come to the Lied Library or one of our branch libraries to register. The whole process probably takes less than five minutes. Then by Oct. 1 each year, the record must be updated to verify that they still are affiliated with UNLV.”

“It is important to note that the change to EZProxy does not currently affect access to the UNLV Law Library databases and journals, though it may do so in the future.

For additional information about how to access library resources from off-campus locations, call the library’s computer help desk at ext. 52101.