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 Navajo Unified School District four years ago. She's pictured here with Regena Lynch, who coordinates a federal program for the school district, and President Carol C. Harter outside a traditional Navajo home.
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 feel 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 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 to see in these two facilities. For instance, 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 features found in more contemporary campus recreation facilities, such as multi-purpose 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.
UNLV Launches Enhanced Online Photo Library

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 5x7s, three 4x6s, or eight 2x3s.

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, now is 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://facultystaffinfo.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 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 F. Harrah College 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 would help, but attendance didn't improve."

"This year we have established the week of April 7-11 as Academic Recognition Week and are asking each college to hold a ceremony at which their faculty and students who normally would have been recognized at Honors Convocation can receive their awards," she said. "We're hoping that the smaller, more intimate nature of these college ceremonies will boost attendance. The thought is that students and faculty alike may be more apt to attend when they know a greater percentage of the people being honored."

Honors typically presented at such events include teaching and research awards for faculty as well as scholarship awards for students.

One universitywide event of a much smaller scale than the Honors Convocation will take place during Academic Recognition Week. At 3:30 p.m. April 9 in the lobby of the Ham Concert Hall, President Carol C. Harter will host a reception for faculty members who have received awards from the university, their colleges, and the Board of Regents.

Most colleges -- and the Student Development Center and office of student life -- will host events that same week. The College of Urban Affairs, however, had scheduled a college honors event for May 1 before Academic Recognition Week was established, so will not have an event that week. The event hosted by the Student Development Center and the office of student life is designed to honor those students receiving awards who have not declared a major and, therefore, are not part of a college, Cloud explained.

"The smaller size of the ceremonies, combined with the commonality among the departments within a single college, should leave some room for individualization of the events," Cloud said. "A college that sent a team 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.
BUSINESS

The Nevada Small Business Development Center will host the 2003 Small Business Loan Expo titled “Meet Your Future” at 6 p.m. March 20 at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino. This is a joint venture with the U.S. Small Business Administration. The center expects to draw 500 participants with more than 20 bank sponsors.

Information Systems Journal has named Reza Torkzadeh to its editorial board. He was also selected to chair the 25th Annual International Conference on Information Systems.

During its first full year of operation, the College of Business Alumni Association tripled its membership from fewer than 30 to more than 100 active alumni. In addition, the association is establishing an MBA Alumni Council to meet the needs of a growing population of graduate alumni.

DENTISTRY

With the new semester, first-year students have switched buildings and studies. The integrated curriculum for oral health professionals started with two groups—one involved in biosciences and the second in professional studies. Now the two groups of students have switched places.

Faculty members, however, are teaching the same curriculum as last semester. That means they are improving their presentations and continuing to help students integrate their learning. The textbooks on DVD are a real help in providing just-in-time information for students. PowerPoint lecture presentations are available for students to download on their laptops from WebCT before each lecture. During the lectures, students are connected via their wireless laptops to WebCT and take notes right on the lecture “slides” during class. This is 21st century learning.

This year, the academic program allowed the dental students to work in small groups and to hang out together in classrooms in the dental school’s transition buildings, FMA and HWB. Next year will be different. There will be an additional 75 students as the second class arrives on campus. With more students will come more faculty.

Meanwhile, Dean Patrick Ferrillo is working diligently to ensure that the Shadow Lake campus is ready and suitable for the academic program. Renovations are in progress, and spring 2004 is the projected date for occupancy.

EDUCATION

In Gov. Kenny Guinn’s State of the State address, special education was listed as one of the areas in which Nevada is most in need of teachers. At UNLV, the special education department continues to do its part in helping combat the teacher shortage in the critical field through “cohort” and “alternative” programs. These innovative programs have been nationally recognized and currently are being evaluated in terms of effectiveness. Nationally, increasing emphasis is being placed on having highly qualified, fully certified special education teachers in the classrooms.

Currently, the department offers three programs for unlicensed pre-service teachers and graduate special education pre-service and in-service teachers. The instruction in the programs is time-intensive with students completing courses in just one year for most licensure programs. The special education programs have been so successful that the Clark County School District has filled virtually all of its generalist resource room positions.

This year another unique cooperative program with the school district was created. Special education professor Kyle Higgins developed an intensive weekend and evening program to give currently licensed resource room teachers the opportunity to take courses leading to licensure in two other disability categories. This will reduce the severe shortage of specially-licensed teachers within the school district.

ENGINEERING

Eugene Maughan has been named assistant dean for student affairs for the college. In addition to his current duties as director of the Minority Engineering Program (MEP), he will also oversee the college’s student advising center and undergraduate programs. He is an associate professor of electrical engineering and has directed the MEP since 1989.

Biswajit Das is the newest faculty member in the department of electrical and computer engineering. He received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1989 with a research focus on nanoelectronics. He has more than 15 years of experience in the fabrication, characterization of nanoscale and quantum effect devices. Das pioneered the area of spintronics, which received special recognition in the June 2002 issue of Scientific American.

The California State Automobile Association recently made a generous gift of $50,000 to the Transportation Research Center (department of civil engineering) for support of the center’s pedestrian safety activities. The association also sponsored a press conference and aggressive-driving seminar at UNLV in January.

FINE ARTS

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre, in association with the Nevada Shakespeare Festival, presents The Road to Mecca this month in the Black Box Theatre. This uplifting drama by South African playwright Athol Fugard is a penetrating study of the role of the artist in any society. Tony Award-winner Zakes Mokae directs. The Performing Arts Center is pleased to present two outstanding events - performances by the Lula Washington Dance Theatre and by Patti Lupone — this month as part of its Best of the New York Stage series. The Lula Washington Dance Theatre’s repertoire reflects the varied background of its founder, known for constantly breaking dance rules in an effort to define her own choreographic voice. This acclaimed modern dance company tours nationally with exciting works that have been praised by critics and audiences alike for their energy and passion.

Tony Award-winner LuPone has starred on Broadway as Maria Callas in the award-winning play Master Class and in her own smash hit concert Patti LuPone on Broadway, for which she won an Outer Critics Circle Award. Equally at home in musicals as in dramas, LuPone has given memorable performances on the New York musical stage, including Reno Sweeney in Anything Goes, Nancy in Oliver!, and Eva Peron in Evita.

GRADUATE

During fall semester, the college, led by Harriet Barkow, assistant dean for student services, embarked
on the task of assessing a number of actions that would enhance and improve operations and services from admission to graduation. Several enhancements resulted, including restructuring the admissions evaluation team to include Cynthia Chavez. Her responsibilities include processing newly formatted SIS-generated admission and denial letters, revising and placing several Graduate College forms online for easy department and student access, and developing a system designed to decrease the overall turnaround time from application to evaluation.

To further decrease the time necessary to evaluate application packets of prospective graduate students, departments using standardized test scores as a part of their admission criteria will no longer wait for these scores to be received by the Graduate College. Early in the fall, each UNLV department received a GRE and/or GMAT code from the Educational Testing Service enabling direct mailing of the scores to the department. With the assistance of UNLV Bursar Sharon Coomes, a procedure was also developed that allows graduation fees to be charged directly to a student's account. This process, currently only available to graduate students, employs the "one-stop-shopping" concept. Instead of visiting several campus departments, students need only mail or bring their graduation applications to the Graduate College for processing.

Honors

The college has undertaken several initiatives to encourage greater student interest in and heighten campus awareness of nationally competitive scholarships. These initiatives will serve the interests of students across campus. An institutional member of the National Association of Scholarships Advisers, UNLV, through the college, continually receives information about how to help students find and apply for national scholarships that will help them advance their educational and career goals. The college is making more information available to students about how applying for competitive scholarships can contribute to their educations and assist them in achieving their long-term goals. The college plans to hold informational workshops about these national scholarships during campus orientation at the beginning of each semester. The ELC has expanded its library catalog to include books and other resources that are relevant to the writing of scholarship applications. Once a student has decided to apply for a scholarship, he or she can use the catalog to locate the most appropriate works.

Law

The law school recently completed its largest round of history tours, which are open to the public and theicle to the faculty is associate professor Leticia Saucedo, who will join associate professor David Thornson in the Immigration Clinic. Saucedo and Thornson will take turns teaching in the clinic, returning to traditional classroom teaching in alternate years. Saucedo is a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, where she served as president of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau and as an editor on the Harvard Latino Law Review. She entered law school with a decade of experience in affordable housing, low-income legal services, and community development. After law school and a clerkship on the Texas Supreme Court, Saucedo received the prestigious Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF) fellowship at the New York office of the 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 there 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 ELC 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 unique content ranges from colonial life, slavery, and gender 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 library staff in the departments of research & information services and library staff in the departments of research & information services. More than 1,000 records have been added to the UNLV Libraries' catalog so far with another 2,000 records planned for inclusion.

Sciences

This month's entry will highlight the activities and plans of the department of physics. In response to the ever-increasing richness and complexity of modern scientific problems, science research is becoming ever more multidisciplinary. To a greater and greater extent, science is being carried out by teams of researchers from various scientific disciplines working together and sharing workspace and other resources. To their credit, planners for the proposed UNLV Science, Engineering and Technology Building, tentatively scheduled for occupancy in fall 2007, recognize this trend and are planning accordingly. Space in the new facility will not be assigned by department, but instead will be allocated competitively based on the merit and scope of the multidisciplinary scientific projects to be undertaken. In significant measure, along with institutional support,
Bill Holcomb and Mack Rubley (Kinesiology) recently were presenters at the 32nd annual meeting of the Southwest Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). The symposium was titled "Strength Training: Multidisciplinary Approaches." The topics covered were "Electrical Stimulation in Strength Training" and "Isokinetic vs. Isometric 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 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 by 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 Genevex (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," "Socio-cultural 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@ucmail.unlv.edu.

From the Dean's Desk

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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. And 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.
Faculty 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.

If, or 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. Rollover 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 best 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 of the school and how 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 Pinon 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 Usmick, 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 Pinon 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.”

Points of Policy: Rental Cars

By Joe Honnastri
Director of Disbursements

One of the most common questions we are asked with regard to renting or leasing vehicles for official university business is, “Why must we use the rental car agencies listed in the UNLV Travel Handbook (Appendices Q and R)?” The answer is that the state purchasing and risk management offices have negotiated con­tracts with rental companies for use by state employees during the course of official business to save money and to protect the state from potentially serious liability risks. These contracts provide for rentals for both in-state and out-of-state travel.

(Please note that in order to rent or lease a vehicle locally for use in or out of state, a UNLV motor pool car must not be available. A “state­ment of non-availability” must be issued by the motor pool before a car or van can be leased.)

Contracts are awarded to multiple rental car companies to provide travelers with a suitable selection of vehicles. The prices on the disburse­ment Web pages are the maximum prices; the contracted rental company may quote lower prices for the public, but those prices typically do not include insurance coverage.

So, just how do these contracts protect UNLV, the department, and the traveler? In the past, UNLV’s self-insured liability program was exposed to considerable losses when and if an accident occurred involving rented automobiles. Now, our contracts provide for complete liability insurance, which means the traveler does not need to opt for any additional insurance (or pay any additional costs) since the coverage is included in the negotiated price of the state contracts.

Another question we often hear is, “What happens if I rent from a company not on the contract?” The use of the contracted rental car companies is mandatory (see UCCSN memo dated May 13, 2002). The use of any non-con­tracted companies is prohibited unless the travel­er makes every attempt to use the services of the contracted companies but is unable to do so due to the lack of a given type of vehicle or the unavailability of a contracted car rental company in a given city. If it is absolutely necessary to rent a vehicle from a non-contracted car rental agency, the traveler must make other insurance arrangements to protect UNLV and themselves. (See Appendix S of the Travel Handbook.)

In the case of normal passenger vehicles, the rental should be paid for with the UNLV Diner’s Club Corporate Card or another credit card that provides physical damage loss protec­tion for the rented vehicle. The collision dam­age waiver protection provided by Diners Club and certain other credit cards does not apply to non-passenger vehicles, such as cargo vans and trucks.) The Diners Club Card provides for a collision damage waiver only. In other words, it provides coverage up to the full value of the rental car, but it does not cover damage to any other property or offer liability protection.
Libraries Improve Remote Access to Databases

by Diane Russell

Faculty, 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.

"What we did was install a new software program called EZProxy that allows UNLV-affiliated, registered library users who search for material using our list of databases, such as Academic Search Elite and Biological Abstracts, to do so much more easily," she said.

"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 — an area which, by the way, also was 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 provided 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 those 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. Disbursements can be found at http://disbursements.unlv.edu/Tvlman/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.

"What this means is 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.