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Inside UNLV

Kevin Force
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Gian Galassi
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Carol C. Harter
*Black Mountain Institute*

Stuart Mann
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

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Yasbin Chosen to Head Sciences College

Ronald E. Yasbin, professor of molecular and cell biology at the University of Texas at Dallas, has been named the new dean of the College of Sciences, President Carol C. Harter recently announced.

Yasbin, who was selected following a nationwide search, will begin work at UNLV on Sept. 1. He will replace Dean Fred Bachhuber, who will retire this summer after nearly 30 years of service.

"Throughout his career, Ronald Yasbin has proven to be both an exemplary scholar and an academic leader in his field," Harter said. "His expertise will be invaluable as UNLV continues to build its reputation as one of the country's premier research institutions."

Yasbin has been a professor of molecular and cell biology at the University of Texas at Dallas since 1995. From 1988 to 1995, he was professor of biological sciences at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. He previously taught at the University of Rochester's School of Medicine and Dentistry and at Penn State University.

He is a member of several organizations, including the American Society for Microbiology, Environmental Mutagen Society, and the Genetics Society of America. He earned his bachelor's degree in zoology from Penn State University, a master's degree in genetics from Cornell University, and a doctoral degree in microbiology from the University of Rochester.

Faculty Member Serves Overseas with Navy Reserve

by Diane Russell

When the United States went to war, hundreds of Americans who serve in the military Reserves and the National Guard were called up, suddenly finding themselves leaving behind their families, friends, and regular jobs to assume military assignments both overseas and at home.

One of those called was UNLV's Karen Kesterson, a visiting assistant professor and Ph.D. student in the department of biological sciences.

Kesterson, a member of the Navy Reserve, was shipped to Kuwait in April. Whether she remains there or has been shipped on to Iraq or another desert destination is unclear. Last month, her friends learned that she expects to be back in the United States by July 4, but were unsure whether she would be returning to Las Vegas at that time or whether she might be sent to a stateside post.

A 16-year reservist, Kesterson is a corpsman assigned to a medical unit that supports the Marines stationed at California's Camp Pendleton, according to her friends.

A corpsman is similar to what many people might think of as a medic, but with more depth and variety of training, said Carl Reiber, chair of biological sciences.

Kesterson has been trained in nuclear, chemical, biological, and emergency medicine, he said.

Asked how he felt about Kesterson's departure, Reiber replied, "Can you put tears on paper?"

He said even her temporary absence is a loss to his department. "Karen does stellar work. She was nearing the end of her second year of teaching for us. She has a fabulous rapport with her students and is very dedicated to her teaching. She's a really nice person - always one to volunteer her time."

Penny Amy, director of UNLV's Shadow Lane campus and professor of biology, serves as Kesterson's adviser along with environmental engineering professor Jaci Baftisa.

"Just before she was called up, she had successfully completed her coursework and had passed her qualifying exams, which meant she had only to finish her research and write her dissertation before her doctorate would be complete," Amy said. "We had thought she would graduate in about a year or a year and a half, but now we don't know."

Kesterson's thesis will be based on bioremediation research involving perchlorates, Amy said. Kesterson, according to the professor, is looking for bacteria that can be used to reduce potentially harmful perchlorates found in soil and water to innocuous byproducts.

Kesterson's academic efforts are so outstanding that she was one of four students chosen recently to receive the President's Graduate Fellowship, the most prestigious award offered to doctoral students by UNLV's Graduate College. Recipients receive $15,000 stipends and payment of tuition.

Asked to describe Kesterson, Amy chose the words "caring" and "quirky."

"You can see the extension of her personality in what she's doing in the Reserve. She is the type of person who would do anything for anybody." On the lighter side, "She's kind of a quirky person - in a good way," Amy said. "For a long time she preserved a great big lizard in a bucket in my lab because she didn't know what to do with it, but she didn't want to throw it out.

"One more funny thing about her - she eats constantly. So whenever we travel to a conference, she comes prepared. She'll bring all her luggage and then she'll bring another whole suitcase that is just filled with food."

Angela Rosenblatt, an environmental microbiology master's student assigned to Amy's lab, is a close friend of Kesterson. She said Kesterson is into physical fitness and particularly enjoys yoga and dancing.

"She's a very brilliant person, very well rounded," Rosenblatt said. "Karen is a very
Standing
By Title IX
by Carol C. Harter
UNLV President
A contentious national debate is raging at this time over Title IX, the landmark legislation passed in 1972 that prohibits gender discrimination in federally funded educational and athletic programs. For those who might have missed it, the current debate stems from the work of the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics, an entity created by the Bush administration ostensibly for the purpose of re-examining Title IX, its impact, and the ways in which universities comply with the legislation. Many Title IX supporters feel some of the recommendations of this commission could seriously undermine the intent of Title IX and dismantle many of the advances made in gender equity in athletics over the last 30 years.

Before I comment on these developments, I should begin by offering a somewhat historical perspective (based on my 35-year career in higher education) and by stating perhaps my most fundamental belief about this issue: Before Title IX was enacted in 1972, there was nothing—except with the exception of the good will of certain enlightened voices—to ensure true equality of opportunity for women in higher education. To my mind, this is the irrefutable bottom line, and it extends beyond athletics to all areas of higher education. I have witnessed a considerable change in culture and attitudes in higher education since Title IX was enacted, and I am here to tell you that awareness of, much less opposition to, sexual discrimination was not a high priority in the pre-Title IX era.

Yes, it is true that we have come a long way since then. The advances attributable to Title IX are, of course, remarkable. Before the passage of this legislation, fewer than 30,000 women participated in college sports; today more than 150,000 do so, a striking five-fold increase. (A staggering 500 percent increase in the number of high school girls participating in sports has been recorded since Title IX was enacted.) Athletic participation allows these women access to the benefits of sport that men have long enjoyed, from the financial rewards of receiving athletic scholarships to the obvious physical fitness advantages to the opportunity to develop the leadership skills that competitive sports embody, such as team building, self-discipline, and time management. Title IX has also improved the circumstances under which women play: Opportunities for competition have increased dramatically; improvements in facilities have been made; NCAA championships have been created. You name it in women's athletics, and chances are Title IX has contributed in a substantive way to its enhancement.

Here at UNLV, we have made significant progress with regard to Title IX in recent years as well. Since I arrived in 1995, we have added three new women's sports and 30 women's athletic scholarships, increased women's participation rates to 51 percent from 33 percent, and constructed two new state-of-the-art facilities for women's sports—the Cox Pavilion for women's basketball and volleyball and the Eller Media Softball Stadium at Jim Rogers Field. We look forward to adding another women's sport (or sports) within the next five years.

With all of this progress, many ask, why do we continue on page 6?

Summer Events Abound at UNLV

While many faculty and staff are leaving Las Vegas for a much-needed vacation this summer, there will be plenty of others arriving at UNLV to take part in numerous workshops, seminars, camps, and conferences. Here are some of the events taking place on campus from June through August.

June 3-7
25th Annual Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE) Conference
This conference brings together approximately 140 participants from university and college biology departments throughout Canada and the United States. During the event, participants are actively involved in six three-hour “hands-on” workshops. More information: the ABLE Web site at www.able.ca.

June 9-12, June 16-19, and Aug. 4-7
Soccer Camp
These three sessions are for children ages 5-12. Attendees will learn the basic skills of the game from the Rebel Soccer coaching staff. More information: ext. 5-4175.

June 9-July 3
Engineering Program
Juniors from the Information Technology Magnet Program at Desert Pines High School will attend a program at the Engineering College that will introduce them to computer engineering through a hands-on lab experience. Henry Selvaraj, Venkatesan Muthukumar, and Emma Regentova of the electrical and computer engineering department will be the instructors. More information: Selvaraj at ext. 5-4184.

June 9-July 11
National Youth Sports Program (NYSP)
NYSP is an academic and sports enrichment program open to students ages 10-16 and serves as a positive alternative to violence, gangs, and drug abuse. This summer's program will focus mainly on math and science, health education, conflict resolution, diversity, family, and sports (golf, tennis, swimming, basketball, dance, soccer, and volleyball). More information: Porter Troutman, professor of curriculum and instruction, ext. 5-4407.

June 19-23
NEW Leadership Nevada
Sponsored by the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN), NEW Leadership Nevada is an intensive six-day residential institute for college women from across the state. Participants will interact with civically engaged women during workshops and panel discussions. The goal is to bridge the gap between the negative view of politics held by many college women and the reality that politics is part of everyday life. Women, including elected officials and representatives of local community groups, will talk about their experiences as women in leadership. More information: WRIN at ext. 5-4931.
Hotel College’s Bybee Reflects on Varied Career

by Diane Russell

Calling attention to the issue of problem gambling may be the greatest legacy of UNLV professor Shannon Bybee’s lengthy career, which has included stints as a gaming regulator, a gaming industry insider, and, in more recent years, an academic devoted to the study of gaming.

Last fall he was the first individual not employed in the gaming industry to be presented the Gaming Greats Special Achievement Award by the American Gaming Association (AGA) – an honor usually reserved for corporations or for those people working in the industry. Bybee was honored specifically for his contributions to the area of responsible gaming.

Reflecting recently on his career, Bybee, who is on medical leave from his job as executive director of UNLV’s International Gaming Institute, said that the award from the AGA is a particularly meaningful one for him.

“It was a great honor – an unexpected honor,” he said, adding that he appreciated the fact that AGA President Frank Farenkopf personally presented him the award. “I’ve known Frank since he was a young, court-appointed attorney and I was a deputy sheriff working at the jail in Reno. Having him there just made an already special day that much better.”

Asked to comment on Bybee and the AGA award, Stuart Mann, dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, said, “Shannon Bybee is synonymous with the International Gaming Institute. His stature in the industry and vision for what we could have here at UNLV were the driving forces and were instrumental in the establishment of the institute. As executive director, he has developed programs related to gaming regulation, gaming controls, surveillance, and problem gambling that are recognized around the world. Shannon is most deserving of the honor bestowed upon him by the AGA.”

Bybee’s career has been a varied one. He worked at the jail as a young man, while supporting his family and putting himself through UNR as an undergrad. After graduating from the University of Utah College of Law in 1969, he clerked for Nevada Supreme Court Justice Jon R. Collins and then moved into private practice.

In 1971, he was appointed to the Nevada Gaming Control Board, the body that regulates the state’s gaming industry, remaining there for four years. In the following years he worked both as an attorney in private practice and in various positions with Golden Nugget Inc., including a stint as president and CEO of the Golden Nugget, Atlantic City. He later served as chairman and CEO of Claridge Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City and as president and COO of Alliance Gaming Corp.

It was while he was with the Golden Nugget that he attended a meeting of the National Council on Problem Gambling and began to develop what would become a long-term interest in problem gambling.

Attending the meeting, he was surprised to learn that the gaming industry had almost no participation in the council. When he returned from the meeting, he wrote a memo to then-boss Steve Wynn. “I told Steve that this was an important issue and that the industry needed to be involved. Steve was supportive, so I became active in the council.”

In 1991, he was invited to serve on the council’s board of directors, and has remained on the board ever since. When he moved back to Nevada, he helped revitalize the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling, which in 2002 recognized his efforts by creating the Shannon Bybee Scholarship Award to be given annually to someone who has made meaningful contributions to the issue of problem gambling.

Joining UNLV in 1994 to teach gaming courses, Bybee, of course, brought his interest and expertise in problem gambling with him.

Professor Dave Christianson, a former dean of the hotel college, recalls Bybee’s hiring: “He had an outstanding reputation in the industry and was so highly regarded by the industry and the regulatory community that we felt his addition to the faculty would give the new IGI immediate respectability – and it did. Because of his prestige, Shannon was arguably the best hire we ever made in the gaming area. He was, in sum, the perfect gaming faculty member.”

Bybee said, “One of my proudest accomplishments at UNLV occurred in 1995 when the hotel college agreed to let me use a grant it had received from IGT Corp. to fund an educational seminar on problem gambling for members of the local casino industry. Representatives from most of the big gaming companies attended.

“Something really good came from that conference,” he said. “Industry representatives took notice of the issue and some of them are active in the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling to this day. It’s one thing to write a check, but it’s quite another when gaming company executives take the time to attend board meetings and contribute their valuable expertise.”

He is proud of legislation that requires Nevada casinos to post phone numbers to assist problem gamblers who want help, but said much more remains to be done. In particular, he said he would like to see the state devote funding to treatment for problem gamblers.

As UNLV, he said he is pleased to have played a role in the decision to include information on problem gambling in the introductory courses taken by students majoring in hotel administration.

And, he is proud to have been honored by the William S. Boyd School of Law, where he held a joint appointment as an associate professor. The school created the Shannon Bybee Scholarship.

Bybee said he is touched to have had so many honors bestowed upon him in recent months.

“It’s nice to know that if you do the right things, you can get recognized for them,” he said.

WRIN Reception

Distinguished professor of history Joseph “Andy” Fry, left, and Lied Library manuscript librarian Su Kim Chung recently were honored for the publication of their latest books. The Women’s Research Institute of Nevada and the Teaching and Learning Center hosted the reception.

Las Vegas Review-Journal
News FROM THE COLLEGES

Business
College alumnus Michael Shustek, BSBA Finance '93, and Vestin Mortgage have pledged $250,000 in a multi-year gift to the college. A significant portion of the gift is designated for faculty development.

The college recently announced its faculty award winners for 2002-03. Bob Albults from the finance department received the award for teaching, Jordan Lowe of the accounting department received the award for research, and Mel Jameson of finance received the award for service. Each award was accompanied by a $1,000 bonus.

The college held an honors reception in April. Between summer 2002 and spring 2003, the college awarded scholarships to 288 students. Additionally, 394 students made the dean's list during that period.

On April 22, the college's Center for Business and Academic Research held the 10th annual Las Vegas Perspective event. Approximately 800 people attended.

Several faculty and staff members should be recognized for recent accomplishments. Marketing professor Jack Schibrowsky was elected president of the Marketing Educators Association. Karen Shubuck, the college's undergraduate advisor, received a Certificate of Award for her work leading a team that reviewed financial aid and other forms used across campus. Rick Bold, assistant dean for undergraduate services, received a Certificate of Award from the Advising Council for his efforts to advance the use of technology in advising and related functions.

Dentistry
Four student groups were winners at the first Student Research and Table Clinic Day on April 24. One lucky pair, Kelly Dunay and Jimmy Tran, who presented a poster on "The Bioengineering of Tooth Structures for the 21st Century," won a trip to San Francisco to present their Table Clinic Poster at the annual meeting of the American Dental Association this fall. The duo was mentored by Dr. Pamela Yelick of the Forsyth Institute in Boston. The institute is affiliated with the School of Dental Medicine and will participate in mentoring the biomedical researchers of the new dental school, both informally and formally.

Yelick's participation is just one example of how the college's undergraduate advisors have been able to leverage their relationships with industries to benefit students.

Other winners at Table Clinic Day were Ronnne Fowler and Sara Sutherland, who gave an outstanding oral presentation on "Periodontal Disease as a Possible Risk Factor for Preterm Low Birth Weight"; Casey Alman and Brent Adams, who presented a poster on "Teaching Methods of Anatomy: Constructive vs. Disconstructive;" and Cheryl Neilson, Patty Kempf, and Kelly Kleinman, who presented a poster titled "Righties or Lefties: Myth or Truth?" All the oral presentations and table clinic posters were outstanding and the inaugural class of the dental school was well represented by interesting and exciting presentations.

Next year the school will host the Second Annual Student Research and Table Clinic Day. By then, the school will have two classes of dental students and can expect even more high-quality presentations.

Education
The college continues to develop partnerships that are essential to offering quality teacher education programs and conducting research. Without partnerships, based in the active support of teachers and school administrators, school-based research would not be within our grasp.

The most obvious partnership for the college is with the Clark County School District (CCSD). More than 600 teacher candidates graduate each year. Each candidate participates in a minimum of three formal field experiences over a three-semester period. Many of the candidates complete 30 to 60 hours of observation in classrooms prior to these formal field experiences. Without close partnerships with the CCSD, these field experiences would not be possible.

Another partnership is the recently established Center for Accelerating Student Achievement that involves faculty and staff from the college, CCSD, and the Nevada Department of Education. This partnership has been organized for the express purpose of conducting research and evaluation studies directly related to improving the achievement of all students and to closing the achievement gap.

A third partnership is in collaboration with UNR's College of Education. Because of the dynamic changes at the federal and state levels, it is important that both UNLV and UNR's Colleges of Education provide a united front. Both institutions testify together before legislative committees, the state Board of Education, and the UCCSN Board of Regents.

Clearly, the partnerships supporting the college help it accomplish its goals, which include serving students, professionals, and the community.

Engineering
The college is proud to announce the following recent faculty awards.

Assistant professor Wolf Bein of the School of Computer Science received the college's Distinguished Teaching Award for 2003. He is an exemplary teacher respected by his peers and students.

He has designed new teaching tools for use in his course on genetic algorithms and neural networks, and has developed two other new graduate-level courses in the area of computer science theory. He was also instrumental in reviewing two standard undergraduate textbooks throughout their various editions, which has benefited his courses at UNLV.

Additionally, the award honors contributions he has made in the area of computing in society, as well as his collaborations with the department of educational psychology.

Bingmei Fu, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received the college's distinguished research award for 2003. She has been successful in obtaining funded research, publishing in peer-reviewed journals, making conference presentations, and advising students. She received a National Science Foundation Career Grant, which resulted in awards that exceeded $1.3 million over the past five years.

Tom Piecho, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, recently received the 2003 ECEES New Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award for Zone IV from the American Society of Chemical Engineers.

Fine Arts
The college is pleased to announce its faculty award winners for 2003. Mark Haverstick of landscape architecture won the highly prized Board of Regents Creative Activity Award, a statewide recognition of achievement. Theatre professor Ellis Pyce-Jones won the Charles Vanda Award for Excellence in
the Arts, and Sean Clark, assistant professor of film, was awarded Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Students and faculty from the dance, film, and theater departments are preparing to travel to Scotland for the prestigious Edinburgh Arts Festival this August. This is the fifth annual trip for the college, and follows last year’s performances, which received rave reviews. The dance and theatre departments, along with the Margolis Brown Theatre Company, will present a collaborative effort titled “The Human Show.” Dance department chair Louis Kavouras, will present a solo project called “Joe... This Infinite Universe.” The film department will show a collection of award-winning digital shorts created by students and faculty.

The Edinburgh Fringe Festival runs Aug. 3-25. The nearly 30 students and faculty who are participating will leave for Scotland July 30 and return Aug. 27.

Graduate

The annual Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Research Forum was held in April. It provided an opportunity for graduate and professional students to present the results of their ongoing research to faculty, fellow students, administrators, and the general community. This year, Doss Powell, GPSA vice president, served as chair of the event and was assisted by Rebecca Boulout, GPSA office manager. Approximately 65 presentations were scheduled throughout the morning and were evaluated by 16 faculty judges from 14 academic departments. Following the presentations, attendees sponsored a luncheon for the participants at which those students whose presentations were deemed outstanding were honored with cash awards and certificates.

The college also recently announced the recipients of its annual fellowship competition. The President’s Graduate Fellowships, the most prestigious awards offered to doctoral students by the college, consist of $15,000 stipends and payment of tuition. This year the four recipients are Karen Kesterson of biology (see story on Page 1), James Watson of anthropology, Lindsey Bocchieri of psychology, and Alex Aguair of civil engineering. Additionally, the Barrick Fellowship recipients were announced. The 2003 Barrick Fellows are Matthew McCruden of educational psychology and John Murphy of English. They will receive $14,000 stipends and payment of tuition.

Honors

The college has concluded its official student recruiting activities for fall 2004, including admitting new freshmen and awarding scholarships. As Inside UNLV went to press, the final count of new students who have accepted offers to attend UNLV in the Honors College for fall was not known. It was clear, however, that considerably more students had applied for admission than had applied by the same time the previous year. By April 18, the college had received 225 percent more applications. The college’s looking forward to welcoming a group of very fine students, including a number of National Merit Finalists.

Once again, a distinguished college alumnus spoke at the annual Medallion Ceremony for graduating honors seniors. Graduated from the Honors College in December 1995 and is now completing his Ph.D. at the University of Texas, which has one of the best graduate programs for Latin American history. This year, he holds a visiting appointment in UNLV’s history department and is getting experience teaching both history and honors students as the Honors Professor of the Year.

The college is now finalizing its Athenaum series for fall, which new honors students will begin attending as a part of their freshman orientation seminar. The intent is to introduce them informally to topics of special interest to professors spanning UNLV faculty across campus. Faculty who would like to present some of their scholarship informally to honors students and to other interested parties are reminded to contact the Honors College at ext. 5-2236.

Law

The school hosted a conference titled “The Law and Politics of Tort Reform: Local and National Developments” in April. The event, which was free and open to the public, was co-sponsored by the UNLV Center for Democratic Culture.

The conference included speakers from the construction industry and the medical profession; representatives from the plaintiffs' bar as well as the insurance defense bar; Constance Akringe, president of the Clark County Bar Association; Dina Titus, minority leader of the state Senate (whose perspective reflects her dual role as a state lawmaker and as a UNLV political science professor); U.S. Rep. Jon Porter; Stanley Feldman, retired justice of the Arizona Supreme Court; professor Bill Robinson from UNLV’s School of Business; professor Michael Green of the Wake Forest University School of Law and professors Robert Correale, Ann McKinley, Jeff Stempel, and Carl Tobias from UNLV’s law faculty.

 Liberal Arts

The college is proud to announce the faculty recipients of several university and college teaching and research awards. Joseph "Andy" Fry of history received both the UNLV Distinguished Professor Award and the Distinguished Teaching Award. He has been a member of the faculty for 28 years and has authored many publications on the history of foreign policy, particularly the role of the Southern states.

Michael Hall of psychology and Vicki Holmes of the English Language Center were honored with the UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award. Jennifer Thompson of anthropology and Leon Coburn of English were honored by the UNLV Alumni Association with the Student-Focused Faculty Award and the Outstanding Faculty Award, respectively. Robert Purtrel of sociology was the recipient of the Alex Spanos Award for Teaching, a university-wide award only given to faculty who have won their college awards for teaching. Dina Titus of political science received the CSUN Faculty Award. Paul Werth of the history was awarded both the Rita Deavin Abbey Teacher of the Year Award and the William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship.

Students Emily Raba of foreign languages and history and Alexi Vestino of women's studies received the college's award for outstanding senior. Students also received the faculty award for outstanding graduating seniors. These awards and others were presented at the college’s first annual Honors Convocation in April.

The college received $600,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy for continued atomic history of the Nevada Test Site project. Faculty involved with the oversight of this project will be Andy Kirk of history, Purtrel, Titus, Joanne Goodwin of the Women's Research Institute of Nevada, Hal Rothman of history, and Peter Michel of the Libraries. The interviews – in audio, video, and print formats – will be housed simultaneously in the special collections section of the UNLV Libraries and in the archives of the newly constructed Atomic Testing Museum located next to the Desert Research Institute.

Libraries

Harrah's Entertainment Inc. – the most geographically diversified casino entertainment company in North America, currently operating 26 casinos in 13 states – donated its corporate archives to the special collections division of UNLV Libraries last semester as a permanent gift. This corporate archive establishes special collections and its gaming studies collections as the premier historical repository for the gaming industry.

Harrah's was the creation of William F. Harrah, who, from a bingo parlor in Reno, built one of the largest gaming and hotel corporations in the world, with major properties in Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe, Laughlin, and Atlantic City. Harrah and the empire he created have played a significant role in the history of the gaming and resort industries, as well as in developing properties that have helped define the major gaming and resort venues in Nevada. UNLV's Hotel College is named in his honor.

The collection, consciously created and developed as a corporate archive by Harrah's, includes extensive promotional, entertainment, and financial publications, files, and hundreds of photographs. Additionally, it contains a complete set of Harrah's employee publications: "Harrahscope," from 1955, as well as newspaper clippings, advertising copy and designs, film, and videotape. There is extensive material about William Harrah's large antique car collection, his personal historical game card collection, as well as a large assortment of promotional items and personal and corporate mementos.

Special collections, in its Martin Stern Jr. Collection, already owns the original designs and drawings of Harrah's major properties in Lake Tahoe, Reno, Las Vegas, and Atlantic City.

Sciences

The colleges of Sciences and Engineering hosted the 2003 Southern Nevada Regional Science and Engineering Fair in April. Projects from 43 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, and two high schools were entered. These schools submitted 126 projects from students in grades kindergarten through four and 256 projects from those in grades five through 12 for a combined total of 376 projects. Projects submitted from students in grades five through 12 were judged by faculty and graduate students of the colleges of Sciences and Engineering as well as by members from the scientific community.

In the high school division, first place for an individual project went to junior Ashley Corbin from Clark High School ("Reading Comprehension in Young Children"). The first-place team project was awarded to Lucy Kamalani and Dieder Galloway, who are seniors at the Las Vegas Academy ("Relationships and Their Connection to Birth Order"). Tara Carbone, a seventh-grader from the Las Vegas Day School, was the overall winner in grades six through eight ("Using Chromatography to Separate Plant Pigments"). Several special awards were given to...
President’s Column
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still need Title IX, and why are people still arguing so vociferously about it on a national level? The answer is simple: The job is not finished. Although 54 percent of undergraduates at NCAA schools are women, they represent only 42 percent of the participating student athletes. Nationally, women’s sports receive only 36 percent of operating dollars and have merely 32 percent of the recruiting budgets. Also, as I mentioned previously, Title IX is being challenged by opponents who assert that men’s athletics programs are being sacrificed to satisfy quotas allegedly required by compliance standards. The aforementioned Commission on Athletics has made several recommendations that, while apparently reasonable to the average person, may be interpreted by those antigender to gender equity in ways that could mean sweeping and destructive changes to Title IX.

If it is not clear by this point, I am, of course, opposed to any change to Title IX; I fervently believe that Title IX, as it was written, enables us to accomplish exactly what needs to be accomplished. I believe that the so-called “three-pronged test” for compliance offers us adequate means by which we can attain gender equity in athletics, and I do not believe that responsibility for the elimination of men’s sports should be placed on Title IX. This legislation does not mandate discon-tinuing men’s sports to reach compliance, and supporters of Title IX see that practice as undesirable.

Yet, I understand the realities of this issue: Athletics programs in general are quite expensive, and costs continue to climb for both men’s and women’s sports. How can one support football and men’s basketball — additional progress could be made. We are fortunate at UNLV to have coaches in these sports who have accepted reasonably modest salaries (although not so modest when compared to faculty and staff salaries), but many other universities hire coaches for millions of dollars a year. The tremendous savings of limiting such salaries could produce revenue enough to fund a great many women’s sports programs at schools across the country. I realize this runs counter to the venerated American spirit of free enterprise and allowing the market to find its own level; I likewise realize that unless all willingly join in this effort, it is a losing battle. In fact, I am afraid that both of my suggestions require, in effect, agreement of the entire higher education establishment, and, I regret to say, I have rarely seen that kind of consensus on a single campus, much less among many. Yet, these are the specific courses of action that are required in my opinion; I recently wrote an article in The Presidency, a magazine for university presidents, advocating these ideas with the hope of encouraging dialogue aimed at producing these, or similar, ends.

We have come too far in my opinion, to turn away from Title IX and the commitment to improve women’s opportunities in athletics — or anywhere else, for that matter. I believe we have made substantial strides toward improving the state of women’s sports on our campus and in the nation, and we must continue this trend.
Knight Inducted into Hall of Fame

by Kevin Force

UNLV men’s golf coach Dwayne Knight beams proudly when he’s asked about his recent induction into the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) Hall of Fame, but he is very quick to shift the credit and the focus onto others associated with his program.

“(This honor) is a real reflection on the community and the players who have played here. They are the ones who have put in the work and presented the opportunity for UNLV to compete at the highest level.”

Last January, the efforts of all involved were recognized when the Rebels’ 10-year coach became the school’s first to be inducted into any major sports hall of fame.

“I’ve never seen a program go from nothing to complete success in every area of the program like this team has done,” former UNLV Athletics Director John Robinson said. “I think for him this honor is a tribute to all of those accomplishments and what this team has been able to achieve at the national level.”

Knight is a lifelong veteran of the sport, including five years on the PGA Tour and 25 years as a collegiate head coach. The two-time National Coach of the Year has produced 30 All-Americans and 14 players who are in the professional ranks today. He also has led the UNLV program to unprecedented heights—with a national title and six conference championships.

After UNLV won the 2002 NCAA title, Knight said, “I know we’ve won a championship, but really, it’s a wonderful honor, and I’m very humbled by the fact that I’m going to be in there with people who really developed the game at the college level,” Knight said. “There were a lot of great choices and I feel very fortunate to be among this year’s selections.”

Knight and the University of Arizona’s Rick LaRose made up the hall’s first two inductees. Pictured with Knight is Joe Feaganes, president of the Golf Coaches Association of America.

And with that, he still considers his GCAA Hall of Fame induction one of the most special. "I think it’s a wonderful honor, and I’m very humbled by the fact that I’m going to be in there with people who really developed the game at the college level,” Knight said. “There were a lot of great choices and I feel very fortunate to be among this year’s selections.”

Knight and the University of Arizona’s Rick LaRose made up the hall’s 2003 class and became its 70th and 71st inductees.

“I just want to thank all the players,” Knight said. “I never hit a shot. They’re the ones who put in all the hard work. This award is a tribute to them.”

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UNLV Faculty Senate Tackles Numerous Issues

by Kate Weeks

Among John Readence's goals for the 2003-04 Faculty Senate are helping establish a new college, revising the core curriculum, and developing methods to resolve grievances quickly. Readence, an education professor who took over as Faculty Senate chair in April, hopes to accomplish this agenda in just one year. "It is a tall order for the Faculty Senate, but these items, and others we are pursuing, will make the lives of our students, faculty, and professional staff better," he said. "Through the Senate, faculty and professional staff members have a strong voice in the running of this university."

University College

A top priority this year is to lay the groundwork for the creation of University College, which Readence describes as an academic unit for students who have not chosen majors, who transferred from another university, or who can't get into their major of choice. "Some students have a 2.0 to 2.49 GPA, which the university system considers to be in good standing. But, the major they'd like to be in requires a higher GPA," Readence said. "This will give these students a place to belong and to graduate from. It means they'll be able to take courses in the field they want to study, but they'll do it through University College."

BUT, he adds, University College will also be enticing for someone who wants to look into varied academic fields. For example, a student who doesn't intend to become a licensed teacher might want to combine interests in early childhood education with business. Through University College, the student will be able to take upper-division courses that otherwise require admission to a specific major.

In addition, it may offer a better structure for academic advising. "This will create some excellent opportunities for students to get a high-quality education that fits their personal goals," Readence said. "It really is in keeping with our student-focused mission."

Resolving Conflicts

Among the busiest Senate groups is the Grievance Committee. Readence would like to lessen its workload. That committee determines whether there is sufficient cause to warrant a hearing on all grievances related to tenure, promotion, and merit pay.

"I want the Faculty Senate to work with the president, provost, and deans to settle these disputes at the lowest level possible," he said. "If dealt with objectively, it's easy to get caught up in your own world and lose touch with the larger institutional goings-on. The Faculty Senate is a way to keep in touch."

— John Readence, Faculty Senate Chair

The first step in creating the college was to get the concept approved by various constituencies on campus, including the Senate. Now that it has been approved, various Senate committees will be charged with approving the college's degree program and curriculum.

Core Content

The General Education Committee will be involved in the Senate's next major goal: revising the core curriculum. The aim is to reduce the number of credits required in the core curriculum so students can take more classes in their majors. Readence said that reducing core requirements to 36 credits from more than 40 will bring UNLV's policy more closely in line with those at comparable universities.

At the same time, the core curriculum must ensure that students receive a strong, unified educational base. Lowering the number of core credits will help achieve that goal by reducing the number of exceptions to the core that are granted.

Changing the core curriculum, however, can be a touchy subject. "There's always a bit of a turf battle when you change the core," Readence said. "Many academic groups believe their courses should be included in the core. But, something has to give when the goal is to reduce the core and give students more options."

I believe some of these issues could be settled early in the grievance process. The process can tie up a lot of time and be aggravating to all parties."

If not settled at the departmental or college level, disputes can be taken to the committee. A hearing committee consisting of five members and an administrative representative investigates the claim and then makes a recommendation on the claim's merit to the provost.

The committees that handle student petitions are also very busy. The Academic Standards, Admissions, and General Education committees hear petitions regarding grade grievances, readmission for suspended students, exceptions to the general education core, and transfer credits from other institutions.

"There can be an extraordinary number of petitions to deal with, and the number is only growing as our student population grows," said Donna Kelly, who, as program officer for the Senate, processes all undergraduate student and faculty petitions.

A number of the petitions arise when students receive a failing grade as a result of improper withdrawal from a class. "Some students need a lot of guidance on the process," Kelly said. "But ultimately they are responsible for providing the necessary documents for the committee members to review."

Communication Across Campus

Though much of the Senate's work is confidential, Readence hopes to foster more communication across campus on policy and direction.

"If there's one thing I want to do, it is to increase collaboration between the Faculty Senate and the upper administration," he said. "There are excellent examples from this last year with the revised grievance and merit pay processes, so I hope we continue along that path."

Readence encourages all faculty and professional staff members to become involved in the Senate's activities through their representatives, who are elected for three-year terms by their colleges or units.

"The elected representatives report back to their units the activities of the Senate," he said. "They gather faculty reactions and then share those with the Senate. There should be a back-and-forth exchange."

Each of the 48 members of the Faculty Senate serves on one or more of its 16 committees. The Senate elects from its ranks the executive board, which includes the chair, the past chair, and the vice chair/chair-elect.

"From my perspective, being involved gives faculty and staff members the opportunity to branch out, to launch initiatives, and to air their concerns," Readence said. "It's easy to get caught up in your own world and lose touch with the larger institutional goings-on. The Faculty Senate is a way to keep in touch."

For more information on the Faculty Senate, call ext. 5-3689.