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Inside UNLV

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Reorganization Supports Institutional Research Goals
by Cato Weeks

The recent reorganization of UNLV’s research infrastructure will support the university’s goal of becoming an excellent research institution, according to university administrators.

"With UNLV’s exceptional growth and development, it became imperative for us to restructure to best take advantage of our strengths," President Carol C. Harter said.

"This new structure strategically combines all the key elements of research and positions us to achieve our goal to become a major research university."

Paul Ferguson, senior vice provost and dean of the Graduate College, has been promoted to vice president for research and graduate studies. The primary components of university research operations and infrastructure will report to Ferguson.

The reorganization will result in the integration of the Graduate College; the UNLV Research Foundation; universitywide institutes, centers, and laboratories; and museums. It also will create the office of research services, consisting of the office of sponsored programs, the office for the protection of research subjects, and the UNLV animal care and use program.

"With this reorganization we are committed to providing the most service-oriented and efficient campus infrastructure for meeting the research needs of our faculty, staff, and students as well as enhancing our research outreach to the community to promote social and economic development," Ferguson said.

"Today, a significant amount of research is more than single discipline-based work," he said. "We also need to ensure that our researchers work together as multidisciplinary groups and receive the support they need to succeed. That dedication to multidisciplinary research will make us more effective in addressing a variety of complex societal problems and make us more competitive in obtaining research funding."

Gale Sinatra, associate dean of the Graduate College, has been appointed interim dean. She will report to Ferguson.

"I think it’s essential that the research mission and the graduate education mission continued on page 6

Three Classified Employees Honored

Plumbing Shop’s Welbourne Selected Employee of the Year
by Diane Russell

It seems that UNLV plumbing shop supervisor Victor Welbourne has more than "earned" the $1,000 that he was awarded when he was selected this spring as the President’s Classified Employee of the Year. His boss, Harold “Arch” Archibald, estimates that Welbourne has saved UNLV more than $3 million during his 10 years on campus.

Archibald, executive director of facilities management, said that over the years Welbourne convinced him that, with additional training, plumbing shop workers could handle projects the university had been paying private contractors to do. The money spent on the training would be far offset by the eventual savings, Welbourne reasoned.

Apparently, when you’re right, you’re right.

Welbourne and two other UNLV plumbers became certified in installing, inspecting, and maintaining fire sprinklers, fire alarms, and closed systems. They’ve since saved the university more than $1 million on those tasks, according to Archibald. Welbourne and some of his staff next began doing some major construction projects, saving the university another $1 million plus,

Archibald said. Then Welbourne and his crews took on restroom renovations, saving approximately $1.3 million so far.

"Due to the leadership of Vic Welbourne and his foresight and dedication, UNLV’s plumbing shop is well known throughout the West Coast as the standard for plumbing shops," Archibald said in a memo nominating Welbourne for the award. "His efforts and ideas have saved UNLV millions of dollars, which has allowed me to use these funds in other areas to enhance the facilities at UNLV."

Facilities supervisor Roger Harrison also wrote a letter in support of Welbourne’s nomination, saying, "Victor has an honorable work ethic and a very positive attitude. He encourages teamwork, good shop morale, pride in all work assignments, and excellent customer service. In my opinion, it is clear to see that he truly cares about his co-workers as well as this campus."

And, what does Welbourne have to say about such praise?

"I look at it as part of doing my job; whatever I can do for the university, I am supposed to do."

Welbourne said that his proudest accomplishment at UNLV is helping transform the plumbing shop into more than a
Hard Times and Hard Work

by Carol C. Harter
UNLV President

I write this month’s column at a moment of transition in the life of the campus community: As we breathe a collective sigh of relief after commencement and the flurry of other end-of-the-year activities, we are at the same time anxiously awaiting the outcome of the legislative session. I realize that, by the time this column appears, the session will have ended — we hope — and our destiny for the next biennium will have begun to unfold. Before the next wave of activity begins when our budget comes down from Carson City, I would like to take a moment to sit back, take stock, and offer credit where it is due.

The past year has been a challenging one. We have experienced remarkable growth in enrollment, particularly in PTE; while facing considerable budget cuts with an attendant hiring freeze and unexpected (and unfunded) additional expenses. We have been posting spectacular enrollment growth over the past several years, but this year’s figures surpassed any we have seen recently. Frankly, when news of the impending budget cuts arrived, we were not exactly sure how to make ends meet without affecting the quality of the teaching, service, and research we perform.

Yet, we have persevered and even excelled at meeting the needs of our students, offering as many classes as possible and providing necessary services. We have continued successfully to pursue our research agenda, advancing our academic credibility along the way. We have also continued to transform our community with many thoughtfully crafted research and service projects designed to improve the quality of life in Southern Nevada. We have even managed to take advantage of some wonderful new opportunities: We are continuing to expand our campus beyond its current perimeters by developing satellite facilities at the Shadow Lane campus and soon at the Ravine Park. These are just a few of the past year’s achievements.

Given the limitations we have faced due to inadequate funding, how have we achieved such results? I can say without reservation that the lion’s share of the credit goes to you, the faculty, classified staff, and professional staff of this institution. I am grateful for your hard work in these difficult times and for your dedication to maintaining high standards despite a lack of resources. You have been a model of excellence and accomplishment this year that extends beyond the expected, especially given the circumstances.

As you have no doubt heard or read, it is unlikely that state employees will receive a cost-of-living increase this year, although it appears that a 2 percent COLA will be provided in 2004. Although, as I mentioned earlier, the fiscal implications of the current legislative session are unknown to me as I write this piece, we have nonetheless learned that our merit will be affected adversely this year. I sent out a campus-wide e-mail on May 5 delineating the anticipated effects — namely, a six-month delay in the awarding of merit.

Employee of the Year

continued from page 1

maintenance shop. “Now we do almost everything in house. Before, we were just doing repairs. Coming to UNLV from the outside, I could see the money we could save by starting to do things in house.”

He said he was pleased to have been nominated for President’s Classified Employee of the Year, but figured someone else would be chosen. “It was a shock to me to hear my name called. I just never expected it.”

Welbourne, along with second-place recipient F. Lee Gregory and third-place honoree Jason Aqui, were presented their awards by President Carol C. Harter at a reception near the end of spring semester.

Gregory, an administrative assistant III assigned to the Student Advising Center (SAC) in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs received $750. Carol Jensen, director of the SAC, said of Gregory in a nominating letter, “Lee’s employment history at UNLV is filled with examples of his exceptional job performance, constant concern for the university, college, department, and unit; his generous attitude; and his dedication to service and professional development within the limits of his demanding position.

At no time was Lee’s concern for the unit, college, and university more apparent than when the SAC was without a director for a period of several months, and the only staff members were GAs (graduate assistants). Accepting responsibility beyond his status, job description, and experience, Lee managed to keep the entire center running, still meeting students’ advising needs and maintaining those essential administrative processes in support of our mission,” she said.

Gregory began work at UNLV in December 1994 and has held positions in the departments of health care administration and radiological sciences and in the deans’ offices of the colleges of Human Performance and Development and of Urban Affairs. Gregory, who retired from the U.S. Army as a chief warrant officer after 20 years and who plans to retire from UNLV in 2004, said it was an “outstanding surprise” to be honored as one of the classified employees of the year. “I tried to talk people out of nominating me because I knew everyone was busy and I didn’t want them to take the time to write the letters,” he said.

Aqui, the desktop support services manager with the office of information technology, was selected as the third-place recipient. He received $500. Aqui, who has been at UNLV for eight years — the first three as a student and the last five as a classified employee — manages five full-time technicians and six part-time student workers. “We provide service to about 2,500 university employees. We do everything from computer and printer delivery/repair to network troubleshooting,” he said.

“It feels really good when your peers recognize you like that,” he said of the award. “And to be chosen from that group (of nominees) was a great thing.”

Christina Drum, a programmer analyst in the office of institutional analysis and planning who used to work with Aqui in the office of information technology, wrote one of the letters nominating him for the award.

“I developed a formidable respect for the breadth and depth of Jason’s technical skills, his adherence to high standards of campus service, and his competent leadership abilities,” Drum said.

“Jason is generous with his time and knowledge. He conveys technical information in a way that effectively educates and does not patronize. When faced with a challenging problem, he seeks input from others and is able to re-evaluate his positions upon the presentation of new evidence. He makes a point of offering positive and constructive feedback, and takes the time to acknowledge the accomplishments of others.”
Sandgren Attracted by Entrepreneurial Spirit

by Diane Russell

"UNLV's entrepreneurial atmosphere is one of the chief reasons Eric Sandgren decided to leave Virginia Commonwealth University to head the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering. "With all the growth in Las Vegas, UNLV is in a really good position," said Sandgren, who begins work on campus July 1. "That growth means opportunities for the university. Where else in the country could you think of a place that is more entrepreneurial than Las Vegas?"

Sandgren, whose background includes experience in private industry as well as higher education, said another factor in his decision was his sense that the university's leaders were ready to capitalize on those opportunities.

"I think you have some really open-minded administrators all the way up to the top," he said during a telephone conversation from his office in Virginia. "When I came to campus for interviews, I was very impressed with the people and with the collegiality.

"One project that particularly excites me is the new building," he said, referring to the proposed Science, Engineering and Technology building. "I think the new building will create more interaction between engineering and the sciences. That is an excellent step.

"One of the concepts I'm particularly enthusiastic about is this idea of entertainment engineering. I think the interaction between art and engineering is a very good thing. We want to start getting engineers to think outside their own walls."

Sandgren's own work background is varied. His field of expertise is design optimization. "In other words," he explains, "whatever the product is, I help improve the design. How can the car be made lighter? How can the product be made more efficient?"

"My field is interdisciplinary in nature. Therefore I have dabbled in civil, electrical, and most other fields of engineering," said Sandgren, who earned three degrees in mechanical engineering from Purdue University and then went to work for IBM in its Information Systems Division.

Sandgren joined the faculty of VCU in 1997 and served as founding chair of its mechanical engineering program. Before that he had spent seven years as director of advanced engineering at TRW Steering and Suspension Systems in Michigan. He previously had worked as a consultant for companies such as General Motors, General Electric, and Xerox, and had taught at Purdue and at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Sandgren admits to being somewhat surprised that his career path has led him to a deans position. "I started out thinking I'd never be in management because I wanted to play in sandboxes rather than be the one to build sandboxes. But, I've worked long enough now that I have worked for both good managers and bad ones. I realize that having good management is the key to having a successful university. A good administrator can make the jobs of faculty and students so much easier."

He said he has no immediate plans for changes within the college, but does have a long-term vision. "What I really would like to see would be an engineering program that does more than just train people technically. Technical competence, while important, is not enough anymore."

"I would like to see people who can communicate, people who can work in teams, people who understand the principles of business, people who are good about non-linear thinking. Don't just think about engineering, let's think broader than that."

Education's Filler Steps into Presidential Advisor Role

by Gian Galatsis

John Filler, professor of special education, recently assumed his new role as senior advisor to President Carol C. Harter. Filler was selected to replace Dick Jensen, who has been appointed associate dean of the Honors College.

Filler brings to the position extensive experience in faculty governance, including terms as Faculty Senate chair and as faculty associate to the UCCSN chancellor's office. His appointment is effective July 1.

"I'm really looking forward to helping Dr. Harter move us toward the attainment of the goals and objectives we have set for ourselves," Filler said. "I see this position as being central to giving substance and meaning to the vision of making UNLV the premier metropolitan research university — of turning that vision into reality."

As the president's senior advisor, Filler will oversee the institutional planning process and coordinate university participation in a variety of external planning efforts and activities. He will also serve as a liaison from the president's office to various university committees and constituent groups (particularly the faculty and Faculty Senate) and will be responsible for the leadership of the University Planning Council.

"One of the most exciting and challenging functions of my new job is the involvement in the institutional planning process," Filler said. "It is the structure that gives the vision and direction to all of our efforts and is ultimately what brings us all together. I'm looking forward to working with everybody on the council — classified staff, professional staff, faculty — to help fine tune the planning process and to help more closely align our programs with our overall vision."

Filler is hitting the ground running, having spent the last two months preparing for the responsibilities ahead. First goal on his list: to find ways to better communicate to UNLV's constituents about the progress the university is making toward achieving its vision.

"Our goal of becoming a premier research institution without sacrificing our traditional mission of teaching is a wonderful demonstration to the community and, in fact, to the entire world, that UNLV is truly a unique institution."

— John Filler, senior advisor to the president

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constituents, particularly the faculty and students. "The faculty and students at UNLV are heads above the rest," he said. "When you combine that fact with an administration that is filled with the energy and commitment to make this university all it can be, then there's no better I'd rather be."

Prior to his appointment, Filler served as coordinator of the doctoral program in the department of special education and as faculty coordinator to the UNLV Preschool. His other administrative experience includes work on the University Planning Council, the Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Promotion Committee; and the Budget Committee, along with many other campuswide committee assignments.

Filler received his Ph.D. in developmental psychology with an emphasis on mental retardation research from the George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. After working for five other universities across the country, he joined the UNLV faculty in 1989.
Business

Dean Richard Flaherty spoke at the 25th annual Finance Executives Gaming Forum in May. The Nevada Society of CPAs sponsors this event, which attracts accountants, lawyers, and regulators associated with the gaming industry. Flaherty served on a panel to discuss corporate governance.

The college’s Executive Advisory Board is establishing a partnership with the Center for Academic Education and Outreach (CAEO). The board’s main goals for the partnership are to engage businesses in the existing CAEO mentoring programs, educate and engage college faculty in the effort to increase enrollment and retention of minority students, and publicize successes to attract other companies and colleges to the program.

The board has already surveyed the companies of its members to determine how to link their current mentoring programs with existing CAEO programs. The board’s plan is to recruit 30 new businesses to the program this year. College faculty members already are mentoring students through the CAEO program.

The Nevada Small Business Development Center is collaborating with the local chapter of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) to expand the counseling services available at the center for small businesses. Allan Bell, a volunteer counselor with SCORE, works at the center to counsel small business owners interested in international business as well as those who are exploring start-up opportunities.

Dental Medicine

Summer is here, but the dental school goes on. The third semester of the school’s first year will entail the first hands-on experience for students. They will begin using the tools and techniques that are necessary to their careers as oral health-care providers. They will learn the use of instruments and biomaterials, become knowledgeable in using X-rays for diagnosis, perform CPR in preparation for patient emergencies, and practice infection-control methods to keep the treatment areas free of transmissible diseases.

The finals from last semester are completed and every student has passed. In addition, students received recognition at the first annual Research and Table Clinic Day held during spring semester. The students who won the oral presentation, Ronnie Fowler and Sara Sutherland, presented a cutting-edge literature review on periodontal disease in expectant mothers and the increased incidence of low-birth-weight infants. First place in the poster presentation was awarded to Kelly Dunay and Jimmy Tran, who demonstrated the bioengineering of tooth structures in the 21st century. Dunay and Tran will make their poster presentation at the annual American Dental Association meeting in San Francisco this fall.

Finally, new faculty and staff members are arriving. Some of them attended the first dental school golf tournament in May. Students, faculty, staff, and community members were invited to participate in this event, which took place at Rhodes Ranch.

Engineering

The college hosted its Senior Design Dinner, saluting the college’s graduating seniors and honoring the winners of the Harriet and Fred Cox Engineering Design Award, in May at the Cox Pavilion. This award, including a cash prize and commemorative medallion, was presented to the seniors with the top projects in the competition.

The keynote speaker was Paul Polino, chairman and CEO of Emulex Corp., the world’s largest supplier of computer storage network connectivity solutions. Emulex was recently named one of the top 25 fastest growing technology companies by Forbes magazine.

The Harriet and Fred Cox Engineering Design Award grand prize was awarded to Walker Fitzgerald, Zach Stradling, and Aaron Tippett for their “Automated Temperature Control Shower Valve,” an interdisciplinary project between students in electrical and computer engineering and mechanical engineering. In civil and environmental engineering, first place was awarded to Luke Bowland and Pamela Willenberg for “TBE Expansion”; second place to Ela Tumbaga, Layne Weight, and Richard Zaragoza for “Pedestrian Grade Separation.” In electrical and computer engineering, second place was awarded to Nathan Sipe for “Four Way Stop Light with Ultrasonic Detection”; second place to Oliver Nowak for “Home Audio/Car Audio Automatic Optimal Audio Sound Staging Control.” In mechanical engineering, Brad Callihan and Joe Chacon won first place for “Secure Lock”; Jeffrey Haasch, David Mirc, and Brad Shaffer won second for “Portable Misting System.”

Fine Arts

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre has announced its 2003-04 season. Main Stage performances include: Sept. 19-28 — Annie Get Your Gun. Irving Berlin’s greatest musical, revived on Broadway in 1999 to critical acclaim, tells the love story of Annie Oakley and Frank Butler. Directed by Aaron Tuttle.

Oct. 10-26 — How I Learned to Drive. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel’s work is a timely, funny, and ultimately powerful story of survival. Directed by Steve Rapella.

Nov. 7-16 — Macbeth. In Shakespeare’s drama, Thane, a valiant and good husband, descends into his own hell of terrorism and takes an age of innocence with him, but not his country’s resolve. Directed by Michael Luegger.

Feb. 6-15 — Lenny. It is a cliché to say that comic Lenny Bruce was ahead of his time, but this play makes it clear just how ahead of his time he was. In “Irving Berlin’s greatest musical, revived on Broadway in 1999 to critical acclaim, tells the love story of Annie Oakley and Frank Butler. Directed by Aaron Tuttle.

March 12-21 — Let ’Er Rip. Rip Taylor performs in this NCT special event. A master of comedic timing and consummate showman, Taylor performs in a one-man show — telling the saga of his life as only he could. Limited availability. Directed by Robert Brewer.

April 30-May 9 — A View from the Bridge. Arthur Miller’s haunting drama is a powerful story about forbidden desires and betrayal set inside a tightly knit Italian community living in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge. Directed by Robert Brewer.

Graduate

Joseph McCullough is the recipient of the 2003 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award. McCullough, distinguished professor of English, has been a strong and longtime advocate of graduate education at UNLV. In fact, he served as acting dean of the Graduate College from 1977 until 1980. Currently, he serves as graduate coordinator for the English department and as chair of the Graduate College’s Student Funding Committee.
In addition to the President's and Barrick Fellowships announced last month, the college's Student Fundraising Committee recommended that Catalin Cucuciu (business), Jonathan Shults (theatre), and Eric Pike (physical therapy) receive UNLV Alumni Scholarships of $2,000. Ten students received $1,000 GSA/Adams Scholarships: Christopher Ross (physical therapy), Andrea Goli (environmental studies), Zhau Wang (anthropology), Sara Trout (physical therapy), and Patricia Keeler (anthropology). Also, 25 students were awarded Graduate Research Training Assistantships (GREATS), which provide only a three-month graduate assistantship. Students included Monique Didierich (sociology), Kelly Duke (psychology), Eric Fossess (geoscience), Andrea Gregovich (English), David Groh (kinesiology), Melanie Hanson (English), Melissa Hicks (geoscience), Leigh J uetet (geoscience), Salome Kapella (public administration), Kapilham Kullumuth (electrical engineering), Lisa Lining (psychology), Jared Lubben (geoscience), Stacy Mantooth (biology), Diane Noll (anthropology), Kasey O'Horo (anthropology), Jocelina Santos (hotel), Medina Sages (educational psychology), Michael Stepek (anthropology), Aaron Tuttle (theatre), Jennifer Vecchio (psychology), Mary Wammack (history), Natachi Wongchavalidul (civil engineering), and Jun Zheng (electrical engineering).

Honors During spring semester, the college and the office of undergraduate recruitment explored the usefulness of the extensive ACT and SAT databases in recruiting top students from Nevada, the region, and the nation. Undergraduate recruitment, in cooperation with the college, applied for a Planning Initiative Award to fund the purchase of the databases. Undergraduate recruitment was awarded the PIA, and this summer is implementing the use of the databases. The college is using the databases to identify prospective students, and will also work with several other UNLV colleges to attract excellent students both to Honors and other colleges. By using the database information and combining resources where appropriate, including scholarship monies, colleges can be more effective in attracting high talent and motivated students.

In addition to revising several of its more traditional types of recruiting materials, the college this summer is refining its website to ensure not only effective recruiting of new students, but also to provide to the UNLV community much greater information about a wide array of nationally competitive scholarship opportunities. In the fall, the college will begin hosting informational workshops to interest students in applying for these scholarships.

Hotel To help recruit academically talented minority students to study hotel administration and culinary arts management at UNLV, the "3+2" dual degree partnership has been established with the University of Las Vegas Hospitality and the College of the Desert. Two new assistantships will be created to attract highly talented and motivated minority students.

It is anticipated that the first students will begin the program during the 2004-05 academic year. Students studying business at Port Valley may also earn a second degree in hotel administration by completing an intensive one-year program at UNLV.

The partnership is one of several initiatives under way at the Harrah Hotel College to increase the enrollment of minority students, particularly African-American and Hispanic students. The college's goal is to increase enrollments from these two minority groups by 20 percent each year for the next five years. Other programs under way or being planned include a partnership with UNLV's Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach (CAEO) and the MGM Mirage. The college will work with CAEO to introduce Clark County high school students to the many careers available in the hospitality and leisure services industries.

Law The law school is pleased to welcome the new faculty who will be in our classrooms this fall. Professors leash Wright (English) and Aaron Zuniga (history) are arriving in June, bringing their nationally recognized expertise in dispute resolution and constitutional law/race/gender issues, respectively. Before joining UNLV, both served with great distinction on the law faculties of the University of Missouri-Columbia and, prior to that, Florida State University.

Professor Leticia Saucedo, fresh from her success as a practicing lawyer with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), will begin her new academic career at Boyd, specializing in immigration law and related areas. Professor Kevin Oates, who recently completed his master of laws degree at Temple, will teach lawyering process and conflict of laws.

Professor Pavel Wonsowicz, our new director of academic support, brings with him a wealth of experience and an impressive track record from his success in that same position at the University of Vermont Law School.

Professor Rebecca Nathanson of the College of Education, who has already contributed enormously to our clinical programs, fills out the ranks of our new faculty as she accepts her new joint appointment as an official member of the law school faculty.

Liberal Arts The history department continues to be among the university's most prestigious and most productive.

Promised Lands: Promotion, Memory, and the Creation of the American West was reviewed in the Los Angeles Times, and Vid Rothman's N'aton Metropoli: How Las Vegas Started the 21st Century was reviewed in the New York Times.

The department actively sought outside funding, raising nearly $1 million in the past two years. Funded activities included participating in the Nevada Test Site oral history program, researching and writing the history of the Wildland Fire Management program in the national park system, and compiling documentation for important National Register of Historic Places nominations.

The department proudly continues its tradition of excellence. Its outstanding faculty and students make a strong impression on the Las Vegas community, the university, and the history profession.

In addition, the college commends English professor Richard Harp for receiving the Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award for 2002.

Libraries The UNLV Libraries recently hosted visits from two prominent individuals within the library profession. In April, Judith Russell, superintendent of documents at the federal Government Printing Office, and Susan Vertenten, deputy director of the Library of Congress, met with Vicki Nozero, head of research and information, and Scott Skaem, executive director of the Nevada library association. Following a tour of Lied Library, Russell discussed the future plans of the library's depository program and learned more about the depository collection and the government information needs of patrons at the UNLV Libraries. She visited Las Vegas prior to attending the spring Depository Library Council meeting that was held in Reno. This year's meeting focused on the theme "Visualizing the Depository Library of the Future." Discussion topics included: the depository library of the 21st century; the reorganization of GPO; the needs of depository libraries; and the dissemination and preservation of government information.

In May, Mitch Freedman spoke at UNLV on the issue of "Better Salaries and Pay Equity for All Library Workers." Freedman is the president of the American Library Association, the oldest and largest library association in the world with more than 64,000 members. Pay equity in the library profession has been Freedman's presidential initiative and has evolved into a national movement within the field. This program, sponsored by the Southern District of the Nevada Library Association, was also broadcast to sites in Reno, Carson City, and Elko, with the goal of educating and empowering library workers across the state.

Urban Affairs The college congratulates several faculty members who have successfully achieved tenure and/or promotion. Promoted to associate professor with tenure are Chris Cochran (public administration), Joel Lieberman (criminal justice), and Shawn Gerstenberger and Krystyna Stave (environmental studies). Tenured at the rank of associate professor is Vicki Albert (social work). Promoted to full professor is Esther Langston, who is returning to full-time teaching after serving as director of the School of Social Work.

The college welcomes the addition of six faculty members this fall. Joining the Greenman School of Communication are associate professors Jennifer Bevan from the University of Georgia and Gregory Borchard from the University of Florida. Incoming assistant professor continued on page 8
President's Column

I would like to note for the record that this action was not negotiated in any way by UNLV; it was the result of a decision by the Legislature to cut costs to get through these difficult financial times. Though it is certainly not the most advantageous development for us, the plan to delay merit did serve to stave off a more drastic and deleterious plan: A potential threat to eliminate the 2.5 percent allocation to the UCCSN’s budget for merit may have been blunted by this action. Thus, it is our hope that the base 2.5 percent amount will be allocated to the UCCSN budget in the second year of the biennium and in future biennia as well.

Meanwhile, in the absence of the resources to provide immediate merit and cost of living increases, I can only offer you at this point a more abstract form of reward: acknowledgment for jobs well done. I want you to know that your contribution is appreciated and that you are helping to make our university grow and become a great one. I believe more people who choose to work in higher education find it intrinsically rewarding; that must be the case for so many of you to perform your jobs so well. I want you to share the sense of pride and accomplishment that I feel as I watch this university thrive, even during hard times. I probably do not say it often enough, but I thank you for your commitment to your work and to UNLV.

Research Reorganization

of the university be combined,” Sinatra said. “Graduate education is fundamentally about research. If we’re going to move into the Carnegie Research-Extensive category, it’s necessary to have both research and graduate education under the same administrative umbrella.”

Ferguson added, “It’s an effective integration and will only help fund further graduate education growth.”

Also reporting to Ferguson are Tom Williams, executive director of the recently created UNLV Research Foundation, and Stephen Rice, previously vice provost for research, whose new title is associate vice president for research and economic development.

“Our efforts connect the research and scholarly activity that goes on internally with external opportunities,” Ferguson said.

As the leadership team overseeing research moves past the transition phase, Ferguson said, the campus should see further development of multidisciplinary research (macroniches) as well as growth of UNLV’s research park. The park can provide a home to various research clusters, such as biotechnology, materials science and alternative energy research, and other endeavors directly related to research on campus and to economic development in Southern Nevada.

Ferguson will attend the President’s Cabinet meetings and will report jointly to the president and provost.

“It is critical that research and graduate studies have a position at the cabinet because of the campuswide nature of the enterprise,” he said. “Such operations related to research resources cross divisions, require extensive financial and facilities management, and impact students, staff, and faculty. Also, and most importantly, cabinet involvement is consistent with research and graduate studies being at the core of UNLV’s strategic plan into the 21st century.”
UNLV Leading Homeland Security Initiatives

by Cate Weeks

If the UCCSN Board of Regents approves its creation, UNLV’s Institute for Security Studies will bring together a range of research and education programs related to homeland security, including an educational outreach program for counterterrorism experts and a new masters-level degree in crisis and emergency management.

Lee Van Andale, who is part of the universitywide security studies group at UNLV, said the institute will facilitate the diverse efforts across campus related to security studies. The regents are expected to vote on the center’s creation at their August meeting.

“What UNLV has recognized is that, on the one hand, there’s a tremendous education capacity in the field of homeland security and, on the other hand, there are some very real threats to national security, as witnessed by the Sept. 11 bombings,” Van Andale said.

“The focus of the institute will be to bring together the former and the latter.”

The institute will sponsor a number of programs in collaboration with a variety of UNLV units. The university’s division of educational outreach would work with the institute to enhance a professional development program for emergency workers that already is in place at UNLV.

That program, known as the First Responder Train the Trainer program, helps experts in domestic preparedness become highly effective classroom presenters. It came about when the director of Bechtel Nevada’s Counterterrorism Operations Support (CTOS) unit contacted Chris Scheerer of the Professional Development Center at UNLV’s division of educational outreach.

The center collaborated with CTOS to improve the instructional skills of “subject matter experts,” or SMEs.

“The SMEs are highly knowledgeable, highly skilled people with a wealth of technical information to share related to domestic preparedness,” Scheerer said. “But they don’t necessarily know the best ways to teach that information to others. CTOS turned to us to help train their SMEs, who will then go out and train the front-line responders to emergencies.”

“Our goal is to ensure that the first responders can communicate their expertise in a clear and easily understandable way,” he said.

In the spring, 15 Bechtel Nevada trainers completed the program, and educational outreach hopes to take the program national with federal support. At a press conference on campus in April, U.S. Sen. Harry Reid announced his support of the program and of UNLV’s goal of creating the Institute for Security Studies.

Dawn Neuman, interim vice provost for educational outreach, said the goal now is to bring the 60-hour program to the thousands of SMEs who will train 9 million police, fire, rescue, and health-care workers around the country.

“The need for a program like this is tremendous,” she said. “UNLV is taking the lead in this innovative program. And the proposed Institute of Security Studies will only enhance the stature of the Train the Trainers program.”

The institute also intends to promote new academic degree programs. The regents have already approved a new executive master’s degree in crisis and emergency management offered through the department of public administration.

The program is intended for mid- to upper-level managers in public agencies who deal with incidents of terrorism and natural disasters. Though some of the teaching will be conducted on campus, the program will use distance education technology and will take advantage of the resources at the Nevada Test Site.

“We can offer a really unique experience by drawing on the resources of UNLV and of our community to help people facing crisis situations develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills,” said Paul Ferguson, who was recently named vice president for research and graduate studies.

The institute’s office of domestic preparedness will oversee UNLV’s role with the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium. UNLV recently joined the consortium, which is a partnership involving several public universities and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The institute will also coordinate a number of research projects related to domestic security. The cybersecurity program will support research that will help ensure government and business computer systems are safe from terrorist attacks.

The office for human considerations will support interdisciplinary research related to the perpetrators and victims of terrorism as well as those who respond to such crises. “By bringing in liberal arts fields, such as sociology and psychology, we can learn how to best work with a group of people who have experienced a disaster. Or, we can better understand what motivates people to use terrorism,” Ferguson said. “We can take a very holistic approach through this wonderful collection of efforts.”

Should the institute be approved, one of its first goals will be to open an applied technology lab, Van Arsdale said. “The lab will provide a mechanism for the rapid prototyping, field testing, and deployment of technology to those with an immediate need for it,” he said. “The lab’s goal will be around much-needed instruments - like sensors and communications devices - in a matter of weeks and months, not years.”

Van Arsdale added that the institute is not being designed to superecede research already on campus.

“We hope that through the institute we will be able to attract new research dollars to the tremendous work that has already begun on campus.”

“Down the road, I envision a very robust, multi-faceted organization that’s using its resources to expand the education of those in the security industries, that’s doing cutting-edge research, and that makes UNLV synonymous with homeland security and combating terrorism.”

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Library Expands Online Journal Collection

by Gian Galassi

Next time you need a specific title from the University Libraries' journal collection, you'll probably find it faster using an electronic bookmark on your computer hard drive than you will by tracking down a hardcopy on the library bookshelf.

Over the last few years, UNLV has increased its number of electronic journals from 578 to more than 7,000 titles, while enlarging its overall journal collection from 8,000 in 1999 to nearly 12,000 journals today.

"Although there are fewer titles on the shelves, faculty and students have a much greater number of journals to choose from," said Reeta Sinha, head of collection development at the Lied Library. "If we had stuck to the print model, there's no way we could have afforded the number of journals that we now have." Library officials said the transition has been as much a reflection of the growth of electronic information resources as it has been a result of certain economic realities.

With the addition of new academic programs each year, Sinha said, the demand for new journals has steadily increased. However, the state budget allocation for library materials has not kept up with the increasing cost of subscription rates, which has an inflation rate of approximately 10 percent each year. As a result, the libraries' staff has sought new ways to develop the university's relatively young collection without compromising its quality. One of the most successful solutions has involved joining other academic institutions in consortia -- groups of libraries who join resources to share the cost of buying electronic journals in bulk.

"Our ability to build UNLV's journal collection is now heavily dependent on the alliances we build with libraries outside of Nevada," said Chris Sugnet, director of collection development and management. "One of the main benefits of being in a consortium is that it not only gives us buying power but it also allows us to negotiate our package licenses." A publisher has a lot more to gain or lose, as the case may be, from a group of 40 libraries than it would from just one acting on its own, he said.

UNLV currently participates in nine consortia and numerous other ad hoc alliances, each of which has helped significantly increase and improve the libraries' access to electronic journals. For example, an alliance recently forged between UNLV and UNR has opened up access to more than 200 science journals that were previously unavailable to the UNLV community. It also led to joint acquisition of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) journals and conference reports and Institute of Physics journal archives. Other major journal contracts licensed through consortia include deals with important publishers such as Blackwell Science, Kluwer, and Wiley -- packages that have added more than 1,400 titles to UNLV's collection.

And although Sugnet concedes that not every title procured through these consortia will be of immediate academic interest to faculty or students, he sees these acquisitions as a way of planning for the future.

"UNLV is expanding as quickly as the world of electronic journals," he said. "Some of the titles may not be useful today, but next year somebody could walk through the doors of this library looking for biomedical journals."

In fact, UNLV is currently part of a consortium with the University of Arizona that subscribed to the entire library of a leading biomedical publishing company. For just $170 more per year, UNLV gained access to 79 additional titles, which, had the university acted alone, would have cost close to $150,000.

But even with the savings realized through these alliances, Sugnet said the rapid growth in the libraries' journal collection over the past four years may decrease as external factors challenge the library's purchasing power, most notably, industry-driven inflation rates.

"While we have changed the format of many of our journals from paper to digital and, in the process, electronic journals in bulk. But even with the savings realized through these alliances, Sugnet said the rapid growth in the libraries' journal collection over the past four years may decrease as external factors challenge the library's purchasing power, most notably, industry-driven inflation rates.

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