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Inside UNLV

Gian Galassi

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Carol C. Harter

Black Mountain Institute

Gale Sinatra

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Inside UNLV

Faculty and Staff Publication

August 2003

Health Sciences Division Created

Health Programs Realigned to Encourage Collaboration

by Diane Russell

A major restructuring designed to encourage collaborative research and improve communication between the various health-related programs on campus has resulted in the creation of the Division of Health Sciences – an umbrella unit housing the School of Dental Medicine and the new schools of Nursing and of Allied Health and Human Performance.

Gone is the College of Health Sciences. Most of its departments – clinical lab sciences, health physics, kinesiology, nutrition, and physical therapy – have been spun off into the new School of Allied Health and Human Performance. The school also will house the radiography certificate program that previously was located in the School of Dental Medicine. That program now is part of the department of health physics.

However, one program from the College of Health Sciences – nursing – now has been separated from the others and upgraded to school status – something university administrators describe as another step in a determined series of efforts designed to help combat the nursing shortage in Nevada by producing more nurses. It is anticipated that eventually the school will begin offering a doctoral nursing degree, thus making it more competitive with nursing programs across the nation.

The third component of the Division of Health Sciences is the School of Dental Medicine, which will welcome its second class of students later this month.

Eventually, a Graduate School of Public Health and a School of Pharmacy may be added to the division. A School of Pharmacy operated jointly by UNLV and UNR already has been approved by the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada but has not been funded.

The division will be headed by Patrick Ferrillo, who now has the title of vice provost for health sciences, but who also will continue to serve as dean of the School of Dental Medicine. Ferrillo will report to Executive Vice President and Provost Ray Alden.

Nursing professor Rosemary Witt will serve as interim director of the School of Nursing. Lori Candela has been selected as

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Geophysics professor Cathy Snelson works with the equipment she and fellow UNLV scientists Barbara Luke and Wanda Taylor are using to research the amount of damage that would likely result from a large earthquake in or near Las Vegas. This month, the group will be setting off a series of controlled explosions around the valley so that they can record the seismic waves.

UNLV Scientists Study Local Earthquake Damage Potential

by Gian Galassi

A large earthquake in or around the Las Vegas Valley would produce significantly more physical and economic damage than previously believed, say three UNLV professors.

Catherine Snelson, assistant professor of geophysics; Wanda Taylor, associate professor of geology; and Barbara Luke, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, reached this conclusion following recent experiments conducted with the Las Vegas Seismic Response Project, a two-year collaborative study designed to evaluate the seismic hazards in the Las Vegas Basin.

The first stages of the project were completed last year, when scientists from UNLV, UNR, University of Texas at El Paso, and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory measured the effects of both dynamite blasts from a nearby rock quarry and a chemical blast at the Nevada Test Site. A preliminary data analysis showed the depth of the Las

Vegas Basin to be much greater than previously thought, indicating that ground motion created by an earthquake would be both slow and sustained – factors typically responsible for causing the most extensive damage during earthquakes. In addition, previous earthquake studies have shown that at least eight faults in the Las Vegas Valley are of tectonic origin and are capable of producing an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 to 7.0 on the Richter scale.

Should a large earthquake occur, Snelson said, the combination of the basin being both deep and heavily faulted could cause more than \$11 billion in damage as well as a significant number of deaths and injuries.

Snelson, Taylor, and Luke, along with community volunteers and students and colleagues from other institutions (Stanford, UTEP, UNR) will complete the final stage of the project this month. The data will help researchers develop a more detailed profile of the basin's geophysical composition.

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Welcome Back

by
Carol C. Harter
UNLV President

As we begin the new academic year, I am glad to have this opportunity to welcome back those of you who have been away for the summer. The last few months have been quite interesting for UNLV and, indeed, for all state government agencies, given recent developments in Carson City. I had intended to address the outcome of the legislative session and its impact on UNLV in this month's column, but at the time of this writing, the Legislature is still attempting to agree on a tax package to fund the state's budget. Perhaps I will be able to address the impact of this legislative session in my September column.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to greet new faculty and staff and returning campus community members as the fall semester starts. It was not so long ago that I arrived on the UNLV campus for the first time, encountering the full force of the stifling Las Vegas summer heat and facing the mammoth but exciting endeavor I was about to undertake as the new president of UNLV. It was 1995.

Since that time, a whole host of newcomers has arrived on campus as well. Nearly 450 current faculty members, more than 500 professional staff members, and nearly 600 classified staff members have been hired at UNLV since 1995. These individuals comprise 62 percent of the current faculty and staff on campus. It seems fitting that a campus as young and vital as UNLV should have such a strong contingent of relative newcomers.

In recent years we have begun offering a new faculty and professional staff orientation designed to aid in newcomers' transition to campus. At the event, which is scheduled for Aug. 11 this year, new faculty and professional staff will be introduced to the campus community. They will meet with and hear the presentations of a number of UNLV administrators, and they can participate in an information fair, at which they can speak with representatives of various campus offices, ask questions, and pick up materials pertinent to them as new employees.

I look forward to meeting this year's new group; it is always exciting to witness their enthusiasm and hear the fresh ideas they bring. I am continually amazed at the breadth of experience and expertise of our incoming faculty and staff members. They seem to come to us from all four corners of the Earth and have diverse backgrounds and highly regarded credentials.

I encourage new faculty and staff members – along with the rest of the campus – to attend my State of the University address Sept. 9 at 2 p.m. in the Judy Bayley Theatre. The goal of this address is to provide all with a better understanding of the challenges, priorities, and achievements of our institution. And please join us after the address for the reception to follow (location TBA). It is always a wonderful opportunity to catch up with colleagues on the latest developments.

Earthquake Hazards

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The group will set off 11 controlled explosions, or "shot points," around the valley to produce seismic waves similar to those created by a small earthquake. All told, more than 7,500 pounds of ammonium nitrate explosives will be used.

"Explosives are the best way for us to record seismic waves without actually recording an earthquake because they create the same effect without producing any of the damage," said Snelson. "Although explosives are usually equated with their destructive qualities, we use them in a very benign manner. Most people won't even know that we've done anything at all."

The shot points will be detonated in holes drilled 150 feet deep and spaced at 10 km intervals, ranging roughly from Henderson to Summerlin and from Nellis Air Force Base to Red Rock. As each shot point is detonated, the ground motion will be recorded on 840 seismic instruments buried within the experiment's zone. Once the final results are compiled, the data will become part of a computer model that scientists at Lawrence Livermore and UNR are developing to estimate the effects of ground motion on manmade structures.

"The data we're compiling will provide a geologic and geophysical model of the Las Vegas Basin that will not only be used by academics but also by city, county, and state officials who need to evaluate locations on which to build," Snelson said. "This research will provide information necessary to change existing building codes as well as plan for

mitigation in the event that a large earthquake were to occur."

The research of Snelson and her colleagues is not only concerned with how the basin will react to an earthquake in the immediate Las Vegas area, but also with how ground motion from distant seismic events will affect the valley.

"If a large earthquake occurs within 150 km or less of Las Vegas, it's going to shake us pretty good and possibly cause some drastic results," Snelson said. "We're much more likely to experience a quake like that in our lifetime than we are one in our valley."

Snelson is quick to point out, however, that although her research does not suggest a greater likelihood that a large earthquake will occur in Las Vegas, there really is no way of knowing when one might hit.

"Every place has a local hazard and earthquakes just happen to be one of ours," she said. "We need to start living with that reality before it catches up with us. We may have been lucky so far, but we can't expect that our luck will hold out."

The project is funded by the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the UNLV applied research initiative.

Volunteers are needed to help deploy and retrieve the seismic recorders that will be used during the experiment Aug. 9-11. No prior experience is necessary, and volunteers are welcome to participate on one or more of the days. For more information, visit <http://geoscience.unlv.edu/pub/snelson/LVSRP/> or call Snelson at ext. 5-2916.

UNLV Receives Award for Use of Technology

UNLV is one of only four universities in the nation to receive an award this year from the International Society for Technology in Education in recognition of its use of technology.

The university received the society's National Educational Technology Standards Distinguished Achievement Award for 2003 for its use of technology in its teacher preparation program. The award was presented this summer at the 24th annual National Educational Computing Conference in Seattle.

"We've worked diligently to incorporate technology into both the teaching and learning aspects of our teacher preparation program," said Neal Strudler, professor of educational computing and technology. "We know that teachers in today's classrooms must be familiar with the latest technological advances, and we strive to make sure our graduates are properly prepared to meet that challenge."

Strudler said the Education College uses many forms of computer-based technology in its teacher preparation program, including WebCT and digital video.

"Being selected for this award affirms the success of our efforts," he said. "But we won't stop here. We know that as technology evolves, we will need to keep abreast of those changes and bring them into our classrooms. UNLV and the College of Education have an ongoing commitment to this endeavor."

For more information, contact Strudler at 895-1306 or strudler@unlv.edu.

Aging Center Forms Local Partnership

The UNLV Center on Aging has established a "satellite campus" at the Horizon Pines Senior Apartments, a Nevada Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) property for low-income, older citizens. The satellite campus will pool the resources of the two organizations to meet common objectives.

The campus, established through a partnership between the entities, will enhance the ability of both to respond to particularly vulnerable older citizens. The focus is on at-risk older residents, including those who are socially isolated.

"This effort is also in line with the goal of the Center on Aging to create a community-based 'learning laboratory,'" said Barbara Hirshorn, center director. "We want to make the university's resources accessible to the larger community."

For more information, call the satellite office at 896-2770 or Hirshorn at ext. 5-0847.

Inside UNLV

STAFF BOX

Editor	Diane Russell
Assistant Editor	Cate Weeks
Writer	Gian Galassi
Photography	Geri Kodey
Production	Publications/Reprographics

Inside UNLV welcomes comments and suggestions from readers. Please send an e-mail to inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu or drop a note to Inside UNLV at mail code 1012. UNLV is an AA/EEO Institution.

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Hein Selected Pro Staff Member of the Year

by Diane Russell

A career guiding college students through their academic journeys wasn't at all what Anne Hein envisioned for herself when she began her studies at UNLV in 1980.

As an undergraduate in the College of Business, she thought she might become a management consultant or a mediator.

But a serendipitous series of events led her into the field of academic counseling instead.

And, judging by the fact that Hein, director of the Student Advising Center, recently was selected as the President's Professional Employee of the Year from among nearly 600 professional employees, she is very good at what she does.

"Anne's extensive knowledge and experience with UNLV, coupled with her sincere dedication to students, make her highly deserving of this award," said Hein's supervisor, Eileen McGarry, student life's assistant vice president for academic success and director of career services.

"Anne has contributed to the profession and university in multiple ways. She has received regional recognition for the Student Development Center's Web advising process, has been engaged in faculty and campus committees, and has effectively expanded her role as an advising center director," McGarry said. "Colleagues and staff describe her as compassionate, respectful, and decidedly student centered."

The "student centeredness" perhaps evolved naturally for someone who began her career at UNLV as a student.

While still an undergraduate, Hein took a job as a student worker in the provost's office. Eventually, she expanded her hours to full time and became a member of the classified staff.

As graduation neared in 1987, she was recruited to taking an advising position at UNLV. She discovered that she liked it and was good at it; she's been at it ever since.

"Working with students is very rewarding," said Hein, who also was named the University and Community College System of Nevada's Academic Advisor of the Year for 2000.

"We have the opportunity to talk with them about their goals and dreams. For the most part the advisers get to play a role in helping students achieve those dreams."

Sometimes, when a student has chosen a field of study that proves not to be a good match for his talent, the adviser plays a different role, helping the student realize that another major may be a better choice, she said.

"That's not always an easy thing to help them come to terms with, but it's a valuable service, too," said Hein, who earned a master's degree in higher education administration in 1994.

Hein became director of the Student Advising Center in 1997 and now oversees nine advisers and a support staff of three.

The center expanded in 2002 to include academic advising for athletes – a group of students who previously had been advised by a separate unit. The center now makes about 4,000 advising contacts with students each year.

A fairly recent innovation for the office is Web advising, which allows students to ask some of their advising questions online. "You can really build relationships with people over the Web," Hein said, adding that she has been pleasantly surprised how well that process works for both students and advisers.

Paula Castillo, a program officer in the center, said that she nominated Hein as the President's Professional Employee of the Year, in part, because of the many improvements she had made in the center, including designing and implementing a group



Anne Hein, director of the Student Advising Center, has been named President's Professional Employee of the Year. Hein began work at the university as a student employee while studying for a business degree.

tutoring program used by hundreds of students and acquiring \$30,000 in outside funding to support low-cost tutoring.

"Anne is a very positive, upbeat, committed and dedicated employee to the university and its mission," Castillo said in the nominating letter. "Anne has earned the respect and loyalty of everyone she interacts with in the department as well as throughout the campus, something some administrators never achieve."

"Anne is very student centered and knows that her function as director is to serve the students of UNLV. Anne is always hard at work with her door wide open and is always willing to meet with the students who call or stop by. She truly cares about the students at this university and always makes herself approachable and willing to help in whatever ways possible."

Yasbin Comes to UNLV with Parent's Perspective

by Cate Weeks

Ronald Yasbin will arrive on campus this fall in a dual role: as new dean of the College of Sciences and as a parent of a first-year student. That's giving him a unique perspective of the challenges his college faces in keeping up with a growing student population.

"As both a dean and a parent, I can see how overworked the advising staff is," Yasbin said, pointing out that the college expects 600 additional students this fall. "I believe student counseling is crucial to students' success. Our retention is good, but I think we can do better by improving student support infrastructure."

Yasbin comes to UNLV from the University of Texas, Dallas, where he was a professor of molecular and cell biology. He also previously served at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and the University of Rochester.

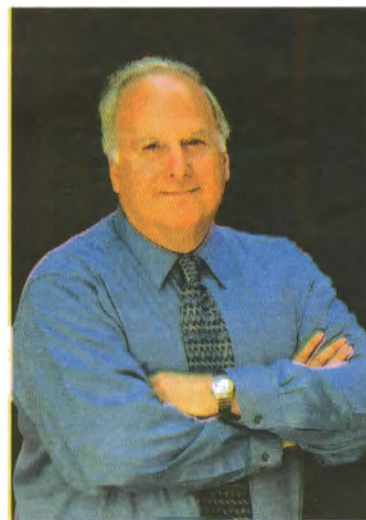
At UT, he was involved in creating new interdisciplinary programs, such as a dual major in biology and management. The dual major was created with the biotechnology student in mind, but attracted a large

number of students planning on becoming doctors.

"We have to think beyond traditional degree programs and foster interdisciplinary studies," he said. "It's crucial in the sciences."

It is also crucial to the university becoming a tier-one research institution, he said. "I believe in continuing to improve mechanisms to increase interdisciplinary applications," he said. "And it's important that this extends beyond research and graduate education into undergraduate teaching. Undergraduates with experiences that cross between traditional disciplines will be more marketable both when they seek employment and when they apply for graduate or professional schools."

He also said programs must reach into the elementary and high school classrooms in the community. "One of the things that really impressed me at UNLV is



Yasbin

the number of excellent programs initiated by faculty to interest K-12 students in the sciences," Yasbin said. "They're showing kids that it's not nerdy to be scientists. If we can attract them to these fields when they're young, we'll have a better selection of highly qualified graduate students in the future."

Yasbin said he's excited about the proposed Science, Engineering and Technology building and hopes to see much-needed renovations to existing facilities come to fruition through increased fund raising. "One problem I often see is that an institution will finally get money for building, but at the time, very little concern is given to

the facility's half life," he said. "Science moves at a rapid pace, and we have to plan for those changes by making sure we have rollover funds to keep equipment and the research infrastructure up to date."



From the Dean's Desk

by Gale Sinatra
Interim Dean of the Graduate College

The recent restructuring of UNLV's research and graduate studies units has resulted in several changes in the administration and operation of the Graduate College. I would like to take this opportunity to inform the campus about some of the personnel changes and the new duties several Graduate College staff members will assume.

Paul Ferguson, who has been appointed vice president for research and graduate studies, will continue to oversee graduate education. As interim dean and a member of the research and graduate studies leadership team, I will continue to work with Dr. Ferguson in implementing many of the ongoing initiatives of the college. Formerly, I served as the college's associate dean for academic affairs.

My responsibilities as interim dean include the daily supervision of the Graduate College staff, maintaining the high quality of graduate education, facilitating the work of the Graduate College committees, and addressing graduate student and faculty concerns. In addition, I will work to continue to improve the experiences of graduate assistants, to facilitate new program development, and to promote other Graduate College initiatives.

Harriet Barlow will continue in her role as assistant dean for graduate student services. Dr. Barlow is primarily responsible for supervision of the Graduate College admissions and records evaluation group (composed of staff members Dee-dee Severin, Beverly Petrelis, C.C. Dyer, Cynthia Chavez, and Eric Lee). This group monitors students' progress from admissions to graduation. Dr. Barlow also is responsible for thesis/dissertation compliance, graduate student participation in professional programs, and the coordination of Graduate College publications and handbooks.

Former human resources staff member Colleen Schiffman recently joined the college staff as graduate program manager, assuming coordination of the graduate assistantship program from Carole Hoefle, who is now the executive assistant to the vice president for research and graduate studies. Colleen has more than 20 years' experience at UNLV. Her new responsibilities include administrative support for the interim graduate dean and management of the graduate assistant program.

The Graduate College is staffed by professionals committed to excellence in graduate studies, and I look forward to leading this team during my tenure as interim dean. We are excited about the university's combined research and graduate education missions, which will now be better integrated under the new administrative structure. I feel it is critical for these missions to be integrated if we are to advance successfully into the Doctoral/Research Universities-Extensive category defined by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching. Research is an integral part of graduate education; therefore, it is entirely appropriate for the university's administrative structure to reflect this focus.

I am delighted to represent the Graduate College as interim dean, and I would encourage any member of the campus community to contact me regarding graduate education at UNLV. I am always available to answer questions or discuss graduate studies.

Business

The college will offer three new graduate programs this fall: a dual MBA and law degree (MBA/JD), a dual MBA and dental degree (MBA/DMD), and a master of science in management information systems.

Representatives of the RC Willey furniture store invited students from the college to spend an afternoon with legendary investor and Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett on June 19. The event marked the opening of RC Willey's newest store. Following brief opening remarks, Buffett answered questions from the students. More than 300 people from across the community attended the event.

Saeyoung Chang and Mike Sullivan received summer research grants. Chang will study ownership structure, method of payment, and bidder returns in takeovers. Sullivan is conducting an analysis of strategic private placements of equity. These grants were funded through a multiyear gift from Mike Shustek and Vestin Mortgage.

The college is expanding its advisory boards. Joining the Executive Advisory Board are Larry Carter, market vice president of Auto Nation, Las Vegas; James Medick, CEO of MRC Group; Robert Saxton ('80), senior vice president, CFO, and treasurer of Alliance Gaming; and James Stuart ('91), president and CEO of Centra Properties, LLC. John Barragan ('97) of Pinnacle Gaming, Susan Best of Enterprise Rent-a-Car, and Jim King of R&R Partners have joined the Finance Executive Advisory Board.

Dental Medicine

The third semester for the dental school entails immersion in clinical methods. Dental students are learning about dental biomaterials, anatomy, and radiology in lectures and in the laboratory. The students take part in laboratory exercises and become proficient in crafting the fine pieces of hand work they will need to construct to repair defects in teeth and mouths. In addition, dental students are learning to be knowledgeable in the diagnosis of diseases of the oral cavity.

Dental students start practicing how to treat the whole person as well, learning the essentials of taking medical and dental histories and recognizing diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. To keep patients safe, dental students learn to perform CPR in preparation for patient emergencies, and the students practice infection control methods to keep their treatment areas free of transmissible diseases.

In the meantime, a new class of students has been accepted for the second year of the dental school. Many of the students have been in touch with each other over the summer via the Internet, but the entire new class will meet for the first time at the end of this month. Orientation for new students starts the week of Aug. 24, and will include the second annual picnic at Mount Charleston on Aug. 28. Faculty, new students, and their families will take part in a day of festivities, including food, games, and a hike to the top of Cathedral Rock.

Education

The college's leadership team, comprised of the dean, two associate deans, and five department chairs, concluded the spring semester with a retreat to identify future directions for the college. The shared college vision includes establishing strong cross-department collaboration to move the college into a Research-I institution perspective. Six goals were identified:

1. Continue to produce a large number of quality teachers.
2. Further promote graduate education.
3. Extend research and development partnerships with the Clark County School District (CCSD) and other entities.
4. Move two departments toward the goal of national rankings.
5. Create national awareness of the college that leads to a *U.S. News & World Report* ranking in the top 50.
6. Increase national journal editorships, citations in professional publications, and publication rates in top-tier journals.

To achieve these goals, the college will seek to heighten its research visibility, achieve a higher rate of grant productivity, and continue to construct a collaborative professional culture within the college. Focusing on "selective growth," the college will strive to create a balance between graduate and undergraduate delivery and continue to build relationships with the CCSD, Nevada State College, and the Community College of Southern Nevada. As the university community continues to grow, the college is examining opportunities to offer off-campus and distance education courses.

The multiple goals and perspectives that establish direction for the college help faculty address individual and organizational goals so they may be mutually supportive. The ultimate goal is to maximize faculty and student productivity.

Engineering

The college welcomes Eric Sandgren as its new dean. Most recently, he served as chair of the mechanical engineering department at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

He has also served on the faculty of Purdue University and the University of Missouri, Columbia. He has extensive industry experience with TRW and other private firms. Also new to the college are Nader Ghafoori, chair of civil and environmental engineering, and David Shields, an associate professor in construction management.

The college has received 144 research awards totaling more than \$12.7 million in the first six months of 2003 alone. Some of the current and new research projects include: a major materials project under the direction of Brendan O'Toole and funded by the U.S. Army; funding through the U.S. Department of Energy for the National Energy Management Institute housed at UNLV; several alternative energy projects under the direction of Darrell Pepper and Robert Boehm and funded by the National Renewable Energies Laboratory; Lawrence Larmore and Wolfgang Bein's grant for "On Line Competitive Algorithm," funded by the National Science Foundation; and Samir Moujaes' energy audit research program.

Fine Arts

The college is debuting the Nevada Entertainer/Artist Hall of Fame at UNLV during a series of events in September. The first inductee, George Sidney, will receive the award posthumously. Sidney was a three-time Academy Award-winning Hollywood legend who directed such great films as *Show Boat*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Viva Las Vegas*, *Anchors Aweigh*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*.

The weekend will begin Sept. 12 with a special black tie event at the home of Corinne Sidney. The

official awards ceremony will be held Sept. 13 in Artemus Ham Hall. Celebrity speakers will share their memories of the late director.

In addition, an exhibition of previously unseen photographs taken by Sidney will be featured in the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery from Sept. 13 to Oct. 4. Personalities such as Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Elvis Presley, Ann-Margret, and many others are captured through Sidney's discriminating lens. These candid Hollywood photos portray the people with whom Sidney worked on a regular basis and will be publicly displayed for the first time.

Honors

The college does not yet know how many of the students it admitted for the coming semester will finally attend UNLV as participants in the college, but at the end of its recruiting processes for fall 2003, it had received applications from significantly more students than it had in the previous year. Additionally, it used admission criteria rigorously to admit more students than it had in the previous year. Freshman entering the college this fall will take a newly revised orientation seminar in which they will learn about the value of national competitive scholarships and how to apply for them, discuss global issues and study abroad opportunities, and attend sessions of the college's Athenaeum series.

The college has already begun recruiting processes for fall 2004. It has contacted select high school students who scored very well on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, and has begun making contacts with and visiting local high schools to inform counselors about the value of UNLV Honors College programs for outstanding students. Additionally, it has begun using new ACT and College Board databases to mail informational materials to prospective students.

Hotel

Industry research by college faculty is ongoing throughout the year in many areas of the hospitality industry. One example is in the area of food safety. Three faculty members, Deborah Barrash, Lesley Johnson, and Jean Hertzman, were recently selected as principal investigators to receive a \$75,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct a two-year research project called "A Pilot Study of Knowledge and Practices of Safe Food Handling in the Catering Industry."

The researchers hypothesize that there is a lack of knowledge regarding safe food handling among catering firms' employees and that this lack of knowledge leads to improper food handling during the preparation, transportation, and service of food at catered functions. A letter of commitment from a local caterer as well as support from the National Association of Catering Executives will also be involved in this project. These groups will provide access for the collection of data and allow observation to take place.

Once the study is complete, the results will be evaluated and analyzed. The primary outcome will be the development of educational materials specifically designed for catering employees. These materials will include training plans, instructional materials, and short tests. The materials will be available in print as well as via a Web-based system to increase the accessibility for catering operations. Pamphlets will be produced in both English and Spanish to reach and educate a larger number of people working in the catering area.



Students from UNLV's College of Business were among those invited to hear legendary investor and Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett speak at an event sponsored by RC Willey furniture store. Seen with Buffett are, from left, finance majors Vera Doder and Maria Mitova and accounting major Laura Amorelli.

Law

Three members of the law school faculty were recently named William S. Boyd Professors of Law. They are: Joan Howarth, an expert on constitutional law and the creator of the law school's new Capital Defense Clinic; Mary LaFrance, whose research focuses on intellectual property, entertainment law, and taxation; and Jeff Stempel, who specializes in insurance law, professional responsibility, and dispute resolution. Howarth joined the law school faculty in fall 2001 after a distinguished career at Golden Gate University and a visitorship at Berkeley. LaFrance and Stempel both served on the law school faculty at Florida State University before joining the Boyd faculty in fall 1999.

The Boyd Professorships were created and funded by the law school's namesake and benefactor, William S. Boyd.

Liberal Arts

The philosophy department, which is in transition, is pleased to announce significant curriculum changes. The primary core requirements for the major are now three courses in the history of philosophy, three courses in philosophical theory, and a course in logical theory. Beyond these courses, students are free to concentrate their philosophical interests around topics of their choice with departmental electives and electives in other departments.

The department is also offering several courses at the 600-level for the first time. Graduate students in other departments are welcome to take these courses to broaden their outlook in intellectual history or to study the philosophical foundations of their discipline.

The departmental faculty is changing as well. Maurice Finocchiaro retired this spring after 33 years of teaching. With a fresh doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, he began his academic career at UNLV in 1970. While here, he published eight books and has a ninth in press. He also published 116 articles and 121 book reviews, and he presented 137 papers at professional conferences. Cyrill Pasterk and Bhagwan Singh retired in 1999. Pasterk had taught for 32 years,

and Singh for 22 years. Thomas Tominaga retired in 1997 after 26 years.

To begin rejuvenation of the department, faculty members will welcome Ian Dove this fall as the new director of critical thinking. He hails from Rice University, where he completed a dissertation on logic and mathematical proof. Originally from Tuba City, Ariz., he is looking forward to living again in the Southwest.

Libraries

The University Libraries is proud to recognize Jeanne Brown, head architectural studies librarian, as the recipient of the 2003 McPhee Librarian of the Year Award. The McPhee Award is given annually to a tenured member of the library faculty who has made a major contribution to the library, the university, the community, or the profession. In a nominating letter, a colleague enumerated some of Brown's many contributions to the Libraries and the profession including "the effective leadership of the Architecture Studies Library (ASL), the creation of a nationally recognized architecture website, the design of a comprehensive instruction program designed to provide both classroom and online tutorial sessions ... (she) published articles in numerous journals, including *Portal*, *Art Documentation*, *The Reference Librarian*, ... [and] a regular column for the publication *Archi-Tech: Bridging the Gap Between Design and Technology*."

Congratulations also to Diane VanderPol, head of the instruction department, for winning the Libraries' Innovative Solutions Award. The award recognizes a library faculty member for demonstrated innovation and creative thinking to solve a problem or challenge or to improve upon an existing practice in the provision of library services and resources. The letter nominating VanderPol mentions several projects that demonstrate a "sense of humor, philosophical grounding, and organizational efficiency that VanderPol brings to her projects at the University Libraries." The letter concludes, "Her demeanor and accomplishments reflect the friendliness, the energy, and the willingness to experiment that make

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Awards

In place of the usual "Spotlight on Accomplishments" section, Inside UNLV this month features a list of faculty and staff members who received awards from the university system, the university, or colleges within the university during the 2002-03 academic year. The "Spotlight" section will return in September.

College of Business

Robert Aalberts, finance, College 2002 Teacher of the Year

Mel Jameson, finance, College 2002 Service Faculty of the Year

Jordan Lowe, accounting, College 2002 Researcher of the Year

College of Education

Marjorie Conner, **Cyndi Giorgis**, **Darrin Hardman**, **Marilyn McKinney**, **Maria Meyerson**, **Carrie Reed**, **Frank Serafini**, and **Chelli Smith**, curriculum & instruction, and **Ralph Reynolds**, **Deborah Romero**, and **Gale Sinatra**, educational psychology, College Outstanding Collaborative Group Award

Alice Corkill, educational psychology, College Distinguished Teaching Award

Cyndi Giorgis, curriculum & instruction, UNLV Alumni Student Focus Award and UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award

Greg Schraw, educational psychology, College Outstanding Research Award

Frank Serafini, curriculum & instruction, College Outstanding New Faculty Award

Neal Strudler, curriculum & instruction, College Outstanding Service Award

Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering

Wolfgang Bein, computer science, College Distinguished Research Award

Bingmei Fu, mechanical engineering, College Distinguished Research Award

David James, civil & environmental engineering, ASCE Southern Nevada Chapter Engineer of the Year Award and NSPE Nevada Chapter Engineer of the Year

Edward Jorgensen, computer science, UNLV Outstanding Teaching by Part-Time Faculty Award

Mohamed Kaseko, civil & environmental engineering, Tau Beta Pi Outstanding Teacher Award

Shashi Nambisan, civil & environmental engineering, ASEE Campus Representative Award

Walter Vodrazka Sr., civil & environmental engineering, ASCE Zone IV Faculty Advisor of the Year Award

College of Fine Arts

Sean Clark, film, College Outstanding Teacher of the Year

Health Sciences

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interim associate director, while Cheryl Bowles will serve as graduate coordinator.

Richard Tandy, previously associate dean of the College of Health Sciences, now is director of the School of Allied Health and Human Performance. Nearly 80 percent of the students in the school are enrolled in the kinesiology program.

"All these organizational changes have been made with two goals in mind – encouraging the collaborative health-related research which already has begun taking place across campus, and improving communication between the various units involved," Alden said.

"As the university has increased its emphasis on

Mark Hoversten, architecture, Regents' Creative Activity Award

Jocelyn Jensen, music, UNLV Outstanding Teaching by Part-Time Faculty Award

Dale Melgaard, film, UNLV Outstanding Teaching by Part-Time Faculty Award

Ellis Pryce-Jones, theatre, Charles Vanda Award for Excellence in the Arts

Graduate College

Joseph McCullough, English, 2003 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award

College of Health Sciences

Mark Guadagnoli, kinesiology, College Outstanding Scholar Award

Laura Kruskall, nutrition sciences, College Outstanding Teaching Award

Tascha Spears, nursing, College Outstanding Clinical Teaching Award

William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration

John Bowen, tourism & convention administration, UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award

Andrew Feinstein, food & beverage, Sam & Mary Boyd Distinguished Research Award and College Distinguished Professor Award for Graduate Education

Curtis Love, tourism & convention administration, UNLV Alumni Student Focus Award

Kathy Nelson, tourism & convention administration, Sam & Mary Boyd Distinguished Service Award

Gail Sammons, hotel management, Sam & Mary Boyd Distinguished Teaching Award

Stowe Shoemaker, hotel management, Barrick Scholar Award

College of Liberal Arts

David Beisecker, philosophy, William Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching and UNLV Alumni Student Focus Award

Michael Bowers, political science, Donald Schmiedel Service Award

Leon Coburn, English, UNLV Alumni Outstanding Faculty Award

Andrea Fontana, sociology, UNLV Alumni Student Focus Award

Joseph "Andy" Fry, history, UNLV Distinguished Professor Award and Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award

Robert Futrell, sociology, Alex G. and Faye Spanos Distinguished Teaching Award and UNLV Alumni Student Focus Award

research, a natural response has been a growing number of health and biomedical research initiatives. Faculty members from many of our colleges and programs – not just those obviously devoted to the sciences – are involved in these projects.

"We are quite pleased with this development, which is totally in keeping with the biomedical and health sciences macrotheme established through the strategic planning process," Alden said. "However, the rapid growth of research in these areas has made it clear that we need to do more to facilitate such collaborations and to improve communication among the participating people and units. This need will only become more obvious as some of the people and units involved eventually move to the Shadow Lane campus.

"A task force comprised of representatives from six colleges was convened to study the situation; the

Michael Hall, psychology, UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award

Richard Harp, English, Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award

Vicki Holmes, English Language Center, UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award

Shaunna Sanders, English, UNLV Outstanding Teaching by Part-Time Faculty Award

Jennifer Thompson, anthropology, UNLV Alumni Student Focus Award

Paul Werth, history, William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Rita Deanin Abbey Teaching Award

College of Sciences

Pradip Bhowmik, chemistry, College Distinguished Teaching Award

Jean Cline, geoscience, College Distinguished Researcher Award

Kathy Robins, chemistry, College Distinguished Service Award

Steve Rowland, geoscience, UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award

Stanley Smith, biology, Harry Reid Silver State Award

Greenspun College of Urban Affairs

Kathleen Espin, communication, UNLV Outstanding Teaching by Part-Time Faculty Award

Shawn Gerstenberger, environmental studies, College 2002 Outstanding Faculty Research Award

Carol Jensen, advising center, Regents' Academic Advisor Award (Undergraduate)

David Hassenzahl, environmental studies, College 2002 Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award

University Libraries

Jeanne Brown, Architecture Studies Library, James McPhee Librarian of the Year Award

Osra O'Neal, administration, Bookplate Award.

Diane VanderPol, instruction, Innovative Solutions Award

Vice President for Administration

Victor Welbourne, plumbing shop, President's Classified Employee of the Year

Vice President for Student Services

Anne Hein, Student Advising Center, President's Professional Employee of the Year Award (See Story, Page 3)

reorganization that resulted is a direct result of the recommendations made by that group," he said.

Ferrillo said he sees the various components of his division as being equal players in the health care delivery system.

"For too long, the traditional model at most universities has been to view the medical school as being the pinnacle of their health care programs," he said. "I see all aspects of health care – whether it be oral health, nursing, kinesiology, physical therapy, or some other branch – as being of vital importance to a person's overall health. To look only at those aspects of health traditionally tended to by medical doctors is too take too narrow a view.

"I think the UNLV model will better serve the long-term health-care needs of the people of Nevada," Ferrillo said.

Progress Toward Inclusive Community to be Evaluated

by Cate Weeks

When UNLV established Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan – to continue to foster a campus environment that respects diversity and free expression – it became apparent that no single entity was shepherding the efforts to reach that goal. That's become the primary mission of the Committee for an Inclusive and Just University.

An important part of planning is the evaluation of progress, said Rebecca Mills, vice president for student life. "The committee will work to help the university better understand what progress has been made toward achieving Goal 5," she said. "I am hopeful that its assessment efforts will give all of us a focus to our work toward achieving this important goal."

The committee will develop a system this year to gather information from all campus units on what they are doing relative to diversity programming, said chair Cynthia Carruthers, a leisure studies professor. To assist monitoring and evaluation efforts, the committee will develop specific questions for directors to address in their annual reports.

"We know there are areas of excellence, but without a mechanism for capturing data on a broad scale, it's impossible to say where we stand now and what progress we're making," she said. "The committee will act as a central clearinghouse of that information."

People have erroneously assumed that the office of diversity initiatives, which has focused on diversity in the faculty and professional staff, acts as the central clearinghouse. However, Carruthers said, no one group previously was charged with assessing Goal 5 activities campuswide.

UNLV Statement of Community

"UNLV is committed to being a civil, just, and inclusive learning community in which all individuals feel valued, safe, and free to express themselves. This environment is vital to the pursuit of excellence in intellectual and interpersonal endeavors. With respect and openness guiding our activity, we honor what distinguishes us from one another while celebrating that which binds us together."

This statement of community has been accepted by the president and is now being shared with groups across campus. "We hope the statement becomes a source of inspiration and aspiration for the campus community," said professor Cynthia Carruthers, chair of the Committee for an Inclusive and Just University.

As a result, it can be difficult for a unit wanting to begin a diversity program to link with similar programs across campus. "It seems that unless you happen to stumble across the right person, it's hard to connect with the valuable resources we already have in place," Carruthers said. "We hope to be the conduit for making those connections."

She noted that the committee's monitoring is not limited to detecting shortcomings. "We don't want to simply illuminate deficiencies, we want to highlight areas of excellence as well," she said. "An important

part of community building is celebrations. We have to give ourselves a time to shine so we can keep our progress continually moving forward."

The committee will make recommendations to the president on how to improve diversity, justice, inclusiveness, and civility on campus through programming, policy changes, and curricular activities.

Eventually, Carruthers hopes a broad-based climate study will be done. Current data only gives a small snapshot of very specific diversity areas.

For example, programs for Native American students have been well received and are successfully raising retention rates. However, Kyle Ethelbah, coordinator of adult educational services for the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, says Native American students often don't feel a strong connection to the greater campus community.

"The activities aimed at Native American students have been successful in helping them build a welcoming community," he said. "But, in my experience, they still don't feel a direct connection with the overall campus population. They don't feel they can actually affect change and help move the university forward."

Students and staff from both the minority and majority populations will lose out if the university doesn't continually strive to meet Goal 5, Carruthers said. "Within a diverse environment, the students and faculty are exposed to a wide spectrum of perspectives and worldviews that are essential to a quality, comprehensive education and informed scholarship," she said. "A diverse campus environment prepares the students and faculty to understand and engage effectively in an increasingly complex, pluralistic society."

News from the Colleges

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VanderPol an important feature of the public face of Lied Library."

Congratulations to the award winners.

Sciences

The college will start the new academic year with a number of administrative changes. Dean Fred Bachhuber will retire Aug. 31. He will be replaced by Ronald Yasbin, who is coming from the University of Texas, Dallas. (See Story, Page 3) Associate Dean Bryan Spangelo ended three years of service to the college July 1. During the fall semester he will be on a faculty development leave. His replacement will be appointed by the new dean.

After three years of dedicated service to the college and department of chemistry, Kathleen Robins will step down as chair. She will be replaced by Spencer Steinberg, who will begin a three-year term. Carl Reiber, who has been serving as interim chair of the department of biological sciences, has been elected to a three-year term as chair. James Selser of the physics department completed his term as chair, but was re-elected for another three-year term. Rodney Metcalf will continue as chair of the department of geoscience for another year, while Dieudonne Phanord will continue as head of the department of mathematical sciences.

Lambis Papelis, who took over as director of the college's Water Resources Management Program last November, will continue in this capacity for at least another year. Stephen Carper will continue as director of the UNLV Cancer Institute, while Chih-Hsiang Ho will serve as director of the Center for Applied Statistics and Statistical Advising. Dale Devitt of UNR/Cooperative Extension Service will continue as director of the Center for Urban Water Conservation.

Malcolm Nicol will again serve as director of the High Pressure Science and Engineering Center. All College of Sciences' administrators, especially Dean Bachhuber, look forward to the new academic year.

Urban Affairs

Carol Jensen, director of the college's Student Advising Center, was honored by the Board of Regents as Academic Advisor of the Year at the undergraduate level for the University and Community College System of Nevada. A universitywide award

went to Kathleen Espin from the Hank Greenspun School of Communication, who received an Outstanding Teaching by Part-Time Faculty Award.

Environmental studies faculty member David Hassenzahl received the college's Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award. Shawn Gerstenberger, also of environmental studies, received the college's Outstanding Faculty Research Award. Public administration faculty members Charles Moseley and Gregory Ginn received recognition for their student advising activities from the American College of Healthcare Executives.

A total of 51 students received scholarships and awards at the college, school, and department levels.



UNLV President Carol C. Harter stands with Wang Yunxiang, consul general of the People's Republic of China, following a donation from the the consulate general's office to the Lied Library. The donation included 855 Chinese language textbooks, 123 audiotapes, and 14 CDs. Wang said the donation was made in appreciation of UNLV's efforts in teaching Chinese and of its Asian studies program.

Campus Herbarium Named After Professor

by Gian Galassi

Few people know the desert of Southern Nevada like Wesley Niles does. For more than three decades, he has made it his mission to identify, collect, document, and preserve the plants that make the Mojave their home.

UNLV's department of biological sciences recently celebrated Niles' commitment to this mission, naming the herbarium that he founded 33 years ago in his honor.

The Wesley Niles Herbarium was formally dedicated at the end of spring semester during a reception at White Hall. Many of Niles' friends and colleagues were in attendance, as were numerous current and former students – some of whom he had not seen in more than 25 years.

What began as just a small collection of dried and pressed plants in 1970 today has grown to more than 60,000 specimens, including flowering plants, conifers, ferns, and mosses. It is considered by many botanists to contain the best documentation available of the occurrence, distribution, and diversity of Mojave Desert flora. As early as 1974, the American Society of Plant Taxonomists designated the herbarium as one of the nation's National Resource Collections – the only such collection in Nevada and the Mojave Desert.

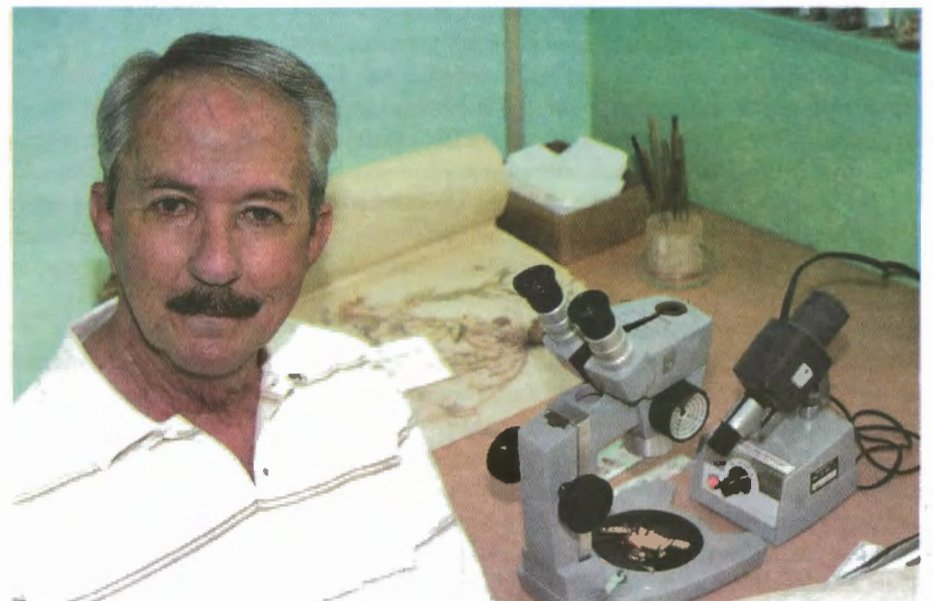
"Our herbarium provides a tangible accounting of the plants that occur in this particular area," said Niles. "That alone is worthwhile because it's important that we know about the flora of Southern Nevada. Not too many botanists get the chance to study the Mojave because it is relatively remote. As a result, the herbarium serves as an important resource for scientists all over the country and the world."

The herbarium is also unusual because it is one of the few facilities of its kind to have its entire collection accessible via a computerized database.

According to Niles, the collection is routinely used by researchers at other institutions and is an excellent reference facility for UNLV's faculty, staff, and students as well.

In fact, it's the time Niles has spent with students and colleagues out in the field that he says he'll remember most about his UNLV career. As a professor of botany and plant taxonomy, he has worked with and mentored many students – undergraduate and graduate alike – who have gone on to make important contributions to UNLV's herbarium and other facilities like it around the country.

"I've always enjoyed teaching, but it's the field work that really keeps you going," Niles said. "It's very exciting to try and find new populations of threatened or endangered plants and to assess their chances for survival."



Botany Professor Wes Niles, who retired last year after more than three decades at UNLV, recently had the campus herbarium he founded 33 years ago named in his honor. Located in White Hall, the Wesley Niles Herbarium today boasts a collection of more than 60,000 specimens.

Niles and his students have worked extensively throughout Southern Nevada, exploring many of the region's mountain ranges and surrounding desert in search of new populations of plants. Over the years, his work has been instrumental in documenting the distribution of several potentially endangered and threatened plants, such

as golden buckwheat, sticky buckwheat, three-cornered milkvetch, and Amargosa penstemon.

Although Niles is now officially retired – he was recently granted professor emeritus status – he has no plans of hanging up his hiking boots anytime soon. Like anyone who loves what he does for a living, Niles' work has always been more than just a job to him. And his love for the work didn't end when the paychecks did.

The maps of Southern Nevada that still hang on the wall and fill the shelves of his UNLV office – which he continues to come to almost every day – are colored with pins that denote the locations where, during his career, he has done field work. But there are still some places he has not yet explored, places where he is still planning to go.

"I will continue to work on the herbarium and in the field for as long as I'm able," Niles said. "After more than 30 years, it's hard to break a habit."

"Our herbarium provides a tangible accounting of the plants that occur in this particular area. That alone is worthwhile because it's important that we know about the flora of Southern Nevada."

— Wes Niles, Botany Professor

and surrounding desert in search of new populations of plants. Over the years, his work has been instrumental in documenting the distribution of several potentially endangered and threatened plants, such



History professor Tom Wright, center, recently was presented with a piece of the original John S. Wright Hall. That building, which is named in honor of his late father, who also was a UNLV professor, is in the process of being rebuilt. One wing of the building and the freestanding auditorium were demolished to make way for new construction. Also part of the project is the renovation of the office wing. Making the presentation are Jim Frey, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, left, and Hal Rothman, chair of the history department.

Attend the 8th Annual Premier UNLV

UNLV'S FALL KICKOFF EVENT

- 7 p.m., Aug. 27
- CBC Lawn/Band Field
- Barbecue and performances by the marching band, cheerleaders, and dance team

Spend an evening getting to know the students.

Questions? Call Krista Jorge at ext. 5-3221 or visit <http://activities.unlv.edu>