Inside UNLV

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Hamrick Comes on Board as A.D.

With the start of a new fall sports season comes a new athletics director for UNLV - Michael Hamrick. Hamrick left a job as director of intercollegiate athletics at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., in August to return to UNLV, where he once worked as an intern in sports promotions and marketing.

"Mr. Hamrick has a wealth of experience in college athletics and wonderful credentials in athletics administration," said President Carol C. Harter. "I am confident that he will do an outstanding job leading UNLV's athletic programs."

Hamrick had held the director's job at East Carolina since 1995. During his career, he has also served as athletics director at the University of Arkansas at Fort Rock (1990 to 1995) and in several assistant athletic director positions. He began his career in athletics administration with the UNLV internship.

"I have worked with Mike Hamrick since the days when he was instrumental in bringing East Carolina University into Conference USA, first in football and then in all sports," said Southeastern Conference Commissioner Mike Slive. At the time Hamrick's hiring was announced, "His foresight, energy, and dedication were largely responsible for the success of East Carolina's athletic programs. His ability to make honest assessments and hard decisions is something I have long admired in Mike. I know that he is excited and enthusiastic to return to UNLV, and I know he will do a terrific job there."

Under Hamrick's leadership, East Carolina University had no major NCAA violations, doubled its athletics budget, doubled season football ticket sales to 17,000, and increased single-game attendance significantly.

"I appreciate Mike Hamrick's outstanding leadership during his eight years as director of Pirate athletics. He is widely recognized for his effective athletics administration, and we understand why UNLV would recruit him and why he would want to return to the university where he began his professional career. He has on occasion spoken fondly of his early years there. "I know that one of the things that Mike is proudest of is the off-the-field accomplishments of our student-athletes, both in academics and community service. Our student-athletes maintain a high grade point average, and our excellent graduation rates have been recognized by national organizations."

Hamrick has a wealth of experience and a long history of success in college athletics. His ability to make tough decisions and his commitment to excellence make him an ideal fit for the UNLV athletics department.

Campus Building Projects Move Forward

Kevin Mickelson of Heritage Electric works on the underground conduit that will hold the data and phone lines serving the new Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Development Center. The center, which is nearing completion, will be the new home of the campus preschool beginning Jan. 20, the first day of spring semester.

by Gian Galasso

As construction of the new Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Development Center comes to a close this fall, several new building projects will be breaking ground.

The newest projects include the construction of a 478-bed student residence hall, an expansion to the Paul B. Sogg Architecture studios, and an 80,000-square-foot remodel of Wright Hall, as well as numerous smaller remodeling projects around campus.

"To say that we've been extremely busy would be an understatement," said Susan Hobbes, director of planning and construction. "Aside from the highly visible projects here on the main campus, we also have major work under way out at Shadow Lane. I think a lot of people tend to forget about that because it's on the other side of town."

Penny Amy is certainly not one of those people. As director of the Shadow Lane campus, her enthusiasm for the project's future can only be matched by the medical community's growing interest in the new facilities.

"This is quickly turning into a spectacular project," said Amy, who also serves as director of the campus's biotechnology programs. "We've already been contacted by several biotech companies that..."
The Impact of the Legislature

by Carol C. Harter
UNLV President

In this month's column I would like to discuss the outcome of the recent legislative session and its impact on the campus. After the unprecedented developments near the end of the session, I believe the university community—and perhaps the rest of the state—breathed a collective sigh of relief when the Legislature at last agreed on a tax package to fund the state's budget. Although I know it was a very real challenge for lawmakers to reach a compromise, I am sure they, too, were relieved to bring the session to a close.

This Legislature produced some wonderful gains for the university and some modest improvements in other areas. As is usually the case, not all of our requests were granted, and, as a result, some plans and buildings will be delayed. Let me begin by highlighting some of the major developments.

Our greatest capital priority did receive funding: An appropriation of more than $35 million in state funds was approved for the construction of the Science, Engineering, and Technology Building. UNLV has committed to providing an additional $25 million toward the construction of the 190,000-square-foot teaching and research facility. (The furnishings and equipment for the building will be funded in the next biennium.) As I have previously stated, the university and state will benefit tremendously from this building; it will markedly increase the amount of space available for teaching and interdisciplinary research in engineering and the sciences while enabling the university to enhance its contribution to economic diversification efforts in the state.

We also made some incremental progress on another capital improvement project. We received an appropriation of $500,000 for advance planning of the addition to and renovation of the Student Services Building. (During the 2001 session we received $300,000 for planning as well.) Though we had requested approximately $7.1 million for construction on this project, the advance planning money would seem to be an indication of support. Our goal of centralizing student services in one location is still well acknowledged as extremely important, and we hope to receive funding for the entire project in the next biennium.

The formula funding level for UCSC institutions was approved at 84.45 percent for fiscal year 2004 and 84.09 percent for fiscal year 2005. This appropriation will mean more than $246 million from the state's general fund for UNLV over the 2003-2005 biennium—a 30.31 percent increase over the previous biennium.

While this may seem to be a large sum, the funding increase is driven primarily by the tremendous growth UNLV has experienced in the last two years. Although it is certainly an improvement over the recent past, we will...

Hamrick continued from page 1

East Carolina's football program participated in four bowl games in seven years, and the baseball team was the No. 1 seed in NCAA regional competition for three straight years (1999 to 2001), the No. 7 national seed in 2002, and the No. 3 seed in 2003 for a fifth consecutive appearance in the NCAA tournament.

"We're all looking forward to working with Mike Hamrick," UNLV head men's basketball coach Charlie Spoonhour said when Hamrick's selection was announced. "He is an excellent choice for our university. He's had experience dealing with such issues as the BCS (Bowl Championship Series) and television. I know we're all behind him, and we look forward to the new ideas and leadership he will bring to UNLV athletics."

Hamrick led the development of a comprehensive gender equity plan that has increased scholarships for female student athletes by 167 percent and worked to ensure East Carolina University's admittance into Conference USA.

Further, under Hamrick's leadership, East Carolina spent $46 million improving and building athletic facilities, and he has raised $16.8 million in private funds to construct a strength and conditioning/multipurpose building and a baseball stadium/office complex.

"I want to congratulate UNLV on hiring Mike Hamrick as its new director of athletics," said Craig Thompson, commissioner of the Mountain West Conference. "Mike is an experienced athletics director who knows how to run a successful athletics department, but is also familiar with national issues facing the Mountain West Conference. I look forward to working with him again."

Hamrick earned a master's degree in sports administration from Ohio University. He also has a bachelor's degree in education from Marshall University in West Virginia, where he was on a football scholarship and spent two years as a starting linebacker.

He and his wife, Soleta, are the parents of twin 15-year-old sons, Brett and Justin, and a 11-year-old daughter, Mollie.
UNLV Kicks Off Exciting Athletics Season

The words optimism and excitement are often overused when it comes to the beginning of a new school year. However, at the UNLV athletics department this fall, the use of those clichés couldn’t be more fitting. Excitement and optimism are indeed spreading through campus as the UNLV community looks forward to the fall sports of football, soccer, volleyball, golf, and cross country.

The following are some items of interest for each of UNLV’s fall athletics programs:

**Football**

Coming off an upset of No. 13-ranked Colorado State in the final game of the 2002 season, John Robinson and his Rebels are looking forward to a special year in 2003. Robinson, who is entering his fifth season as head coach, needs just eight more victories to become the second-winningest coach in school history. The program returns 37 lettermen from last year’s 5-7 squad. The team opened the season at Sam Boyd Stadium on Aug. 29 against Toledo. Other non-conference opponents include Hawaii at home and road games at Kansas, Wisconsin, and UNR.

**Men’s Soccer**

UNLV women’s soccer celebrates its fifth season as a program after its inaugural year in 1998. Senior defender Tanis Lee, an All-Mountain West Conference (MWCC) second team selection in 2002, is a top returner for the Rebels. UNLV will contend with some of the nation’s best teams in UCLA, Tennessee, and Auburn this coming season. The Rebels, led by head coach Dan Abdalla, who is entering his fourth season, return 21 players from last year’s team. They opened at home Aug. 29 against Drury.

**Volleyball**

The UNLV volleyball program enters its eighth year under head coach Deitre Collins. Senior outside hitter Leiana Oswald, who led the team in kills last season, is a top returner for the squad. A road matchup with Hawaii will highlight the non-conference schedule, followed by a tough Mountain West Conference slate. The program returns 10 letter-winners and four starters from last year’s team and opens the season schedule against Morgan State in the Gameworks/UNLV Invitational at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 5 at the Cox Pavilion.

**Men’s Golf**

The men’s golf team returns four starters from last year’s team that finished 13th nationally. The team will be led by two-time All-American Ryan Moore. The fall schedule features five tournaments, including the Preview Invitational at the Homestead Cascades Course in Hot Springs, Va., the site of the 2004 NCAA Championship. Head coach Dwaine Knight is entering his 17th year at the helm.

**Women’s Golf**

The UNLV women’s golf team returns all but one player from last year’s team, which made the NCAA postseason. The team will be led by sophomore All-American Sunny Oh. The squad is scheduled for five fall tournaments, including the Las Vegas Founders College Showdown at Anthem Country Club in Henderson. Head coach Melissa Ringler is entering her second season in charge of the program.

**Cross Country**

After finishing ninth at last year’s MWC Cross Country Championships, the Rebels look to make strides of improvement in 2003. Led by junior Michele Suszek, UNLV will once again participate in several competitive meets throughout the season in preparation for the league postseason meet. The Rebels, who return nine of 10 student-athletes, will also host the UNLV Invitational on Oct. 18. Head coach Barbara Ferrell-Edmonson is entering her second season leading the program.

For more information about all of the UNLV Athletics programs, visit the official athletics department website at UNLVRebels.com. For ticket information, visit UNLVTickets.com.

*Story Courtesy of the UNLV Sports Information Department*
News FROM THE COLLEGES

Business

The Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors invested $25,000 to start a new scholarship endowment for the college. As the endowment matures, it will provide for one undergraduate scholarship annually for tuition and books or for a portion of a graduate student’s tuition. The scholarship will be open to any student enrolled in the college.

The college welcomes five new faculty members this fall. Joining the management department are assistant professors Chin-Chin “Vince” Hau (Ph.D. 2003, St. Louis University) and Steven Phelan (Ph.D. 1998, LaTrobe University). The management information systems department welcomed assistant professor Honghui Deng (Ph.D. 2003, the University of Texas, Austin) and associate professor Ken Peffers (Ph.D. 1991, Purdue University). Assistant professor Pui-Wan “Ruby” Lee (Ph.D. 2003, Washington State University) joined the marketing department.

In June, the college’s Center for Business and Economic Research held Outlook 2003, a semiannual presentation of the economic forecast for the region. Nearly 150 people attended the event.

Debra March, executive director for the Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies was appointed to her first four-year term on the Henderson Planning Commission. She will replace Commissioner Danny Sanders.

De Webb Corp. was selected to receive the 2003 Lieder Award at a dinner to be hosted by the Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies on Nov. 1 at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino.

Dental Medicine

Would you like to see the model teeth being created by UNLV dental students? If you were to visit the Rogers Center for Administration and Justice, and walk up to the second floor, that is exactly what you would see. Students spent an air-conditioned summer doing just what dental students need to do: learn how to create new teeth.

First, the students needed to understand the anatomy of the tooth, and took a course on that subject during the summer. But anatomy of the tooth is not quite the right term. It is anatomy of the teeth. Each tooth has its own shape and its own place in the mouth. Not only are there specific shapes for each tooth, but one person’s teeth are not the same as another person’s in size, color, or shape. Just like in the forensics cases featured on CSI, people can be identified by their tooth shape. Similar to faces, the shape of teeth runs in families. However, there are many common features of each tooth, and learning the common features as well as the individual variations is one of the tasks of dental students.

Having studied the anatomy, the students now are in the construction business: making teeth. The teeth are not made without a model of gums. No, real gums aren’t used. Instead, plaster models shaped like gums are used. The students make teeth out of wax and then out of harder materials, like those used by dentists.

Education

Throughout the year, the college has been working with the Clark County School District (CCSD) to implement programs that address the growing need for teachers in the Las Vegas Valley. In addition, the college recently passed its National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education review.

The department of curriculum & instruction, in collaboration with the CCSD, has developed two new teacher education programs to help address the needs of English language learners. The Graduate Licensure Program/Elementary-Bilingual is an alternate route to licensure program that places bilingual Spanish-English teachers who have non-education undergraduate degrees in elementary bilingual-Spanish classrooms. The Initial Licensure Program (Fast-Track Program) is an elementary and secondary licensure program for non-education graduates.

Faculty members are also involved in teacher education research and programs in the CCSD. Jeff Shih is working with the Mathematics Early Intervention Project. Randall Boone and Kyle Higgins are directing Project SET (Special Education Technologies), a $400,000 research grant from the office of special education programs in the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, Peterson Elementary School will become the second elementary professional development school associated with the college.

The Center for Health Promotion received a $154,000 applied research grant to develop a technology-based system to reduce cardiovascular disease risk among firefighters. Warren McNab will be the new chair of the department of health promotion as former chair Chuck Regin becomes director of the center.

A new student-led organization called the Association of Prospective Teachers will begin this fall. Its purpose is to support prospective teachers in becoming superb educators. The advisor is Rosemary Deering.

Engineering

The summer months were quite busy for the college’s faculty and student researchers. The computer engineering program hosted a summer internship program for 10 juniors and sophomores from the information technology magnet program at Desert Pines High School. It provided experience in experimental aspects of computer engineering. This program, under the supervision of Henry Selvaraj, Venkatesan Murugan, Emma Regerova, and Kevin Forcadc, will be offered to other valley magnet programs in the future. Robert Boehm in mechanical engineering again led the National Science Foundation (NSF)-Research Experience for Undergraduates program to provide research experiences to undergraduate engineering students from around the country.

The Information Science Research Institute recently purchased new computer servers and a three terabyte high-speed storage system for work with the U.S. Department of Energy on homeland security classification. Woonsoo Yim in mechanical engineering also received new NSF funding in the area of microbots.

Darrell Pepper in mechanical engineering will be working in Washington, D.C. this year as an American Society of Mechanical Engineers Congressional Fellow. Through this appointment, he will work with members of Congress to provide advising on technical topics.

Fine Arts

The Performing Arts Center welcomes Ben Vereen on Sept. 5 as part of the Best of the New York Stage Series, Star of Pavis, Chicago, Grind, Sweet Charity, Jesus Christ Superstar, Pippin, and countless other hits, Vereen is a consummate entertainer who has left his enduring mark on the Broadway stage, on the concert circuit, and in film and television.
The Charles Vanda Master Series of the Performing Arts Center welcomes Opera Verdi’s performance of Rigoletto on Sept. 27. The creative achievements of Opera Verdi have gained international recognition on many of the world’s most prestigious opera stages. Rigoletto is one of Verdi’s greatest and most beloved works, and is seldom performed in Las Vegas.

The classic musical Annie Get Your Gun will be featured by the Nevada Conservatory Theatre in the Judy Bayley Theatre from Sept. 19 through Sept. 28.

The music department recently hosted the annual ORFF Workshop. Based on the work of Carl Orff, it is a program through which elementary school teachers learn methods for instructing their students in music. It is based on things children like to do: sing, chant rhymes, clap, dance, and keep a beat on anything near at hand. These instincts are directed into learning music by hearing and making music first, then reading and writing it later. This is similar to the way people learn language.

Graduate

The college is working on a number of initiatives for the 2003-04 academic year. Among them is continuing to develop and implement several electronic initiatives designed to better serve graduate students and faculty. As an example, all Graduate College forms are now available in writable formats on the college’s webpage. The next step will be to move from this initial stage to electronic submission of forms. Also, the college curriculum process will be entirely electronic this year. Curriculum forms are available on the website, as is information about the new process. Faculty can complete the forms and e-mail them through the stages of curriculum review.

To continue UNLV’s progress toward the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching’s Research/Doctoral-Extensive classification, increased funding for graduate students is a top priority. Thanks to strong support from President Carol C. Harper and Provost Ray Alden, 70 new state-funded graduate assistantships were added in this biennial budget in addition to a significant number of part-time instructor/graduate assistants. Finally, in national surveys of the graduate student experience, effective mentoring has been identified as the primary factor for a successful graduate career. Therefore, this year the college will emphasize effective mentoring as a major initiative on campus by offering faculty workshops, preparing a new faculty guide, and working closely with departments.

Hotel Administration

The college was able to send the first American delegation to represent UNLV and the United States at the 18th annual International Tourism Conference in Chalkidiki, Greece, in May. Mohsen Azizoltani and Audrey McCool selected five students to represent the college: Aja Beard, Gaye Coté, Leah Laderas, Nick Smiczek, and Yasha Sack. The students submitted applications, including GPAs and writing samples, to ensure they would be capable of handling the conference’s academic challenges. The students were required to write and present a research paper. Each student was one of the United Nations’ educational, scientific, and cultural organizations identified as world heritage sites within their country. The students chose the Grand Canyon and had to develop a “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats” analysis, assess the development of tourism, identify best practices, and recommend future actions. "We dove into this project by collecting primary data, including taking a helicopter tour of the Grand Canyon, and most importantly, sacrificing three months to meet the deadlines. These sacrifices were minimal compared to the opportunity of traveling outside of the country and meeting other students involved in similar hospitality programs around the world,” said Beard, who will graduate in 2004. “Our paper was extremely well received, and it received the third-place award. We also took a tour of Mt. Olympus and enjoyed a traditional Greek meal.”

The American delegation made a strong impression and garnered a permanent invitation to the conference, which will be hosted in Finland next year. Las Vegas is being considered as the host city for 2005. To see the students’ work online, visit: http://users.forthnet.gr/te/vangel/papers.htm

Law

The law school made significant progress in the first stage of its curriculum review during spring 2003. The faculty voted to increase the number of credits required for the J.D. degree to 89 from 86. Because many law schools around the country have recently increased the number of credits required for graduation, this policy change aligns Boyd with the new national average.

Another significant change is the restructuring of the lawyering process program, a three-semester sequence of courses designed to expose students to basic lawyering skills. In the new program, all three semesters will place greater emphasis on basic legal research, writing, and analysis. The class size for the third semester of writing will be reduced, enabling professors to devote more attention to each student. In addition, rather than requiring every student to take the same course in his or her third semester of lawyering process, that requirement can now be satisfied by any course selected from a menu of advanced writing-intensive courses, thus allowing students to tailor their advanced writing experience to their particular areas of interest.

Liberal Arts

The department of political science has two personnel changes this fall. Michael W. Bowers took over as department chair July 1, and the department is welcoming Ann Ward (Ph.D., Fordham) as its new political theorist.

On the awards front, Bowers received the College of Liberals’ Annual Schmiedel Service Award, while Jerry Simich was the recipient of this year’s CSUN Faculty Excellence Award.

While serving in the state Senate this spring, Dina Titus also supervised UNLV’s four legislative internships. Ted Jelen has been named to the editorial board of the American Political Science Association’s PS: Political Science and Politics, and Craig Walton is serving on the Clark County Ethics Task Force.

Mayumi Itoh’s second book is being published this fall by Palgrave-Macmillan, while John Tuman’s book was recently published by Continuum. Articles written by Jerry Tuman, David Port, David Damore, Thomas Lamatsch, and Jonathan Strand have recently appeared in some of the discipline’s most prestigious journals.

Strand also serves as faculty director of the Model United Nations program. He and Tuman are jointly chairing the annual meeting of the International Studies Association-West to be held in Las Vegas in October.

Libraries

The University Libraries recently was awarded a 2003 J. Percy Award from the Library Public Relations Council, a national organization that annually recognizes top print public relations materials from libraries in the United States and Canada.

The honored material, which includes posters, calendars, note cards, and bookmarks, features Lied Library at night with a south Las Vegas Strip background and the caption, “University of Nevada, Las Vegas: Enlightenment at your library.” The material was produced and distributed locally in conjunction with a new national multi-year academic library campaign developed through a partnership with 3M Library Systems, the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. The long-term goals of the national campaign include promoting awareness of the unique role of the library and its contributions; increasing visibility and support for libraries and librarians; fostering a stronger approach to marketing library programs and services; and introducing academic and research librarianship as a desirable career.

The winning piece was photographed by Jack Krawczyk, designed by Josh Rankin, and produced by UNLV Publications/Reprographics.

Sciences

The college is pleased to announce that Satish Bhatnagar of the department of mathematical sciences has been appointed associate dean by Dean Ronald Yasbin. The college also welcomes an outstanding group of eight new tenure-track faculty.

Biological Sciences: Michelle Elekonich, physiologist, completed post-doctoral work at the University of Ohio and a Ph.D. at the University of Washington.

Brian Hedlund, microbiology, completed post-doctoral work at the University of Regensburg, Germany, and a Ph.D. at the University of Washington.

Chemistry: Kenneth Czerwinski, materials science, was a faculty member at MIT, and earned a Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley.

Geoscience: Matthew Lachniet, quaternary geology, completed post-doctoral work at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and received a Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

Michael Nicholl, hydrogeology, was a faculty member at the University of Idaho, Moscow and earned a Ph.D. from UNR.

Mathematical Sciences: Daniel Kern, applied analysis, completed post-doctoral work at the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Carryn Bellomo, mathematics education, was on the faculty at Texas A&M, Corpus Christi and earned a Ph.D. from Old Dominion University.

Physics: Michael Pravica, condensed matter, was a faculty member at New Mexico Highlands University and has a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Urban Affairs

As part of the college’s outreach mission, department of counseling associate professor Patricia A. Markos and part-time instructor

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Typically, students enrolled in the class are assigned to a substance abuse treatment program. The programs provide a variety of services, including individual and group counseling sessions, guided exercises, and workshops. According to the instructors, the students often stay engaged with the program by participating in community service projects, such as volunteering at local shelters and treatment centers. The program is designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to become effective counselors and leaders in the field of addiction treatment.

The college offers a course, Counseling, that is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the field. The course covers topics such as addiction assessment, intervention strategies, and treatment planning. The instructors have a wealth of experience in the field and are able to provide students with valuable insights into the challenges and rewards of working in addiction treatment.

The college also offers a variety of student services and support resources to help students succeed. These services include academic advising, tutoring, and counseling services. The college is committed to helping students achieve their academic and personal goals and to providing them with a supportive and enriching learning environment.

In addition to the courses and services offered by the college, students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience through internships and volunteer opportunities. These experiences provide students with valuable real-world skills and knowledge that they can apply to their future careers.

All UNLV faculty, classified staff, and professional staff members are encouraged to submit items to the "Spotlight on Accomplishments" section of Inside UNLV. Items should be no more than 75 words in length. Please submit via e-mail to Inside.UNLV@ccmail.nevada.edu.

Facilities Master Plan Open House

4-6 p.m. Sept. 3

UNLV Foundation Building

Members of the campus community are encouraged to attend this open house to hear the latest on the facilities master planning process and to comment on the plan as it nears completion.

For more information, call UNLV senior planner David Frommer at ext. 5-2500.
Campus buildings

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are interested in forming partnerships with us. Even though the construction won’t be complete for another six months, it is already opening up doors to new research endeavors—and that is exactly the kind of result this project was intended to produce.”

Amy said the construction of Shadow Lane’s Biotech/Cancer Institute is on schedule for an early spring semester completion and that she and some of her colleagues will begin moving into the new facility by mid-December; however, the remodel of the new dental school building at the same location, which just got under way this summer, won’t be completed until summer 2004.

But by January, the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Development Center will be open for business. The campus preschool is expected to begin offering classes in its new location on Jan. 20—the first day of the spring semester. The center includes not only classrooms with enhanced technological capabilities, but also an amphitheater, family resource room and lending library, and an impressive playground with many new features, including a water-play area.

As for the new residence hall, it is being built in the southeast corner of the Thomas & Mack Center parking lot along Tropicana Avenue. The $21 million project is expected to be completed by summer 2004.

But it’s the $18.8 million Wright Hall expansion that will be the most visible project to faculty and staff returning to campus for fall semester. During the next year and a half, Las Vegas-based contractors Burke and Associates will construct a new 60,000-square-foot addition and remodel the 20,000-square-foot existing structure. In the end, the building will house approximately 16 classrooms, 96 offices, and a large auditorium/lecture hall.

Hobbes said, however, that the design of the building has changed slightly from the original rendering. “We had to go in and change some of the design because the bids came in over budget,” she said. “But we were able to do so without causing very much impact on the program spaces.”

Although a few offices have been eliminated, she explained that the majority of the cuts will affect the building’s form more than its function. Design changes include the removal of canopies and the rotunda, as well as the scaling back of the building’s auditorium.

Faculty and staff from the history, political science, and anthropology departments are scheduled to move from their current home in the Central Desert Complex into their new offices by spring 2005. But perhaps the biggest development this year relates to an upcoming project—the $75 million Science, Engineering and Technology Building.

Funded by the 2003 Legislature, the building is scheduled to break ground next fall. The 190,000-square-foot facility, which will be located north of the Beam Engineering Complex, will provide much-needed research space, classrooms, and laboratories, and is considered to be the university’s top building priority.

According to Anthony Vaughn, director of academic and research space, the completion of the building in fall 2007 will put UNLV’s total academic and support space at more than 4 million square feet and free up some of the existing buildings for more appropriate use.

“As the university grew into more of a research institution over the years, it turned a lot of traditional classroom labs into research space,” said Vaughn. “The new building is not only going to be a state-of-the-art collaborative research space, but it will also allow us to take some of the pressure off those older facilities by converting them back to serve their original purpose.”

On July 31, the state Public Works Board approved the final schematic design of the building and made the plan available to the public for review.

To learn more about current construction projects around campus, visit www.unlv.edu/facilities/plancon.

New Academic Year Brings Changes

by Gian Galassi

The beginning of every new academic year brings new people, programs, and possibilities to the UNLV campus. This year is no exception. In addition to the more than 85 new faculty members who have been hired, several personnel changes have occurred at the administrative level. The following is a list of some of the familiar and not-so-familiar faces who have taken on new responsibilities at UNLV recently.

Raymond Alden III, who has served as UNLV provost for nearly three years, has been promoted to the position of executive vice president and provost. Alden now is responsible for overseeing more of the daily internal university operations, allowing President Carol C. Harter to devote more time to university-community relations. As provost, Alden already was the university’s chief academic officer, overseeing UNLV’s colleges, professional schools, and libraries. Alden joined UNLV in 1997 as dean of the College of Sciences.

Mark Rudin has been named associate vice president for research services. His appointment became effective July 17. Rudin has served as chair of the department of health physics since 1998. In the newly created position of associate vice president for research services, Rudin will supervise the office of sponsored programs, the office for the protection of research subjects, the animal care and use program, and the faculty research grants program. The position was created as a result of the research and graduate studies restructuring.

John Filler, professor of special education, assumed his new role as senior advisor to the president in July, replacing Dick Jensen, who now is serving as 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.

Nasser Daneshvary, associate dean of the College of Business since 1994, is the new associate provost for academic resources effective Sept. 1. Daneshvary replaces Margaret “Peg” Rees, who recently assumed the position of senior vice provost.

Eric Sandgren began his tenure as dean of the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering on July 1. Sandgren was the founding chair of Virginia Commonwealth University’s mechanical engineering program and had been a mechanical engineering professor at VCU since 1997.

Ronald E. Yasin begins his UNLV career as the dean of the College of Sciences on Sept. 1. Yasin had been a professor of molecular and cell biology at the University of Texas at Dallas since 1995 and previously taught at the University of Maryland, Baltimore; the University of Rochester’s School of Medicine and Dentistry; and at Penn State University.

Although several new degree programs were approved during the last academic year, only one is actually beginning in earnest this fall. Offered through the public administration department in conjunction with the new Institute for Security Studies, the executive master’s degree in crisis and emergency management will be accepting its first students this semester. The program is intended for mid- to upper-level managers in public agencies that deal with incidents of terrorism and natural disasters. Though some of the teaching will be conducted on campus, the program will take advantage of the resources at the Nevada Test Site, and distance education technology will be used to better reach students.

Inside UNLV
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Former Personnel Tech Dons Police Uniform

Denise Gortsema isn't your average rookie cop. Faculty and staff have come to know the 37-year-old with a perky voice through her 13 years answering calls about employee benefits. Now they'll see her patrolling campus with a pistol strapped to her petite frame.

Gortsema began contemplating a career change as she realized her job at UNLV was changing too. As a personnel technician II in the human resources department, her job entailed answering employee benefits questions and acting as the liaison between employees and insurance companies when problems would arise.

"I was becoming dissatisfied with the job because the type of work I was doing had changed," she says. "It used to be 80 percent contact with the campus public and 20 percent paperwork; in recent years it was the opposite. I'm not a paperwork person - I've actually always hated dealing with insurance forms, and it seemed that that's all I was doing." After talking with Trish Callard, a personnel analyst for UNLV, Gortsema latched onto the idea of becoming a police officer. "Trish was recruiting for the campus police and saw something in me that I didn't think was there," Gortsema said. "After talking with her, I realized that police work was about helping people and that's exactly what I wanted to be doing with my life, helping others."

Gortsema underwent a rigorous hiring process that included psychological and physical exams, background checks, drug testing, and interviews. She left the human resources department in February and enrolled in the Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Academy as a recruit of the UNLV police department. She went through the academy with fellow UNLV recruit Teodoro Mendez Jr. After graduating first in her class, Gortsema donned a uniform and began her on-campus field training July 21.

"Training was very hard but a lot more fun than I thought it would be," she said. "The things that I thought would really scare me - like SWAT training - turned out to be both challenging and enjoyable."

She was especially surprised at how well she did on the shooting range. The only time she'd shot a gun previously was during basic training for the Army when she was 18. But, she said, it's one thing to shoot a gun on a range and another to wear one every day to work.

"It's a weight you carry with you - and I mean much more than a physical weight," she said. "You know that, when you draw your weapon, you will actually have to use it. It's a big responsibility and something you have to keep in the back of your mind."

UNLV Police Chief Jose Eligue said Gortsema's on-campus experience and enthusiasm, coupled with her outstanding performance at the police academy, make her an excellent hire for the department.

"I feel her experience in the human resources department makes her perfect as one of our community policing ambassadors," Eligue said. "She has the right attitude and a tremendous amount of dedication."

After she completes her field training, Gortsema will focus on working with staff in the residence halls. She'll also be tapped to work with female victims of violence.

Gortsema hopes that her 13 years on campus will help those she deals with feel more comfortable. She has served on several campus committees and participated in the dating violence prevention programs sponsored by the Jean Nidetch Women's Center. "Victims often feel intimidated when dealing with police," she said. "I think one thing I can bring to the job is my compassion for others. Although we thankfully don't have murders to contend with, we do have issues such as date rape, and I think that's where my sensitivity toward the victim will be helpful."

Gortsema has a 16-year-old daughter and is working toward a bachelor's degree in sociology at UNLV.

One impact of this increase in enrollment will be the hiring of 83 new positions by the dental school over the coming biennium. With one exception, all new positions will support clinical sciences, basic sciences, and patient-care services. This is exciting news for the dental school, and we look forward to welcoming these professionals to the campus community.

The UCCSN also made a commitment to double its capacity to produce nursing graduates over the next two years. Under this plan, enrollment in nursing programs will increase from 686 students in 2002-2003 to 1,326 students in 2004-2005. The larger institutions, including UNLV, will absorb the costs associated with the higher nursing enrollments in the coming biennium, however, it is understood that the additional enrollment generated by this expansion plan - including the student FTE from summer sessions - will be built into the funding formulas for the 2005-07 biennium.

And, finally, of perhaps the greatest personal interest to the faculty and staff, we received a 2 percent cost of living adjustment for the second year of the coming biennium. I was quite pleased to hear this news, as we had previously found it necessary to delay the awarding of merit for six months. (This was done to stave off a potential threat to reduce the merit pool from 2.5 percent to 2.0 percent.) Given the difficult financial situation facing the state, the COLA was not a certainty, so I am gratified to see the Legislature acknowledge the hard work of faculty and staff by offering it.

These are just a few of the highlights of the legislative session that will affect the campus. There are a number of other interesting developments that I would be glad to discuss given more space and time. As I said earlier, many of the actions of the Legislature were quite beneficial to the university, and we are grateful to our supporters for their help. The needs of higher education in Nevada are substantial, yet they must be met if we are to progress. We look forward to putting our new funding to work for the betterment of our students, our community, and our state.

Harter

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continue to struggle to accommodate our dramatic enrollment growth and maintain our current levels of service with the allocated funding. This will be challenging for the faculty and staff, so please know that I appreciate your continuing willingness to serve our students well.

Our development I count as a success is the Legislature's support of our School of Dental Medicine. The dental school received approval for enrollment growth from the 75 students in fiscal year 2003 to 150 students in 2004 and 225 students in 2005. Also, an appropriation of $3.23 million was approved for dental equipment. I believe these actions at the state's endorsement of the dental school endeavor, and I am grateful that we may now move ahead with our plans on more secure footing.