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Inside UNLV

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Inside UNLV

Faculty and Staff Publication

November 2003

Biologists Study Stress/Brain Link

by Caryn Key

Fruit flies – tiny creatures whose brain cells closely resemble those of humans – are at the center of a UNLV study concerning the negative impacts of environmental stress exposure on early brain development and behavior.

With a \$330,000 National Science Foundation grant, a team from the department of biological sciences recently began the three-year study. Assistant professor Stephen Roberts and associate professor Steven deBelle, along with Ph.D graduate student Xia Wang, will also explore the flipside of the issue to determine if a sensory-enriched environment can positively influence brain growth and function – or even possibly repair damage caused by prior exposure to stressful conditions.

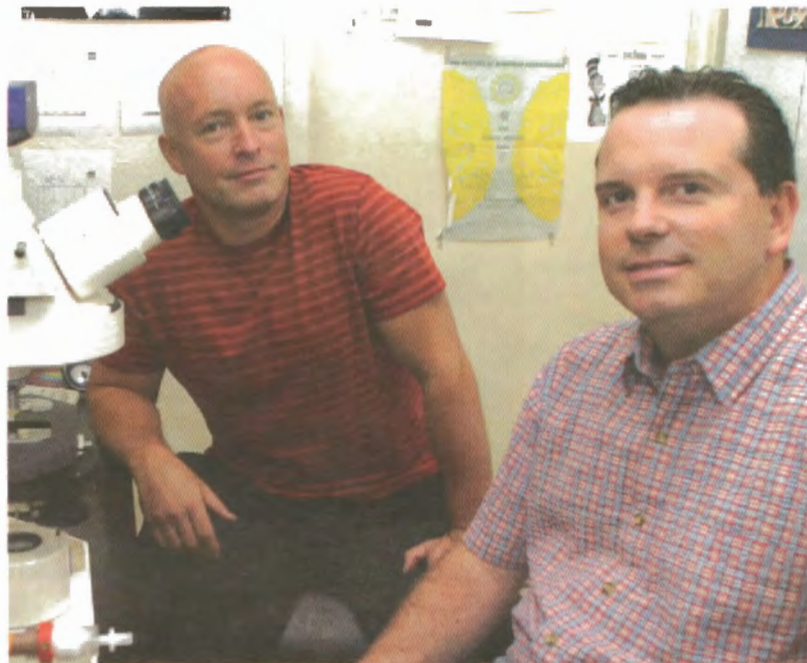
While these questions have been pondered by biological and social scientists for centuries, only recently has the understanding of the genetic, developmental, and anatomical control of brain function allowed rigorous exploration of such issues, said Roberts.

“Few people outside the circles of biology appreciate that the brain cells of the fruit fly are virtually identical to those in humans,” Roberts said. “Because of the similarity, studies on these insects can help us understand – and perhaps even improve – the human condition. Equally significant is the fact that fruit flies have been the study organism of several Nobel Laureates

in medicine and physiology.”

He further noted that the airborne insects can be conditioned for learning – much like the famous dogs used in Pavlov’s historic work. The fruit fly is an extremely powerful model system that allows the genetic, developmental, and environmental underpinnings of brain anatomy and function to be identified, he explained.

Using a series of experiments, the trio first intends to discover how exposure to heat stress and environmental toxicants disrupts brain maturation. They have already learned that subjecting developing flies to high temperatures for 35 minutes a day causes significant developmental reduction to a region of the insect brain that is similar to the hippocampus (the center of associative learning) in humans. Interestingly, deBelle said, this heat treatment has little affect on the development of the external anatomy or other brain regions. The group intends to establish how this impairment directly affects the flies’ learning and memory.



Biology professors Steven deBelle, left, and Stephen Roberts are studying fruit flies to learn more about the negative impacts of exposure to environmental stress. The brain cells of a fruit fly are quite similar to those of a human.

The next step is to determine whether a sensory-enriched environment, with a constant optimum temperature and pleasing aromas (which to a fruit fly are rotten fruit odors), will result in a “healing” or “repairing” of the impaired brain anatomy and cognitive functions, said deBelle.

The final goal of the project is to use modern DNA technologies to identify the genes and gene products underlying the stress-damage or sensory-enrichment effects.

The latter work will take place in the newly established UNLV Stress Genomics Center, a biotechnology facility located in White Hall. The center houses advanced molecular biology and phosphorimaging

continued on page 3

Contents

*Databases
Improving
Student
Recruitment*
Page 2

*Health
Regulations
Prompt Changes*
Page 6



*Raschko Climbs
Ladder of
Success*
Page 7

*Points of Policy:
ADA
Requirements*
Page 7



Stephanie Racioppo, in blue at right, hugs her best friend, UNLV nursing student Ericka Sjoerdsma, following the university’s first White Coat Ceremony for nursing students. More than 50 new UNLV nursing students participated in the event designed to signify their entry into the nursing profession. Above, nursing students Gladys D’Meza, Rosanna Montero, Simone Krieger, and Noni Hayman look forward to donning their white coats.



On Revising the Class Schedule

by
Carol C. Harter
UNLV President

As our institution's enrollment has climbed dramatically in the past several years, we have naturally observed an increasingly pressing need to better accommodate student and faculty schedules and to make the most efficient use of our teaching facilities. As a result, we have been exploring the adoption of an alternative model for scheduling classes that we believe will provide more flexibility to both students and faculty and will allow us to optimize usage of our classroom space.

Although we are poised to move ahead with a plan – and implement it in fall 2004 – we are finding that some members of the campus community are concerned about how this change might affect them. Thus, we are continuing to examine options and to gather feedback from the campus. We are still committed, however, to finding ways to achieve the aforementioned goals; hence, I feel it is important that a clear picture of the plan as it exists be communicated to the university community so that productive discussions about it may ensue.

The plan for the new schedule of class offerings calls for a change from the current pattern of Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes and Tuesday-Thursday classes to the following combinations:

- Monday-Wednesday
- Tuesday-Thursday
- Friday (and/or Saturday and/or Sunday)

I should mention that we already offer classes on weekends; however, if resources are available, the course offerings will be expanded to include more combinations of classes on Friday-Saturday or Saturday and/or Sunday. A Class Scheduling Task Force, which represents the interests of various administrative units and each of the colleges, has recommended the class time slots that will now be available Monday through Friday; these times were sent to the university community in an official e-mail on Oct. 21 and presented at a number of open forums held last month, at which members of the campus community were invited to share their input on the new plan.

Although we will ask that all classes start at standard times, a variety of time slots throughout each day are available to accommodate a broad range of scheduling needs. Also, let me assure you that if any faculty member has a compelling reason to schedule a class outside the given time slots, every effort will be made to accommodate him or her. The class scheduling staff has always tried to meet the special needs of individual faculty members, and this practice will continue.

By way of background, I should note that plans for a new class scheduling model have been in development for more than a year. After we had begun exploring changes in this area, a UCCSN space utilization study was presented to the Board of Regents in

continued on page 7

New Databases Used to Increase Recruitment of Top Students



Political science professor Mayumi Itoh interacts with Honors College students enrolled in her Relations with Japan honors course. New databases and search services will help UNLV recruit top students across the nation. The Honors College and the College of Hotel Administration will be the first to use the new systems.

by Gian Galassi

In an effort to increase student recruitment through targeted marketing strategies, UNLV has purchased new databases and search services that will provide enrollment and test data about students around the country and the world.

Paid for by a president's planning initiative grant, the new databases and accompanying resources include the ACT's Enrollment Information Service (EIS) and Educational Opportunity Service (EOS), as well as the College Board's Enrollment Planning Service (EPS) and Student Search Service.

According to Karen Emptage, information coordinator for the office of undergraduate recruitment, the new resources will not only help heighten, develop, and refine the university's recruitment efforts but will also help accomplish the goal of attracting increasingly talented students to campus.

"This is pretty exciting because it allows us for the first time to have access to information about students who had not initiated contact with UNLV," said Emptage, who was also the main author of the grant proposal. "This gives us the chance to pursue and attract them to UNLV, instead of just waiting for them to come to us. Ultimately, we hope to steadily mold the incoming classes each fall.

The services will also play an important role in creating an effective transition when the university increases its minimum GPA admission requirement to 2.75 in 2006 and 3.0 in 2010, Emptage said.

Although UNLV already receives the ACT and SAT scores of students who showed an interest in attending the university, the new search services will also allow recruiters to contact other individuals who would benefit from an education at UNLV. For example, when searching the EIS database of high school juniors who took the ACT test during the 2002-03 school year, there were 31 students around the country who showed an interest in hotel management and scored high enough on their ACT to be considered for UNLV's Honors College. In the past, UNLV recruiters would not have received the names or details of all qualified students, essentially limiting their recruitment to a few. But now, if they so desire, they can contact all 31 students to discuss details about UNLV.

The Honors College, along with the College of Hotel Administration, will be the first to use the new systems.

Stephen Rosenbaum, dean of the Honors College and co-author of the grant proposal, sees the acquisition of these databases as a boon to his recruitment abilities as well as an added benefit to potential students. "It gives us a chance to inform students about the advantages of attending UNLV," he said. "We can tell students who may not have done all their research on the university about special scholarship opportunities and majors that may not be available elsewhere."

In addition to providing the typical enrollment data, the databases will allow users to run queries about certain student populations using very specific criteria. Say, for instance, the College of Sciences is looking to increase its recruitment in Northern Nevada and would like to locate students who have an interest in and aptitude for chemistry or biology. The new databases are capable of locating students within, for instance, Churchill County who have scored particularly well on the math and science portions of their entrance exams. Using this information, the staff can then create customized reports that can be downloaded into Excel and incorporated into the college's recruitment strategy.

The databases themselves become a broad-based marketing tool and do not provide demographic information about students. In order to obtain demographic information, UNLV is participating in the next step of search services that requires an additional set-up fee and cost per student record. Available student data will include such things as high school rank, lists of extracurricular activities, and high school accomplishments.

Ultimately, Emptage said, the benefits of the new databases will be threefold: an increased ability to recruit students who will lead the university into a more research-intensive future, a more effective and cost-efficient administrative service unit, and a better marketing tool for senior administrators to use when developing new enrollment initiatives.

Although the Honors and Hotel colleges will be the first to take advantage of the new databases, the office of undergraduate recruitment is making the services available to other colleges on campus this fall.

For more information about these resources, or to learn how a particular college or unit can use the databases, contact Emptage at emptage@ccmail.nevada.edu or call ext. 4-8005.

Energy Conservation Plays Critical Design Role

by Gian Galassi

Students in UNLV's College of Engineering are learning that energy conservation is not only good for the community – it may also be good for their careers.

Last year, mechanical engineering student Manuel Galvez used energy-efficient design principles in a senior project that not only earned him top honors in the department's design competition but also helped him secure a permanent position with his employer.

For nearly eight months, Galvez worked with UNLV professors and the local engineering firm FEA Consulting to analyze, design, and develop energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems for luxury homes in Lake Las Vegas. It was his experience with the project, he said, that helped him discover a growing niche in his profession.

"All builders are already interested in energy conservation," said Galvez, "but it's not always affordable because the technologies are relatively new and expensive. My project focused on analyzing alternative HVAC options that were both cost-effective and applicable to home design."

While there is no official curriculum in the Engineering College that specifically deals with energy-efficient design and construction, professor Samir Moujaes explained that all students are, at some time during their education, involved in projects that include energy-efficient design concepts.

"As energy prices and availability continue to be a problem, energy efficiency will become even more important to industry," said Moujaes, who developed a personal interest in such concepts shortly after moving to Las Vegas more than 19 years ago. "I think it's very important that we introduce our students to various products and technologies that can help reduce our energy consumption. We want our students to be the ones who help to fill the gaps of knowledge that currently exist with these emerging technologies."

Moujaes believes that UNLV is a particularly good place for students to study energy conservation concepts because the problems driving the trend are so evident in the Southwest.

"The area we live in is not exactly rich in natural resources," he said. "We need to find better ways to cut down on our consumption, which will in turn lead to many other benefits."

Recent studies have confirmed what Moujaes and others in the engineering departments have known

for a long time: Nevadans have a lot to gain from decreasing their energy consumption. According to a report released recently by the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project of Boulder, Colo., the state could save upwards of \$1.4 billion dollars by 2020 if it adopted more stringent energy-efficient construction standards.

Although Nevada's efficiency standards haven't been updated since 1985, Moujaes thinks it is all just a matter of time. And when it happens, he wants his students to be ready.

"Our students will not only be well prepared in the fundamentals of engineering" Moujaes said, "but they will also be able to appreciate and address the increasing needs of our community and our state. Acquiring an understanding of energy efficient concepts will be a matter of course."

Several projects are either currently underway or in the works that will significantly increase students' exposure to energy efficient design and construction, including one with Nevada Power that has UNLV students and professors conducting energy audits of small and medium-sized commercial properties. Also, professor Moujaes, along with his colleagues Yahia Baghzouz and Bob Boehm, will begin working this winter with students and local developers to build a zero-energy-demand house, which will incorporate several energy-efficient technologies, from photovoltaic cells on the roof to energy-saving appliances in the kitchen.



Mechanical engineering graduate Manuel Galvez, right, displays a poster showing the details of the award-winning senior design project he developed under the supervision of engineering professor Samir Moujaes. The project stressed the use of energy-efficient design principles.

Funding is also imminent from the U.S. Department of Energy to create a National Center for Energy Management and Building Technology at UNLV. When formally established early next year, the department of mechanical engineering, the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, and the College of Hotel Management will collaborate on the design and development of environmentally sustainable technologies.

As for Galvez, who is now a full-time mechanical designer with FEA Consultants, the education he received at UNLV is leading to new opportunities at work, including a task designing energy-efficient systems for large commercial properties.

"My UNLV education has provided me with more than just a solid foundation in theory and fundamentals," said Galvez. "Ultimately, I know that what I learned there will continue to help me in my career."

Stress *continued from page 1*

equipment and is the only one of its kind in Southern Nevada.

"This research is not only covering new ground but is expected to be a springboard for additional studies of the biological and social environment and its influences on gene expression, brain development and learning and memory," Roberts said. It will also allow UNLV graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to actively enhance their classroom experiences while working in the laboratory on a major federally funded research project, he added.

Since their arrival at UNLV, Roberts (hired in 1999) and deBelle (hired in 1997) have collectively been awarded more than \$5 million in federal research grants. These funds not only support research but also the development and maintenance of important infrastructure, such as the UNLV Center for Biological Imaging and the UNLV Stress Genomics Center.


Inside UNLV

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**Plan Now
To Attend
Commencement**
**4 p.m.
Wednesday
December 17
Thomas & Mack
Center**



From the Dean's Desk

by Patrick Ferrillo,
Vice Provost for the
Division of Health
Sciences and Dean, School
of Dental Medicine

As part of an overall strategic planning effort in 2001-02, UNLV designated the combined fields of biomedical and health sciences as a new and significant multidisciplinary area of emphasis. During the past several years biomedical teaching, research, and service programs have been developed at UNLV. These include the School of Dental Medicine, the Cancer Institute, the Center of Biotechnology, and the Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network, all but the last of which will be housed at the new Shadow Lane campus. Other biomedically related laboratories from the academic, public health, and private sectors have also been established. A study group was formed in spring 2003 to review our institution's current programs in these areas, as well as national academic models for health sciences, and the group recommended a new approach to the organization of the biomedical and health sciences here at UNLV.

As a result, the Division of Health Sciences was created on July 1 to advance the strategic plan by forming a distinct academic health sciences unit. This structure includes the School of Dental Medicine, the School of Nursing, and the School of Allied Health and Human Performance. (New schools of Pharmacy and Public Health are proposed.) This organizational structure is intended to maximize program and resource development, as well as enhance communication and improve the health status of the citizens of Nevada through an integrated approach to education, research, and service.

The emergence of the School of Nursing is in response to the need to improve the development of nursing programs at the undergraduate level and to increase the number of nursing graduates in Nevada. It will also contribute to the development of a doctoral nursing program and will support our goal of becoming more competitive on a national scale with other schools of nursing. The faculty is presently working vigorously to double the number of students enrolled in the undergraduate program as well as in the doctoral program. The school is currently engaged in a national search for its first dean.

The title of the newly formed School of Allied Health and Human Performance reflects the diversity of its programs. These programs include kinesiology, physical therapy, nutrition, clinical laboratory sciences, and health physics. The certificate program in radiography has been moved into this area as well.

The School of Dental Medicine continues to grow. In August, the second class of 75 students was enrolled, and new faculty and staff have been added to the school's ranks. The new faculty are recognized as outstanding leaders nationally in dental education. Renovations of the buildings on Shadow Lane are moving forward as planned, and the opening of the clinical facilities there is scheduled for May 2004.

The Health Sciences Division is excited to meet new challenges as it moves forward. It will play a significant role in advancing the university goals and agenda as outlined in the university's updated planning document.

Business

Dave Donnelly, professor and chair of accounting, was elected to the board of the Accounting Programs Leadership Group, the national organization representing accounting department chairs.

Kim Frank, associate professor of accounting, was asked to serve as a "subject matter expert" for the Institute of Management Accountants. In this capacity she provides technical assistance in the development of CMA exam review materials.

The UNLV chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the national honors fraternity for business professionals, sponsored a presentation by Patrick Kuhse, a nationally recognized speaker and consultant on business ethics. During his presentation, titled "The Business of Ethics: Why So Many Smart People Do Such Dumb Things," Kuhse recapped his personal experiences with white-collar crime and presented lessons on moral and ethical dilemmas, key warning signs, and critical thinking errors that lead to white-collar crime.

Earlier this fall, Joe Gilbert, associate professor of management, was interviewed on the local television news show *NewsOne at Nine*. The interview concerned the reasons for the resignation of Richard Grasso as CEO of the New York Stock Exchange and what might be in store for the management of the exchange.

Gilbert also recently led a 90-minute session for about 50 members of the International Confectioners Association on the topic of business ethics in management. The association consists of owners and managers of candy manufacturing and retailing facilities.

Education

The college and the Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN) have planned a transition program in which UNLV's College of Education will offer upper-division education courses on CCSN's Cheyenne and West Charleston campuses. Beginning spring 2004, courses leading to degrees in early childhood, elementary, secondary, and special education, as well as educational psychology foundations courses, will be offered. UNLV faculty will serve as the instructors.

In delivering transition courses on the CCSN campuses, the College of Education is targeting current CCSN students who wish to become teachers but who prefer to remain on the CCSN campus during this period of transition. The current two-plus-two articulation program between the UNLV and CCSN education programs and this new focus will create a seamless transition for students. This effort also will guide the research agenda of effective teaching strategies in a variety of non-traditional environments.

This new approach is one of several cooperative programs to recruit and retain highly qualified individuals to the teaching profession. During the past five years, these cooperative programs have helped meet the demand for fully certified and highly qualified teachers, based on the federally mandated No Child Left Behind Act.

As the college partners with CCSN, it is anticipated that the number of CCSN students entering UNLV's teacher preparation programs will grow.

Engineering

The college has successfully expanded its funded research, which has resulted in the acquisition of new equipment, facilities, and research centers. The Board of Regents recently approved the Center for Cybermedia Research headed by Hal Berghel, director of

the School of Computer Science. The center will conduct research in information customization and personalization, digital media, internet security, and graphics and visualization.

The School of Computer Science this fall welcomed Matt Pederson as a new faculty member. He will work in programming languages and in parallel processing.

The department of mechanical engineering, in collaboration with the Harry Reid Center through the Advanced Fuel Cycles Initiative, recently installed a lead/bismuth loop in the Beam Engineering Complex. This facility will be utilized by a team of international researchers seeking ways to efficiently transmute nuclear waste into safer waste forms.

Biswajit Das, a recent hire in the department of electrical engineering, is continuing the development of an advanced nanotechnology laboratory by acquiring a second scanning electron microscope to be used in the development of nanoscale sensors and mechanisms. This device will also be used by his UNLV colleagues doing research in the area of materials science and engineering.

Fine Arts

The Performing Arts Center welcomes the Rising Stars of Classical Music at 8 p.m. Nov. 21. The performance will feature Judith Ingolfsson, a young Icelandic violinist who commands a distinguished position among the world's foremost young musicians. A gold medalist at the 1998 International Violin Competition, her debut at Carnegie Hall in 2000 won her resounding approval from both critics and concertgoers.

Also performing will be the Miami String Quartet. In 1992, this string quartet became the first in a decade to win first prize at the Concert Artists Guild New York Competition. Come and hear why the Miami String Quartet is appearing in all of the major music centers of the world.

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV presents Shakespeare's classic *Macbeth*, beginning Nov. 7 in the Judy Bayley Theatre. General admission tickets are \$15.

The UNLV Wind Orchestra plays in concert at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18 in Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. Tickets are free.

Graduate

At this semester's Graduate Council meeting, Paul Ferguson, vice president for research and graduate studies, explained to graduate coordinators and council members the implications that the administrative restructuring combining research and graduate studies will have for graduate education. Council members' roles provide them with unique opportunities to contribute to this combined mission.

Interim Graduate Dean Gale Sinatra shared personnel changes in the college and trends in graduate education at UNLV. Personnel changes include Eric Lee joining the college staff as an evaluator of admissions and student records. The addition of a new evaluator resulted in a redistribution of responsibilities and assignments among the evaluation staff.

During the meeting, psychology professor Chris Heavey was elected Graduate Council chair. The college's committee chairs for this academic year were also announced. Heavey is serving as the chair of Faculty and Student Issues. Kate Hausbeck chairs Curriculum. Bill Johnson serves as chair of Graduate Program Review. Pat Markos is chairing New Programs. Sandra Odell is chair of Graduate Student Funding.

Trends discussed include increases in the number of graduate programs, number of graduate students, number of doctoral degrees awarded, number of graduate assistantships, and the amount of financial support going to graduate students. These trends all contribute positively to the university's goal of meeting the Doctoral/Research Universities-Extensive classification as defined by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Honors

The college and the Honors Council have been revising the college's core curriculum in light of the overall revisions in the university's core curriculum and various challenges to staffing the curriculum. The revisions will alter the requirements for students seeking to become university honors scholars. To be published in the next UNLV undergraduate catalog, the changes will affect those students entering college in fall 2004. The new curriculum will be reviewed for effectiveness and soundness, with an eye to making further changes as appropriate.

In October, the college joined the office of undergraduate recruitment at a Reno reception for Northern Nevada students who had excelled in their high school work. The undergraduate recruitment office arranged to get from the Washoe School District the names of top Washoe County students and invited them to a reception in order to give them and their parents information about UNLV and the Honors College. This is part of expanded recruiting efforts designed to attract top students from all of Nevada and the region.

Hotel Administration

Rachel Shinnar, a Ph.D. candidate in the college, recently spoke at the Latina Style Business Series held at the MGM Grand. This is an ongoing seminar series designed to assist Latina entrepreneurs. The seminar provides Latina entrepreneurs with strategies and tools to start their own businesses or make their existing ones more successful.

The Hispanic community is growing rapidly in the valley and so are the numbers of Hispanic-owned businesses. Shinnar presented the findings of a research project conducted in the summer of 2002 on foreign-born Hispanic entrepreneurs in Las Vegas. This study was conducted through the support of an applied research initiative grant awarded to Cheri Young, a faculty member in the college. As part of this project, 83 business owners were interviewed on their motivations to become business owners; their preparation in terms of business plans, budgeting, and location selection; and the way they manage their businesses.

Shinnar has been invited to publish the findings of her study in *Latina Style Magazine*, which has a national circulation of 150,000 and a readership of 600,000. It showcases Latina achievements in a variety of areas, including business, science, civic affairs, education, business opportunities, technology tips, and home entertainment.

Law

Recently, through the generosity of private donors, the law school has established two more named professorships. The law firm of Gordon and Silver has funded a new professorship in commercial, corporate, and bankruptcy law. Individual benefactors Michael and Sonja Saltman have funded a new professorship in alternative dispute resolution.

Because the law school has recently hired new faculty with national reputations in both of these fields, both professorships have now been filled. Professor Robert Lawless, a nationally recognized expert on corporate law and business bankruptcies who came to Boyd last year after serving on the law faculty at the University of Missouri, Columbia, is the new Gordon and Silver Professor of Law. Professor Jean Sternlight, who joined the faculty this summer, also from the University of Missouri, Columbia law faculty, is the new Michael and Sonja Saltman Professor of Law. Sternlight is one of the nation's leading experts on alternative dispute resolution, with a specialty in the law of arbitration, and is leading the law school's efforts to enhance its curricular offerings in the dispute resolution field.

Liberal Arts

The department of sociology continues to make great strides in achieving its teaching, research, and service missions. The department recently celebrated the graduation of its 27th Ph.D. student, an enviable accomplishment since the doctoral program only began in 1988. The first annual Graduate Student Research Conference was held in September. Sixteen sociology students presented their research proposals and findings to the UNLV community. Ana Prokos and Jennifer Keene have founded a local chapter of the national organization of Sociologists For Women in Society. As an effort to reach non-traditional students, Matt Wray, Barbara Brents, and Kate Hausbeck are offering the department's first online Sociology 101 courses.

The department has a highly productive group of scholars. Robert Futrell and recent Ph.D. graduate Pete Simi have had an article on the U.S. white power movement accepted in the prestigious journal *Social Problems*; Simon Gottschalk just published an article on children of Holocaust survivors in *Symbolic Interaction*; Matt Wray is completing his book for Duke University Press on the stereotyping of poor whites; graduate student Valerie Bugni and Ron Smith published an article on the connections between sociology and architectural practice in the *Journal of Humanity and Society*; Futrell along with Andy Kirk (history) and project director Mary Palevsky received an almost \$600,000 federally funded grant for oral history research at the Nevada Test Site; Keene and Prokos are completing papers on the long-term impact of spousal care-giving on well-being in widow(er)hood; Hausbeck and Brents are conducting research on the sex and body industry; and David Dickens, Bo Bernhard, Donald Carns, and Smith are studying sense of community among Las Vegans.

Libraries

UNLV has recently joined the small group of universities that is participating in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* site license test program. The *Chronicle* is the premier news source for college and university faculty and administrators. Currently, only seven institutions, including Columbia, Johns Hopkins, and Stanford universities, have purchased campuswide access to the *Chronicle* for their students, staff, administrators, and faculty. Additional participants have been sought so that the *Chronicle* can further study the impact that campuswide site licensing will have on their individual print subscription business.

All editorial content at <http://chronicle.com> is now available from any on-campus computer. In addition,

the *Chronicle* is available from off campus to members of the UNLV community when they log on through the Libraries' website at <http://www.library.unlv.edu>. Call ext. 5-2101 for questions regarding access from off campus.

Sciences

For a city built in the middle of a desert, it is difficult to imagine anything more important than water availability and allocation. The dramatic drop of the Lake Mead water level and the implementation of watering restrictions remind Southern Nevadans constantly of the community's direct dependence on water for survival. The mission of the Water Resources Management graduate program (WRM) at UNLV is to provide a new generation of professionals with the necessary skills to manage this most precious resource, according to the new director of the WRM program, Lambis Papelis.

Improved water resources management would be, in most cases, best accomplished by an interdisciplinary approach, by professionals having both a physical science and management background. UNLV's WRM program is one of very few such programs in the country, although a number of prestigious hydrology programs are now realizing that the management component is just as important as their physical science and engineering component.

The WRM program is housed in the College of Sciences but faculty from the colleges of Business, Urban Affairs, Engineering, and Liberal Arts, as well as from the Harry Reid Center and the Desert Research Institute, participate in the program and advise and support students. The 15 graduate students currently enrolled in the program have a background reflecting the diversity of the program. Attracting high-quality students who are interested in education leading to improved water resources management practices is a primary goal for Papelis, a water chemist with a master's and a Ph.D. degree in environmental engineering from Stanford. Papelis, who is also an associate research professor at DRI, focuses his research on water quality, the interaction of contaminants with mineral surfaces and aquifer materials, and the use of spectroscopic techniques to determine the mechanism of these processes.

Urban Affairs

The department of counseling's curriculum in problem gambling counseling continues to receive national recognition. The National Council on Problem Gambling has approved another course in the department's compulsive gambling counseling minor, COU 322, Perspectives on Addictions, as an education requirement for the National Certification in Problem Gambling Counseling. The two other courses offered by the department that have already been approved for the certificate are COU 439, Compulsive Gambling Counseling I, and COU 440, Compulsive Gambling II.

"We truly are at the forefront of providing professional-grade education in problem gambling counseling," said Larry Ashley, addictions specialist and coordinator of the compulsive gambling counseling minor. "With the creation of a certified compulsive gambling counselor credential by the state of Nevada, effective Jan. 1, 2004, UNLV is in the position to be the primary provider of training and education to satisfy the requirements to qualify to meet this new clinical specialty. We are the academic role model for the country."

Spotlight ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Tom Wright (History) recently had his book *Flight from Chile: Voices of Exile* (University of New Mexico Press, 1998, co-author Rody Onate) translated into Spanish and published as *La Diaspora Chilena* (Mexico City: Editorial Urdimbre, 2003). He also participated in panels, held in Mexico City, on the 30th anniversary of the Chilean military coup of Sept. 11, 1973.



Ferri

Anthony J. Ferri (Communication) has had his manuscript, "Communicating Heart Disease: Myth and Magic" published in the most recent issue of *Medien Kommunikations-wissenschaft* (a refereed German communication journal).

Laura J. Kruskall (Nutrition Sciences) and colleagues Wayne Campbell and William Evans had their research communication, "The Atwater Energy Equivalents Overestimate Metabolizable Intake in Older Humans: Results from a 96-Day Strictly Controlled Feeding Study" published in the *Journal of Nutrition*.

Richard Harp (English) was an invited evening speaker at Hillsdale (Mich.) College's week-long seminar on "Learning from Shakespeare." He also was an invited speaker at the UCLA Center for Medieval and

Renaissance's one-day symposium on *Othello* and gave a paper, "Using the Internet in Renaissance Studies," at the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Anthony L. Fargo (Communication) is the author of an article published in the September 2003 edition of the *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*. The article is titled "Is Protection from Subpoenas Slipping? An Analysis of Three Recent Cases Involving Broadcast News Outtakes."

Frank Serafini (Curriculum & Instruction) has written *Reading Aloud and Beyond - Fostering the Intellectual Life with Older Readers* with **Cyndi Giorgis** (Curriculum & Instruction). This book is his second in a series from Heinemann Publishers. The series addresses intermediate grade reading instruction and reading comprehension. In another project, he has provided the stunning photographs for the picture book, *Desert Seasons: A Year in the Mojave*, written by Ruth Devlin.

Tascha Spears (Nursing) has been selected to receive the 2003 International Association of Forensic Nurses Academic Achievement Award. The award is for significant contributions to the literature regarding children

who witness violence and for authoring the book, *Children Who Witness Homicide and Other Violent Crimes*. She is also the recipient of the California Sexual Assault Investigators' 2003 Distinguished Service Award for assisting law enforcement during the investigation of crimes involving children.



Jones

Todd Jones (Philosophy) wrote an article, "The Virtues of Non-reductionism, Even When Reduction is a Virtue," which was published as the lead article in the summer issue of *The Philosophical Forum*.

Lesley J. Johnson (Food and Beverage Management) **Susan L. Meacham** (Nutrition Sciences), and **Laura J. Kruskall** (Nutrition Sciences) had their article "The Antioxidants - Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Selenium, and Carotenoids," published in the *Journal of Agromedicine*.

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.

Federal Health Regs Prompt Changes

by Diane Russell

When you've visited your doctor or dentist in recent months, have you noticed the extra step you're being required to take?

In addition to signing in, showing an insurance card, and, of course, handing over a co-pay, patients now are routinely being asked to sign a "privacy" form. Some diligent souls no doubt read the document completely before signing, but many just as surely sign it and hand it back to the receptionist without giving it much thought.

Not so, Jamie Davidson. Davidson, UNLV's assistant vice president for student wellness, now is also the university privacy officer. As such, he knows that those privacy forms are the result of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, more commonly known as HIPAA.

And HIPAA - particularly what it means to UNLV - is something to which Davidson has given thought in recent months. Lots of thought.

For while those new privacy forms may be the only manifestation of HIPAA that the average person has seen thus far, Davidson knows that HIPAA is much more far reaching.

HIPAA, as he explains it, is the government's attempt to ensure the confidentiality of a consumer's health-care information at a time when that information is being transmitted from one place to another via computer with increasing frequency.

And while requiring specific measures be taken to protect those electronic transmissions, HIPAA also mandates safeguards that may be more easily seen by the public. If you think back, Davidson said, you probably have noticed that now when you sign in at a doctor's office you don't find yourself adding your name, your address, and your health insurance information to a list where everyone signing in sees the information of everyone who signed in before her. More than likely, your doctor has switched to a sheet that contains sticky labels that are peeled off and placed elsewhere as each patient signs in, thus safeguarding patient privacy.

It's because of HIPAA that UNLV's Student Wellness Division will spend approximately half a million dollars on such things as purchasing and installing new computer software, printing new forms, and even modifying some of the university's physical plant. An example of the last can be seen at the Student Health Center where the reception area that students approach to seek treatment will be reconfigured to afford more privacy.

And while Student Wellness, which includes the Student Health Center, Student Counseling & Psychological Services, and Jean Nidetch Women's Center, certainly has felt the impact of HIPAA, so have many academic units on campus. For instance, any researcher on campus who deals with patient health information as part of his research must comply with HIPAA, too. "If your role involves protected health information, you need to be intimately informed on HIPAA safeguards," Davidson advises.

UNLV's Institutional Review Board, which scrutinizes all proposals to use human subjects in research projects, will look for assurance of HIPAA compliance as part of the approval process, he said.

While implementing the changes necessary to make sure that UNLV complies with HIPAA has often been "a pain" - to use Davidson's to-the-point description - the regulations are without a doubt in the best interest of health-care consumers, he said.

"HIPAA absolutely raises the bar," he said. "It provides substantial safeguards to ensure the privacy of information that should be private. And at the same time, it gives patients more control over their personal information." A patient, for instance, may review her file at a doctor's office and has the right to add supplemental information to that file, he said.

HIPAA, Davidson pointed out, has sharp teeth. He who ignores it takes a costly risk, he said, explaining that an individual can be fined up to \$250,000 and imprisoned for up to 10 years for violating the regulations.

"Every reason in the world exists to take HIPAA regulations very seriously."

Planning and Construction Wins Award

UNLV's office of planning and construction was recently named the recipient of the 2003 Nevada Patron Award by the Nevada chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

The award recognizes the critical role of elected officials, public administrators, and community leaders in efforts to provide quality architecture and to enhance the public's perception of architecture as a key part of the state's environment, lifestyle, and heritage.

Randy Lavigne, executive director of AIA Nevada, said the staff of UNLV's office of planning and construction received the award because of the consistently high standard of quality design staff members demand in all structures on the UNLV campus.

"The entire department is to be commended for their contribution and dedication to excellence in design and for working with architects and design professionals to provide that level of quality in their buildings," Lavigne said.

UNLV was nominated by AIA architect Eric Strain, who submitted a portfolio of some recent UNLV projects, including the Beam Music Center, the Wright Hall addition and renovation, the Lied Library, and the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center.

"We are both pleased and humbled to receive this professional recognition," said Tom Hagge, UNLV associate vice president of facilities management and planning. "It is a tribute to the caliber of employees across the whole university. These successful projects represent the creative efforts of many people, from those in the highest leadership positions who provide the vision and support to the professional staff in the department of planning and construction who convert ideas into reality."

UNLV received the award at the AIA Nevada Excellence in Design and Distinguished Awards Banquet and Ceremony in October.

Points of Policy

by Marc Cardinalli,
Administrative Code Officer

The Americans' with Disabilities Act, also known as the ADA, is designed with one simple concept in mind: to enable any person, with or without a disability, to access services, jobs, facilities, and education. Often misunderstood, the ADA does not provide preferential treatment or create unequal opportunities; rather, the ADA offers those with disabilities opportunities equal to those without disabilities.

The university has two offices to help those with disabilities access services on campus – the Learning Enhancement Center (LES), which deals with educational access for students, and the UNLV ADA office, which deals with the accommodation of faculty and staff (professional and classified) with disabilities. The LES can be reached at ext. 5-0866; the UNLV ADA office can be reached at ext. 5-1879. This article will focus on faculty and staff ADA concerns.

The ADA provides for reasonable accommodations for persons with permanent or long-term disabilities to enable them to perform the essential functions of their positions. The university will participate in an interactive process with each person requesting an accommodation. This means each case is unique, and there is no "one size fits all" determination of what may be required in providing reasonable accommodations.

If a person believes accommodations are necessary to perform the essential functions of a position, or, if a supervisor, co-worker, or family member believes a person may need such accommodations, the UNLV ADA office must be contacted. The ADA office is the only campus office allowed to provide a reasonable accommodation to a UNLV employee under the ADA. No other unit, person, supervisor, or division may provide even temporary accommodations for any person eligible for accommodations under the ADA.

Once contact is made with the ADA office, an interview will be set. At that interview, the employee will be asked questions relevant to the disability. This could include medical history, current job descriptions, and expectations. Usually, medical documentation and a narrative from the employee's medical care provider will be requested. All such information is confidential and is kept only in the ADA office.

The ADA office will review the records and the position requirements. Then the ADA office representative, along with the employee, will determine if there is a permanent or long-term disability and decide what sort of reasonable accommodations may be necessary. The employee will be asked to participate in discussing the accommodations and expectations under the ADA.

This interactive process, which is required by the ADA, enables a person with a disability the opportunity to join with the university in finding ways to accommodate his or her needs and to enable that employee to work or continue working at UNLV. This is an ongoing process in which the employee must participate; changes in accommodations could be required over time.

UNLV is committed to a just and inclusive university community, including providing access to education and employment. The ADA is one tool to help the university community in fulfilling that commitment.

Raschko Climbs Ladder of Success

by Gian Galassi

Kevin Raschko has traded in his toolbox for an in-box.

In September, Raschko – a former UNLV carpenter, painter, and shop supervisor – was selected from a pool of national candidates to become the university's new facilities manager.

But don't let the new clothes, new office, and professional title fool you. Beneath his neatly ironed shirt remains a blue-collar work ethic.

"You can take the man out of the shop, but you can't take the shop out of the man," Raschko said, pointing to a six-foot ladder hidden behind the door of his new office at the Campus Services Building. "Some of the guys have been teasing me since I've been in here because they know I'm a very hands-on person and that I don't mind getting dirty on a job."

The ladder is, after all, a fitting symbol for Raschko, who's been climbing one – both literally and figuratively – since coming to UNLV as a student worker in 1990.

Ever since then, he's been learning how the campus works. As the first student worker ever to be employed in the trades at UNLV, he served for four years as an assistant to various "shops" on campus and learned the basics of multiple trades. Then, shortly after being hired in 1994 to a permanent position as a maintenance repair specialist, Raschko earned his bachelor's degree in history from UNLV and entered a craftsman training program to become a carpenter. After four more years of honing his woodworking skills and learning other trades, he decided that it was time to try his hand at management. In 2000, he became the supervisor of the campus paint shop.

"I always knew I wanted to move up," said Raschko. "All the other jobs I worked in were very

rewarding but they were no longer challenging me in all the ways that I'd hoped. I felt a bigger need and wanted to get into shaping the way the work was being done on daily basis."

Although Raschko admits that he does occasionally sneak out at times to "get his hands dirty," he is right where he wants to be. In his new position as facilities manager, he is responsible for many of the "structural" trades on campus he once worked for, including the painting, plumbing, roofing, sign, moving, carpentry, and welding shops.

He said he hopes the years spent learning the trades will prove to be an asset to the shops he now oversees and will help make them even better places to work.

But long before Raschko considered making UNLV part of his own career plan, he says he knew the campus was a good place to work. He credits his father, Les Raschko, who has



As a UNLV undergraduate, Kevin Raschko picked up a student job as an assistant in the various "trades" shops on campus. That was in 1990. Raschko has been working his way up the ranks ever since, and recently was named UNLV facilities manager. Along the way, he earned a bachelor's degree in history.

worked at UNLV since 1980 and is now director of publications and reprographics, for providing him an early glimpse of what his own future would hold.

"It was my father's experience that initially got me interested in working here," Raschko said. "I remember being impressed with both the security of his job and the way people always seemed to work together to get things done."

Raschko intends to bring that spirit of teamwork to his new job. "My position was vacant for a year and a half before I was hired," he said, "so one of my goals is to help get the various shops working even closer together than they already are."

As for his future, Raschko says it's too early to think about it yet. But whatever it holds, he says he intends to make UNLV an important part of the plan.

"UNLV has always been very good to me and it's also been very rewarding," Raschko said. "That's not to say that there haven't been any challenges along the way, but that's what has made it such a good job."

Harter

continued from page 2

spring 2002. The primary concern raised by members of the board at the time was that UCCSN institutions were not using their instructional space to optimal efficiency, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays. Following that presentation, we evaluated our plans in the context of the issues raised and determined we should gain more feedback from members of the campus community. We set about gathering input from individual members of the student body and faculty through a survey and also from the Faculty Senate and student government.

We were continuing to refine our plans when Chancellor Jane Nichols officially charged each of the UCCSN institutions with developing plans for improving instructional space utilization/class scheduling policies and procedures in August 2002. As I mentioned previously, we are now poised to implement the plan and have begun sharing

information with individual departments as they prepare next fall's class listings.

While these scheduling changes will address space utilization considerations, perhaps more importantly they will also help UNLV better accommodate its students by providing them greater flexibility in the times classes are offered. The new scheduling will also provide faculty with larger blocks of time to support research and service, and many may find the new schedule preferable to the old one. Yet, we realize this plan requires a change in our routines; I hope members of our campus community will be adaptable as we work to better serve our students and to improve the utilization of our teaching facilities. We will continue to seek feedback on the effectiveness of this new plan and will evaluate its success over time. Meanwhile, I appreciate your understanding as we work toward making this change. We will update you as more information becomes available.



UNLV police officer Scott Taylor, left, explains the duty belt display to an interested passerby during the university's first Police Awareness Day. Below left, Detective Luiz Ferreira observes the scene from atop Big Red, one of UNLV's two police horses, while officer Soila McKay, below right, answers a question from a member of the campus community. During the event, faculty, staff, and students were encouraged to ask questions and bring concerns to the officers. At the same time, the officers distributed useful information and products, including child fingerprinting kits and tips on crime prevention.

Photos by Geri Kodey



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