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Inside UNLV

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Early Childhood Center to Open Jan. 20

by Diane Russell

When the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center opens its doors later this month, it will have dozens and dozens of customers ages 5 and under eager to check out the new climbing equipment, outdoor art area, and bike path.

And, it will have numerous campus employees more than eager to begin working with youngsters from as many as 400 families in a state-of-the-art facility designed specifically for UNLV's program.

"For me this center represents such a rare and special opportunity," said Gene Hall, dean of the College of Education. "I don't know of any other major university that has been able to build an entirely new early childhood center like this. We have been blessed with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that is so exciting."

Catherine Lyons, who headed UNLV's former CSUN Preschool for eight years and now is director of the new center, said, "I never expected an opportunity like this. Being told you're going to be part of better way to encourage the betterment of our employees as both individuals and professionals."

March 10 is the deadline for submitting an application for costs incurred since March 1, 2003.

Although the program has helped numerous classified staff members since it was established, Toni Arcadipane, president of the Classified Staff Council, would like to see more people apply for funds in the future.

"I don't think as many people take advantage of the program as should," said Arcadipane, who partially attributes that fact to the staff's lack of familiarity with the fund. "I hope this gets the word out that there is money available and that those who have completed professional development activities should apply for it."

Since its establishment, the CSDF has been one of the most successful funds on campus, with more people contributing money to it than any of the professional-oriented funds.

Kristene Fisher, program officer in the provost's office, was responsible for creating the fund in 1995 and continues to contribute money to it today.

"I believe strongly in contributing to the fund because it supports the classified staff as integral team members who contribute to the success of UNLV and its mission," said Fisher. "I can't think of a better way to encourage the betterment of our employees as both individuals and professionals."

The CSDF is funded entirely by individual donations, and every contribution (up to $50,000) is matched 100 percent by the UNLV Foundation. With approximately $22,000 currently in the fund, it only needs an additional $3,000 to become endowed -- after which a percentage of the annual interest will be used to pay the awards.

Contributions can be made via payroll deduction or as a one-time donation.

To receive an application for the fund or to learn more about the criteria, contact Arcadipane at ext. 5-3695.

To make a donation to the fund, contact Michael Richmond, development associate at the UNLV Foundation, at ext. 5-3641.
Helping Our High Schools
by Carol C. Harter
UNLV President

A local newspaper headline recently publicized an exceptionally positive development in the Southern Nevada community: a noteworthy increase in high school graduation rates. This is wonderful news, of course, for the Clark County School District, which has strived to improve these rates while facing its share of challenges in recent years with ever-increasing enrollments and limited funding. The district’s improvement in graduation rates is excellent news for the entire community as well, including the university; it is always gratifying to observe successes in the education community and to see the results of efforts specifically designed to achieve a desired outcome.

I was pleased to find UNLV’s Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach acknowledged as one of the entities contributing to the improved high school graduation rates. The center’s involvement came in the form of several on-site and after-school programs it implements in high schools throughout the city. Its work was appropriately mentioned in the Review-Journal, as was a helpful grant provided by County Commissioner Myrna Williams’ office.

By way of background, I should note that the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach was formerly known as the department of academic advancement, which provided educational services to our community for more than 20 years. The center works with local schools to support low-income middle and high school students in methodical and constructive ways as they pursue their high school diplomas and prepare for college. Many of these students are under-represented in college populations and are often the first in their families to seek degrees; the center, which also participates in partnerships with UNLV’s College of Education, offers guidance to parents as they support their children’s academic endeavors.

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach provides a variety of valuable programs, which are offered in every middle and high school in the Las Vegas Valley, but it targets schools with the highest concentrations of low-income students. The center’s common-sense approach involves offering students in-class instruction, workshops, and tutoring, all with the goal of keeping them on track in their academic pursuits. The core programs that contributed significantly to the improved graduation rates were the Educational Talent Search, which currently serves more than 1,800 students; Upward Bound, which involves some 320 students; and Rising Starr, a program at Valley High School that enables students there to make up high school credits. (Valley High School was, by the way, one of the schools with the most substantial improvement in graduation rates: It went from 58 percent in 2001-02 to 88 percent in 2002-03.) And beginning next year, the center’s federal grant-supported Gear Up Program, which currently provides enhanced college preparation services to students in six middle schools in economically challenged areas of the city, will be expanded into area high schools. This should promote further improvement in high school graduation rates.

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Exploring Science

More than 120 students from 22 high schools in Nevada, Utah, and California participated in UNLV’s annual Science, Engineering, and Technology Day. The outreach program for high school students was sponsored by the College of Sciences and the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering. Hands-on labs were presented by 48 UNLV scientists in 31 labs across campus. At right, UNLV master’s student Darlene McEwan, left, teaches Mountain View Christian Academy seniors Danielle Hansen and Marias Swingle and their science teacher Monte Melhorn. Summer Decker of the anthropology department, below right, speaks with students participating in the event. Geoscience professor Wanda Taylor, below, works with Palo Verde High School senior Bria Kadlub.

‘Guess Who’s Playing’ Comes to KUNV

KUNV 91.5 FM is the new home of the popular radio program “Guess Who’s Playing Their Favorites,” hosted by local weatherman Nate Tannenbaum.

The program, which can be heard Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m., features prominent local guests and out-of-town visitors who discuss and play selections of their favorite music during the show. For the last 12 years, the program aired on KNPR 89.5 FM under the title “Guess Who’s Playing the Classics,” but was picked up by KUNV after KNPR underwent reorganization in October. As the former title implies, the program’s format was once strictly classical music but now features an eclectic mix of music dependent on the interest of each week’s guest.

“We’re excited to be able to continue providing this program to the Las Vegas community,” said Gig Brown, KUNV’s new program director. “I understand it has been a local favorite for many years and we’re proud to be carrying on the tradition here at KUNV.”

Recent guests on the show have included Marilyn Gillespie, executive director of the Las Vegas Natural History Museum; Major William Rahl, local Salvation Army chief; Les Kincaid, local wine, restaurant, and golf expert; and Kerry Simon, celebrity chef; Simon Kitchen and Bar at the Hard Rock Hotel.

For more information, contact KUNV at 798-9115 or visit http://kunjv.unlv.edu.
Rebel Service Council Encourages Volunteerism

by Diane Russell

For students Shannon Richardson and Kim Ho community service had become a way of life in high school. As members of Key Club in their respective home states they had been involved in a variety of projects in which they donated their time to their communities.

Once at UNLV, they looked for similar opportunities.

Last semester, they found what they were looking for when the university’s Division of Student Life created a service learning program known as the Rebel Service Council.

In existence for only a few months, the Rebel Service Council is off to a strong start, according to Jen Peck-Hladun, who as program coordinator for service learning and commuter affairs, was charged with launching the program.

“The response from students has been very positive,” Peck-Hladun said. “Hundreds of students already have participated in one or more of the service opportunities we offer and we expect that number to grow quickly as more students learn of the council’s existence.”

Although the council is new, it already is offering students a wide range of service opportunities, including a Meals on Wheels program in which students pack lunches and deliver them to the Las Vegas homeless, a fund-raising effort for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital called Up ‘Til Dawn, a program called Labor of Love that works in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, canned food drives, and a spring break service project program.

“We know that many students who come to UNLV already have a tradition of community involvement from their high school years and we want to make sure that UNLV provides them the chance to continue those kinds of endeavors,” Peck-Hladun said.

“Community service can be such an important component of the learning experience,” she said. “While the most obvious benefit of community service may seem to be to the people receiving the service, it also greatly benefits those providing it.

“It gives students an opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life and to feel good about themselves in the process,” she said. “And though it takes them away from their studies for a little while, it at the same time is a learning experience in itself. It also has the added benefit of giving students the opportunity to develop their leadership and organizational skills.”

More students to participate. A student’s involvement can be as non-time consuming as donating the cost of a meal from his campus meal contract to the Meals on Wheels program. In one “passive service” project, council members set up a table on a walkway near the Student Services Complex. Students passing by on their way to and from classes could stop briefly to make a treat bag that council members later delivered to children in the pediatric unit and emergency room at Sunrise Children’s Hospital. Students decorated orange bags and filled them with items such as spider rings, tattoos, bracelets, yo-yos, and fake whistles.

“That was very successful,” Peck-Hladun said. “Many, many students stopped for a couple of minutes to make a bag and then went on their way.”

Richardson, a sophomore from Sparks majoring in sports injury management, said, “When I heard there was going to be a community service program on campus, I applied. I was really involved in community service and Key Club at Reed High School. Now, he’s looking forward to being part of the Rebel Service Council’s spring break service program that will involve students in three one-day projects. Details are still being worked out, but one project will involve service for the elderly, while another will involve a carnival for pediatric AIDS patients. A third day will be spent on a cleanup project at Lake Mead.

“I thought it would be cool to do this,” said Richardson, who is coordinating the Lake Mead project. “I’ve never been to Lake Mead. I see this as a good chance for students to do something useful with their spring break, get to know the area, and have some fun, too.”

Richardson said he found the decision to participate in the spring break service project an easy call.

“That’s not a huge party. You hear about so many kids who blow hundreds of dollars in Cancun or someplace else. This is just such a better alternative,” he said. “You’re really doing something you’re probably going to remember for more than a day. I just think it’s a much more productive use of your time.”

Richardson said he hopes that next year the Rebel Service Council will be able to launch a spring break project that would take students to another city for a few days.

Ho said she joined the council both because she wanted to contribute something to the campus community and because it is providing her a chance to gain experience directly related to her major.

A senior studying public relations, Ho serves on the council’s public relations and marketing body. Currently the group is developing a press kit and working on strategies to get the word out about the council and the opportunities it provides.

“I think it’s going really well considering how new the organization is,” she said. “It definitely will grow as more people learn about it.”

Peck-Hladun said that while some faculty members already are familiar with the council, she would like more professors and instructors to help spread the word. Some of them are requiring students to perform community service as part of their course work, when appropriate, or offering extra credit for service work if students write a brief essay about their experience, she said.

For additional information about the Rebel Service Council, call Peck-Hladun at ext. 5-2047 or contact her at jen.peckcc@unlv.nevada.edu.

School of Dental Medicine Screening Patients for Clinic

The School of Dental Medicine is now screening patients for acceptance in its clinic, which will open in the summer of 2004.

Patients are treated by students, training to become dentists under the supervision of faculty dentists. Patients will be accepted if they have dental needs that fit with the students’ educational needs. They will receive comprehensive dental care at school fees.

There is no charge for the initial screening appointment. Subsequent dental treatment fees at the school are about one-third to one-half of the customary fees in the community.

The fees must be paid when care is provided at the School of Dental Medicine. If a patient has insurance, the school will assist in billing the insurance company for reimbursement.

Patients must be available for a three- to four-hour appointment at least once every two weeks until their dental work is completed. They must have reliable transportation to the school, which is located at Charleston Boulevard and Shadow Lane in downtown Las Vegas.

For more information, call the dental school at ext. 5-0451.
Education

Acronym pepper the education landscape. Even experienced hands can be confused by the proliferation of letter combinations for policies and programs. One exception may be “NCLB,” No Child Left Behind, a phrase that has been expressed in many ways since its first appearing in the political and educational scene. This phrase, originally borrowed from the Children’s Defense Fund’s tagline “Leave No Child Behind,” denotes for state departments of education, colleges of education, school districts, and licensed teachers the very real expectation that every teacher in every classroom must be “highly qualified.” Nevada’s teachers must meet specific criteria to be considered highly qualified, and passing the PRAXIS II exams represents one of the criteria.

Associate Dean Martha Young collaborated with the college’s faculty and the Clark County School District to offer workshops for teachers who must pass the PRAXIS II exam to remain in the “highly qualified” category. These all-day workshops provided information on test-taking skills, test content, and the tests required for different teaching fields. More than 200 teachers, whose licenses will be revoked if they do not pass the tests by August 2004, have attended the sessions. The next stage of the project is to develop the series for delivery over television and on CD-ROM. Before August 2004, 700 local teachers will have completed these workshops.

Engineering

UNLV’s annual Science, Engineering, and Technology Day, an outreach program for high school students sponsored by the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering and the College of Sciences, took place Nov. 17.

More than 120 students from 22 high schools in Southern Nevada, Utah, and California participated in the day’s activities. Hands-on labs were presented by 45 scientists in more than 30 labs in the colleges of Sciences, Engineering, and Liberal Arts, as well as at the Division of Health Sciences and the Harry Reid Center.

Presentations included: How Fit Are You: Cardiovascular Physiology, Painting with High Pressures and Powerful Lasers; Hardness of Untreated and Treated Las Vegas Tap Water; DNA Analysis; Earthquakes and Faults; Magics of Mathematics; Creative Electro/Mechanical Design — Invasion of the Spaz-Bots; and Archaeology and Physical Anthropology Lab.

Since 1987, this outreach event has brought high school juniors and seniors to the campus to participate in hands-on activities with professors and graduate assistants. The student-participants select the labs to attend according to their interests and career ambitions. The event is funded by the College of Sciences, the College of Engineering, and the UNLV Alumni Association.

Fine Arts

The Performing Arts Center welcomes Grammy award-winning artists The Chieftains to the World Stage series at 8 p.m. Jan. 31. With a career spanning 41 years and 41 albums, The Chieftains have been a major influence in establishing the international appeal of Celtic music around the world. The concert will celebrate the ties that bind American bluegrass with traditional Irish music. Tickets are $35, $45, and $60 and can be purchased at the Performing Arts Center box office.

The Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery presents Survival Research Laboratory 25th Anniversary Exhibit from Jan. 12 through Feb. 7. This exhibition highlights the wide range of work produced by Mark Pauline, founder of the Survival Research Laboratory (SRL), during the last 25 years. Included in the gallery exhibition will be documentary video screenings of past performances, machine artifacts built for past performances, and still images from past events that will be hung on the gallery walls. A live performance in honor of the anniversary is scheduled for Feb. 7 at the Sam Boyd Stadium parking lot.

SRL engages new vocabularies by integrating machines, electronics, and theatrical sets and props with dramatic, visual metaphors, which bring to life, large-scale mechanical performances. Employing current technology to the fullest and breaking new ground with collaborations between art and electronic culture, SRL constantly evolves. SRL creates new levels of sensory and emotional intensity by pushing the performances to the extreme. Using diverse disciplines in concert with artistic expression, ideas are transformed into visceral experiences.

Health Sciences

The Class of 2007 in the School of Dental Medicine has completed the first semester of the dental curriculum. Selected from an applicant pool of more than 1,390, the class is comprised of 19 women and 55 men. The 43 Nevada residents and 31 students from nine additional states came from 30 academic institutions. Following Nevada, states with the greatest representation are Utah, California, and Arizona.

Interviews were under way late in the fall semester for the class of 2008. The national dental student applicant pool has increased by more than 15 percent for the current application cycle over the last cycle. By mid-November, UNLV’s dental school had received 50 percent more applications than it had received at the same time last year. The dramatic increase nationally is reflective of the appeal of dentistry as a career nationwide. UNLV’s increase also may be attributable to the school’s recruitment of a nationally recognized faculty and the outstanding reputation the school has established within the academic community.

Dental students at both the first- and second-year levels continue to provide hands-on services to the community in elementary schools and adult assisted living centers. Innovative activities in oral hygiene instruction, nutrition counseling, care for elderly teeth, and denture care are being brought to multiple sites in Clark County. The success of the programs has created a demand for return visits as well as requests for services to additional locations.

Honors

The Honors College recently held its annual poster session for students researching and writing their honors theses. The session highlighted the quality and diversity of the research undertaken by Honors College students. Topics included identity theft, foreign investment in commercial real estate, and leadership, as well as a translation of a book on Darwin that was published in German. The students introduced
their faculty advisors and presented them with a gift in recognition of their support.

The Honors College staff attended the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Chicago in November. Staff members participated in seminars and workshops on selecting and training honors faculty, communicating with alumni, increasing diversity of students and faculty, managing budgets, creating newsletters, recruiting and advising students, and working with curriculum. The conference provided an opportunity for staff members to meet and discuss ideas with individuals from across the United States. During the conference, the members of the Western Regional Honors Council selected UNLV to host the regional conference in April 2005.

Hotel

Technology in the classroom took on a new meaning this fall for the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration when the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Okla., initiated a partnership to provide two-way audio/video distance learning capabilities for students living in Oklahoma who wished to participate in UNLV courses.

Purchase of this state-of-the-art classroom technology was made possible by a $75,000 gift from the Cherokee Nation. UNLV's office of information technology assisted by designing and installing the equipment.

 Cherokee Nation students who have completed appropriate community college coursework can now take distance education courses as they work toward their bachelor's degrees in hotel administration. The new equipment allows faculty in classrooms on the university campus to teach students at UNLV as well as those viewing class through a video monitor in Oklahoma. The technology allows students to ask questions and interact in real time with the professor and fellow students.

Three undergraduate and two graduate classes were taught during the fall semester. Graduate students will complete a total of 10 courses, taken completely through distance education, and receive their master of hotel administration degree.

Liberal Arts

The Cannon Center for Survey Research (CCSR) has had another productive year, strengthening its academic and educational missions while continuing in its service mission of conducting projects for clients on and off campus.

The center has completed a variety of surveys for clients in and outside Nevada with a recent emphasis on public health and safety, including topics such as smoking prevention and flood control. The center continues to process teaching evaluations for a number of colleges and provided election aid to CSUN in vote tabulations for the most recent student elections.

In its academic endeavors, CCSR recently hosted the practicum for director Tom Lamatsch's survey research methods class, which was conducting the 2003 Southern Nevada Poll. Data from this project and its predecessor in 2001 has been presented in conference papers on both the regional and national levels.

The center is gearing up for its official partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Clark County to implement the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) project. This large-scale project will partner UNLV and the Cannon Center with HUD for a number of years to streamline services for the homeless. It will also gather more specific information on Clark County's homeless population. When the program is funded, HUD will provide a grant to hire an assistant director in charge of the HMIS project.

Law

On Feb. 20 and 21, the law school will host an array of civil rights scholars and historians at a symposium commemorating both the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's famous desegregation decision in Brown v. Board of Education and the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

To give the event special relevance to Nevadans, the theme selected is “Pursuing Equal Justice in the West.” The conference brings together leading historians, legal scholars, and activists to discuss the multiple dimensions of equal justice and to examine aspirations for equal justice in the new century in light of the western region's ethnic and racial diversity, contested borders, and history of conquest and migration.

A small selection of the prominent national scholars who have already committed to this event includes: Kevin Johnson and Bill Hing (both of UC-Davis) speaking on the civil rights of immigrants; Spencer Overton (George Washington University) on voting rights; David Cruz (University of Southern California) on racial and sexual minorities; Gerald Torres (University of Texas) and Willard Rollings (UNLV) on the civil rights of Native Americans; Libby Schad (University of Santa Clara) on race and property rights; Patricia Limerick (University of Colorado) on the history of the American West; and Quintard Taylor (University of Washington) on the African-American experience in the West.

Speakers of special interest to Nevadans include Clark County District Judge Michael Douglas, former Gov. Mike O'Callaghan, Las Vegas welfare reformer Ruby Duncan, and state Sen. Joe Neal. Several of UNLV's faculty with expertise in civil rights will participate as well, including professors Annette Appell, Sylvia Lazos, and Joan Howarth.

Libraries

University Libraries is proud to announce two notable technology acquisitions funded by the Libraries Advisory Board through its participation in the Libraries Dean's Associates program.

The first enhancement is a new 42-inch plasma television screen, located next to the circulation desk in the Lied Library. The plasma screen displays library information and events; it has dual-screen capability for television broadcasts, and top screen closed captioning.

The Libraries also unveiled the Multimedia Design Studio, which provides hardware and software for digital video creation, editing, and export to DVD and VHS formats, as well as a scanner and a variety of software for still image handling. The Multimedia Design Studio is located on the first floor of the Lied Library, near the Library's Automated Storage and Retrieval system.

For more information on the use of the studio, contact Diane VanderPoel at 5-2126. The Libraries Dean's Associates membership program, which starts at $1,000 per year, provides for unrestricted support of the Libraries through curriculum-supporting resources, training programs, and technology enhancements.

Sciences

The Center for Applied Statistics and Statistical Advising (CASSA) will be changed to the Center for Applied Mathematics and Statistics (CAMS), once approved by the Board of Regents.

CAMS will provide professional data analysis services to faculty, staff, and student researchers at UNLV and clients from government and industry. It will promote interdisciplinary research between mathematical sciences faculty and researchers from other fields. The center invites investigators to include statistical consulting as an item in their research plans and budgets.

The center's all-purpose corporate affiliation program will welcome distinguished scholars and visitors from universities, companies, and public agencies worldwide who wish to establish a mutual relationship with CAMS and gain access to CAMS' intellectual resources.

The center will serve as a training ground for students to advance their knowledge in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship through hands-on research projects. It also will help the state meet its objective of improving workforce development programs and will provide undergraduate and graduate students the required foundation for lifelong learning and growth as future leaders.

Through the integration of modern technologies and working with others, the center will ultimately become a platform for coordinating outreach projects and programs at UNLV and a driving force for research-grant solicitation.

For more information, call Nancy Millett in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at ext. 5-0366, e-mail her at millett@unlv.nevada.edu, or visit the department's homepage.

Urban Affairs

Dance, music, art, and theater are the focus of a new show offered by UNLV-TY. *Front and Center* blends art and academics in its presentation of original performances, interviews, and behind-the-scenes footage of the many and varied fine arts programs on campus. Assistant theatre professor Nate Bynum hosts the program, and students from the Hank Greenspun School of Communication provide the field reporting.

*Front and Center* is the newest addition to the line-up of original programming produced by UNLV-TV. Other programs include: The Academic Cafe, a campus affairs program hosted by Shannon Martindale; *This Ain't No Buffet*, a cooking show featuring chefs from Las Vegas restaurants; *Totally Band in Vegas*, a performance-driven show featuring local bands; and *UNLVViews*, a weekly news program produced by students in assistant professor Gary Larson's television news production class.

UNLV-TV also airs lectures presented through the University Forum lecture series and offers thoughtful discussions by faculty on important issues of the day through the Panel Discussion Series.

UNLV-TV programs are aired daily on Cox Cable channel 70, from 7 to 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.
Sharon Coomes (Systems and Applications) has written a "Student Information System Guide for Student Accounts." This guide will be utilized by UNLV bursar's office staff for training and daily operations. It may also be utilized by other universities and colleges whose Student Information System computing is a product of Informis, Inc. UCCSN and Columbia University are just a few of the prestigious clients that currently use the Informis Student Information System to meet their registration and student accounting needs.

Jennifer L. Bevan (Communication) published two articles in the September/October 2003 issue of Genetcs in Medicine. She was lead author on "Informed Lay Preferences for Delivery of Racially Varied Pharmacogenomics" and co-author on "An Exploration of Attitudinal Barriers to Delivery of Race-Targeted Pharmacogenomics among Informed Lay Persons."

Andy Nazarechuk (Tourism & Convention Administration) was a featured speaker for the Returned Servicemen and Servicewomen in Tweed Heads, Australia, in July. He presented, "Leadership and High Performance Organizations in the Gaming Industry" to more than 150 club managers from New South Wales. During fall semester, he was a visiting professor at Kyung-Hee University in Korea. He taught classes on convention, exhibition, and special events topics to students majoring in meetings management.

Patrice Hollrah (Writing Center) presented "Love and the Slippery Slope of Sexual Orientation: L/G/B/T Sensibility in Selected Novels by Louise Erdrich" at the Western Literature Association Conference in Houston in October.

Anthony L. Fargo (Communication) wrote an article, "Reconsidering the Federal Journalists' Privilege for Non-Confidential Information: Gonzales v. NBC" (published in Cardozo Arts & Entertainment Law Journal) that recently was cited in an opinion by a federal district judge. Judge James G. Carr of the Northern District of Ohio cited Fargo's article in the case Hade v. City of Fremont, in which Carr denied a newspaper motion to quash a subpoena for one of its reporters.

Sue Fawn Chung (History) gave the keynote speech at the dedication of the Carson City Chinatown plaque in October. The Carson City Historic Preservation Coalition raised $1,200 for the plaque, which has been placed in a parking lot at 3rd and Stewart streets near the Nevada Legislature and the State Archives and Library. The plaque includes a brief history of Chinatown by Chung as well as photographs and documents provided by the Nevada Historical Society and Nevada State Archives and Library. She also assisted in the curation of the exhibit on Chinese railroad workers at the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

Bernardo Arriaza (Anthropology) recently had his book Beyond Death: The Chinchorro Mummies of Ancient Chile (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995) translated into Spanish by former UNLV student Marlene Ostatte and published as La Cultura Chinchorro: las momias más antiguas del mundo (Editorial Universitaria, Santiago, Chile, 2003). He also received a Fulbright Scholar Award and a sabbatical to lecture in Chile during 2002.

Tom Bean (Curriculum & Instruction) and Helen Harper of the education faculty at the University of Western Ontario in Canada, presented a paper on "Working With and Against Notions of Adolescence in Multicultural Young Adult Novels" at the 37th annual conference of the California Reading Association in San Diego in November.

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@unlv.nevada.edu.

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**Spring Sports Season Brings Changes to Coaching Staffs**

Spring is known as a time for renewal. There is annually a climate of change as the new season emerges. That theme will be prevalent in the athletics department this spring as three new head coaches make their UNLV debuts.

Lifting the Red Rain curtain this season will be softball head coach Lonni Alameda, baseball head man Buddy Gouldsmith, and interim head men's tennis coach Owen Hambrook. Alameda arrives at UNLV after serving as the top assistant at Stanford for eight years.

The 1993 graduate of Oklahoma was hand picked to succeed longtime coach Stan McDermott and is charged with bringing new life to a once nationally competitive program that is looking for its first winning season since 1996.

As Stanford's associate head coach, Alameda oversaw the pitching staff and helped guide the Cardinal to a 320-179-1 record and six straight NCAA regional appearances, molding three All-American hurlers along the way.

"I am so excited to be here," Alameda said when she was hired. "This is an amazing opportunity. My plans for this program are pretty simple: it has won before, we can win, we will win, and we are ready to win."

The Alameda era begins Feb. 6 in Tucson, Ariz., when the Rebels face Cal State Northridge. The season's initial home game will be Feb. 13 vs. Pac-10 Conference power Cal at Eller Media Stadium. Just across the street at Earl E. Wilson Stadium, Gouldsmith takes over the head spot after two years as the top assistant for UNLV under Jim Schlossnagle, who moved to Texas Christian to be closer to home.

No stranger to Las Vegas, Gouldsmith helped lead the Hustlin' Rebels to a 47-17 record a year ago that included a Mountain West Conference championship and trip to the NCAA Regional in Tempe, Ariz.

"I am grateful to have this opportunity," Gouldsmith said at the time of his hiring. "I am very happy to be here and am excited about the direction of our program. This is where I want to be. Everything is in place here. I have been recruiting to this campus for two years and we have been successful. I look forward to continuing that success in the future."

Before coming to UNLV, Gouldsmith served as hitting instructor and third base coach at Tulane for four years. There he helped lead the Green Wave to its first ever College World Series appearance in 2001.

Previously, Gouldsmith was an assistant coach for five years at American River College in his hometown, Sacramento, Calif.

Alameda and Gouldsmith come to UNLV with something extra, as the Rebels are in search of new coaches to fill the void left by Buddy Gouldsmith, and interim head baseball man Lonni Alameda, baseball head man Buddy Gouldsmith, and interim head men's tennis coach Owen Hambrook. Alameda arrives at UNLV after serving as the top assistant at Stanford for eight years.

The 1993 graduate of Oklahoma was hand picked to succeed longtime coach Stan McDermott and is charged with bringing new life to a once nationally competitive program that is looking for its first winning season since 1996.

As Stanford's associate head coach, Alameda oversaw the pitching staff and helped guide the Cardinal to a 320-179-1 record and six straight NCAA regional appearances, molding three All-American hurlers along the way.

"I am so excited to be here," Alameda said when she was hired. "This is an amazing opportunity. My plans for this program are pretty simple: it has won before, we can win, we will win, and we are ready to win."

The Alameda era begins Feb. 6 in Tucson, Ariz., when the Rebels face Cal State Northridge. The season's initial home game will be Feb. 13 vs. Pac-10 Conference power Cal at Eller Media Stadium. Just across the street at Earl E. Wilson Stadium, Gouldsmith takes over the head spot after two years as the top assistant for UNLV under Jim Schlossnagle, who moved to Texas Christian to be closer to home.

No stranger to Las Vegas, Gouldsmith helped lead the Hustlin' Rebels to a 47-17 record a year ago that included a Mountain West Conference championship and trip to the NCAA Regional in Tempe, Ariz.

"I am grateful to have this opportunity," Gouldsmith said at the time of his hiring. "I am very happy to be here and am excited about the direction of our program. This is where I want to be. Everything is in place here. I have been recruiting to this campus for two years and we have been successful. I look forward to continuing that success in the future."

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Hambrook, who has spent the past 14 years as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for the Rebels, will assume the role of head baseball coach for the 2004 season.

The Husslin' Rebels look to keep things rolling when they open 2004 play at national power Cal State Fullerton on Feb. 6. Opening day at home will see Western Kentucky on campus Feb. 13-15.

Another former UNLV assistant gets his first shot at a head job on an interim basis over on the courts of the Ferrita Tennis Complex. After years as one of the nation's top assistant coaches, Hambrook moves from the assistant's slot for the women's team to the top coaching position for the men's team.

The 1991 graduate of Northwest Missouri State will tackle the challenge of getting a former elite program back on track after the Rebels limped to a 2-14 record a year ago.

"Owen Hambrook has the tennis knowledge and experience to be a head coach and we are confident that our men's program will be in good hands in the coming season," said UNLV senior associate athletics director Jerry Koloskie.

The 2002 Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional Assistant of the Year, Hambrook served on the staff of Lady Rebel head coach Kevin Cory's 2003 Mountain West Conference regular-season champions as well as the 2000 and 2002 league tournament titlists.

The Rebel netters open their dual-match campaign in New Orleans vs. Tulane on Feb. 7, while home action begins with the annual eight-team spring invitational Feb. 13-15.

This story was provided by UNLV's sports information office.
Childhood Center
Continued from page 1

developing an entirely new, $5 million, state-of-the-art early childhood center from conception through implementation is something I never would have dreamed of."

Important news for the campus community is that not only will the center now be able to serve approximately 400 families per semester (up from about 180 at the old preschool), but that it now takes babies as young as 6 weeks. Previously, the youngest children served were 12 months old.

And, later this year, the center will expand its schedule to remain open over winter and spring breaks.

The center cost $5.8 million to build, and was funded chiefly by a $5 million donation by Lynn Bennett and her late husband William. It consists of six buildings totaling 20,932 square feet and sits on 62,000 square feet of land at the north end of campus, adjacent to the William Bennett Professional Development Center.

"It was designed with a village in mind because we really wanted a strong feeling of community," Lyons said of the center that was designed by architect Eric Stain of Assemblage STUDIO and built by Isaac Building and Design Co. Inc. "It's intended to be like a campus within a campus."

In terms of space alone, the new center is a vast improvement over the former CSUN Preschool, which was housed in the Carbon Education Building and in portable units situated nearby, Lyons said.

When the additional amenities that the new center provides are taken into account, the enormity of the improvement is difficult to describe, she said.

The number of classrooms has doubled to 12 and the outdoor play area has grown two and a half times in size. In the old facility, teachers crammed supplies wherever they could find space. In the new center, a storage room and storage closets are provided and Lyons no longer has to keep large jugs of laundry detergent perched perilously atop her filing cabinets.

But, as Lyons said, it is not only the quantity of space, but the quality of the space that makes the new center so impressive.

Each of the 10 regular classrooms comes equipped with computers and has the infrastructure to be camera ready, though only two rooms actually will have cameras operating when the center opens. The cameras, Lyons explained, will be used for filming classroom teaching and interactions. Those tapes then can be studied by UNLV education students and professors.

Many of the classrooms also have large glass windows that open in garage-door fashion, allowing teachers to incorporate the outdoors into their classrooms.

Two specially designed research classrooms are equipped with two-way mirrors that allow education students and their professors to watch the lessons being taught in the classrooms without disturbing the youngsters. The observation areas are set up so that the observers can plug in their laptops to take notes.

A similar set-up exists in the infirmary, where nursing and physical therapy students can do observations related to their course work.

A resource library provides computers that parents can use to access information about a variety of topics such as child development and parenting, as well as books and videos that the children and their families can borrow to enjoy at home.

Another amenity the staff is looking forward to having is a large multipurpose room that will be used for everything from lectures for families to the children's dance and movement and cooking programs.

Outdoors, the facility includes a grassy area, equipment play areas, a mock dry riverbed where art easels can be set up, a bike path, and an outdoor water feature for summer play. Large overhead canopies will provide shade, making outdoor play possible even during Las Vegas' triple-digit temperatures. But don't think the children aren't learning when playing outside. A teacher hired just for the playground does complete lesson plans each day. Among the children's options might be art, dramatic play, an obstacle course, and the permanent playground equipment.

"This new center is enabling us to build on what I believe was already outstanding programming in ways that will greatly benefit the families we serve as well as the UNLV students who use the center in their academic endeavors," Lyons said, noting that students who use the center include those studying education, psychology, physical therapy, nursing, and food and beverage management. The center is also one of the university's biggest employers of students.

Hall said that, as dean of the college that houses the center, he is excited to see what new heights UNLV can achieve in the area of early childhood education now that it has the new Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center.

"I feel we've accomplished a great deal already and have a solid track record of providing an outstanding educational experience for the community's youngsters," he said, "but with this outstanding new facility, we have our sights set even higher."

Harter
Continued from page 2

I am delighted to see such progress in our community, and I applaud the school district, its teachers, staff, and students for their productive efforts at improving these graduation rates. I realize the complex set of variables associated with low graduation rates can seem, at best, difficult to influence. However, the improved rates indicate to me that creative and cooperative problem solving has occurred, and I am proud that members of UNLV's community could be part of that endeavor. The Center for Academic Enrichment and Development – under the capable direction of Bill Sullivan, associate vice president for retention and outreach, and Tracy Cotton, executive director of the center – has helped achieve demonstrable results, and its work represents just the type of effective community partnership that I encourage. I believe it illustrates in a very heartening and tangible way the kind of impact a premier metropolitan university can have on the larger community it serves.

Harter
Upcoming Season Features Variety of Artistic Events

by Jennifer Vaughan

Spring events at the College of Fine Arts and the Performing Arts Center continue the tradition of extraordinary achievement for the arts at UNLV. Following is just a sampling of scheduled events.

The Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery presents the Survival Research Laboratory 25th Anniversary Exhibit Jan. 12- Feb. 7. This exhibition highlights the wide range of work produced by founder Mark Pauline and the Survival Research Laboratory over the years. Included in the gallery exhibition will be documentary video screenings of past performances, machine artifacts built for past performances, and still images from past events. A live performance in honor of the anniversary is scheduled for Feb. 7 in the Sam Boyd Stadium parking lot.

The Performing Arts Center welcomes The Chieftains on Jan. 31. Regarded as the most famous exponent of traditional Irish music in the world, the Chieftains have won numerous accolades, including five Grammy awards. The Chieftains have circumnavigated the globe many times, making new friends in every corner of the earth. Their virtuosity is peerless, and their spirit is infectious.

Jeffrey Koep, dean of the College of Fine Arts, will direct the Nevada Conservatory Theatre production of *Lenny*, the story of comic Lenny Bruce, who was ahead of his time in challenging traditional thinking. With the courts locking up his words until now, one can see just how far ahead of his time he was. Evening performances are at 8 p.m. Feb. 6-7 and 12-14, while matinees will be at 2 p.m. Feb. 8 and 15.

Sir James Galway will perform March 26 as part of the Best of the New York Stage series. Internationally regarded as both a matchless interpreter of the classical repertoire and a consummate entertainer, Galway's charismatic appeal crosses all musical boundaries. His unique sound, superb musicianship, and dazzling virtuosity on the flute have made him one of the most respected and sought-after performing artists of our time.

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