Inside UNLV

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Shadow Lane Campus Opens

by Cate Weeks

As spring semester drew to a close, UNLV reached another milestone in its nearly 50-year history: the opening of its first regional campus. Located in the heart of Las Vegas’ medical district, the Shadow Lane campus is the home for the School of Dental Medicine as well as for UNLV’s work in biomedical sciences and biotechnology development.

Directed by Penny Amy, the campus is comprised of three buildings. In April, administrators and campus services personnel, including 20 employees from public safety, facilities, information technology, purchasing, and environmental health and safety, joined the campus.

“The whole concept of this campus extends the work UNLV is already doing in teaching, research, and service in the community into new areas.” Amy said. “We are not only expanding physically into excellent facilities, we are expanding academically into new areas of research and training. It is helping UNLV establish itself in biomedical research/training and biotechnology.”

In May, the dental school moved from scattered locations across the main campus to Shadow Lane. “We are, of course, very excited about all being together in one location,” said Dr. Patrick Ferrillo, dean of the dental school and vice provost for the division of health sciences. “But I think what the students and faculty both are most excited about is the advanced technology that they will be using in their training.”

Penny Amy, director of the new Shadow Lane campus, is shown inside one of the campus’ three buildings during renovation.

Low-Cost Clinic

In addition to classrooms and faculty offices, the facility includes a clinic with fully-equipped patient-treatment areas.

The clinic provides low-cost services to Southern Nevadans and expects to accommodate 110,000 patient visits a year in its 165 treatment bays by the 2005-06 academic year.

Colbert Awarded Top Classified Honor

by Holly Ivy De Vore

Since joining the staff as a serials supervisor in 1998, Rebecca Colbert has seen the library at the William S. Boyd School of Law evolve and improve.

“Our move into the new building in 2003 has been the most stressful thing in my job,” said Colbert, recipient of this year’s President’s Classified Employee of the Year Award. “We had to integrate the materials on the shelves with the materials in storage, and that was very challenging. We have over a quarter-million volume equivalents.

“We’re a small library staff of 14 so there’s a lot of shared responsibility. That has been great because I have been able to learn a lot more working here than I would have in a larger library,” she said.

Colbert oversees the routing system for journals and periodicals, copy catalogs periodical titles, and proofreads and writes a column for the library’s newsletter.

Her supervisor, Nancy Downing, said that Colbert has gone beyond the scope of her job description by editing professional papers, proctoring exams, editing a technical services manual, and troubleshooting software and hardware.

“Rebecca has proved a particularly good choice for this start-up library because of her organizational skills and her professional attitude with the law faculty and law librarians. She has made herself aware of the needs of the organization and frequently suggests methods and approaches that are adopted by the entire staff,” Downing wrote in a letter recommending Colbert for the award.

The Las Vegas native earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from UNLV and joined the staff after working toward a Ph.D. at Arizona State University; she recently completed a master’s degree in library sciences through a distance-education program at the University of North Texas.

Others Recognized

Colbert, as well as second-place winner Robert “Andy” Anderson of the alarm shop and third-place recipient Becky Boulton of the Graduate College, were presented their awards by President Carol C. Harter in April. Colbert received $1,000 and a free book.
At this year's recent faculty recognition ceremony and reception, we set aside time in the busy life of our campus to acknowledge the exceptional accomplishments of more than 75 faculty and staff members. These are the members of the university community who—through their dedication to teaching, service, and/or scholarly activity—received one of the many awards we present to recognize outstanding achievement. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few of the top honors awarded and talk briefly about the deserving faculty and staff members who received them.

The first award I would like to discuss is perhaps the most prestigious of the honors bestowed by UNLV: the Distinguished Professor Award. The award, which was established in 1986 to recognize and reward the contributions of international or national dimension by a faculty member, is not presented every year; it is given only when a nominee is deemed sufficiently meritorious.

This year's recipient is mechanical engineering professor Robert Boehm, who has an exemplary record of teaching, research, and service on our campus. Since joining the UNLV faculty in 1990, Boehm has developed and taught courses on solar energy utilization, radiation heat transfer, design of thermal systems, and entertainment engineering among others. Also the inaugural recipient of the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award, Boehm was instrumental in establishing the Center for Energy Research at UNLV and in developing our macrotheme related to entertainment technology. He is an extremely well-respected researcher, a superb teacher, and a dedicated member of the campus community, and it is my pleasure to congratulate him on receiving this award.

Three other individuals I would like to acknowledge were among the recipients of the UCCSN Board of Regents awards this year. First, art professor Catherine Angel was selected from nominees from throughout the entire UCCSN system to receive the Board of Regents' Creative Activity Award. This award was established by the board in 1993 with the goal of recognizing significant accomplishments that bring national and international stature to the system. Angel, a member of the art department faculty since 1991, is a highly regarded photographer whose work has been included in many prestigious books, periodicals, exhibits, and collections. She has also been integral to the continuing development of the photography program at UNLV.

Additional Board of Regents award recipients include those acknowledged for their support of academic advising. Vice provost for academic affairs and political science professor Michael Bowers received the Regents' Academic Advisor Award for his work with undergraduates, and Shashi Namibian, a professor of civil and environmental engineering and the director of the Transportation Research Center, received the same award for his work with graduate students. I am pleased these individuals, as well as Catherine Angel, have been acknowledged at the national level.

Another significant honor is the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award. This year’s recipient, continued on page 3

History department chair Hal Rothman says he is honored to have been chosen as the third recipient of the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award. Well known for his quotability, Rothman often fields calls from journalists looking for expertise on topics ranging from Las Vegas history to Britney Spears' ill-fated plunge into matrimony.

Rothman Earns Research Award

by Holly Ivy De Vore

During his 12 years at UNLV, history department chair Hal Rothman has taken on the highly visible role of Las Vegas commentator—talking about the history and future of his adopted hometown in publications and on television shows nationwide. He once again found himself in the spotlight this spring when he became the third recipient of the annual Harry Reid Silver State Research Award.

Funded by the UNLV Foundation, the award recognizes faculty who engage in research that is both highly regarded and responsive to the needs of the community and state.

"Hal Rothman epitomizes all that this award stands for," said President Carol C. Harter. "Through his scholarship, media appearances, and public appearances, he has become one of the nation's leading experts on tourism, travel, and post-industrial economies. We at UNLV appreciate all of Hal's work and are proud of his accomplishments."

Included with the recognition was a $10,000 stipend.

"It's a tremendous honor," Rothman said. "You work your whole life and basically nobody notices, and it is gratifying to be noticed.

"I believe that research and teaching are intertwined. You keep growing and learning throughout your career, and you transmit that to students every day. I'm 20 years into my career, and I've always been focused on writing, research, teaching, and learning."

Since joining UNLV in 1992, Rothman has been interviewed by media outlets nationwide on myriad topics, including the city's history, water resources, casinos, the impact of growth on the valley, suicides in Las Vegas, and traffic gridlock. He even commented on Britney Spears' short-lived Las Vegas marriage.

"People often refer to me as an expert in tourism, travel, and post-industrial economics. When I moved here in 1992, I didn't have a lick of knowledge about Las Vegas or its history. I had been writing about tourism before, and moving here really taught me about how tourism works," he said.

"Basically, about 10 years ago my phone started ringing (with calls from the media) and it hasn't stopped. I am a rare historian who writes about the contemporary world. It seems that there are more people interested in things that are modern."


Rothman also is active in the community that he analyzes. He helped found Midbar Kodesh Temple and has spent his free time coaching youth sports, cycling, and supporting the expansion of the public library system and the establishment of a regional trail system. This spring, he was appointed to Clark County's Community Growth Task Force, which was created to study the impact of the valley's growth on the quality of life.

Rothman looks forward to the challenge.

"In a sense I've been seen as a commentator on the city by news organizations nationwide. I accepted the position with the task force because I believe that something good will come out of it. Growth, which our city has been based on, is really the singular issue here and the most important one," he said.

"Living in Las Vegas has been exciting and the opportunities have been endless. My family and I have tried to help make the city better and it has become home to us."
Four Barrick Recipients Named

by Caryn Key

Four faculty members whose work represents the academic diversity of UNLV have been named recipients of the 2004 Barrick awards.

Selected as this year’s Barrick Distinguished Scholars are Gregory Schraw of the College of Education and Alan Simmons of the College of Liberal Arts. Both will receive a one-time stipend of $5,000.

Chosen to receive the 2004 Barrick Scholar Awards in the amount of $2,500 each are Daniel Allen of the College of Liberal Arts and Zhongbo Yu of the College of Sciences.

Gregory Schraw, educational psychology

Schraw has been a highly active scholar since earning a Ph.D. in cognition and learning from the University of Utah 14 years ago. In a recent productivity study conducted by Northern Illinois University, Schraw was ranked as the second most published educational psychologist of the past five years and was further named the discipline’s third most productive scholar of the last 10 years. He is also the recipient of the 2000 Richard Snow Career Achievement Award presented by the American Psychological Association.

Improving educational theory and practice is Schraw’s primary focus. His research emphasizes four areas: metacognition (monitoring one’s own thinking); situational interest (the degree to which individuals experience spontaneous interest in a phenomenon); epistemological beliefs (assumptions about the origin and acquisition of knowledge); and relevance effect (the impact of highlighting relevant information when teaching).

Schraw has served two terms as a visiting research scholar at the University of Toulouse in France and is currently the co-director of the UNLV Center for Evaluation and Assessment housed in the department of educational psychology.

Alan Simmons, anthropology

Simmons, the second recipient of the Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award, has spent more than 25 years conducting studies associated with the Neolithic Revolution – the period during which humans moved away from hunting and gathering and began adopting food production strategies. In 1998, he received a Barrick Scholar award for outstanding work in this field and has been the principal investigator on more than $500,000 in competitive research grants.

Simmons is currently participating in two major projects and hopes that information from each will help uncover answers to some of the mysteries of this era of ancient history. First, he is compiling several years of documented findings (discovered at a “pre-pottery” excavation site in Ghwair, Jordan) and finalizing them into a comprehensive analytical document to be shared with other scholars and professionals. Working closely with Simmons is Mohammad Najjar, co-director of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, as well as a team of UNLV graduate students.

His second project, which began in earnest on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus in 2002, has revealed significant information challenging some existing theories about the evolution of societies in that part of the world. One of those findings involves the timeframe during which cattle appeared on the island. As a result of his efforts in Cyprus, Simmons has been accepted into the Fulbright Scholarship Program.

To learn more about the Barrick Scholar Awards, go to www.unlv.edu/research/bascriteria.html

These award winners for their commitment to teaching, which is, of course, essential to our goal of creating and maintaining a student-centered learning environment here at UNLV.

The awards for Classified and Professional Staff Members of the Year were also recently presented. This year’s classified staff award recipient is Rebecca Colbert, a library technician in the law library at the William S. Boyd School of Law. The 2004 Professional Staff Member of the Year is Anita Stockbauer, director of Learning Enhancement Services. Both of these staff members are committed to their respective professional endeavors and to the support of students. We appreciate their service to the university community.

I am also pleased to once again acknowledge the recipients of the awards for part-time instructors. The recipients of the award this year are Mary Olsson, of the English department; Barbara Paulsen, nutrition sciences; Paul The, chemistry; Matthew Luck, educational leadership; and Rosemary D’Amato, architecture. My congratulations to these individuals; I am extremely pleased that we have been able to expand our rewards system in the last two years to offer recognition to this group.

These are just a few of the many awards presented this year. I have tried to touch on the top awards in several categories to offer an overview; I recognize, however, that there are a great many more important honors bestowed each year, and I wish I could acknowledge all of them in this column. I am sorry I do not have the space to do so, but I do value the dedication the recipients clearly possess, as well as their creativity and old-fashioned hard work. The accomplishments indicated by these yearly awards illustrate to me that the recipients are willing to go beyond the call of duty in their professional lives. I appreciate the kind of commitment that the awards represent; they offer a glimpse of the wonderful talent, skill, and ability present on our campus.

Harter

Continued from page 1

history professor Hal Rothman, an internationally known scholar and a leading analyst and commentator on political, social, and economic issues in Southern Nevada. As his work is discussed at length in an article in this issue, I will limit my discussion of his extensive accomplishments in this column but offer him my congratulations.

I would also like to note this year’s recipients of the universitywide Distinguished Teaching Awards, which were established to highlight the importance of teaching at our institution. The 2004 awards were presented to five recipients: Donald Bell, food and beverage management; Roberta Williams, biological sciences; Peggy Perkins, educational psychology; Pradip Bhomik, chemistry; and Colin Loder, history. We congratulate these award winners for their commitment to teaching, which is, of course, essential to our goal of creating and maintaining a student-centered learning environment here at UNLV.

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From the Dean's Desk

by Richard Morgan, William S. Boyd School of Law

In previous publications, I have written about the high ambitions of the William S. Boyd and of our success in assembling an excellent team of faculty, staff, students, and community supporters to pursue those ambitions. Simply put, we want to build a great law school for Nevada, and since opening our doors to students in 1998 we have sought to do just that.

Having achieved provisional and full accreditation from the American Bar Association at the earliest possible times – June 2000 and February 2003, respectively – we set our sights on garnering membership in the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), a prestigious organization whose members are at the heart of the legal academy. During 2003 we filed our AALS application, hosted a site visitation team, responded to its (very positive) report, and appeared at hearings of two AALS committees. All of this resulted in our admission to the association in January, the earliest possible time.

At the AALS annual meeting, at which membership was bestowed upon us, the Boyd School of Law hosted a reception to celebrate this significant accomplishment. At that reception, a number of leaders of legal education commented on the remarkable progress our school has made and the rapid, record-breaking pace of our qualification for membership. That we have moved so rapidly to this point is a tribute to the hard work of our faculty, staff, and students; to the great support we have received from the community and state; and to the leadership of President Harter and Provost Alden.

When the school recruited its first class, we were pleased to have 450 applicants for 140 seats. Now, six years later, we have an applicant pool of 2,200 for the same size class. This dramatic increase in the number of applicants reflects the dramatic progress we have made over those years. Also reflective of that progress is the recognition by U.S. News and World Report of our school as one of the top 100 law schools in the country, which is quite remarkable for a school so young.

Of course, rankings must be taken with several grains of salt. They are based on a very few factors, including a highly subjective reputational survey, and the selection of different factors or different survey subjects could easily produce different results. But, U.S. News' result is still significant for the Boyd School of Law, for it shows that we are achieving a reputation as a very good law school. Whether or not we are the 82nd best law school in the country, as the magazine claims, we are a good law school, one that has developed rapidly to compete well with the approximately 190 accredited U.S. law schools.

We look forward to continuing to develop as we pursue our quest to build a great law school for Nevada. Thanks for your interest in the school and for being a part of a very supportive community. If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact me at morganr@ccmail.nevada.edu.

News FROM THE COLLEGES

Business

Keith Schwer, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and professor of economics, was the guest speaker at the 2004 Las Vegas Perspective book launch. The title of his speech was "2004 Perspective Survey: Community Values." The event was held at the Orleans Arena on April 27.

The Las Vegas Perspective, published since 1981, is a comprehensive profile of Southern Nevada that includes information on demographics, community, business and industry, real estate, retail, and tourism.

The college sponsored the event and much of the information contained in the book is based on original research from a communitywide survey conducted by the Center for Business and Economic Research.

Professor Mary Riddell, the associate director of the center, is stepping down from that position to become a full-time assistant professor in the economics department.

Education

College leadership and faculty believe it is essential that each teacher education graduate employed in local schools has the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to meet the needs of the rapidly changing demographic landscape of classrooms in Clark County. Last year, the Clark County School District (CCSD) reported the limited-English-proficient (LEP) learner population at 53,719. This means that nearly every district teacher will have some students who are not proficient speakers of English.

Faculty have made appropriate curriculum changes to ensure that graduates are able to facilitate the achievement of LEP K-12 students through specialized instructional practices and comprehensive knowledge of the unique characteristics of these learners. Maria Ramirez, department of curriculum & instruction, and Lori Navarrete, special education, designed a course titled Second Language Pedagogy for Students in Inclusive Classrooms. This course is cross-listed between the departments of curriculum & instruction and special education and is required for all teacher education graduates.

Graduate students will be required to include 12 credit hours of English as a second language endorsement for graduation. This program change demonstrates the ways in which the college strives to prepare highly qualified teachers.

Engineering

The colleges of Engineering and Fine Arts hosted a "Conversation on Entertainment: Engineering and Design" on April 21. The all-day event, attended by industry experts from across the country, faculty, and friends of the university, focused on the new entertainment engineering program at UNLV – an interdisciplinary field of study that examines the intersection of engineering and fine arts. Attendees explored the potential, possibilities, and impact of technology on the entertainment industry conducts business and engages the community. The lively discussions that took place will help the colleges shape the curriculum for this new program to benefit both students and industry.

The keynote speaker at the "Conversation" was Rick Gray of Wynn Design and Development. Three panel discussions covered structure, motion and transportation; visual and audio; and communications, media, and digital convergence. Special presentations on specific aspects of entertainment engineering were given by Entertainment Engineering, Inc.; Mike Creative; Strand Lighting; and The Meeking Solutions. The event was sponsored and produced by Judi Dohn of Ventus Catalysts, LLC, and supported in part by grant funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Technology Administration, EPSCoR program.

Fine Arts

The UNLV Indoor Drumline received accolades during the 2003-04 school year from the American Drumline Association. The 23-member group was first place in the collegiate division of an association-sponsored competition in Apple Valley, Calif., and placed second out of 42 groups overall. In May, the percussion ensemble placed second at the association's national championship in Santa Fe Springs, Calif. This was the drumline's first year back in the competition after winning the national championship in 1997.

Nominations were recently accepted for the George Sidney Award and induction into the Nevada Entertainer/Artist Hall of Fame. The George Sidney Award is given annually to honor individuals in all areas of the arts and entertainment including, but not limited to, dance, music, architecture, comedy, art, theater, film, and writing. The award was named for legendary director George Sidney, who last year was the first inductee into the Nevada Entertainer/Artist Hall of Fame.

The Nevada Entertainer/Artist Hall of Fame Nominating Committee will review all nominations and forward a list of potential inductees to the Dean's Advisory Board for final selection.

The next Nevada Entertainer/Artist Hall of Fame award ceremony will be held Sept. 11.

Graduate

The following students received awards at the annual research forum sponsored by the Graduate & Professional Student Association and the Graduate College in April:

• Science & Engineering Platform Session: first place, Christine Serway, biology; second, Markus Mika, biology; third, Jose Christiano Machado Jr., civil & environmental engineering.

• Humanities & Social Science Platform Session: first place, Rachel Shinnar, hospitality administration; second, Matt McCruden, educational psychology; third, Anne Poliquin, educational psychology.

• Science & Engineering Poster Session: first place, Tandis Bidgoli, geoscience; second, Malika Baghrouz, biology; third, Peter Druschke, geoscience.

• Social Science Poster Session: first place, Stephanie Stowman, psychology; second, a joint project by Charles Palmer, history; Jennifer Hansen, anthropology, and Susan B. Jones, environmental studies; third, Linda Frairton, psychology.

• Humanities Poster Session: first place, Brett Campbell, educational psychology; second, Cynthia Herron, curriculum & instruction; third, Spencer Holt and Jennifer Hurwitz, educational leadership.

Congratulations to all participants.

Health Sciences

School of Nursing faculty are preparing to welcome Carolyn Yucha as the school's inaugural dean.
She is currently a professor and the associate dean for research at the University of Florida.

She earned a doctorate in physiology from the State University of New York and holds a master's degree in adult health nursing. She is editor of the journal Biological Research for Nursing and has received research funding from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research, and National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Yucha's recent publications have focused on biofeedback modalities and blood pressure, relaxation strategies for patients with chronic pain, and hemodynamics and arterial properties in response to mental stress in subjects with borderline hypertension.

Yucha has made numerous international and national presentations and will be instrumental in extending the school's research activities. She said she accepted the position because she "believes it to be an exciting time in the development of the nursing programs at UNLV. The school's current programs provide a strong foundation for future growth and development."

Honors

The college is creating an atmosphere to encourage students to strive for prestigious national and international scholarships such as the Rhodes, Gates Cambridge, Harry Goldwater, Harry S. Truman, and Rotary Ambassadorial scholarships. Students will be informed of the potential scholarships during their freshman year and will be encouraged to build their academic credentials through careful study, significant volunteer work, and strong writing and speaking skills.

The college will host information sessions to encourage students across the campus to apply for these prestigious scholarships.

UNLV students have been awarded many of these scholarships in the past. Recently, Stephanie Freer, an Honors College student in foreign languages, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Wurzburg, Germany, during the 2004-05 academic year. The college hopes that her achievement will inspire other students to pursue similar scholarships in the future.

Liberal Arts

Several college faculty members recently received awards. Alan Simmons of anthropology received the Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award, while Daniel Allen of psychology received the Barrick Scholar Award.

Joseph McCullough of English was recognized as the UNLV Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member, while Mary Olssen, also of English, was presented an award for Outstanding Teaching by a Part-Time Faculty Member. Professor Hal Rothman of history received the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award, the most prestigious research award given by the university. Colin Loader of history was one of five faculty recognized as UNLV Distinguished Teachers.

College awards went to John Sweetnam of anthropology, the Donald Schmeidele Service Award; Margaret Harp of foreign languages, the Rita Deinann Abbey Teacher of the Year Award; Gregory Brown of history, the Morris Scholarship Award; and Paul Worth of history, the Morris Teaching Award. Kari L. Park, an anthropology major, received the Vista Award as the college's outstanding graduating senior.

This will be the last submission written under the direction of Dean Jim Frey. He will retire June 30 after 30 years of service to UNLV, the college, and the department of sociology.

In addition, the college acknowledges the long-term dedication and leadership that professor Steve Parker has applied to the very successful University Forum lecture series. After 18 years, Parker, who was the series' founding coordinator, has decided to turn the direction of the series over to someone else. His contributions to the success of the series have been significant and are appreciated by all who are familiar with the variety and quality of the lectures that have been presented over the years.

Douglas Peterson, emeritus professor of music, left, and Donald Moyer, who served as chancellor of Nevada Southern University before the school became known as UNLV, were among the approximately 75 former professors and administrators who attended a spring semester breakfast recognizing their contributions to the university.

Carol C. Harter presented the UNLV Distinguished Service Award to Larry Ruvo, senior managing director of Southern Wine & Spirits. The brunch is an opportunity to reunite alumni, many of whom may have worked at UNLV as students. It also provides them a chance to catch up with faculty before attending the country's largest wine tasting event.

Hotel

The college hosted the third annual UNLV Alumni & Friends Brunch on May 1 to mark the 30th anniversary of the scholarship fund-raiser. Celebrating the accomplishments of executives who have made an impact on the hospitality industry, the event brought together more than 250 people.

One highlight was the presentation of the Alumnus of the Year Award to Tony Santo, '84. A 22-year veteran of the gaming industry and senior vice president of Caesars Entertainment Corp., Santo was honored for his ongoing support of the college and for his exceptional career.

Additional award recipients included Cristina Mariani-May, executive vice president, Banfi Vintners; Joe Louis Barrow, senior vice president, The First Tee, World Golf Foundation; Paul Dykstra, CEO, GES Exhibition Services; Playa and George Markantonis, CEO of Atlantis, The Palm, on Dubai. President

Libraries

The UNLV Libraries will unveil its new website beginning with the second summer session on June 7. In addition to its new look, the site will feature easier navigation and more direct links to the branch libraries.

Students, faculty, and staff will be able to check their library account directly from the front page as well as search for books, journal and newspaper articles, videos, DVDs, and music CDs from links there. Information on library hours and access to course reserves will be only a click away.

New and improved sections will provide better access to information on library services and policies, collections, help and instruction, and specialized Nevada and Las Vegas materials.

Sciences

The department of biological sciences is establishing the Center for Aridland Biodiversity Research and Education (CABRE).

The arid regions of western North America are fragile ecosystems and landscapes. Desert plants and animals have evolved unique adaptations to very stressful environments over millions of years. Once gone, desert-adapted species and the delicate ecosystems they build will not be replaced by further evolutionary processes in millions of years, if ever. As is obvious to those who live in Southern Nevada, humans are encroaching on the desert at a dizzying pace. Society is urbanizing large expanses of the Mojave Desert faster than it is developing its ability to understand and investigate the impacts of that development on critical components of biodiversity in this ecological neighborhood. The urbanization of the Las Vegas Valley has consequences well beyond just Southern Nevada. Pollution and water issues in the valley impact the entire Southwest.

The Center for Aridlands Biodiversity Research and Education will position UNLV as a leader in addressing the risks that rapid human expansion into Southwest arid lands presents for biodiversity. The center will develop proactive approaches to characterizing, analyzing, and prioritizing biodiversity studies across the arid lands of western North America.

A number of initiatives are under way at local, state, and federal levels to enhance understanding of biodiversity patterns and processes. A principal goal of CABRE is to develop an infrastructure at UNLV that will give the university high visibility and credibility in these arenas.

University

A number of significant developments have occurred recently as University College moves toward its official opening in the fall. Much of the infrastructure is now in place as courses have been fleshed out and degree requirements finalized.

The new website for the college, unlvcollege.unlv.edu, is up and running and provides a significant amount of information for all interested parties, including students and other members of the university community.

Already, strong interest has been voiced by a number of students who look forward to both the...
Patrice Hollrah (Writing Center) presented "We Must Be Masters of Our Circumstances: Rhetorical Sovereignty as Political Resistance in Zitkala-Sa's Stories" at the Native American Literature Symposium that took place in Minneapolis in April. She was also the exhibit coordinator for the books and crafts exhibit.

Katherine L. Rankin (UNLV Libraries) presented "Tracing the Las Vegas Landscape Through Maps: A Cartographic Journey Through Las Vegas History" at a meeting of the Western Association of Map Libraries. The meeting took place in Chico, Calif., in April.

David Tanenhaus (History and Law) has a meeting of the Western Association of Map Libraries. Making.

Cartographic Journey Through Katherine L. Must Be Masters of Our Circumstances': Rhetorical that took place in Minneapolis in April. "Tracing the FBI, and the banking industry.

any undergraduate student, then as an employee at the companies, including the military, the security alarm systems with co-worker Mike was trained in the Navy and have done this type of work my whole life," he said, noting that he has worked on sophisticated alarms for a variety of agencies and companies, including the U.S. military, the FBI, and the banking industry. "The job at UNLV was just perfect timing and a great opportunity. This is a beautiful place to work." Harold Archibald, executive director of facilities management, said Anderson’s expertise has saved the university tens of thousands of dollars.

"In the past year alone, he has supervised the installation of three complete fire alarm systems and 14 security systems for the campus at reduced costs. The most recent accomplishment was the installation of a complete fire alarm system for our Shadow Lane campus. The entire project was completed in house for less than $45,000, and we had an estimate from an outside contractor for $11,000," Archibald wrote in a letter of recommendation. He also praised Anderson for his focus on customer service.

Boult’s decision to come back to UNLV because it seems like home to me," Boulton said. "For three years, I was working full time and was a graduate student, too. I think this combination was good for me because I learned how to be more empathetic to graduate and professional students’ wants and needs."

In a nominating letter, Paul Ferguson, vice president for research and graduate studies, praised Boulton for her work as the primary staff member for the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA), which represents approximately 5,000 students. She serves as office manager and computer lab coordinator for the GPSA’s lounge in the Lied Library and maintains its financial records and correspondence.

"She has developed a reputation as an unequaled worker on behalf of students and as the ‘glue’ that keeps the GPSA on a consistent path over the years despite the expected changes in student leadership," Ferguson said.

George Stelluto (Music) received the Bruno Walter Memorial Prize and has been invited to join the artist diploma program at the Juilliard School in New York City. He is the first conductor invited to join this highly competitive professional-development program. Juilliard describes the program as existing for a few highly gifted and experienced performing musicians pursuing specific artistic and professional goals. He will work with renowned conductor and Juilliard faculty member James DePreist, other members of the Juilliard faculty, and professional conductors, artists, administrators, and organizations.

Frank Serfani (Curriculum & Instruction) recently published an article titled "Images of Reading and the Reader" in the International Reading Association’s journal, The Reading Teacher. The article developed from a study of the images of reading and readers contained in children’s picture books. He also presented this study in 2002 at the World Congress of the International Reading Association in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Thomas W. Bean (Curriculum & Instruction) presented the paper "Notions of Freedom in Multicultural Young Adult Literature" at the Conference of the International Education Society in Salt Lake City.

Cynthia Chavez (Graduate College) was named Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for March. An administrative assistant II, she has worked at UNLV since 1999.

Erika Engstrom (Communication Studies) presented "A Great Gender Divide? Male vs. Female News Anchors and Perceived Career Barriers" for a panel on the status of women in local television news at the annual convention of the Broadcast Education Association in Las Vegas.

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@csmail.nevada.edu.

Colleges continued from page 5

challenges and the flexibility offered by the new bachelor of university studies program.

The college provides advising for all undeclared students, as well as for those exploring the possibility of a bachelor of university studies. All other students should be directed to advisors in the college of their chosen major.

Any questions about the college or the degree should be directed to Tim Gauthier at ext. 5-8177.

Urban Affairs

The School of Social Work was given two planning initiatives to build bridges between the school and several community-oriented campus centers. Stacy Hardy-Desmond, social work professor and master of social work coordinator, and Ina Dorman, a social worker with the William Boyd Legal Clinic, were awarded $14,200 to develop and implement a post-master’s certificate in forensic social work. This initiative will be conducted in collaboration with the UNLV Legal Clinic. The curriculum will offer specific knowledge and skills for social workers involved in death penalty mitigation, legal aid advocacy, victim-offender restitution/mediation, child custody/visitation mediation, domestic violence, substance abuse, and the interviewing of witnesses.

The William S. Boyd School of Law will lead the planning for immigration growth program. The primary investigators are social work professor Vicky Albert, Keith Schwer of the Center for Business and Economic Research, Sylvia Lazos of the law school, and Lori Navarrete of the department of special education. Awarded $30,000, the project will convene a multidisciplinary team of faculty to begin a curriculum and research program that explores the characteristics of Clark County’s growing immigration population; its selected educational, social, and economic community impacts; and the legal and policy implications of such changes.
Shadow Lane Campus

Barrick Awards

Commission's Senior Specialist Program, which he hopes will provide a forum for disseminating his findings on the cultural development of mankind.

Zhongbo Yu, hydrology

Since arriving at UNLV in 1999, Yu has developed a graduate program in hydrology/hydrogeology and has secured more than $1 million in extramural funding to research distributed hydrology and climate modeling of watersheds. Of particular interest to Nevadans are Yu's studies of groundwater contamination at Yucca Mountain and his work related to arid lands and fragile desert environments.

Yu's success in securing large research grants has allowed him to establish a state-of-the-art hydrology-computing laboratory on campus. This facility, which will receive funding from the U.S. Department of Energy for the next five years, enables graduate and doctoral students to participate in significant research activities before they embark on careers in the environmental sciences.

Over the last five years, Yu has published more than 20 journal articles and has used his research projects to develop a series of student exercises in hydrology.

Daniel Allen, psychology

Dominating Allen's research efforts are a series of neurocognitive studies on the origin of schizophrenia, a brain disorder that is present in about 1 percent of the national population.

Findings from his ongoing investigative work indicate the presence of at least four unique schizophrenia subtypes. By understanding the functional brain abnormalities that are specific to each subtype and investigating the effects of co-occurring mental disorders such as alcoholism, he hopes to discover important clues about the causes of this physically and emotionally devastating illness. He hopes that advances in prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation can be made once the root of schizophrenia is better understood.

For his outstanding contributions in the scientific examination of brain-behavior relationships, Allen has also received two prestigious awards from the National Academy of Neuropsychology, including the Nelson Butters and Early Investigator awards.

The Barrick awards recognize faculty members who have established a record of distinguished research or have demonstrated excellence in a creative activity. These awards are funded through the UNLV Foundation by a gift from Las Vegas philanthropist Marjorie Barrick. The provost's office selects those to be honored after reviewing recommendations made by a committee of former recipients.

Points of Policy: Health Benefits

by Sam Connally, Associate Vice President of Human Resources & Affirmative Action

This year, there is some good news (for a change) concerning the state health plan. Effective July 1, most employees and retirees will realize a significant decrease in their monthly premiums.

State-Funded Plan

Although premiums for the high-deductible options increased slightly, premiums for participants in the $500-deductible option self-funded plan (which covers 90 percent of self-funded plan participants) will be reduced by an average of 53 percent. Employees paying for full family coverage with this deductible option will save $132.90 per month, with a monthly premium of $138.05. Employees paying for children's coverage will save $84.76, with a monthly premium of $42.21. Employees paying for spousal coverage will save $41.52, with a monthly premium of $120.64. Employees without additional family coverage will save $9.83, with a monthly premium of $4.53.

Health Plan of Nevada HMO

Employees who participate in the HPN HMO will experience an average reduction of 59 percent in premium costs. Employees paying for full family will save $85.82 per month, with a monthly premium of $108.11. Employees paying for children's coverage will save $59.09, with a monthly premium of $54.68, and employees paying for spousal coverage will save $55.13, with a monthly premium of $62.67. Employees without additional family coverage will save $11.60, with a monthly premium of $2.76.

Benefits Remain Constant

Benefit levels in both plans will remain constant for 2004-05, including prescription, dental, and vision benefits. Deductible levels and co-payments will also remain the same.

University’s Contribution increased

As employees evaluate the competitiveness of university salaries and benefits, it is important to keep in mind that health coverage is a significant component. Reduced premiums for 2004-05 are made possible, in large measure, by the state increasing the employer's contribution. All employees' individual health-care coverage is paid for by UNLV, whose contributions will increase from $495.68 to $558 per employee per month during 2004-05. The state also subsidizes a material portion of family coverage, with direct contributions to the state health plan ranging from $150 to $450 per month, depending on the contract.

More Details

For news and updates on UNLV's open enrollment periods for 2004-05 for the state health plan and supplementation insurance products, please visit http://hr.unlv.edu and click on "Benefits Open Enrollment for 2005." For a complete summary of benefit changes and premium rates, please visit the Public Employees' Benefits Program website at www.pebp.state.nv.us.
Approximately 2,000 students participated in spring commencement ceremonies last month. At left, graduating senior Grace Lowrey waves to her parents in the audience at the Thomas & Mack Center while talking to them on her cell phone.

Near left, Professor Sadanand Verma of mathematics carries the UNLV mace. Below, graduating senior and two-term CSUN President Monica Moradkhan is recognized during the morning ceremony as an outstanding graduate.