

Winter 2010

HRC eNews – 2010 Winter

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UNLV | HARRY REID CENTER

HRC eNews — 2010 Winter

.....ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

Safe Community Partnership, a program under the **TRC**, coordinated its annual “Home for the Holidays” campaign again this past holiday season. Partnering with Designated Drivers and more than 30 bars around Las Vegas, the service provided 705 free rides homes between Dec. 18 and Jan. 2. Alcohol arrests were up over the holidays, and alcohol crashes were down. We’re proud to play a role in the success of the season! This project is funded by the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, and the Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010, was High School Science Bowl competition day at UNLV. The Harry Reid Center led the way for volunteers from UNLV for this competition. The competition drew 32 teams from four states. **Nick Smith**, a Ph.D. student in the radiochemistry program, served as a moderator in one of the rooms. **Ed Mausolf**, also in the radiochemistry Ph.D. program, served as a room monitor, and **Sherry Faye**, Ph.D. radiochemistry student, provided scientific judge support for the competition. **Tony Hechanova** was a scorekeeper, and **Steve Curtis** was a moderator during the competition. Palo Verde High School, as a rare undefeated champion in the regionals, will be heading to Washington, D.C., from April 29 to May 4 to compete with 68 other regional teams from all over the United States for the ultimate title of national champion.

Scott Page and **Paula Garrett** led the second birding-focused field trip for UNLV’s Division of Educational Outreach to Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Nye County, Nev., Jan. 30, 2010. This trip was part of the Educational Outreach “Exploring and Travel” series, which features trips to unique and beautiful places, offering field lectures about geologic history, plant and animal life, and human history.

Denis Beller signed a contract to consult for Los Alamos National Laboratory for the next year. Topic is neutron detection for an experiment at the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE), which is an 800-MeV proton accelerator.

Denis was also recently awarded research funding from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and the ATR National Scientific User Facility at Idaho National Laboratory. The PNNL award is for a short-term project to develop radiochemistry technology to prepare samples using ultra-pure depleted uranium for DOE/NE’s MPACT project. Funding of \$35,000 was received and includes both Denis and Dave Hatchett (Chemistry). The other is for the “Development and Validation of an ATR-C Radiation Transport Model” and is a three-year project that will involve development of a detailed MCNP model of a real zero-power critical nuclear reactor at INL, followed by validation experiments that will eventually be evaluated and included in the International Handbook of Evaluated Criticality Safety Benchmark Experiments (ICSBE). The project is funded at \$225,000 and will support one doctoral student for three years or two MS GRAs for 1.5 years each, beginning now.

Dr. Lipinska and **Dr. Hemmers** received a \$600,000 grant from the Department of Energy for fundamental research on materials related to hydrogen storage for vehicular applications.

Mark Buttner and **Patricia Cruz's** group has received approximately \$40,000 in research funding for the "Sandia: spore recovery and detection levels" project.

The HRC received approximately \$683,000 in the form of a subaward from DRI for a renewable energy research project. Drs. **Allen Johnson**, **Jian Ma**, and **Bob Boehm** are co-PIs, and there is also a portion of the funding going to the Marjorie Barrick Museum for the creation of educational projects related to renewable energy.

The accredited UNLV-HRC lead activities training program has been traveling the country and receiving rave reviews for helping the contractors who are at risk of being lead-poisoned by renovating old housing. It is amazing to find in this day and age that workers still do not know the hazard exists in pre-1978 housing. The best news is organizations such as City and County Building Departments and Home Depot are accepting the fact that training is necessary and vital to preventing further lead poisonings in our nation's families and work force. **Kathy Lauckner** is responsible for this program, educating and training individuals on the hazards and safe handling of lead.

Julie Bertoia recently completed three marathons in a six-week period. The first one was the Rock 'n' Roll Las Vegas Marathon Dec. 6, 2009, where she finished in 3:29:19, placing 503rd overall, 56th female, and 14th in her age division. The second marathon was at the Lake Mead Recreation Area Jan. 9, 2010, and she finished in 3:39:56, placing 10th overall, first female, and first in her age division. The third marathon was the Rock 'n' Roll Arizona Marathon in Phoenix Jan. 17, 2010, and she finished in 3:29:30, placing 640th overall, 111th female, and 25th in her age division. Julie says running keeps her in shape physically and mentally, and she will often use her time running to plan out her day, troubleshoot problems both in the lab and out of the lab, and think about new ideas. She has signed up for several more races in 2010 to keep her focused mentally and physically. Go, Julie!

A book titled MESOAMERICAN FIGURINES, co-edited by **Aurore Giguet**, has been selected as a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title. *Choice* is a prestigious list of publications that reflects the best in scholarly titles and brings with it the extraordinary recognition of the academic library community. *Choice* editors base their selections on the reviewer's evaluation of the work; the editor's knowledge of the field; the overall excellence in presentation and scholarship; and distinction as a first treatment of a given subject in book or electronic form, originality, or uniqueness of treatment; as well as other criteria.

This past October, **Jeffrey Wedding** was asked to speak to the Archaeo-Nevada Society. The presentation was given Oct. 9, 2009, to the society at CSN and was titled "Historic Railroads of Southern Nevada — Part 1: The Union Pacific." "Part 2: The Gold Roads" will be presented sometime in February.

Diane Winslow was also asked to speak to the Archaeo-Nevada Society. Her presentation, titled "The Archaeology of S.M. Wheeler, Nevada's First State Archaeologist," took place Nov. 12, 2009, at CSN. Archaeo-Nevada Society is a local archaeological group composed of both

professional and advocational archaeologists.

Jeff Wedding and **Diane Winslow** were both awarded “Mojave Road Wagon Master Awards” for their help and support of the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association (MDHCA). The awards were presented at the Annual Mojave Road Rendezvous at the historic Goffs Schoolhouse in Goffs, Calif., in October. Diane and Jeff and have been working in conjunction with this organization, providing volunteer services with the MDHCA’s extensive libraries of historic materials documenting the history of the Mojave Desert region. Recently, they submitted a joint proposal with the MDHCA to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Leisa Rodriguez received a Professional Staff Career Enhancement Award from UNLV in the amount of \$250. She is using this award toward travel expenses for the National Council of University Research Administrators Regional Meeting taking place in April 2010.

The Environmental Compliance Training Program, being offered at the HRC through the accreditation by the U.S. EPA and managed by **Kathy Lauckner**, has been awarded a new certification to teach a renovation course. This course is designed to teach Lead Safe Work Practices to all contractors who may do work in pre-1978 housing. The HRC was one of the top five programs in the country to achieve this certification. The center's ability to offer this additional training can extend the program nationwide. This program has an added sense of importance at this time with the foreclosure crisis and the number of homes that will be remodeled for energy efficiency. If anyone has questions regarding the components of their property, Kathy would be happy to talk with them and can be reached at 895-1423.

Dr. Pietro Nivola, senior fellow in Governance Studies at the **Brookings** Institute, joined us from Washington, D.C., the week of Nov. 9. He attended several meetings with UNLV administrators and researchers and toured the campus during his five-day visit. Drs. Hemmers and Palmer provided Dr. Nivola with tours of Acciona Solar (Nevada Solar I) and the Hoover Dam during his visit.

Melanie Coffee is graduating Dec. 15 Magna Cum Laude, Phi Kappa Phi, from the College of Fine Arts (BFA). Congratulations on your hard work!

Julie and **Rich Gostic** will be graduating this semester with their Ph.D.s in radiochemistry. They have both accepted postdoc positions in nuclear forensics at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

.....EVENTS:.....

Closing Reception — “Free Range”
February 26, 6 to 8 p.m.
Marjorie Barrick Museum

Free Yoga Tuesdays

We're happy to announce that our yoga series is starting up for the spring semester. As always, the classes are free and open to the public. The classes are held in our exhibit hall from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. every Tuesday, Jan. 26 through May 18. All you need to do is bring your own mat, comfortable clothing, and some water. No reservations required.

The third annual Middle School Science Bowl competition will take place at Henderson International School (in Henderson, of course) March 6. The middle school teams will also be competing in a model solar car race April 17. If anyone wants to help UNLV and the Harry Reid Center continue leading the way for volunteers in either (or both) of these events, please let **Steve Curtis** know at 702-219-6463.

Scott Page and **Paula Garrett** will lead their third birding-focused field trip May 22, 2010, at Corn Creek Field Station at Desert National Wildlife Refuge just north of Las Vegas. Bring your binoculars, lunch, water, and comfortable walking shoes. A limited number of binoculars, spotting scopes, and field guides will be provided. Be prepared to walk approximately one mile over trails at the refuge. Travel will be in a comfortable motor coach. You may register with a credit card online by visiting <http://edoutreach.unlv.edu> or over the phone by calling 895-3394 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Course code 101EX1128
Date/time: Saturday, May 22, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Safe Communities also has a teen driver safety program called PACE Yourself! PACE is an acronym for Prevent Automobile Crashes Every day. Teams of four or five teens develop a traffic safety message in whatever creative medium they choose. They are then invited to take part in the driving relay and training March 14 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The top-100 finishers are invited to California the weekend of April 17, all expenses paid. This year, the weekend is tentatively scheduled to include Disneyland and Knotts Berry Farm. Awards are given in many categories, and winning projects reproduced in many mediums. Contact Shelby Honea at Safe Community Partnership, 895-1790, for information and sign-up forms. This is a great way for teens to get their own education while having a great time and then have their messages produced to educate other teens statewide.

Charity — The museum is collecting new and gently used books for the Jackie Gaughn Boy's & Girl's Club and Sunrise Children's Hospital.
The museum is also collecting school and teacher supplies for Paradise Elementary.
All donations can be dropped off to either the museum main office or Braunstein Library during regular operating hours. Donations accepted Nov. 23 through Dec. 23.

*****Museum Displays and Exhibits*****

Charles Liu
New American Images: American Landscapes With an Asian Influence
Nov. 13 through Dec. 13, 2009

MFA Show
Dec. 18 through Feb. 19, 2010
Opening reception 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 18

The Vagus Nerve
Nov. 20, 2009, through Jan. 6, 2010

.....NEW FACES.....

Joydeep Pal and **Muhamed Hasan** started work at the HRC Jan. 11, 2010. Joydeep received his Ph.D. from the UNLV Department of Mechanical Engineering in December 2009. The title of his thesis is "Fracture Toughness, Crack-Growth-Rate and Creep Studies of Alloy 276." Muhamed received his Ph.D. from the UNLV Department of Mechanical Engineering in December 2009. The title of his thesis is "Effects of Mechanical and Metallurgical Variables on Creep, Fracture Toughness, and Crack Growth Behavior."

A new undergraduate student, **Alex Ramirez**, is assisting the microbiology area with various tasks.

In January, we welcomed a new postdoctoral scholar, **Dr. Mustafa Alevli** (Ph. D. in Physics 2008, Georgia State University), who joins Dr. Lipinska's research group.

Earlier this month, **Wendee Johns** started assisting Ken Czerwinski with a project.

We would like to (re-)welcome **Joe Zimmerman** to the HRC. Joe previously worked with HRC up until 2007 and has been rehired as administrative assistant II. He will begin Dec. 1 and will be assigned to the front lobby desk from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Joe's position will be an important part of assisting with the increased security measures around the HRC and will be a friendly face to greet visitors.

.....ON THE MOVE.....

The new "Materials Synthesis and Materials at Extreme Conditions Laboratory" (Lipinska Group) was officially launched for research. This laboratory is the first of several planned at HRC with a focus on "Functional Advanced Materials for Energy Technologies (FAME)."

.....LINKS.....

Follow the museum on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/bmuseum>).

Friend the museum on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Las-Vegas-NV/UNLVMarjorie-Barrick-Museum/77241030402>).

Read the museum's blog (<http://barrickmuseum.wordpress.com/>).

Subscribe to the museum's YouTube channel

(<http://www.youtube.com/user/TheBarrickMuseum>).

Find out what the Rad-Chem group is up to: <http://radchem.nevada.edu/>

.....CONTACT.....

HRC eNews is a quarterly electronic newsletter to keep individuals informed about developments at the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, located on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Current and past issues of HRC eNews are available online.

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