Promoting Awareness of the UNLV University Archives
Exhibits & Digital Collections

Welcome to the Digital Collections & Exhibits page. These digital collections and exhibits are taken from the unique materials housed at UNLV Special Collections. They show the scope and diversity of materials available to researchers. The UNLV Special Collections Image Gallery provides a sample of the various photographic, artwork, and other visual media available within the UNLV Special Collections. The image above, from the Bision’s Horseshoe Collection, is part of the World Series of Poker: A Retrospective exhibit. Click here to access the UNLV Libraries Digital Collections page.

Digital Collections

The Historic Landscape of Nevada

The persistence of the natural landscape and predominantly wild ecology of Nevada has created one of the greatest challenges facing the people of Nevada and the natural world at present. To maintain a balanced approach to this digital exhibit, the Historic Landscape.
“Celebrating 50 Years!”
Virtual Exhibit
Why Was It Created?
First Building on Campus
Campus Leaders

UNLV Presidents and Campus Leaders

Welcome to the UNLV Presidents and Campus Leaders page. Below is a brief history of each UNLV President and Campus Leader since 1951.

James R. Dickinson, 1951-1957

James R. Dickinson was appointed the first administrator and full-time instructor at the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada. He also served at its registrar. Classes were held within Las Vegas High.

William D. Carlson, 1957-1964

William D. Carlson was the Dean of Men and Student Affairs at the University of Nevada in Reno before he became Dean of the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada. During his tenure, additional land for the campus on Maryland Parkway was acquired. The first campus master plan developed and its first buildings were constructed.

Donald Meyers, 1955-1958
Timelines

Welcome to the Timelines page. On this page you will find links to several different timelines regarding the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The timelines contain the significant events, enrollment rates, university names, and the building completion dates that have helped shape the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

- University History at a Glance
- University Enrollment
- University Names
- University Building Completions

The timeline information was supplied by the book "Reinventing the System: Higher Education in Nevada, 1968-2000" by James W. Hulse with Leonard Gozcal and Jackie Allen and from the vehicle files of the UNLV Special Collections.

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History at a Glance

Special Collections at UNLV

Welcome to the University History at a Glance page. This page provides a timeline of significant events that occurred at the university from its early days to the present. Click on a hyperlink for more information on the people and places that have made UNLV what it is today.


1951 - Extension courses are first offered in Las Vegas from the University of Nevada, Reno. James Dickinson and two part-time instructors begin teaching education classes at a local high school. The library has 1,800 donated books stored in a closet. Twenty-eight students sign up for classes, and the population of Las Vegas is around 48,000.

1954 - The Nevada Legislature approves $200,000 for a building for the Southern Regional College of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Nevada Southern Fund is established and a door-to-door campaign led by Dr. R. G. (Gal) Gray raises $30,000 to buy additional land.

1955 - Maudie Frazier, a retired school teacher, principal, and Clarks County educator who helped get legislative support for the southern campus, is the first to sign up to start construction on the first campus building, Maudie Frazier Hall. Maudie Frazier Hall is constructed on Maryland Parkway. In 1957, William C. Carlson, dean of men and student affairs in Reno, becomes director of the southern campus. The southern campus is named Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Anthropology Hall is opened. Enrollment is up to 805. The UNLV basketball program begins under Coach Michael Drake.

1956-1958 - The Museum, now Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, the Geoscience Building (or Pong), and the Technology Building are completed. The first floor of the James L. Hefley Library is opened. The campus grows in size, and the population of Las Vegas is 127,000.

1960-1961 - The Social Sciences Building (now John S. Woolrich Hall) is completed. The campus offers its first degrees in 1964. Ronald G. Morgan is appointed chancellor in 1964. In 1965, the regionally named the school Nevada Southern University, Mileson resigns as president, and the faculty and the Division of Continuing Education are created to meet the demand for courses off campus.

1964-1966 - Students hang a banner above the campus when announcing a budget that does not accommodate Southern Nevada's growth. The campus grows at a rate of 90% per year, and the population of Las Vegas is 127,000.

1967-1968 - University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) faculty no longer attends Senate meetings in Reno. Students vote to charge themselves $27 per
University Enrollment

Timelines - University Enrollment

Welcome to the University Enrollment page. This page provides a brief timeline of the various enrollment rates in UNLV's history.

- 1951: Extension courses are first offered in Las Vegas from the University of Nevada, Reno. The classes were given at the Las Vegas High School. These classes were offered to Clark County school teachers. Twenty-eight students signed up for them.
- 1957: Maude Frager Hall becomes the first campus building to be located on Maryland Parkway. Enrollment reaches 587.
- 1960: Enrollment of fewer than 1,000 students.
- 1970: Enrollment reaches 6,660.
- 1990: Enrollment reaches 10,600.
- 1997: Enrollment exceeds 20,000.
- 2007: Enrollment exceeds 28,000.

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University Names

Timelines - University Names

Welcome to the University Names page. This page provides a timeline of the various names given to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Click on a hyperlink below for an aerial view photo of the campus during the same time period.

1957 - Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada
1959 - Nevada Southern University
1960 - University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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### University Building Completions

Welcome to the University Building Completions page. Here you will find the completion dates for many of UNLV's buildings. There are hyperlinks to the Campus Maps pages for most of the buildings listed below. Also, there are hyperlinks to older photos of some of the buildings. The older photos are supplied from the UNLV Photographs Collection. See below for several views of the UNLV campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Buildings (includes some older photos)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1957-</td>
<td>Frasier Hall (FRH) — older photo: Frasier Hall Construction Photos (NEW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958-</td>
<td>Grant Hall (GRH) — older photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959-</td>
<td>Museum (MUS) — older photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-</td>
<td>Lilly Funds Geoscience Building (LFG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-</td>
<td>Technology Building (TEC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-</td>
<td>James Richardson Library — older photo (now William S. Boyd School of Law (BSL))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-</td>
<td>UNLV Libraries — Affirmative Action Office (AAO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-</td>
<td>John S. Varsity Hall (VSC) — older photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-</td>
<td>Tompah Hall (TON)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968-</td>
<td>Donald C. Smull Student Union (SUSU) — older photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-</td>
<td>Physical Plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-</td>
<td>Business Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972-</td>
<td>Chemistry Building (CHE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972-</td>
<td>Flora D. Harwood Humanities Building (FHDB) — older photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-</td>
<td>Culinary Education Building (CEB) — older photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-</td>
<td>Fish Research Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-</td>
<td>McDonald Physical Education Building (MPE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976-</td>
<td>Harmon Hall (HMH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-</td>
<td>Janss Huey White Life Sciences Building (WHSL) — older photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-</td>
<td>Taylor Hall (TAY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-</td>
<td>Alumni Hall (ALH) — older photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-</td>
<td>Bean Hall (BBH) — older photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-</td>
<td>Thomas &amp; Mack Center (TMC) — older photo (groundbreaking October 21, 1981)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-</td>
<td>Jamie Shellen Theater (JST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-</td>
<td>UNLV Athletic Complex (UAC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-</td>
<td>Paul R. Stope Architecture Building (APC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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FAQs

Welcome to the University Archives Frequently Asked Questions page. This page addresses several reference questions regarding the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Click on a hyperlink below to access a photo, image or more information regarding a particular topic.

Q: What was the original mascot for the University?
A: The original mascot for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) was "Beauvoir". This mascot was created in 1957. It was a well-dressed man who looked like a Confederate Civil War uniform.

Q: Why was "Beauvoir" dressed in a Civil War uniform?
A: "Beauvoir" was dressed in a Civil War uniform because of the north-south rivalry between the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and UNLV. The idea was that UNLV was from the southern part of Nevada that was rebelling against its northern rival UNR. UNLV's mascot was an easy-going wolf that was in sharp contrast to the ferocious wolf pack mascot of UNR. However, over time, some students objected to the Confederate uniform that "Beauvoir" wore. Eventually, the mascot was redesigned.

Q: What was the new mascot?
A: The new mascot became a "Rebelsman". However, the title "Rebel" remained as a result of a favorable vote by a large percentage of the UNLV student body. Unfortunately, the miner mascot never really took off because residents of Nevada and UNLV students couldn't relate to a Revolutionary War figure.

Q: What was the next mascot?
A: The next mascot became "Vegas" on December 9, 1982. This new mascot was a mountain man and was designed by Mike Mine. The mountain man mascot had a big hat, mustache, and a coat. The coat had the UNLV and Rebels logo on it. The new mascot came from the idea of UNLV being an institution that was an explorer and a pathfinder.

Q: Who was the first UNLV president?
A: The first campus officer to have the title president was Donald Voge in 1964. However, William D. Parlin was the first Director or Executive Officer for the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada in 1957. 1957 was the year that the first university building was constructed on Maryland Parkway. The campus would eventually be renamed the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1969.
Who was the Target Audience?
Where is it located?
What was the response to the Exhibit?
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