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Inside UNLV

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Inside UNLV

News & Information for UNLV Insiders

JANUARY 2006

TLC Courses

The Teaching & Learning Center now has its Winter Institute schedule (Jan. 3-13) online. Courses include teaching & learning with technology enhancement as well as teaching & professional enhancement.

Second Annual MLK Celebration Jan. 19

The legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. will be celebrated at UNLV on Jan. 19 with a speech by Bruce S. Gordon, NAACP president and chief executive officer.



The free event will take place at 12:15 p.m. in the MSU ballroom. This will be the university's second celebration honoring the slain civil rights leader.

"UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students," said Sam Connally, associate vice president of human resources and diversity. "We are committed to maintaining a campus environment that values these differences. One of the ways the university can enrich the larger community is to acknowledge the differences that have separated us in the past as we forge strategies for the future. By highlighting Dr. King's work and exploring current challenges on how UNLV can promote an inclusive, welcoming, and affirming community, we hope to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of all members of our community."

The event is cosponsored by the local and UNLV chapters of the NAACP, the Urban Chamber of Commerce, and the MGM Mirage.

Casting Call Goes Out for Students Who Shine

The office of marketing & public relations is looking for well-spoken students with a positive story to tell about their UNLV experience — everything from academics to campus life.

The stories collected will be used primarily in recruitment material.

Do you have a student or two in mind who you think really shines — someone who would excel at spreading the good word about UNLV?

If so, please ask the students to contact Shannon Stevens at ext. 5-5863 or send them to studentlife.unlv.edu/call.htm.

Prepare for New Students

More than 1,500 new students are expected to join the campus community when the spring semester begins Jan. 17. Get involved by:

- Attending the university welcome ceremony at 10 a.m. Jan. 12 in the MSU ballroom.
- Wearing your "Ask Me" button and name tag.
- Answering questions and giving directions.
- Encouraging students to attend orientation sessions and welcome activities.

40 Years of Lifelong Learning

Ed Outreach Classes Available to Employees at Bargain Prices

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Want to conquer that fear of public speaking or dance the tango? Do you have an interest in fine Italian cooking or floating through the Grand Canyon?

The UNLV Division of Educational Outreach, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, offers these and hundreds of other courses, often at a discount for UNLV employees and their spouses.

"UNLV is committed to planning and providing a diverse array of programs designed to meet the diverse needs of lifelong learners," said Richard Lee, vice provost of Educational Outreach. "We are truly here to improve lives through outreach education."

The division traces its roots to 1966 when Dwight Marshall became the first dean of continuing education. The first class was a building inspection course taught by Bill Adams, then Las Vegas city manager.

Today, the division offers approximately 1,200 classes a year to more than 50,000 participants, and serves as the university's main point of access for nontraditional students, particularly adult and part-time learners. Some come for professional development — the paralegal certificate program has been particularly popular — and others want to explore interests outside work. The natural sciences and travel programs are perennial favorites. In recent years groups have visited the Grand Canyon, California wine country, Kenya, China, and Great Britain.



Photo courtesy of Rod Metcalf

Educational Outreach students prepare to float through the Grand Canyon.

Community Engagement

Through services that cross the usual boundaries of time, place, and academic disciplines, Lee said, Educational Outreach extends UNLV's resources to the growing Southern Nevada community to assist in such community needs as economic diversification.

Kristene Fisher, executive assistant to the vice provost of academic affairs, has been taking both fun and

> See **Educational Outreach**, Page 4

40-Year Anniversary Celebration

An open house reception celebrating the 40th anniversary of Educational Outreach is set for 4:30-7 p.m. March 23 at the Tam Alumni Center.

The UNLV Community Concert Band and the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society will perform.

Professor Finds Connection to Community

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Though his courses take him as far afield as Mexico and Kenya, geosciences professor Steve Rowland has found a greater connection to the community by teaching the non-traditional students in Educational Outreach.

Rowland has taught natural science and travel courses for Educational Outreach since 1979. The courses have taken him throughout Southern Nevada, to the Grand Canyon by raft, and abroad to Mexico and Kenya.

The natural history and exploring trips are so popular because many Southern Nevadans have come from other states, according to Rowland. The trips provide a great way for them to learn about their new environments while meeting people with similar interests.

Rowland said he thinks it's important for UNLV to connect with the wider Las Vegas community and that Educational Outreach is an effective way to do that.

"When I lead a continuing education trip, I interact with people from the community with whom I would not otherwise interact," he said.

"Educational Outreach is a mechanism for me to not only teach people about geology, it is a way for me to enrich the lives of my neighbors, and vice versa."

"Educational Outreach is a mechanism for me to not only teach people about geology, it is a way for me to enrich the lives of my neighbors, and vice versa."

— Steve Rowland, geosciences professor

Professors are too often perceived as being aloof and not engaged with the community. Teaching Educational Outreach courses is one way I become more engaged."

Here in Southern Nevada, geologic history is so interesting and so well exposed that it is easy to teach people the basics of how the region evolved, he said. "We try to help our participants learn as much as they are willing to absorb about the geology, desert flowers, and other natural history, without being excessively pedantic," Rowland said. "There's no quiz at the end of the day."

And an added bonus of his educational outreach courses is a captive audience of sorts. "The participants in these classes actively want to be there," said Rowland, who has taken those enrolled in his classes to places as diverse as Death Valley and the former Soviet Union. "In a traditional credit-class situation, there are always some students who would rather be somewhere else."

One of his more memorable courses took him to Kenya. "Our group was in a beautiful game park overlooking the Serengeti Plains," he said. "There was a huge Acacia tree in front of the lodge, and I gave a talk to our group about the ecology of the Serengeti Plains as they sat under that Acacia tree, with the African savanna as my backdrop. It doesn't get any better than that."

Business

Wells Fargo CEO to Speak

Dick Kovacevich, chairman and chief executive officer of Wells Fargo & Co., will speak about business ethics as part of the Wells Fargo Distinguished Speaker Series at 10 a.m. Feb. 2 in the auditorium of the Beam Music Center. The free event is open to all faculty, staff, and students.

Kovacevich became president and CEO in 1998. In 2001 he was elevated to chairman. He serves on the board of directors for Target Corp. and Cisco Systems and is a member of the Federal Reserve's Federal Advisory Council.

The speaker series provides a forum for dynamic national business leaders to address students and faculty. The presentations are intended to help students bridge the gap between the classroom and the business world. Through the program, both students and faculty will be better equipped to integrate practical experience into their base of business knowledge.

Education

Psychology Education Group Meets at UNLV

The inaugural conference of the Southwest Consortium for Innovations in Psychology in Education brought nearly 100 people to the campus in November.

Hosted by the department of educational psychology, the conference centered on the theme "Student Beliefs: Motivation, Cognition, and Epistemology."

Participants, including faculty and graduate students from across the nation and from abroad, were encouraged to present research currently in progress or to address areas of difficulty that researchers face. The conference provided new scholars and graduate students with opportunities for legitimate participation in conversations about difficult, cutting-edge research problems.

Researchers from universities in the Southwest, including UNLV, Arizona State University, the University of New Mexico, and the University of Oklahoma, formed the consortium. The goals are to establish and support research partnerships among area universities and to focus scholarly attention on innovative theory,

research, and practice related to teaching and learning issues of particular relevance to people living in the Southwest. The consortium is especially interested in providing support for graduate student research by providing a venue for them to work with national and international scholars.

Engineering

ASCE Hosts Fourth Annual Career Fair

UNLV's chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers hosted the fourth annual Engineering Career Fair in November. More than 35 engineering firms, private consulting firms, and public agencies participated. Civil engineering students and ASCE officers John McAvoy and Camille Calimlim organized the event.

Club adviser and civil and environmental engineering professor Tom Piechota said the fair "was a benefit for all participants. It gave students a chance to informally talk with employers. It afforded faculty the chance to discuss hiring needs with each of the agencies represented. And it was an opportunity for alumni to visit the university."

Student Ingenuity Exhibited at Senior Design Competition

An automatic plant watering system took top honors at the fall 2005 senior design competition hosted by the College of Engineering.

The WATS (Water According to Soil) system was the invention of seniors Houston Osemwengie and O'Dealya Price, both of the electrical and computer engineering department. They received \$2,500 for their project. Engineering professor Robert Schill served as faculty adviser on the project, while engineering professor Bill O'Donnell was the faculty instructor.

Other projects included a home security robot, an auto accident avoidance system, and a solar water distiller.

Students prepare all year for the competition, which takes place both in December and in May. The competition strives to stimulate the students' engineering innovation and provide an avenue for them to hone their entrepreneurial skills through the practical application of their

classroom experience.

The awards are made possible by donations from Harriet and Fred Cox.

Fine Arts

Fine Arts Presents Variety of Events

The Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery presents "Midas Drowned: A Complexity of Riches and Excess" by Stephen Hendee from Jan. 17 through Feb. 18. This one-person, site-specific installation investigates the culturally coded landscape of Las Vegas with experimental light sculptures.

The Performing Arts Center, currently celebrating its 30th anniversary season, welcomes the Budapest Festival Orchestra with violinist Renaud Capucon on Jan. 11 as part of the Charles Vanda Master Series. Called "one of the world's greatest" by London's *The Guardian*, the Budapest Festival Orchestra conducted by Maestro Ivan Fischer performs classic works by Wagner, Mendelssohn, and Mahler.

The series continues with P.D.Q. Bach: The Vegas Years on Jan. 29. Composer and professor Peter Schickele presents an evening of classic fun certain to include hilarious works like "A Little Nightmare Music" and the "Unbegun Symphony."

For more information, call ext. 5-2787.

Graduate

Graduate Assistantships and Funding Increase

The number of graduate assistantships offered at UNLV has grown significantly in the last several years, as has the amount of funding for the positions. UNLV offered 913 graduate assistantships this year, representing a 77 percent increase over 1999-00. Of these, 529 were state-funded assistantships, reflecting an increase of 27 percent for the same period.

Growth in the number of grant-funded assistantships is particularly noteworthy, according to Paul Ferguson, vice president for research and graduate studies. Currently, 175 assistantships are offered through nearly \$1.5 million in grant funding. These assistantships, which are funded by faculty research grants, offer graduate students the opportunity to conduct research with faculty mentors. In 2000, only 68 grant-funded assistantships were available through approximately \$859,000 in funding.

"GAs play an indispensable role on campus, serving as research team members and augmenting classroom learning," Ferguson said. "Additionally, graduate assistants themselves benefit tremendously from the experience, which provides excellent professional development opportunities.

"Because graduate students value this experience, UNLV's ability to offer financially competitive assistantships is important to the recruitment of the best and the brightest prospective graduate students."

Ferguson said assistantships support graduate education and advance the university's research agenda, both of which enhance institutional reputation in the higher education community.

Funding for graduate assistantships and fellowships are also among the college's fundraising

priorities for the Invent the Future campaign.

Health Sciences

Faculty Provides Expertise to Marathoners

Health Sciences faculty worked with the Las Vegas Track Club to provide informational seminars to runners preparing for the Las Vegas Marathon. Laura Kruskall (Nutrition) and Brent Mangus and John Mercer (Kinesiology) held seminars on such topics as the nutritional aspects of endurance performance as well as mechanisms, prevention, and rehabilitation of running overuse injuries. Mangus, along with certified athletic training students, assisted with the marathon medical team on race day.

Dietetic Internship Launched

The new dietetic internship program in the department of nutrition sciences begins this month. It already has been granted developmental accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE).

The dietetic internship is a post-baccalaureate, supervised practice program. Students who successfully complete the program are eligible to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietitians.

In other nutrition sciences news, the didactic program in dietetics received initial accreditation by CADE and will be accredited through the year 2015.

DPT Program Going Strong

The 20 students who comprise UNLV's first class in the doctor of physical therapy (DPT) program are now more than half way through the first year of the rigorous three-year program. They began their studies in June.

The DPT program is only the second clinical doctorate at UNLV. Specialized areas of study include orthopedics, sports medicine, rural health, pediatrics, geriatrics, women's health, neurological rehabilitation, and amputee therapy. Students will be required to complete 111 credit hours, including clinical education.

Hotel

Gourmet Event Funds Faculty Scholarship Program

Gourmet cuisine, spirits, and scholarships — in November, they were all rolled into one grand affair called the World Gourmet Summit.

The Harrah Hotel College was among the many organizations to benefit from the second annual event. Ten scholarships were awarded to food and beverage management faculty at a special dinner highlighting the five-day food and wine extravaganza. This funding will assist faculty in improving their teaching endeavors and create a better academic environment for students through research materials and new programs.

"The \$40,000 in faculty scholarships provided by the World Gourmet Summit will allow our faculty to pursue endeavors such as whisky distillation research, acquire research materials focusing on cultural differences, and assess the feasibility of an applied sensory science and consumer testing certificate program," said Andrew Feinstein, chairman of the food and beverage management department.



Thomas & Mack Court Named for Tark

Former Runnin' Rebel basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian is joined by UNLV President Carol C. Harter during the Nov. 26 ceremony at which the university's home court was named in honor of the legendary coach.



World AIDS Day

An AIDS ribbon on North Field formed from red and white flags helped commemorate World AIDS Day at UNLV. Passing students read profiles of individuals with AIDS that were posted near the ribbon.

The World Gourmet Summit is an event of the World Gourmet Club and the International Food and Beverage Forum in association with the St. Moritz Gourmet Festival, the Masters of Australian Food and Wine, and the Grand Gourmet Festival Dubai.

Law

Teams Fare Well At Moot Court Competition

The two teams the Boyd School of Law sent to the regional division of the National Moot Court competition both came home winners in match-ups that pitted them against 12 other teams.

The team of students Michael Giles, Christian Hale and Tom Mulkey, coached by professor Peter Bayer, won second place in the competition and will advance to the final competition in New York City, along with a team from the University of Utah. Additionally, this team won the award for the second best brief in the region. Giles was recognized as the second-best oralist in the region, while Hale was awarded fourth-best oralist.

The team of students Peg Samples, Jackie Gilbert, and Brandon Kemble won in the preliminary rounds and missed advancing to the semi-finals by the smallest of margins. It also won the award for the third-best brief in the competition. This team was coached by Terrill Pollman, the Ralph Denton Professor of Law.

The National Moot Court is sponsored by the Bar Association of the City of New York and the American College of Trial Lawyers, and is the oldest and arguably the most prestigious of law school moot court competitions. The competition this year required students to write legal briefs and present oral arguments concerning a dispute about roller coaster regulations. The students earned this opportunity by having been selected to membership in the law school's Society of Advocates.

Liberal Arts

Morales Studies Social Issues

Assistant social work professor Cristina Morales is making her mark on UNLV and her profession through work in social inequality and social demography.

Her interests focus on race, ethnicity, gender, immigration, and citizenship issues. She currently is conducting research and writing about Latina and Latino workplaces and labor market outcomes for both immigrant and native-born workers.

Morales, who is in her second year at UNLV, quickly established working

relationships with faculty throughout the university, said Ron Smith, chair of the social work department. She is conducting several joint research projects. One is the Planning for Immigrant Growth Project that she is conducting along with Sylvia Lazos, the Justice Myron Leavitt Professor of Law. A second project involves investigating immigrant labor in the local construction industry with law professor Leticia Saucedo.

Her efforts extend beyond UNLV and include assisting U.S. Sen. Harry Reid on immigration reform policies, participating in the Nevada Hispanic Summit, and speaking on immigrant issues for documentary films and radio shows. She frequently serves as speaker and panelist at professional conferences, including Sociologists Without Borders, Global Women's and Human Rights Conference, Southwest Sociological Association, and American Sociological Association.

Her teaching reflects her interests and involves courses on immigration and diversity, social inequality, and statistics. She received a mentorship award from the Honors College and recently chaperoned a group of students to the Global Women's and Human Rights Conference so they could learn about globalization research and meet many of today's civil rights leaders.

Libraries

Excellence in Undergraduate Research Reaps Reward

Faculty and staff members can help undergraduates who excel at research by recommending they apply for the new Libraries' Award for Undergraduate Research.

The award, co-sponsored by the office of research and graduate studies, was created to recognize students who demonstrate sophistication and originality in research projects. As many as four \$1,000 prizes will be awarded.

Applicants must excel in research projects that incorporate the use of University Libraries' collections and demonstrate information literacy skills. The review committee considers the product of the research, but focuses on the research process: demonstration of library research skills, adept use of library resources, and reflection on the strategies used to investigate a problem.

The award is intended for current undergraduates who will have completed a research project for a credit course at UNLV during summer 2005, fall 2005, or spring 2006.

Submitted projects will be exhibited at the library. Applicants must have a course instructor or project adviser support their application.

A panel of faculty, librarians, students, and staff will judge entries. Expectations for achievement will depend on the applicant's class year and the requirements of the discipline.

For more information on the award, visit www.library.unlv.edu/ award or contact the chair of the award committee, Diane VanderPol, at diane.vanderpol@unlv.edu.

Sciences

Astronomy/Astrophysics Program Makes Strides

Prominent scientists involved with high-profile NASA missions such as the Chandra X-ray Observatory will gather at UNLV next month for the NASA Workshop on Laboratory Astrophysics.

Hosted by physics professor Victor Kwong, a member of the scientific organizing committee, the workshop will focus on a variety of NASA projects, including the Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer, the Cassini/Huygens mission to Saturn's moon, the Spitzer space telescope, and the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA).

The presence of the NASA conference at UNLV is just one indication of strides being made by the university's astronomy/astrophysics program, said College of Sciences Dean Ron Yasbin, pointing to the addition of two new astrophysicists, Bing Zhang and Daniel Proga, as further proof that the program has achieved world-class status.

He also noted that professor George Rhee hosted an international meeting attended by 70 distinguished scientists in March. "Barions and Dark Matter Haloes" was the topic.

Currently, UNLV researchers are exploring a number of hot topics such as black holes, neutron stars, and gamma-ray bursters.

Professor Stephen Lepp has filed an application on behalf of the department seeking a master of science and a doctoral degree program in astronomy and astrophysics.

University College

Recipe for Success

The ninth annual Major Exploration Fair, which took place in November, saw a 20 percent increase in attendance compared with last year.

More than 500 students participated in the fair, which focused on

"Your Passport to Success ... A World of Choices." A full 89 percent of students who attended said they felt they had gained valuable information about majors and careers.

An increase in faculty and staff support of the event also was noted, with more than 100 faculty and staff from a diversity of departments participating.

The amazing brain teasers, geographical trivia, prizes, and treats fostered an inclusive, supportive event. Congratulations to the Hotel College for winning the gift basket for its beach motif theme.

CSUN deserves thanks for its support. Credit for the program's success also goes out to event organizers and college staff members Paula Castillo, Venicia Considine, Tara Doré, Anne Hein, Rimi Marwah, Monica McNeely, and Cheryl Tillotson.

Urban Affairs

KUNV-FM Increases Listener Membership

KUNV-FM 91.5 raised more than \$63,000 in pledges during its fall membership campaign. Membership climbed to 1,177, an increase of 16 percent.

New members included listeners in Southern Nevada and even those visiting Las Vegas from other countries, such as Canada. The station began a new program called "Buy-A-Watt." All the people who pledged were sent a certificate of wattage to indicate their "ownership" of the station.

Another highlight of the fall semester was the visit that blues legend B.B. King made to the station.

New Faculty Join College

The college welcomed five new assistant professors in 2005:

- Katherine Hertlein (marriage, family and community counseling) has a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from Virginia Tech. She specializes in infidelity, sex therapy, therapeutic writing, and child therapy.
- Jane Gauthier (criminal justice) earned a doctoral degree in psychology from Washington State University. She studies women and crime, crime mapping, and communities and crime.
- Alexis Kennedy (criminal justice) has a doctoral degree in psychology from the University of British Columbia. She researches street prostitution and cross-cultural differences in child abuse.
- Deborah Koetzle Shaffer (criminal justice) earned a doctoral degree in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati. She specializes in corrections, specifically, effective interventions for offenders.

- Paul Battaglio (public administration) earned a doctoral degree in public administration from the University of Georgia. He studies public human resource management, comparative policy and administration, and comparative political attitudes.

- Bill Smith (environmental studies) has a doctoral degree in urban affairs and public policy from the University of Delaware. He focuses on the nexus of political economy of the environment, water resources, international development, and human rights.



Swinging in the Season

(Above) UNLV President Carol C. Harter and her husband, Mike, welcome faculty and staff at the annual holiday reception. (Right) Dancing to the UNLV Jazz Ensemble are Damon Lasiter and Lael "Spider" Vetter.



(Above) Jill Theroux, Kathy Eghoian, and Jo-Anne Lancellotti of the human resources department celebrate the holidays. (Above, right) Student workers Francisco Gonzalez of the Urban Affairs Advising Center, Henry Jimenez of the office of international students and scholars, and Andres Moses of the libraries' special collections department enjoy the party.



> Educational Outreach

Continued from Page 1

professional development classes for 10 years. She said they offer her an opportunity to expand her knowledge and to network with other professionals. "I believe in lifelong learning, and many times learning in a less formal setting is the most rewarding because I am motivated by the topic and not the grade," she said.

Fisher earned a certificate in business management, which she said helps her manage her office and employees more effectively. She also takes a yoga class because it helps her better manage her hectic life.

"I really enjoyed the business management courses because of the diverse group of students and the fact that many of the instructors worked in the business field. I had the benefit of learning from their experience," Fisher said.

Educational Outreach assists individuals, businesses and industries, professional organizations, and government agencies in meeting their learning objectives and needs through conferences, non-credit and credit seminars, and courses and

workshops, as well as via distance-learning modes.

"The division has an increasingly important role on behalf of a university that envisions itself as an engaged university," Lee said. "We offer a broad range of services and launch programs that are responsive to the needs of the community."

Expanding Programs

Two years ago, the division moved to its own facility at the Paradise Campus, which includes 12 classrooms and three computer labs. Lee said having the stand-alone facility makes it easier to schedule classes that are convenient for their students.

As the division continues to expand, plans call for offering international programs as well as more programs via distance education. Expanding programs offered to businesses and organizations and offering courses at more locations also are in the plans.

"There will be an even greater demand for education in the future," Lee said. "Education pervades all aspects of life. You can't be successful in any profession without some sort of continuing education."

How to Register for an Educational Outreach Course

- All full-time academic faculty and professional staff members and their spouses are entitled to a 50 percent discount on most of the non-credit educational outreach courses. They must present their RebelCard when paying for the course.
- All full-time classified employees are entitled to a 50 percent discount on most of the non-credit educational outreach courses. An application must be completed for each non-credit continuing education course, and a representative from human resources must sign the form. Forms may be downloaded at <http://hr.unlv.edu/forms> or obtained from the human resources office.
- To receive the 50 percent discount, all faculty/staff members must apply in person at the Educational Outreach offices on the Paradise Campus.
- Registrations are not processed without payment.

i More info:
Visit edoutreach.unlv.edu

Inside UNLV

Got An Idea?

Inside UNLV welcomes comments and suggestions. Please e-mail inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu or drop a note to Inside UNLV at mail code 1024.

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