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Inside UNLV

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CAEO Removes Barriers to Education

Program Assists Disadvantaged Students With College Goals

By Caté Weeks | Marketing & PR

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach has had a lot to boast about in the past few years. Since 2001 it has received more than a dozen multi-year grants to support its projects for low-income and first-generation college students. And it offers one of the nation’s largest suites of federally funded projects that help disadvantaged students go to college and succeed.

Those accomplishments are great, said biological sciences professor Peter Starkweather, but they don’t tell the whole story. For that, he said, you need to look at how the center has enhanced the education of students like Anthony Quinn, a UNLV undergraduate.

As one of the center’s McNair Scholars, Quinn worked with Starkweather to research aquatic organisms in the desert. The experience helped prepare Quinn for the rigors of post-baccalaureate studies, the professor said.

“Anthony would make it under any circumstances,” Starkweather said, “but the center gave him the opportunity to work in research rather than flipping burgers. For me, the program offers more than another set of curious hands — it’s been a good reminder of what a joyous enterprise working with young students can be.”

Although the center was established nearly three decades ago, there are翻页

Invent the Future

Campaign Already Paying Dividends

UNLV Campaign Heads Down Home Stretch

By Brenda Griego | UNLV Foundation

Although UNLV’s Invent the Future campaign started quietly in 2002, its latest numbers speak volumes.

“The campaign is right on schedule,” said John Gallagher, vice president for development. “UNLV is now two-thirds of the way through the campaign period and, at $332 million, is also two-thirds of the way toward the campaign goal.”

Dollars At Work Across Campus

Already, funds raised are enriching student opportunities by providing new resources for faculty, reinforcing the university’s academic reputation, and strengthening its fiscal posture.

“The campaign has helped the School of Nursing better communicate with the community about our programs and greatest needs,” said Dean Carolyn Yucha. “And thanks to focused campaign fundraising efforts, Sierra Health Services recently funded three two-year fellowships for master’s and doctoral nursing students. These fellowships are helping our program recruit and retain the best possible students, and they’re also helping to address the critical shortage of well-qualified nursing faculty and nurse practitioners.”

Campaign Goal: $500 million
Gifts already received: $151 million
Pledges and bequest commitments: $181 million
Guidelines: NSHE guidelines for campaign standards, including timelines, pledge periods, and reporting, are followed.
Length of campaign: January 2002 - fall 2008. Seven years is the standard length for academic campaigns

Jeff Koep, dean of the College of Fine Arts, said, “One of our biggest campaign priorities is student development funds — having the resources necessary to support students in their artistic and performance endeavors. Thanks to great communication and publicity, one of our generous benefactors recently created a fund to help meet those needs — The Bernice Fischer Fine Arts Fund. Bernice is truly helping to invent the future for UNLV’s fine arts students.”

UNLV also has received bequest commitments from many longtime, generous supporters. Bequests are a regular part of campaign fundraising; they played an important part in the recent and ongoing campaigns by such universities as Harvard, Duke, and UCLA, Gallagher explained.

$10 Million Gift

At UNLV, a bequest is an important part of a $10 million contribution from a prominent alumnus and his wife, said Fred Albrecht, vice president of university and community relations. “Part of the contribution is an outright gift to support the alumni gateway project and part is estate-based, which will provide future resources for the university. This is the largest gift ever committed by an alumnus, and we are tremendously grateful for the support. Watch for news in the coming weeks as UNLV publicly thanks these remarkable benefactors.”

Other major contributions are funding visiting professorships, scholarships for National Merit finalists, and a program supporting entrepreneurship and technology transfer in the Engineering College.

To meet the constant need for unrestricted funding, the phonathon program has been ramped up. Students now place calls throughout the academic year to encourage alumni to support their colleges. “Reaching out to all alumni and engaging them in the life of UNLV — in many ways and at all gift levels — will be especially important for the university,” said Matt Maldon, director of annual giving.

UNLV’s campaign will end in fall 2008. “As the campus community commemorates the university’s 50th anniversary, we will simultaneously be celebrating the successful conclusion of the Invent the Future campaign,” Gallagher said. “UNLV will have much to be proud of in the coming years”

New Telephone Technology

Internet Protocol (IP) telephones debuting at the student union offer more options.

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New Faces

Get to know two more folks who are new to the UNLV campus.

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Full Steam Ahead

Scientist’s research boosted by prestigious NSF grant.

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Building A New Team

When David Ashley became president in July, he immediately faced key vacancies, including the two top academic positions on campus. Since then, new postings and pending retirements have brought the list to eight senior leadership openings. Inside UNLV recently sat down with Ashley to discuss the openings.

What brought about the turnover in senior leadership positions?

One of the underlying questions about the vacancies is, “Did they come about by my design?” The short answer is no. My intention from the moment I was given the job was the opposite. I planned to build on the strengths of the team already in place while allowing some time for us to evaluate another one and plan the changes that will take UNLV forward. My intentions, however, don’t change the fact that we do indeed have several openings — and several opportunities.

How do these openings present opportunities?

We have an opportunity to shape UNLV’s programs early and aggressively. Ultimately, I expect that we will build a team that can and will ensure UNLV reaches its goals, particularly in advancing as a research institution and as an institution that is responsive to the changing needs of its community.

What approach are you taking to fill the positions?

These positions will be filled through national searches following UNLV’s recruitment process. Because several of the positions flow from the executive vice president and provost position, I’ve made filling it my top priority. We are working with a national search firm to expedite the search. Ideally, the candidate who succeeds in landing this position will be named in time to participate in the final selection of the other open academic positions.

How do you plan to communicate the positions?

The positions will be advertised nationally in the major academic journals and on the official UNLV website. We will also utilize our social media channels to reach out to potential candidates.

How will the new team approach the challenges facing UNLV?

The new team will focus on five key areas: improving student success, enhancing research and creative activity, expanding community engagement, strengthening relationships with donors, and ensuring fiscal responsibility. Each area will have a specific plan and timeline for achieving its goals.

What can employees expect from the new leadership team?

Employees can expect a team that is committed to the University’s mission and values, and that is dedicated to providing a high-quality education to our students. The new team will work closely with faculty, staff, and students to ensure that the University remains a place where people are truly respected and valued.

How will the new leadership team interact with employees?

The new team will prioritize open and transparent communication. Employees can expect regular updates on the progress of the incoming leaders, as well as opportunities to provide input and feedback through various channels, such as focus groups and town hall meetings.

What changes can employees expect in their day-to-day work?

While specific changes may vary depending on the new leaders’ priorities, employees can expect a focus on improving processes, increasing efficiency, and promoting a healthy work environment. The new team will work to ensure that employees have the resources and support they need to succeed in their roles.
I've made filling it my top priority. We are work because several of the positions flow from the UNLV reaching its goals, particularly in advancing already in place while allowing some time for us to build on the strengths of the team. What brought about the turnover in senior leadership positions? These positions will be filled through national experience and ability to perform at a high level. He immediately faced key vacancies, including new positions and pending retirements. The choice of where to attend college education. The center's website is a quote from President John F. Kennedy: “All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talents.” That quote, Rogers said, aptly summarizes the center’s raison d’etre.

the center does not serve students based on race or ethnicity. Who qualifies for services is dictated by the requirements of the federal grants the center receives. The majority of the programs serve participants who are from low-income backgrounds or who are or will be first-generation college students. “Low-income and first-generation students have some particular challenges to college success,” Rogers said. “They often don’t have resources — such as extra help with their homework or an adult who understands the processes for admissions or financial aid — to help them succeed. Our programs don’t just serve the students; they reach out to the parents to help them be more influential in their child’s education.”

The center does not have unlimited resources. Although the center is one of the country’s largest collections of federally funded, educational-assistance programs for disadvantaged students, its reach is still limited. The center is funded to assist less than 8 percent of the disadvantaged residents of Clark County, according to Rogers. And keeping up with Clark County’s growth is also a challenge. “We can only grow as fast as the grants allow us,” Rogers said. “So, we’re being careful to grow selectively. We know our core competency is with low-income and first-generation populations; by sticking to programs that serve them, we know we can serve them well.”

“That’s one reason we try to stretch our resources by communicating with other community agencies. We avoid duplicating the services that other programs offer.” The center’s partnership programs include groups both on and off campus. In addition to working with professors at UNLV, it has partnered with local chambers of commerce, the Clark County School District, and the Boys & Girls Clubs. Another partner, Wells Fargo, has funded scholarships and provided workshops on financial literacy for students and parents.

The center supports UNLV’s goals in diversity and retention. Although not a “minority program,” the center does work with a large number of students from minority backgrounds. In secondary schools, its programs help ensure these students are ready for college-level work. On campus, the center runs the TRIO Student Support Services program, which helps UNLV students overcome some of the academic and personal difficulties that can lead to dropping out of college. The TRIO McNair program that brought Starkweather and Quinn together has the ultimate goal of promoting diversity in the ranks of college faculty. “The program clearly supports UNLV’s research agenda,” Starkweather said.

As the umbrella organization for the center, UNLV receives about 8 percent of the federal grant funding to support infrastructure, according to William Sullivan, associate vice president for retention and outreach and executive director of the center.

The center is accountable. Rogers points out that in addition to submitting to periodic audits and reviews by the federal government, the Nevada System of Higher Education, and the university, the center must comply with well-established federal guidelines for fiscal accountability and records maintenance. In addition, all CAEO grants include standard evaluation components to ensure the programs are reaching their goals. Prominently posted on the center’s website is a quote from President John F. Kennedy: “All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talents.” That quote, Rogers said, aptly summarizes the center’s raison d’etre.
Business

Global Research Center Created

The college has joined forces with China’s Zhejiang University, Stanford University, the University of Cambridge, and Purdue University to create the UNLV Global Entrepreneurship Research Center. The center will provide educational activities to inspire and build skills in entrepreneurialism.

A group of 42 executive MBA students and faculty from Zhejiang, which is located in Hangzhou, visited UNLV on Oct. 11. The students participated in a one-day program as part of their EMBA study tour of the United States. They attended a session on leadership and then interacted with UNLV students and faculty at a luncheon in the Tam Alumni Center. The students then proceeded to the new St. Rose Dominican Hospital — San Martin campus for a presentation on “creating a healing environment for health care” and a tour of the facility.

In June, Richard Flaherty, dean of the college of Southern Nevada, visited Hangzhou to formalize the agreement concerning the global center with Zhongming Wang, executive dean of the Zhejiang’s School of Management.

Graduate Nevada State GA Program Boosts Recruitment

The selection process for the Nevada State’s Grad Aid Assistantship program will be modified this year to enhance recruitment and retention of the best and brightest doctoral-level students.

The Nevada State program was established last year to attract top-notch doctoral students to UNLV in disciplines deemed of high priority to Nevada. The program provided 10 competitively funded assistantships to doctoral students in eight departments.

Although the goals remain the same, this year will bring greater collaboration with the deans of colleges with doctoral programs. A Nevada State’s assistantship will be offered to each of those deans for distribution in his or her college, as well as $1,000 in additional funds to aid with recruitment efforts.

Also, the selection process will be initiated earlier each year — in the fall instead of the spring — allowing deans and faculty more time to identify and recruit the most promising students.

For information or appointments call Ashley at ext. 5-3955 or at larry.ashley@unlv.edu.

Fine Arts

November Offerings Include Top Guitarist

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre Playwrights’ Repertory continues into November with productions plays from the MFA playwrighting program. Carissa Baok’s The Book of Nights (through Nov. 4) is about a woman who heals others in a safe house for abused and battered women but cannot heal herself. Carissa Oglesby’s Click – Boom (Nov. 10 – 19) centers on a haunted combat generation, Cobo was the first Hispanic to win consecutive Guitar Foundation of America International Guitar Generation competitions. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas for a one-night-only performance.

The UNLV Performing Arts Center presents Wynton Marsalis on Nov. 1. Simply the most outstanding jazz musician of his generation, Grammy and Pulitzer Prize-winning Marsalis comes to Las Vegas for a one-night-only performance.

On Nov. 4, the Performing Arts Center welcomes the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra. Acclaimed as one of the greatest orchestras in the rich tradition of Russian symphonies, the group performs around the world with a repertoire that includes Bartok, Schoenberg, Bernstein, and Joplin.

The UNLV Classical Guitar Series presents Ricardo Cobo on Nov. 21. One of the world’s supreme virtuosi of the new classic guitar generation, Cobo was the first Hispanic to win consecutive Guitar Foundation of America International Guitar Generation competition prizes. For more information, call ext. 5-2787.

Law

State Supreme Court Meets on Campus

A Boyd School of Law classroom was transformed into a courtroom for the Nevada Supreme Court on Oct. 11 and 12. Sitting as panels of three, Justices Michael Cherry, Mark Gibbons, and, Ron Parraguirre, as well as Senior Justice Miriam Shearing, heard oral arguments on a variety of issues, including business litigation, family law, criminal law, attorneys’ ethical practice, and damages controversies.

After each argument was finished, the justices generously invited questions from the many students in the audience. The justices gave advice about law school and the practice of law, answered questions about appellate practice, and described their career paths to Nevada’s highest court.

The justices, court personnel, and the attorneys who argued their cases adjusted well to the classroom setting, and everyone looked forward to next spring when the construction site immediately adjacent to the law school will have become the new state-of-the-art Thomas & Mack Moot Courtroom. The 6,200-square-foot facility will function as a courtroom for appellate judges or can be converted into a complete trial courtroom, with a space for attorneys, jurors, and witnesses. The courtroom facility will offer outstanding teaching space, as well as an ideal location to enable the Nevada Supreme Court, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, or state or federal trial courts to hold court at the law school. It will also serve as an auditorium to hold the entire entering law school class. The Thomas and Mack families, strong supporters of UNLV and of the law school, are the primary donors for the facility.

For more information, call ext. 5-2787.

Honors

Myriad Topics Presented at Thesis/Project Poster Session

The Honors College hosted its 11th annual thesis/project poster session and reception in October. Twenty students shared their research with colleagues, faculty, and other members of the campus community. Research topics included:

• “Eradicating Fear in Chile: Fichoff’s Trip to London (History)”
• “Aid, Trade Liberalization and Growth” (Economics)
• “Studies in Deterioration: The Choreographic Implications of a Failing Society” (Dance Performance)

Mexican Delegation Visits College

A delegation from the Universidad Iberoamericana (UIA) in Puebla, Mexico, visited the Honors College last month to learn about its curriculum and other features.

The delegation consisted of Rector (President) Fernando Fernández Font and Alberto Fischer Garcia, director of international relations for UIA. Susan Thompson, UNLV’s director of international programs, hosted the delegation.

Hotel

Pro Golfer Assists Program

Alumnus Chad Campbell, ’97 BS Hotel Administration, a former UNLV golfer and member of the 36th U.S. Ryder Cup Team, recently designated $25,000 to the college’s Golf for Business and Life program. The funds come through the PGA of America and supports its initiatives to increase participation in the game of golf. Each player designates $100,000 to the universities and charities of their choice.

The Golf for Business and Life program is designed to teach and improve the golf skills of UNLV students through instruction provided by PGA professionals. It also suggests ways in which the students can use golf as a business tool as they enter the professional world. With the grant from Campbell, UNLV’s program will continue to grow and strengthen.

College Participates in Global Gaming Expo

Students will have the opportunity to learn first-hand about current trends in the gaming industry when the college participates in the annual Global Gaming Expo trade show in November. At an on-site booth, the college will distribute information about degree programs, certificate programs, and outreach services available to the gaming industry. Working with organizers of the Las Vegas event, complements that pass are offered to students and faculty, enabling them to expand their knowledge of this growing industry.
Liberal Arts

Professors Lead Celebration of U.S. Constitution

UNLV celebrated U.S. Constitution Day recently with two programs organized by history and law professor David S. Tanenhaus and political science professor Bradley Hayes.

More than 100 people attended the panel discussion titled “The Twenty-First Century Constitution” held on campus in September. History professor David Holland, political science professor Bradley Hayes, and law professor Sylvia Lazos delivered addresses on the founders, constitutional development, and the challenges that the 21st century poses to American constitutionism. Tanenhaus moderated this session, which included a question-and-answer period.

On Oct. 2 one of the era’s most accomplished constitutional law scholars delivered the inaugural UNLV Constitution Day Public Lecture. Yale law professor Akhil Reed Amar, discussed his book America’s Constitution: A Biography, paying particular attention to the role of the American West in shaping the nation’s constitutional experience. This event was co-sponsored by the University Forum lecture series, the office of the executive vice president and provost, the College of Liberal Arts, the departments of history and political science, and the William S. Boyd School of Law. The event was recorded and broadcast on UNLV-TV.

Libraries

Libraries Provide Support From Shadow Lane to Singapore

University Libraries provides virtual support to two of UNLV’s off-campus sites: the School of Dental Medicine on Shadow Lane and the newly created UNLV Singapore. The Libraries’ two online branches can be accessed from the Libraries’ homepage at library.unlv.edu.

The Shadow Lane library webpage was created to allow students and faculty to access library resources without coming to the main campus to do their research. The Libraries’ online dental, scientific, and biomedical journal collection is extensive, providing immediate access to current literature. A relatively new section of the webpage is dedicated to the orthodontics program.

“I communicate with the Shadow Lane patrons primarily via e-mail and telephone, providing reference and literature search assistance,” said Eva Stowers, medical librarian and liaison to the School of Dental Medicine. “In the future, I hope to provide online training sessions.”

The Shadow Lane library webpage is accessible from the School of Dental Medicine webpage at dentalschool.unlv.edu by clicking on “virtual library.”

The Libraries support UNLV’s first international campus with a webpage, library.unlv.edu/singapore/index, developed to address the immediate needs of the Singapore students, providing access to electronic databases and delivery of print articles.

“Our next step is to work with the college and the national library, which houses the Singapore campus, to develop a print collection for the program,” says Lateka Grays, hospitality librarian and liaison to the Harrah College of Hotel Administration.

Politics and Salsa

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson speaks to the UNLV campus community in October (above) during Hispanic Heritage Month. Among the issues he addressed were immigration laws and the importance of voting. Richardson’s appearance was only one of several events commemorating Hispanic heritage. (Below left) Dancers perform, while, (below right), students sample salsa.

Reaching for the Stars: More Astronomy Degrees Approved

The NSHE Board of Regents approved master of science and doctoral degrees in astronomy at its August meeting. This action recognizes the teaching and research efforts of several astronomy and astrophysics faculty members in the physics department.

Dean Ron Yasbin said that teaching and research in astronomy and astrophysics at UNLV has grown “at light speed” in recent years and that UNLV now boasts one of the most productive and respected groups in the nation.

Urban Affairs

Environmental Studies Gives Awards, Hosts Presentations

History professor Hal Rothman was presented with the Aldo Leopold Award at the annual senior thesis poster presentation and awards reception hosted by the department of environmental studies.

Also honored was Tara Pke, UNLV’s Rebel Recycling manager, who received the outstanding alumni award. Former department chair Helen Neill was recognized for her years of outstanding service to the department by new chair David Hassenzahl.

Students Jennifer Ward and Shaun Elsasser received the James E. Deacon Scholarship, which is named after a UNLV emeritus professor. Elsasser also received the Solid Waste Association of North America Award.

Nine seniors participated in the event. Their yearlong research projects were supervised by class advisors: Timothy Farnham and content advisors from campus and the local community, including the U.S. National Park Service and the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Topics included mercury concentrations in canned tuna, cost-benefit analysis of anaerobic digestion on a dairy farm, selenium content in Clark County wetlands park soil, and population trends of wintering bald eagles at Lake Mead National Recreation Area.
He never thought he would be back representing the university 23 years later. "I am a native Sin City baby," Johnson says. "I have served the broadcasting industry for almost 35 years, and now it is time after sitting out for 12 months."

Johnson was part of the solution, but in a nontraditional way. He joined UNLV as a former Boston Marathoner Dan Musgrove is gearing up for an exhausting race of another kind. With the 120-day legislative session beginning in February, Musgrove, director of government relations, will be in Carson City beginning mid-January. "It is a very time-consuming, grueling process," he said.

In his position, he advocates for the university on the local, state, and federal levels. Although new to UNLV, Musgrove is no stranger to lobbying the Nevada Legislature. He most recently spent four years as the head of the Nevada Opportunity Centers Association at its headquarters in Carson City. Musgrove said he wants those on campus to know that he can serve as a liaison and point person to make sure their positions are heard, and then continue to follow these issues and advocate on their behalf.

During the current presidential election, Musgrove said that, among other things, priorities include funding the formula for full-time students as well as continued funding for the building that will house the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs and for the Science and Engineering Building.

Musgrove received a communications degree from UNLV and immediately went to work for a local television station as a cameraman, where he covered the 1983 Nevada Legislature. He never thought he would be back representing the university 23 years later. "I was always a political junkie," Musgrove said. "I was the only cameraman who volunteered to cover a legislative meeting or a county commission meeting and one of the few guys who would actually pay attention during a meeting."
Collaborative Approach

To accomplish his research goals, Hedlund has had to employ an interdisciplinary approach, collaboratively with colleagues from the fields of genomics, geochemistry, and mineralogy, to name a few. He admits that the collaborations were somewhat uncomfortable at first — particularly stepping outside his highly specialized professional niche — but he quickly saw the benefits of such collaborations.

“I’ve taught close to 1,000 students since coming to UNLV, and watching them go on to do good things is one of the most rewarding things for me,” he says. “Although it’s really hard work at times, it’s also a lot of fun. And what could be better than that?”

Sharing with Students

But even the potential for achieving some of those admirable aims cannot overshadow Hedlund’s genuine love for the pure science and the opportunity to share his work with his students. In fact, the NSF recognized the educational component of his research proposal, which he designed to help generate increased interest in the scientific process and inspire future generations of students to pursue careers in the sciences.

As part of the grant, Hedlund will conduct a one-week field course each year in Northern Nevada, during which he hopes to help foster relationships between members of the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe, UNLV students, and the scientific community through collaborative study of the biological, cultural, and sociopolitical importance of the Great Basin’s geothermal resources.

“I’ve taught close to 1,000 students since coming to UNLV, and watching them go on to do good things is one of the most rewarding things for me,” he says. “Although it’s really hard work at times, it’s also a lot of fun. And what could be better than that?”
Wild, Wild Weather

Campus photographers Geri Kodey and Aaron Mayes have captured some wonderfully atmospheric moments around campus of late – the Lied Library amid dramatic clouds (above), a laborer working on the new student recreation center at dawn (below), students walking to their cars in front of the Thomas & Mack Center (left) and folks grabbing a quick photo of a rainbow over campus (below left), among them.