Inside UNLV

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Spring is coming — and with it comes the annual open enrollment period for UNLV employees. That’s when employees can change health insurance plans, add dependents, or decline benefits. Open enrollment packets should arrive in your mailbox by the end of April, with information on enrollment meeting dates, rate changes, and benefit change forms. Pat La Putt, UNLV benefits manager, urges employees to pay close attention to the open enrollment packet and not make decisions solely based on plan premiums. Employees should consider how they access care when determining which plan is actually best for them, she said.

Changes At A Glance
• Good News — Many people on campus will see rate decreases. For employees who cover dependents, rates will decrease an average of 22 percent for the high-deductible PPO plan and 5 percent for the low-deductible PPO plan. For employees who are single and do not cover dependents, rates will decrease an average of 22 percent for a new grace period on flexible spending accounts (FSA) will be offered, which will allow employees to carry over unused balances in their FSA into the next plan year.

Open Enrollment

May is coming — and with it comes the annual open enrollment period for UNLV employees. That’s when employees can change health insurance plans, add dependents, or decline benefits. Open enrollment packets should arrive in the mail by the end of April, with information on enrollment meeting dates, rate changes, and benefit change forms. Pat La Putt, UNLV benefits manager, urges employees to pay close attention to the open enrollment packet and not make decisions solely based on plan premiums. Employees should consider how they access care when determining which plan is actually best for them, she said.

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Procrastinators Take Note
• Over-the-Counter or Rx — Under new guidelines, employees could be getting more medication over-the-counter than from a pharmacy window.

More Info: We couldn’t fit all the details of changes in this issue, but we’ve posted a complete story online at facultystaff.unlv.edu.

Next Month’s Inside UNLV

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From Surf to the Strip

Smatresk Leaves Hawaii for UNLV Post

By Cale Weeks | Marketing & PR

When Inside UNLV called Neal Smatresk for this interview, the university’s next executive vice president and provost held all his calls. Well, except for the one from his daughter asking for a ride home. She’s an international business major at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where Smatresk is currently serving as vice chancellor for academic affairs. He admits that he’s going to miss being on the same campus as her when he takes his new position here on June 1. But he’s eager to bring his experience as a faculty member, as an administrator, and as the dad of a college student to his new job.

On being a Scientist: I was a hopeless and utterly unguided science nerd — the kind that built my own hovercraft and entered every science fair. I went to Gettysburg College, a small liberal arts school, and discovered a number of new creative outlets. I sang in the choir, acted in plays, and took up photography, which I still do. Eventually I realized that research scientists got to combine both their analytical and creative-thinking skills. I went off to grad school and never really looked back.

Las Vegas vs. Hawaii: Jokingly I’d say the biggest difference is the predominant color — green vs. brown. There are fairly significant differences in the physical campus, but there are also many similarities. Hawaiians call Las Vegas the ninth state.

New Student Rec Center: Not Just for Students

More Than A Health Club

The building will house a fitness center complete with circuit training machines; free weights; cardio equipment with entertainment systems; courts for basketball, volleyball, racquetball, and other sports; an indoor track; and specialized areas for classes like spinning, yoga, Pilates, and kickboxing. It will also feature swimming pools, whirlpools, and a water-activity classroom for non-academic classes such as scuba diving and water aerobics.

The facility is more than a health club. Taking a holistic approach, it will incorporate social, emotional, and psychological health into its physical fitness offerings. Workshops will be available, with topics such as stress management, parenting, and middle-age fitness.

Membership Rates

Individual membership packages will be available for UNLV faculty and staff.

• $350 Annual Pass (Sept. 1-Aug. 31)
• $175 Semester Pass (fall, spring, or summer)
• $295 Academic Year Pass (fall and spring)

Memberships will also be offered to family of UNLV faculty and staff, although some restrictions apply. Locker rentals will be available as well.

Membership definitely has its benefits. For those who would like an introduction to fitness or those seeking to boost their current fitness level, skilled trainers and wellness staff will be available to help. Recreation center professionals will offer advice on fitness, nutrition, and making healthy life choices.

This state-of-the-art complex offers convenience for on-campus faculty and staff. Operating hours will be from 6 a.m. to midnight on weekdays, so faculty and staff will have the option of getting in a workout before office hours or avoiding commute traffic by staying after hours to work off the stress of the day. And don’t forget, exercising during the lunch hour is always an option.

More Info: Go to studentlife.unlv.edu/facilities to get more information on services and to view renderings and floorplans of the new student union. More detailed membership information will be available soon.

Smatresk says he and his wife both love cooking, but he dined on the question on whom in their kitchen as Iron Chef (a favorite TV show). He’s also, “a hopeless putter” who spent 18 months renovating his historic home in Hawaii.

Over-the-Counter or Rx

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As I’ve interacted with faculty and staff over the last several months, it seemed that many people expected me to come in and quickly announce “The Big Initiative”—the thing that would change your world. That’s just not my style; I believe my role is to be a catalyst for constructive change. Change that is enduring needs to build on the existing foundations and strengths of the institution.

While the ambitions for this university are dramatic, they do not necessitate dramatic disruptions every turn. I believe it is important for new leaders to first take time to understand their institutions, the issues they are facing, and the people who know them best—the faculty and staff. At the end of the day, I must make some hard choices to move UNLV forward, but I need your input to make wise decisions.

I began learning about UNLV by visiting campus departments and by regularly meeting with Faculty Senate leaders. Now, with the executive leadership team taking shape, the next step will be to engage the campus broadly through the strategic planning process. That process will define the major initiatives and the steps, large and small, to get us to our goals.

In the coming months, you will learn more about your important role in that planning process. And it is not only about planning—there are many areas where we already know what actions we must take. We are already moving forward aggressively on these issues (see “Progress Report” story).

You also will hear more details about the direction UNLV is heading during the inaugural week activities scheduled at the end of this month. I am really looking forward to the inauguration; it’s an event that is as much about you as it is about me. It will bring us together as a campus to launch UNLV’s 50th anniversary and incorporate established traditions—including recognition ceremonies for faculty, staff, and students. Most important, it is an opportunity to celebrate the foundation that UNLV has built and to advance our vision for an even greater enterprise in the future.

Progress Report: Infrastructure and Funding

Many faculty and staff members shared their concerns with me during recent departmental visits. In future communications, I’ll more fully address some issues—including our commitment to diversity, the planning process, and quality in undergraduate education. In the meantime, I want to update you on progress that has recently been made.

1. Issue: “Our institutional infrastructure does not match our stated research agenda.”

What I’ve Learned: Prior to my tour, I anticipated having conversations about the lack of space and equipment—an “hard-side” of research infrastructure. While those concerns do exist, many of you brought up issues with “soft-side” infrastructure. You pointed to the need for greater support in key areas, such as grant services, as well as more clarity on policies to handle an ever-expanding research agenda. Fortunately, in my opinion, the “soft-side” of research infrastructure is the easier of the two to correct, and it starts with getting grant education education in place.

What’s Happening: The Graduate College has made several changes to help departments attract top graduate research assistants, including policies that give departments greater flexibility in awarding stipends. We’ve added positions in the office for the protection of research subjects and the office of sponsored programs. And the internal awards programs were overhauled to promote research that can garner competitive grant funding.

Still, we have a great deal of work to do. For example, we need to assess if our teaching loads match our research mission. I intend to work closely with the executive team to continuously improve our services to research faculty.

2. Issue: “State funding doesn’t match our goals.”

What I’ve Learned: After many years of growth in our student population, our enrollments are now stabilizing, due in part to the tougher admissions standards. However, we currently face a model for state funding that is almost entirely dependent upon increases in student enrollment.

In addition, I spent time reviewing documentation on our newest academic programs. I was surprised by the number of programs approved without funding to support them.

What’s Happening: Funding is, of course, a huge issue. I will continue to support efforts to address the disparity between the state funding formula and our research and graduate mission. However, this is not the only way we’ll address our funding needs. Institutions that expand their research presence rely upon two primary sources: a strong philanthropic base and competitive research funding.

During my presidential transition, I’ve reached out to build relationships in our donor base and keep our Invert the Future campaign moving forward. I’ve used my status as the “new guy” to re-establish relationships with donors who are not currently active with UNLV. Internally, I noticed that many colleges were not actively involved in setting development goals or heavily engaged in fundraising.

This will be one criteria used to evaluate the colleges and their deans. Another point I want to make is that our future growth will be deliberate and tied to the resources we have. All programs come with a cost; therefore, all new program proposals must carefully articulate the sources of the funding. As we move forward, I expect the planning process to play a significant part in marshalling our resources. To achieve our research goals, we must invest strategically in the areas that can bring us distinction.

3. Issue: “Tougher admission standards could hurt accessibility.”

What I’ve Learned: While I support the increase in undergraduate admissions standards — it is one aspect of advancing our research agenda and differentiating our mission — I am concerned about our ability to ensure access for underrepresented students. We need to constantly monitor the impact of these standards on our student demographics and adopt strategies to address any disparities.

What’s Happening: We will be evaluating the admissions process to see what criteria should be used beyond GPAs and standardized test scores. A more comprehensive approach may allow us to become more selective while attracting broad participation of all communities.

Issue:

“How can we improve our relationships with the community?”

What I’ve Learned: One thing I noticed when I started was that the external relations units—including alumni, community, donor, and media relations—were housed separately. These units have been strengthening the ways they are working together, but staff expressed their belief that the “advancement model” could more effectively serve the university as a whole.

What’s Happening: We will be adopting the advancement model, used by many other universities, to bring external relations under one unit. A search commit-
tee has already begun work to recruit a new vice president of advancement. I believe this model will help UNLV consciously educate our constituents about our successes, our challenges, and our vision. I hope the community will embrace the new UNLV as a major contributor to economic prosperity, a catalyst for innovations, and an institution that fosters the curiosity and intellectual development of its students.

Break Out Your Regalia: Inauguration Set for April 27

It doesn’t happen often, but when it does, it is worth seeing.

The “it” is a university presidential inauguration, a tradition that traces its roots in the United States back to the nation’s nine colonial colleges in the 17th century. The formal ceremony is deeply significant and incorporates the university’s traditions — including recognition ceremonies for faculty, staff, and students. Most important, it is an opportunity to celebrate the foundation that UNLV has built and to advance our vision for an even greater enterprise in the future.

In addition to the inauguration itself, a number of events are scheduled the week surrounding the ceremony. They include:

• April 24, Phi Kappa Phi dinner
• April 25, Academic Recognition ceremony and reception
• April 26, Inauguration dinner* 
• April 27, Inauguration reception/luncheon*
• April 27, UNLV Orchestra concert
• April 30, Classified staff awards ceremony
• April 23-May 2, Juried student art exhibit
• April 25, Emeritus faculty breakfast*
• April 25, Campuswide barbecue lunch
• April 26, Academic recognition ceremony and reception

More info: Visit president.unlv.edu/inauguration to learn more about the events.

CORRECTION

Thanks to those of you with eagle eyes who caught the error in last month’s edition of Inside UNLV concerning the campus location of the upcoming Noon Luncheon. It was an error in the text above. The correct location for that event is the student union.
Departing Deans Reflect

Visit of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Special Moment for Law School Dean

Why are you leaving?

I have three grandkids who are growing up fast. One is already 9 years old, another is 6, and we have a brand new 9-month-old grandson who lives nearby. When he was born last May, it occurred to me that the childhoods of these people go by so quickly.

Keep in mind, too, that I have been a dean for 20 years — which is a really long run for deans this day and age. I take the responsibility very seriously, and I know what I was like at my best and what I am like now. I also worry a lot. I have been a dean at UNLV for 10 years and frankly, I am tired of the responsibility — tired of the worrying. I don't see myself as having the energy and the freshness of ideas to be the optimal leader for this place for the next five years. Maybe after I have been away from it a year or two, I'll miss it. But right now, I would like to be free of the responsibility.

What is next for you?

I will still be in Las Vegas working on several private-sector, part-time engagements. My wife and I have a place in Brianhead (Utah) that I always regret leaving. I'll be 62 years old on June 30 when I step down. At that age, you don't know how long you have left for skiing and mountain biking. I would like to hit some trails and slopes while my legs can still take it.

What was your greatest achievement?

A proud moment for me was when U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy was here to dedicate the law school in August 2002. He spent three days here as a visitor, teaching classes and interacting with community benefactors. At our dedication dinner, without being asked, he made a wonderful statement about the law school. He was impressed with the quality, excellence, and spirit that he saw in this place. It was a really heartfelt sentiment expressed by one of the most prominent people in the legal and judiciary profession. He seemed to have a genuine appreciation for what we had accomplished in four short years.

What is the biggest change that you have seen over the years?

Ten years ago, there was nothing here. Now there is a high quality, nationally respected law school. We received our American Bar Association accreditations and our membership in the Association of American Law Schools in record time. I think we are widely regarded as the model for how to start a law school. But most important, I think we are regarded around the state as a very good law school and community resource. So, it is satisfying to see the law school go from nothing to something quite good and substantial in a short period of time. We have built a really fine foundation for the long-term wellbeing of the law school. But there is more to do.

What has been your biggest challenge in getting the law school where it is today?

One of the biggest challenges we faced was solidifying the community's support for the law school. There was a mixed reaction as to whether the law school would be a good idea. I went out into the community and assured people that this law school would be a community resource and an excellent law school. We also had to convince skeptical faculty members at other law schools to give up their good jobs and come to an unknown law school. Also, for our charter students, there was no assurance that they would graduate from an accredited law school. We convinced them to take the leap by saying that we had really good community support and that the law school was not going to be a fly-by-night operation.

What will be your involvement with the school after leaving?

I will certainly be available to help the law school if I can. But I am also willing to stay out of the way. I know it is hard when transition takes place when the old leader is hovering around. So, I will not be offended if my role is to just watch the law school continue to flourish from afar.

What is the number one thing you want people to know about your school?

I want people to know that the law school is and will always be a community resource. We are acutely aware that this school is supported by the state of Nevada through taxpayer dollars and donations from this community. We have tried very hard in everything we do to serve the community and make it better. I hope people will see it as an asset.

What are you going to miss the most?

I'll miss the people. I have formed great relationships with many people on the campus and in the community. I'll also miss the entrepreneurial spirit of the law school. This place is brimming with people who are truly questioning for excellence.

The day after you retire, after you have cleaned out your office and the lights are off, what will you be doing?

I am terrified of clearing out this office. But, I hope I sleep late the next day and sleep like a baby the night before — and not worry about anything.

Business Is About People, Says Dean Flaherty

Why are you leaving?

I continue to think that change in leadership periodically is healthy for an organization. For the College of Business and me, this is a good time.

The college is in a good position to attract high-quality candidates. Part of my job was to put us in that position. Also, I am looking forward to a little more balance between my personal life and my professional life. My wife of 40 years deserves a little more of my time. I am sure she would like to keep that from being too much time. I will continue consulting with business schools, primarily related to accreditation issues. I also will continue to serve on several boards.

What is next for you?

My wife and I have a home in Flagstaff, Ariz., where we will be splitting our time. It is a great summer retreat located in the middle of the largest pine forest in the country.

What was your greatest achievement?

I really think the Nevada Business Hall of Fame has been a good event for the business school and the business community. We have also initiated a college alumni association to create a strong network of graduates. Internally, the school has clariﬁed the performance expectations for the faculty and has made some headway toward enhanced research and higher quality research productivity.

Additionally, there are many new entrepreneurship initiatives.

What has been your biggest challenge in getting the College of Business where it is today?

Resources. This is a very simple business. It's faculty, students, curriculum, and infrastructure. But, faculty and students form the core of it. Then you have to have staff support to leverage the faculty. Additionally, you have to have physical facilities that are conducive to high-quality work. But in my opinion, it all starts with the faculty. If you don't have high-quality faculty, none of the rest of the stuff matters.

To move forward, we have to continue to grow the quality of what I consider a very good faculty. But that costs money. We also need to generate resources and more support to keep and attract high-quality students here. We need to secure resources and then use them effectively and efficiently. So that will be a continuing challenge for everyone comes into this position.

> See DEANS, Page 7
Nurturing the Nurse

Brittinie Racicoppo, right, a fourth-semester nursing student, participates in the Home Hospital Project at Desert Springs Hospital under the supervision of Sue Robson. The pilot program, which was started in fall 2005, is a partnership between UNLV, Desert Springs, Valley Hospital, and University Medical Center. Students are assigned to one of the hospitals and remain with that hospital until graduation. A nursing staff member is assigned to work with each group of students. The program is part of UNLV’s effort to help combat the nursing shortage.

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The 18-month ECEM program is a blend of on-campus and online coursework broken into three six-month modules of four classes. Students progress through the recently refined curriculum as a group of 20 to 25 students as a cohort, which means participants advance through the program together. Using the cohort system facilitates networking that can be useful to participants in the event of a real-life emergency. Students learn from university and industry experts to identify and differentiate between the major elements of disasters; understand the evolution of terrorism; analyze leadership theories and the role of intergovernmental relations; and, as a capstone, demonstrate their understanding through a disaster simulation exercise.

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after being approached by the Southern Nevada chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Under the direction of associate professor Brendan O’Toole and mechanical engineering machinist Kevin Nelson, the stu-
dent chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering tackled the project.

In addition to presenting Oscar his bed, the society provided wrestling ponies and stuffed animals to ensure his wish was spectacular. UNLV engineering students who helped make Oscar’s wish come true were Kim Clark, Julio Malpica, Venkat Mudupur, Robert O’Brien, Stacy Raagas, and Jagadeep Thota.

Oscar’s wish also coincided with the college’s activities to promote National Engineering Week. Activities that week focused on promoting engineering within the Southern Nevada community to “Engineer a Difference.”

**Fine Arts**

**Assad Brothers to Perform**

On April 29, the UNLV Performing Arts Center Classical Guitar Series presents Brazilian-born brothers Sergio and Odair Assad, whose exceptional ar-
istry make them today’s preemi-
guent guitar duo. In their widely
recorded repertoire, the brothers
include original music by Sergio
Assad, transcriptions of Bach
and Scarlatti, and adaptations of
works by such diverse figures as
Gershwin and Milhaud.

**Charlie Brown To Open April 20**

Look at life with 6-year-old
innocence as Charlie Brown,
Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder,
and Patty share their hopes,
dreams, and angst-ridden but
optimistic view of the world.

The Nevada Conservatory
Theatre at UNLV concludes its
Main Season with You’re a Good
Man, Charlie Brown from April
20 through May 6 in the Judy
Bayley Theatre. This musical
day in the life of Charlie Brown has
charmed audiences for almost 40
years and is one of the most pro-
duced plays of our time.

Based on the 1969 Broadway revival, this production provides a fresh approach to the all-time
1967 classic. **More info:** call ext. 5-2787.

**Honors SAGE Academy Expected to Draw Record Number**

The college is preparing for the third year of the Summer Advanced Gifted Education (SAGE) academy for talented high school students. SAGE, which is co-sponsored by the college, hosted 29 students during its first session in 2005. Last summer attendance more than doubled with 63 students enrolled.

Predictions are that this sum-
mer more than 100 students will
attend SAGE, which will offer 13
academic seminars. SAGE attracts a diverse
population in terms of gender and in terms of high school and ethnic minority representation. Foreign languages professor Daniel Villanueva, who this year became the first recipient of the Honors College Master Teacher Award, directs the program.

**Hotel Genetically Engineered Rice Safe, Prof Says**

The safety of genetically engi-
nereed rice — a topic much in
the news of late — is one of the
research interests of food and
beverage management professor
Christine Bergman.

Last August, the U.S. Depart-
ment of Agriculture (USDA)
announced that American com-
mercial long-grain rice sup-
plies had been tainted with
trace amounts of genetically
engineered rice unapproved for
human consumption.

Bergman is working to raise
awareness about the issue. Many
experts in the industry, including
Bergman, say there is no reason
for the public to worry.

Many consumers expressed
concern that the genetically
engineered rice could be dan-
gerous to those who suffer from
celiac disease or people who avoid
gluten in their diets. Many
people with the disease sent let-
ters to the USDA expressing
concern that if genetically modi-
fied rice was allowed to infil-
trate the commercial rice struc-
ture, they wouldn’t be able to
eat it. Rice is a main source of
food for many suffering from
the disease.

To address public misconcep-
tion about the rice developed
by Bayer CropScience, Bergman
wrote a letter to the Federal
Register, a publication for pro-
posed rules and notices of federal
agencies and organizations. In it,
she explained the misapprehen-
sion about the risks of genetically
modified rice.

Bergman has done extensive
research on the genetics and
chemical properties of rice and
wheat. In the past, she has used
her research to teach patients
with celiac disease how to use rice
in place of wheat in their diets. Now,
she has the opportunity to edu-
cate students at UNLV.

The food and beverage man-
agement department is broaden-
ing its programs to include food
science and nutrition research.

**Liberal Arts**

**Anthropology Faculty Boost Department’s Research Profile**

Several recent hires have con-
tributed substantially to the
anthropology and ethnic studies
department’s growth, expansion of
the graduate program, and
research visibility. Adding to an
already research-active faculty are:

- Lisa Frink (Ph.D., University of
Wisconsin, Madison) researches
“ethnoarchaeology,” in which
living native Alaskan groups provide insights into the prehistoric past. Since arriving at
UNLV, Frink has received, along
with Karen Harry of anthropol-
y, an award from the National
Science Foundation for this
research.

- Peter Gray (Ph.D., Harvard
University) studies hormones
and human behavior. He is actu-
ally involved in field research
in Jamaica, studying hormonal correlates relating to the
care of offspring by individu-
als other than the mother.

- Debra Martin came to UNLV
from Hampshire College. She
is a widely respected scholar in paleopathology (violence,
trauma, slavery, diet, nutrition,
disease), the health of women
and children in ancient and mod-
ern societies, and arid environ-
ments and health. Her research
areas include the American
Southwest, Mexico, and the
United Arab Emirates.

- Heidi Swank (Ph.D.,
Northwestern University)
researches linguistic anthropol-
ogy, literacy and writing, youth
culture, beauty pageants, pop-
ular culture, and the Tibetan
Diaspora. She is actively con-
ducting research in India.

Finally, the department is add-
ing an Old World archaeologist,
specializing in arid portions of
the Near East. Together, these
new additions have accelerated
the department’s research profile
and attracted high-quality stu-
dents to the program.

**Libraries**

**Hit the Highlights with Help from Architecture Studies**

New to Las Vegas? Not so
new, but want to know more
about this sprawling desert town
beyond the Las Vegas Strip? Curious about the varied styles
of architecture you see?
An excellent place to start your
exploration is the Architecture
Studies Library (ASL) website,
which provides directions for 11
self-guided driving and walk-
tours, complete with print-
able brochures, maps, and pho-
tographs at www.library.unlv.edu/
arch/island/ drivingtours. html.

The tours are divided into
nine areas of the valley: down-
town, North/Northeast,
Summerlin, West, South, UNLV,
East, Green Valley/Henderson,
and Northwest. Within each

> See ACROSS CAMPUS. Page 6
Spotlight On Accomplishments

E-mail entries to inside.unlv.edu. Items should be no more than 100 words.

Aree Johnson (Landscape, Grounds, and Arboriculture) was named classified employee of the month for February in the custodial category. A grounds maintenance worker II, she came to UNLV in August 2004. Her chief job is keeping the campus grounds aesthetically pleasing, which includes trimming shrubs, fertilizing plants, and picking up trash. She is a member of the UNLV Employee Wellness program, which works in the areas of the student union, Wright Hall, the Classroom Building Complex, and the Lied Library.

Phil Burns (Student Conduct) served as chair of the 2007 International Conference of the Association for Student Judicial Affairs (ASJA), which took place in Clearwater Beach, Fla. Titled “Enriching Communities of Educators: Facilitating Partnerships on Campus and Beyond,” the conference drew nearly 800 participants, making it the largest in ASJA’s 19-year history. Participants included professional staff, faculty, and senior student affair offices. Burns just completed service on the ASJA Board of Directors. ASJA is an international professional organization that facilitates the integration of student development concepts with principles of judicial practice in higher education settings.

Deborah Salazar-Beiber (Registrar) was named a classified employee of the month for February in the administrative category. An admissions/records assistant IV, she has worked at UNLV 10 years. Her primary duty is overseeing the processing of applications for undergraduate admission. She is pursuing an elementary education degree at UNLV.

Jeanne M. Brown (Architecture Studies Library) authored “Indicators for the Evolution of the Academic Architecture Library,” published in the fall 2006 issue of Art Documentation, a publication of the Art Libraries Society of North America. The article looks at a variety of factors and their potential role in shaping evolving architecture library services and functions. Libraries have embraced many changes—some brought about by technology and some the product of developments in higher education and community. The specialized architecture library adds yet another dimension to be considered—changes in the discipline of architecture.


Jean Hertzman, Mohsen Azizzaiti, Claudia Ambrizta, and Andy Feinstein (Food and Beverage Management) and students in the capstone food and beverage course held the fifth annual Friends of Nevada dinner during the past four years, the dinner has raised $20,000 for Poverello House, a local homeless shelter. Feinstein is a past board member of the shelter and co-founded the event with Hertzman.

Christopher Cain (Tourism and Convention Administration) won the Bill Straubbaugh Award, which is presented to Professional Golf Association (PGA) members who have shown outstanding integrity, demonstrated commitment to mentoring PGA professionals, and made a significant impact on the careers of PGA professionals. The award also considers service to the association and involvement in community and charitable activities. Cain is director of the Professional Golf Management (PGA) program at UNLV.

Maritza White (Black Mountain Institute) was named a classified employee of the month for February in the administrative category. An administrative assistant IV, she is the institute’s sole administrative assistant and thus handles a wide range of duties, including events planning, reception setup, and issuing ID’s. She has worked at UNLV since September.

Michael Dalbor (Tourism and Convention Administration) and Andy Feinstein (Food and Beverage Management), along with two doctoral students, completed a two-year, grant-funded research project, ServeSafe Assessment, with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation.

Rainier Spencer (Anthropology & Ethnic Studies) was interviewed in the studio of television station KVBK on Feb. 12 about Black History Month. He also co-delivered with Jane McCarthy (Education) an invited presentation titled “Planning, Commencement and Learning to Love It: The Joys of Shared Responsibilities and Faculty/Student Involvement,” to the North American Association of Commencement Officers Conference in February.

Science

UNLV Hosts Regional Science Bowl

Reno High School’s “A” team bested 31 competing high school teams from four states to take top honors in the Nevada Regional Science Bowl recently at UNLV.

The Reno team received $5,000 for winning the championship and an all-expense paid trip to the national finals in Washington, D.C., at the end of this month.

At UNLV, teams from Arizona, California, Utah, and Nevada were quizzed in a fast-paced, question-and-answer format similar to Jeopardy! Competing teams from diverse backgrounds are comprised of four students, one alternate, and a teacher who serves as an advisor and coach.

Among the other schools that competed at UNLV were:

- second place, Advanced Technology Academy (A Team), $2,500.
- third place, the Meadows School, $1,500.
- fourth place, Reno High School (B Team), $1,000.
- fifth place (tie) Wooster and Douglas high schools, $500.

The academic competition quizzes the student teams on scientific topics in astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth science, general science, math, and physics. Questions are submitted by scientists at U.S. Department of Energy facilities as well as from other federal agencies and from universities.

The objective of the Science Bowl is to promote and challenge the nation’s high school students to excel in math and science. More than 100,000 students have competed in the Science Bowl since it was established in 1991.

Urban Affairs

Faculty and Students Participate in Communication Studies Conference

Department of communication studies faculty and graduate students recently participated in the annual convention of the Western States Communication Association in Seattle.

- Joseph Valenzano, co-author of “The Presidency That Wasn’t: George W. Bush’s First Inaugural Address.”
- Andrea Engstrom, who presented “In Your Face: Use of Women and Sex to Create Casino Branding in Las Vegas.”

Graduate student authors included:

- Andrea Finan, who presented her paper, “A Scream of Rage, A Call to Conscience: The Rhetoric of Michael Harrington’s Other America.”
- Allison Kaminsky, who presented “At the Intersection of Rhetoric and Culture: The Case of the Suicide Girls.”
- Graduate studies coordinator Tara Emmers-Sommer presided over UNLV’s presentation at the convention’s graduate programs open house. Department chair Tom Burkholder served on a panel titled “Searching for the Rhetorical Legacy of George W. Bush” and also served as chair of the rhetoric and public address interest group. Dean Martha Watson served as moderator of and participant on the panel “Sexuality and Social Justice.”

> ACROSS CAMPUS

Continued from Page 5

area, important buildings are highlighted, many of which garnered prestigious awards for local architects.

One way to find out more about your community is to tour its buildings, noting the distinctive architectural elements that changed through the decades. You might want to begin with the UNLV self-guided tour. The campus has grown dramatically over the years, and you’ll see many styles of architecture.

The Mormon Fort (downtown tour), built in 1855 on what is now Las Vegas Boulevard, is another great place to start. With its visitor center, built in 2005, it is open to the public and offers a tour of life in our valley 50 years before the Wright Hall, the Classroom Building Complex, and the Lied Library.

> Michael Lugering (Theatre) is the author of The Expressive Actor, which has just been published by Heinemann Drama.

The book deals with the “Lugering Method,” a revolutionary new approach to actor training that explores the integrated manner in which mental and emotional content are expressed through the body and voice. It is an intensely physical exercise that provides the actor with the tools for shaping thought and feeling into meaningful forms of expression. The result is an integrated strengthened vitality, freedom, and control that enable the actor to be capable of a vivid, powerful, and artful expression of thought and feeling that is spectacularly human.

Denny Kuzma (Campus Housing Facilities) was named classified employee of the month for February in the technical service category. A maintenance specialist II, he specializes in air conditioning repair. He has spent all of his 12 years at UNLV in campus housing.

Zheng Gu (Tourism and Convention Administration) was named employee of the month for February in the technical service category. A maintenance specialist II, he specializes in air conditioning repair. He has spent all of his 12 years at UNLV in campus housing.

A monthly publication by the office of Marketing & Public Relations.

UNLV is an AA/EO Institution.
A big part of being a dean these days is fund-raising. Outstanding programs are the result of a partnership between the public sector and the private sector. The public sector allows us to keep our doors open and operate on a base level, but it does not pay for excellence.

What do you want people to remember about you and your tenure?

I hope they will know that I worked hard every day to make the college a better place. My dad always said the harder you worked the better you get. So I always followed his approach.

What will be your involvement with the college after leaving?

I will be here on staff, with some release time in the fall, and will work on a couple projects in the spring. Old business school is due for an accreditation peer review in 2008-09. I will do what I can to help prepare for that.

What are you leaving undone that you wish you could have accomplished?

That is the really difficult thing about leaving. You are going to be in the middle of several things that you have started. But, I have come to realize that there is never going to be a point where you feel like it is convenient to make a clean cut. You can do is keep things moving up until the day you leave and engage other people so that everything is not all in your head. I have tried to pull others in so there will be an institutional history when I leave.

What are you going to miss the most?

That’s easy — the people. That is what keeps you going. However, I won’t miss coming into the office every day.

Stephen Rosenbaum: Honors College Time at UNLV: 5 years

Though It’s Been an “Honor,” Dean Rosenbaum Plans Return to Classroom

Why are you leaving the position?

This is the best job at UNLV. I get to know great students and faculty. But one sacrifices a lot personally and professionally to do this type of job. I plan to stay at UNLV in a different role. I will take a leave to revise a book I have drafted and pursue scholarly projects. Next spring, I will return to teach in the college. Then I will go into the philosophy department as a professor.

What has been your greatest achievement?

One of our goals was to stem the net outflow of talented students from Nevada. Many really good students leave to pursue their education.

We started the Summer Advanced Gifted Education (SAGE) academy, which is a special program for gifted high school students primarily in Clark County, but also for the region. In the program, students earn three fully transferable Honors College course credits. Courses range from modern and aerospace engineering to Japanese literature and culture. The goal is to better prepare these gifted individuals for college, whether they choose to attend UNLV or another university — although we would hope to keep them here.

This is one of the most important things we are doing because it’s serving Nevada and the public. It has also raised the visibility of the college in the community and has enhanced UNLV’s reputation for keeping talented students in the state.

What is the biggest change that you have seen over the past five years?

We have more people working in the college now and more faculty. I think we have really improved the quality of student experience and the quality of students who are applying to the college, as well as those who are being accepted. Also, we have revised the admissions criteria and the curriculum.

What do you want people to remember about your tenure?

I want people to remember that we enhanced the quality of the university and of the college. We have more professors teaching innovative, interesting, and challenging teaching courses. The quality of students also has increased demonstrably. So we have competed with major universities to get students and have been successful reaching that goal.

What is the number one thing you want people to know about your college?

You can get a fabulous education here. There are people who care and the classes are small. The Honors College operates pretty much like a small college, with a high level of personalized instruction, and academic services that are not typically available at a large university.

What will the day after you are no longer dean look like for you?

I will begin a fly fishing excursion in southern Utah. It is something that is very peaceful and relaxing. You go into a beautiful place and you have the opportunity to focus. Now, I don’t kill the fish — I catch and release them.

Invent the Future

Phonathon Nets Praise for Profs

By Lori Rachid | UNLV Foundation

It’s not every day you find something worthwhile awaiting you in your mailbox. So it was a pleasant surprise for education professor Kent Crippen when he pulled out a thank-you message from a former student one day last month.

Scott Mangione of the class of ’05 had spoken with a student through the Rebel Ring Phonathon program and asked the student to forward a message to Crippen in the department of curriculum and instruction.

“I appreciate all the help you have given me,” said the note. “I believe I am a better teacher now. Thanks again.”

Crippen said it was the highlight of his day. “It’s always nice to be affirmed in what you do.”

The message came via the Rebel Ring Phonathon’s faculty-gym system. When the team of 30 students contact more than 25,000 alumni each spring and fall to ask for financial support, alumni contributions often turn to UNLV experiences and life after graduation.

According to program manager Michael Richmond, the “Rebel Ring” often receive inquiries about favorite professors.

The students have passed along messages to faculty from “You were my favorite teacher,” to “Let’s have lunch,” said Richmond. “But most often, alumni just want to send a ‘thank you’ to acknowledge how professors helped their careers.”

Beyond the message relays and more than $125,000 raised annually through the Rebel Ring Phonathon campaign, UNLV’s youngest employee always delivers more personal benefit from their on-campus jobs.

“For four years, the Phonathon program was a huge part of my life,” recalled former “Rebel Ringer” Rachel Linney. An ’05 graduate, Linney now teaches fourth grade at Hummel Elementary School. “I wouldn’t be where I am without the private support provided to givably the many kinds of opportunities. I’m proud that I was part of that effort.”

Linney’s experiences prompted her to urge age other alumni to donate to the College of Education during the fundraising drive this spring.

In her senior year nursing student, joined the Phonathon staff last fall.

“One of the reasons I wanted to work on campus is that I live at home, and I wanted to have more of a traditional college life where I can hang out with my classmates,” she said. “I’ve also learned more about UNLV and how great all of our programs are.”

More Info: The 10-year-old Rebel Ring Phonathon campaign ended in the spring, call Michael Richmond at ext. 5-2827 for information.
The Back of the Mack

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Just 44 hours. That’s how long Thomas & Mack Center employees had to get ready for the Runnin’ Rebel game once the arena had emptied after the NBA All-Star Game.

“Nobody can really appreciate the time and effort and how many layers of people it takes to transition between events,” said Daren Libonati, director of the Thomas & Mack Center.

Approximately 100 full-time employees manage different operations, including clean up, parking, food and beverage, technical and production, sound and light, and UNLV’s own ticketing company. Another 200-500 part-time staff members step in for special events.

There are approximately 120 events per year at the Thomas & Mack. Including preparation and tear down time, there are closer to 200 days of events, Libonati said. The biggest UNLV-based events include commencement ceremonies and Runnin’ Rebel games.

Libonati said people would be incredibly surprised to learn about the branding and marketing the Thomas & Mack does in order to create a good perception of UNLV. “We believe the Thomas & Mack is a community treasure, and we are the gateway to the university for young kids to have great experiences at our venues and to become future university students.”

The biggest misconception about the Thomas & Mack is that it keeps the money it generates, Libonati said. “We generate a lot of revenue through a lot of different facets of business, but that revenue is spread around campus and supports the needs of various departments,” he said. “The arena is more like a professional business operation than a typical campus life venue.”

(Above) Over the last 13 years, John Ayers, executive chef, has catered countless events held at the Thomas & Mack, Cox Pavilion, and Sam Boyd Stadium. On any given night at the Thomas & Mack alone, Ayers is preparing food for 30 suites, two banquet rooms, and seven meeting rooms. His most memorable event was for a University of Wisconsin football tailgate party at Sam Boyd Stadium on Sept. 14, 1996. They cooked 29,000 bratwursts and went through 8,000 pounds of cheese for 15,000 tailgaters.

(Above) You may not know Don Silcox, event transition manager, but you have more than likely seen his work. Under pressure and with tight deadlines, Silcox and his team do the majority of their work overnight to prepare for and tear down special events. He has worked at the Thomas & Mack for 23 years. Silcox played basketball for the Runnin’ Rebels under coach Jerry Tarkanian from 1973-75. He and his wife, Rosalie Garcia, who also works at UNLV, have six children.