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Inside UNLV

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New VP Dedicated to Diversity

Clark Attracted to UNLV By Leaders’ Commitment

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Christine Clark arrives July 1 from the University of Maryland, College Park, to become UNLV’s first vice president for diversity and inclusion. This cabinet-level post makes her President David Ashley’s chief advisor on all issues related to these topics.

Before arriving at UNLV, she sat down to talk with Inside UNLV.

Choosing UNLV: UNLV is a public research institution, which is very important to me. It also has a Carnegie ranking of “high research activity” and is interested in achieving the “very high research activity” designation and in becoming a top-20 public research institution. That was very appealing to me.

Also, the position is a full vice presidency dedicated just to diversity, which is more common than it used to be, but still somewhat extraordinary in the opportunity it provides for there to be a cabinet-level position with just this area of responsibility.

Some of the things that I heard from Dr. Ashley and some of the other senior leadership have really fueled my interest. Their level of commitment — beyond what is represented by the “very high research activity” and in becoming a top-20 public research institution. That was very appealing to me.

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Christine Clark is joining President David Ashley’s cabinet as UNLV’s first vice president for diversity and inclusion.

Benefits of a Diverse Campus: One thing we know from national research is that students educated in environments that are racially and ethnically diverse are more likely to be hired first, promoted faster, and to earn more money sooner than students educated in non-diverse environments — if three criteria are met. First, there has to be significant racial diversity.

Getting Ready: Christine Clark

Christine Clark, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion & Professor of Curriculum and Instruction

Education
- Ed.D., Multicultural Education, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- M.Ed., Multicultural Curricula Design and Implementation, UMass Amherst
- B.A., Economics, Franklin and Marshall College

Family
- Husband, Tyrone Robinson, a community health nurse and artist. Two Dobermans, Cuba and Che.
- Outside the office
  - Enjoys being athletically active, eating out, and going to movies and shows. “But, truthfully, a good Saturday night for me is staying home and writing an article.”

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Viva UNLV!

Gene Moehring’s 50th Anniversary Book Recounts University’s History

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

A need to grow, but inadequate funding to do it properly. Sound like a description of UNLV in this decade? Yes, but it’s also apropos to the ’90s, the ’50s, and all the decades in between, according to history department chair Gene Moehring. He spent two and a half years researching and writing the history of UNLV. Set for release this month, the book was written to coincide with UNLV’s 50th anniversary.

Recurring Theme
“The university’s need to expand to accommodate the population growth in Southern Nevada and the absence of sufficient tax dollars to accomplish it without seeking private financial support is sort of a recurring theme in the book,” said Moehring, author of *UNLV: A History of the University of Nevada Las Vegas*. The 366-page book published by the University of Nevada Press was begun by now-retired history professor Bob Davenport.

Moehring was deemed the logical person to take over the project, having been hired 31 years ago as the replacement for the retiring John Wright of Wright Hall fame.

The book touches on many aspects of UNLV’s history, with chapters devoted to student life, key contributors, and sports.
Hugh “Buddy” Orr
President’s Classified Employee of the Year: $1,000 prize, a one-year parking permit, and a plaque
Energy management systems supervisor, administrative services
9 years at UNLV

This astronomy buff looks for dark skies to observe planets.

Orr Keeps Campus Comfortable
Whether it’s 40 degrees or 115 degrees outside, Hugh “Buddy” Orr’s mission is to make you comfortable.
For the past nine years, Orr has worked as an energy management systems supervisor, maintaining the campus’s heating and air conditioning units. Previously, Orr was a project manager for Honeywell, where UNLV was one of his customers. As UNLV grew, so did the need for regular maintenance on the campus’s heating and air systems. When a full-time position at UNLV opened up, Orr immediately applied.

“Seeing the growth of this campus over the years and being able to walk by a building and say, ‘I remember what I did right,” is a great position to be in,” said Orr. In a letter nominating Orr, James Wilhem, assistant director of energy management, praised him.

“Or has contributed to the avoidance of over $4 million in energy costs to the university since 2001. On multiple occasions he has found and corrected errors that negatively affected environmental and energy efficiency. As a result, indoor air quality and energy usage were improved. When Hugh makes a decision, the comfort of the campus and cost savings to UNLV are paramount,” said Orr. Orr said there is nothing more satisfying than knowing he has resolved a problem. He attributes his work ethic to a six-year stint in the Navy, where he worked as an electronics technician on a submarine. The experience taught him to stay on top of the details.

“I had to know where I was even in the middle of the ocean. It’s something that’s still with me,” Orr said. On dry land, he continually tracks system problems and seeks to find ways to reduce energy consumption. “It’s a shared responsibility and a lifestyle change we all need to take on here and in our personal lives,” he said.

This was the second year Orr was nominated for the honor and the first time he won. “It was neat to share the plaque with my two daughters,” said Orr. “School is their lives. This award shows them that even after school, they still need to achieve and work hard.”

As for the $1,000 cash prize, he said his wife has already spent that.

Kathi Ducasse
2nd place, President’s Classified Employee of the Year: $750 and a plaque
Program office, College of Education
25 years at UNLV; plans to retire in February

Unwinds by going on cruises, where she finds freedom and no stress.

Left the college in 25 years — and that’s not the norm,” Ducasse said. In her nominating letter, education professor Linda Quinn, a professor in the college of education, praised Ducasse for her loyalty. “Kathi has helped produce more than 400 teachers each year for the Clark County School District. She has been administering the Praxis test six to eight times a year for the last 22 years, giving up her Saturdays to make sure that teachers can take the tests to fulfill licensure requirements. You would be hard pressed to find a more deserving employee who has made such an impact on so many lives.”

So what is her secret to longevity? “No matter what job you have, you have to take ownership of your position,” said Ducasse.

David Hoffman
3rd place, President’s Classified Employee of the Year: $500 and a plaque
Grounds supervisor, facilities management
28 years at UNLV

This outdoorsman finds solitude in nature and scenery.

Grass is Greener Thanks to Hoffman
The way David Hoffman sees it, UNLV is just one big backyard.
For 28 years, Hoffman has maintained the campus’s irrigation systems, helping to keep the grounds healthy. It takes a lot of watering and dedication to keep the campus attractive and enjoyable for the entire community.

“Water is the source of life,” Hoffman said. “Without watering, our campus would be a dustbowl.”

While keeping the campus green is his priority, Hoffman is also mindful of the city’s water restrictions. Facilities supervisor Sandra Obenour-Dowd praised Hoffman for his conservation efforts. “David works closely with the Water Authority to make sure that we don’t waste water and we stay within their guidelines. With a campus this size, it is amazing that he has been able to do this.”

Obenour-Dowd was also impressed with his commitment to the beautification of UNLV. “David has watched this university grow and has grown right along with it. This campus is his pride and joy. He wants us to look good for the community,” she said.

Hoffman said he is especially proud of the academic mall. “People come here from different places and have the perception that it should be grassy at UNLV, too,” he said. “It makes me feel good when I see groups of people relaxing on the lawns in the mall and enjoying other areas of the campus.”

Hoffman was amazed that he won the honor. “I am one of those people who usually doesn’t win anything,” he said. “When they announced my name at the ceremony, I looked around to see if there was another David Hoffman in the crowd.”

Hoffman didn’t plan to work for the university for 28 years and doesn’t remember where the time went. For longevity, he says you have to be self-motivated. He enjoys UNLV’s friendly atmosphere and likes coming to what he calls “an oasis in the middle of the city” every day.

At home, Hoffman admits, he is not as attentive to his own yard. But for maintaining a healthy lawn, he says that it is important to have proper soil condition, irrigation and, of course, a lot of love. If you want to bring plant life into your office, he said you would need to have access to plenty of sunlight. “But, plastic is also a good option.”

Employees of the Year
Classified Employee Stories by Grace Russell | Marketing & PR
Heather Allison
President's Professional Employee of the Year: $1,000 and a plaque
Director of advising, College of Education
11 years at UNLV
This pool shark competes in a billiards league.

Good Advice Puts Allison on Top
By Shane Bevill | Marketing & PR

On the wall of Heather Allison’s office is a quote from Thomas Jefferson: “Whenever you do a thing, act as if the whole world were watching.”

She said the quote reminds her that everything she does as an academic advisor affects other programs and other people at the university.

That attitude recently paid off for Allison. As it turns out, someone on campus was watching and making note of her dedication and hard work. As a result, she was named the ZWF Professional Employee of the Year.

High Praise
Paula Castillo, a program officer in University College, nominated Allison. The two worked together for four years before Allison was named director of advising for the College of Education in 1999.

“Heather has the rare ability to communicate well with people from all walks of life and professional backgrounds,” Castillo said. “She is friendly, accessible, dili- gent, and fair. She is a hard worker and gets things done on time, without complaint.”

Unfortunately, not everyone understands what an academic advisor does. Most people think advisors simply help students pick classes. According to Allison, advisors have three main roles: gatekeeper, coach, and mentor. Allison supervises three professional advisors and two graduate assistants, and meets with students to discuss academic requirements and policies and procedures.

Castillo points out that Allison has rebuilt the reputation of the College of Education’s Advising Center. She reorganized the center, streamlined procedures, and developed a training manual for all advisors in her college. She also was instrumental in the university’s transition from a faculty advisor system to a system using professional advisors, and created an advising database system that serves as a model across campus.

Making Strides
Allison’s challenges are similar to what most advisors face — not enough advisors for students. The National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) recommends a ratio of 285 students to every full-time advisor. While the ratio has improved to about 500-to-1, Allison said, it was double that.

The improvement is the result of UNLV receiving additional funding that allowed the 11 advising centers on campus to increase staff and of the hiring of Gayle Janecek as the executive director of advising last July, Allison said.

“Even though we still report to our respective deans, there is now a more coordinated effort with goals beyond just keeping our heads above water. There is an Advising Council that allows advisors to focus on cross-campus initiatives such as assessment, professional development, research, and technology.”

Allison has served on numerous committees and currently sits on the College of Education Assessment Committee, which is creating a model for the college to evaluate student knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

On campus, Allison and Rimi Marwah, assistant director of advising in University College, co-chaired the national NACADA conference in Las Vegas, which had a record-breaking attendance of more than 3,400.

Dottie Shank
President’s Classified Rookie of the Year: $250 and a plaque
Administrative assistant, department of environmental studies
1 year at UNLV
Cooks from scratch and even penned a cooking column for the Imperial Valley Press.

Rookie Gains Better Benefits for Staff

The honeymoon phase didn’t last long for Dottie Shank. After only two months on the job, she was asked to serve on the Classified Staff Council and was soon elected as the chair. Shank accepted the position to make a difference on campus and to “serve as a vocal advocate for classified employees.”

As council chair, she immediately set out to change policies to increase classified employee benefits. Shank was instrumental in helping to increase the number of credit hours under UNLV’s grant-in-aid program for classified staff to 18 hours. She also regularly gathers input from employees on campus issues and presents them to university officials.

In addition to working in the environmental studies department, helping students, and serving on the council, Shank is working on graduate coursework.

Two years ago, the mother of nine children and one adopted child, was working for a large private corporation in California, when she got the feeling that she was supposed to be doing more. She searched for a new job and received five corporate job offers. But, after interviewing with the university, she said she knew she was supposed be here.

“I realized that it was not the money that was important, but what I could learn and give.”

In letters nominating her for the classified award, she was praised for her organizational skills, leadership, dedication, compassion, and genuine connection with students.

“…I really enjoy the students. They have so much energy, but sometimes they don’t. Sometimes they come in here and fall apart,” said Shank. “If there is something I can do, I will. If not, the least I can do is listen.”

Stephanie Fincher, an environmental studies graduate student, praised Shank for the “little touches” she adds to the department such as arranging socials every semester for graduating students. “Having completed my undergraduate degree in the department before Dottie came on board, I know how much of a difference she has made. We are very lucky to have her.”

Shank was on stage conducting the president’s classified staff employee of the year ceremony when she was named Rookie of the Year. She said the win took her by surprise. “There were some really great people nominated. So, I thought why would it be me?”

David Hassenzahl, chair of the environmental studies department, was happy to nominate Shank, but doesn’t want her to receive too much attention. “My biggest concern is that if I support her nomination, others in the university will start to notice Dottie and try to lure her away.”

Employees of the Year
Across Campus

Business
Students Qualify for Business Honor Society
This year 24 students from the college earned invitations to join Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society.

While almost 300,000 students receive bachelor’s or master’s degrees in business each year, only about 20,000 are inducted into lifetime membership in Beta Gamma Sigma. Students ranking in the top 7 percent of the junior class, top 10 percent of the senior class, and top 20 percent of master’s programs at schools accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International are eligible for this invitation.

Membership has become an international honor. With the expansion of accreditation by AACSB International, membership is no longer limited to those who have studied in the United States or Canada.

Students at schools around the world that have been accredited by AACSB now are eligible. Beta Gamma Sigma was founded as a national organization in 1913.

Engineering
Risk Management Benefits From Student Software Project
One UNLV department is operating a bit more smoothly as the result of a software product developed specifically for it by seniors in the computer science program.

Students in the newly created Software Product Design & Development class developed a software program to assist the department of risk management & safety maintain records related to campus safety inspections.

Their work was done under the supervision of computer science professor Tom Nartker. Auralie Dade and George Fratus of the risk management department collaborated with the students, answering questions that helped the students design the exact software program to meet the department’s needs.

The capstone course was developed by Nartker, in conjunction with the Computer Science Advisory Board, to meet the industry demand for computer science graduates with software engineering expertise.

“This course provides students with the opportunity to incorporate all of their educational experience to build a real-world software product,” Nartker said.

This year’s class was given two objectives when designing the program. The product had to:

• store and track the results of safety inspections conducted on campus.
• prepare reports comparing the inspection results in successive safety inspections conducted on the campus.

For future student projects, Nartker plans to solicit ideas for needed software products from the campus community.

Fine Arts
NCT’s 2007-08 Season Announced
Classics such as Lysistrata and Come Back, Little Sheba are paired with newer works, including Doubt, in the Nevada Conservatory Theatre’s 2007-08 season.

The Main Stage will present:
• Amadeus by Peter Shaffer, Sept. 21-30. This is Shaffer’s new version of his epic play. The provocative work weaves a confrontation between mediocrity and genius into a tale of dramatic power.
• Fiddler on the Roof with music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and book by Joseph Stein, Nov. 23-Dec. 9. Fiddler On The Roof has touched audiences around the world with its humor, warmth, and honesty. Variety called it, “One of the unforgettable stage musical creations of modern Broadway history.”
• Come Back, Little Sheba by William Inge, Feb. 8-17. Loss plays a larger role than love in the marriage of the Delaneys. But when a spirited college student, Marie, moves in with them, their world is shaken in a dazzling and heart-wrenching display of conflict and compromise.
• Lysistrata by Aristophanes, translated by Douglas Parker, April 4-20. Sexual politics, war, and peace combine to create a bold, bawdy, and funny play in which the women decide to put an end to war by refusing to sleep with any man until the fighting has stopped.
• Doubt by John Patrick Shanley, May 2-11. Set in a Bronx parochial school in 1964, this Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play is a riveting exploration of paranoia and suspicion in the Catholic Church.

For ticket information, call the Performing Arts Center box office at ext. 5-2276.

Graduate
New Grad Student Orientation Set for Aug. 24
The Graduate College will present this year’s new Graduate Student Orientation at 9-11:30 a.m. Aug. 24 in the ballroom of the Student Union.

The orientation will provide important information to ease the transition into graduate study at UNLV. Graduate College staff members will discuss policies and procedures and address issues and concerns that new graduate students face. A question-and-answer session will also be offered. Among the topics to be addressed are student funding opportunities, graduate assistantship benefits, and graduate student resources.

“Orientation gives new graduate students an opportunity to meet other students, graduate college staff members, and campus leaders,” said Harriet Barlow, associate dean for graduate student services.

The event is designed so that students are able to make points of contact, to learn policy and procedure, and to prepare to be successful the first day of class.”

Immediately following the orientation, students can speak one-on-one with Graduate College evaluators, financial services administrators, and other staff members during an hour-long information session.

Graduate students should attend this event in addition to their departmental orientations.

Graduate students can register for orientation at graduatcollege.unlv.edu.

You Don’t Look a Day Over 49
Al Marquez, left, and Mike Famsworth hang banners along the academic mall in preparation for UNLV’s 50th anniversary celebration, which will kick off in September. For more information on the 50th, go to celebrating50.unlv.edu.

Honors
Starkweather Named Interim Dean, Tanno Retires
Leadership changes are taking place in the college. On July 1, biology professor Peter Starkweather steps into the role of interim dean, replacing Dean Stephen Rosenbaum.

Associate Dean Dolores Tanno is retiring July 1 after three years with the Honors College and 15 years as a professor of communication studies.

Starkweather has been associated with the Honors College since its inception and, as a result, brings both knowledge and enthusiasm to the job.

Rosenbaum will take a semester break and return to teach at UNLV for spring semester 2008.

Hotel
Alumni, Industry Leaders Honored at Annual Vallen Dinner
The college recently honored excellence in hospitality at the third annual Vallen Dinner of Distinction.

The event is named for Jerry Vallen, the college’s founding dean.

To recognize Vallen’s dedication to the industry, the college established an endowed professorship in his name. Proceeds from the silent and live auctions held at the dinner go toward bringing industry leaders to the college.

Dean Stuart Mann also presented the dean’s medal honor to Joseph Kane Jr., president of Wyndham Hotel Group. The college also honored its alumnus of the year, Scott Sibella ’88, who serves as president and CEO of the Mirage.

In addition, the event recognized outstanding hospitality industry executives, chosen by each department within the college. Awarded included Peter Bernhard, chair of the Nevada Gaming Commission; Guy Fieri, host of the television show Guy’s Big Bite and CEO of Johnny Garlic’s; and David Saxe, CEO and owner of David Saxe Productions and V Theater.

International Hospitality Summit Serves as Capstone Course
The college hosted the Las Vegas International Hospitality and Convention Summit last month.

The conference offered presentations of academic research and briefings from top professionals in the fields of hospitality, tourism,
conventions, events, food and bev erage, gaming, clubs, entertainment, and leisure services. It also serves as a capstone class for UNLV students studying meet ings and events. They were involved in every aspect of the planning and execution of the conference.

Law
Most Court Students Make Impressive Showing in Competition
The school’s moot court program recently completed a successful year — with one team taking top honors in a nationwide competition and making it to the semifinalist round in international competition. The students in UNLV’s moot court program, called the Society of Advocates, work under the direction of professors Michael Higdon and George Mader. While the program produced a number of victorious student teams during the year, two were particularly noteworthy:

First, for the third year in a row, the school’s client counseling team, which this year consisted of Elizabeth Naccarato and Jenny Routheaux, was crowned the top client counseling team in the United States. Coached by professors Jean Sternlight and Rebecca Scharf, the team advanced to the national competition in Dallas after taking first place at the regional competition. In international competition, the team was recognized for making it to the semifinalist round in international competition.

In another impressive finish, the law school’s Students for Sexual and Gender Equality, in cooperation with the Society of Advocates, organized a team to compete in UCLA’s annual National Sexual Orientation Law Moot Court competition. Students Mike Friend, Dawn Gearhart, and Judy Cox took home the trophy for having written the best brief. They were coached by professor Peter Bayer and advanced to the semifinals, taking fourth place overall.

Buoyed by the success of both these teams, the Society of Advocates is in the process of planning a number of exciting activities for 2007-08.

Liberal Arts
Foreign Languages Keeps Pace with Increasing Student Interest
Faculty and staff in the department of foreign languages are busy trying to meet students’ increasing interest in foreign languages and hosting an exchange program.

Bachelor’s degrees are available in French studies, German, Spanish, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, and French for the professions. At the graduate level, the department offers a master’s degree in Hispanic studies and a graduate certificate in Spanish translation.

In February, the department hosted the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) panel discussion, “The Profession in the 21st Century.” The panelists included faculty from other AAUP chapters and from the College of Humanities at UNLV.

Four faculty members, Emi Fujiyama of Japanese studies, Iria Gonzalez-Liano of Spanish studies, Marie-Noëlle Olivier of French studies, and Daniel Villanueva of German studies have been selected to teach for the Honors College SAGE Academy, a summer enrichment program for gifted Clark County high school students. Villanueva also was the inaugural recipient of the Honors College Master Teacher Award in May.

Zhang and Team Win Prestigious Astronomy Award
UNLV physics and astronomy professor Bing Zhang is part of a team that recently received a prestigious award from the American Astronomical Society.

The Swift team, a group of astrophysicists working with NASA to study gamma-ray bursts, was awarded the 2007 Rossi Prize from the society’s High Energy Astrophysics Division (HEAD). The team was recognized for making major advances in the theoretical understanding of the cosmic rays that power gamma-ray bursts. These include groundbreaking observations to determine the precise location of short gamma-ray bursts and the discovery of extremely bright X-ray flares in early afterglows.

HEAD promotes the advancement of research and the dissemination of knowledge about high energy events, particles, quanta, relativistic gravitational fields, and related phenomena in the astrophysical universe. It also coordinates the sharing of such research with other branches of science.

Zhang and his collaborators have published numerous articles as part of this project, including articles in two of the most prestigious scientific journals, Science and Nature. One of the Swift mission discoveries (short gamma-ray burst afterglow) was announced in Science as No. 4 on its list of top 10 breakthroughs of 2006.

Pipe Down
Have you wondered about those pipes snaking through campus? They are part of a Clark County Water Reclamation District cross-town interception project, which will re-line a 60-inch sewer pipeline that runs through campus. The project will ensure the sewer pipe remains functional for many years to come for Clark County residents. The actual work, which is scheduled to be completed by Aug. 15, involves inserting a sleeve into the pipe to repair damaged joints and improper penetrations. For more information, contact Tim Lockett at ext. 5-2805 or Charles White at ext. 5-0971.
on campus. Second, there is to be opportunity for informal interaction between students, faculty, and staff from different racial groups. And third, student racial diversity must be taken advantage of in formal ways; for example, professors making deliberate choices to take advantage of student racial diversity in their classes by assigning students to mixed-race class project groups.

First Step to Be Taken: I will begin by reviewing climate surveys and other information that the people who have been working hard on diversity and inclusion on campus long before my arrival have gathered. I also want to do some fact-finding by talking with people across campus and in the community to see what is happening, who is working, and where the greatest challenges lie.

Creating Greater Access: One priority will be creating greater institutional access for Latina/Latino, black, and working-class white students, both in terms of academic preparedness and financial opportunity. We have a lot of work to do to build a student body that minimally reflects the racial demographics of the United States and ideally also reflects the unique diversity of Las Vegas.

Using High School Grade Point Averages as a Predictor of Success at College: I'm not sure what GPA's represent because there is so much grade inflation happening today. Sometimes this inflation occurs because very skilled teachers want to help promising students take advantage of financial aid and other higher educational opportunities. But, unfortunately, the inflation also happens because teachers are ill equipped, academically and/or emotionally, to teach students in high poverty schools. Above all, we can't afford to lose these teachers. Interest in new students from this group cannot learn, especially if this belief is predicated on classism or racism.

And on Using the SAT: The SAT accurately predicts how middle-class white students will do in the first year of college, period.

More Accurate Predictors: A lot of emerging research points to combining test scores with measures of non-cognitive variables. These could include how a student persists in the face of obstacles or how a student responds to racism or sexism.

Choosing a Career in Diversity: I went to college (at Franklin and Marshall) to study geology, but I understood — in a very different way — that something about being a girl, and later a woman, made me matter less to society. This early insight helped to shape my later consciousness about how other groups of people were, likewise, socially constructed to matter less. Fortunately, my mother, who is deeply committed to social justice, was fiercely aggressive about making sure her children — all of us girls — were extremely well educated and imbued with tremendous professional ambition.

Personal Experience: From the time I was very young, I understood — in a very different way — that something about being a girl, and later a woman, made me matter less to society. This early insight helped to shape my later consciousness about how other groups of people were, likewise, socially constructed to matter less. Fortunately, my mother, who is deeply committed to social justice, was fiercely aggressive about making sure her children — all of us girls — were extremely well educated and imbued with tremendous professional ambition.
Shoben Returns to Classroom

Former Liberal Arts Dean
Proud of Faculty Hires

By Grace Russell | Marketing & PR

On May 31, Ed Shoben stepped down as dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Inside UNLV sat down with him to discuss his tenure as dean, the university, and what’s next for him.

What has been your greatest achievement?

“I don’t know how much is due to good luck, or my deanship, but today the college has higher quality research and faculty. We are on the move and people are starting to take notice. We have been able to attract increasingly excellent faculty. Our new hires are from the best universities and are already showing signs of success. We recently hired faculty away from the University of Maryland, the University of Notre Dame, and Harvard. It is a tribute to our current faculty who recruited them.”

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

“The College of Liberal Arts is a big college. It’s been a challenge to encourage all of the departments and colleges to be as good as they can be. At the moment, none of our departments are in the top 100 in terms of the national departmental rankings. But we have laid the groundwork to move up, and we have some departments that are going to crack that top 100 barrier soon.”

What do you feel UNLV needs to become a major research university?

“Hard work, wisdom, and will. Faculty members have to be encouraged to do things they don’t currently perceive as their interests, such as writing research grants. Additionally, we have to have the wisdom to hire well and be patient. If the pool of people for a particular position isn’t exciting, then we should wait until we find people we are excited about — people who in six years are going to be on the verge of having national reputations, and in 12 years probably will have earned those reputations.”

What do you want people to know about the college?

“At a non-research university most of the time the teachers are conveyors of knowledge, not creators. If you come here, a research university, professors are not only conveyors, but also creators of knowledge in their fields. Students will engage with professors who are actually working, thinking, and showing them how to approach problems.”

What’s next for you?

“In the fall, I’ll return as professor of psychology. I must admit that I am little anxious about that. I haven’t taught it in a long time. Someone said to me, “You haven’t ridden a bike in a long time either.” I am not sure it’s the same. But, I’ll have a little time to practice this summer.”

Any words of wisdom for the new dean?

“Know who you are, what you value, and don’t try to be someone you are not.”

> HISTORY

Continued from Page 1

The sports chapter deals with a variety of topics, including Title IX, and does not avoid the Tarkanian/Maxon feud. That messy juncture involved President Robert Maxson orchestrating the departure of basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian, only to eventually resign from the presidency in the wake of those actions.

“I don’t take sides. I articulate what each man was fighting for,” Moehring said, adding that both Maxson and one-time athletic director Brad Rothermel read the chapter before the book went to press.

Past University Leaders

A second recurring theme in the book is the important role university leaders played in the development of the campus. Each president and some early campus leaders who had different titles was given his — or her — own chapter.

“Leadership has been crucial to the development of the university. Every leader at some point has done something to move us up.” Moehring said. “We have not had a bad leader.”

Mentioning some of the leaders and their accomplishments, Moehring said:

• William Carlson, dean of what was then the Southern Nevada Regional Division of the University of Nevada, used a savvy tactic to persuade the regents to allow the school to begin offering its own degrees. “He knows how the game is played at big places.”

In 1967, students hung then-Gov. Paul Laxalt in effigy after he told a reporter that the budget he was proposing would not include funding for growth on the Las Vegas campus.

Beam Hall also were built during his tenure. He eventually was undone when he was drawn into a nasty code fight. The Regents had enacted substantial changes to the code, such as allowing a president to order any faculty member to undergo a psychiatric evaluation. The faculty fought the changes, many of which were then repealed.

• President Robert Maxson took fundraising to new heights, bringing in millions of dollars. He strengthened the Honors program and bolstered science programs. He also oversaw the construction of the Beam Engineering Complex, what is now called the Harter Classroom Building Complex, and some residence halls.

• Kenny Guinn, interim president, “did a lot in the year he was here,” including implementing a business management system and seeing to a number of budgetary issues. What Guinn learned here paid off for UNLV once he was governor, said Moehring, noting that Guinn saw to it that taxes were raised, providing more money for higher education.

• President Carol Harper built the Lied Library, launched the law and dental schools, expanded UNLV to new locations such as Shadow Lane, and raised millions of dollars. “She got us on the verge of becoming a major research university.”

Current Leadership

President David Ashley, who arrived on the scene after the book was completed, now serves as its epilogue.

“Ashley is a good candidate for making us a major research university,” Moehring said. “He’s been an engineer at big places — Berkeley, MIT, Ohio State. He understands how to get to lots of federal dollars and how to build a faculty that can attract big grants.”

“He knows how the game is played at big places.”
Jarley Predicts Success for College Team Effort

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

To keep his perspective in a busy career, Paul Jarley heads to the ballpark. The incoming College of Business dean and his 7-year-old son trek to a few major league fields each year. The periodic trips give him a chance to take stock in the fact that “life is good.”

Jarley, currently associate senior dean in the University of Kentucky’s Gatton College of Business and Economics, spoke with Inside UNLV about the approach he’ll take to managing his team of faculty and staff here.

Three Challenges: There is great competition for human resources in academia today but if you cannot put the resources together to attract and retain high-quality intellectual capital, you have lost the battle. Finding the proper focus that will differentiate the college and its graduates is another challenge. We must attract a set of people and develop programs that stand out in the crowded global marketplace for education. We cannot be everything to everybody. Las Vegas is a unique city with unique opportunities, and capitalizing on the defining characteristics of the city must be a key component of our differentiation strategy.

Finally, let me mention maintaining momentum. Achieving our aspirations requires that we embrace change and move quickly to capitalize on opportunities. The costs of this are known and immediate, while the benefits are in the future and, as a result, more uncertain. Keeping people focused and upbeat while we lay the foundation is a challenge all leaders face.

Making the College Better: If you think I’m the difference between the institution muddling along and achieving greatness, you’re wrong. Making any institution better is a team effort. The dean doesn’t do any of the research or teach any of the courses. The dean must be a facilitator and an effective steward of resources.

Why UNLV?: The school, like the city, is seen as a place on the rise with great promise. I’d much rather help shape opportunities for growth than manage decline. The business community is very eager to help elevate the college and university, which is an important asset for a business school dean.

His Biggest Strength: This is a dangerous question. Research suggests that people’s self-image is pretty different from how others perceive them and that the latter is more predictive of their success. I’d like to think that my biggest strength is my direct and honest approach to issues. I believe in having credible goals and being open with people about both the opportunities and challenges that we face.

First Days on Campus: I plan to ask a lot of questions — that’s what new people do. One of the advantages of bringing in someone from the outside is the fresh look they provide. Their question assumptions, are less committed to the status quo, and bring with them the experiences of other institutions. All of this is wasted, though, if they don’t listen to what they are being told.

Prepared to be Dean: I bring a wide array of administrative experiences to the dean’s position. Over my 10 years in administration, I have been a department chair, center director, and associate dean. This has exposed me to the entire gamut of activities that go on within a large college.

Vision for the Future: I want the college to be a place known for innovation and excellence in research and teaching; a destination of choice for people with high aspirations; a place with strong links to the business community; and a place where everyone is actively involved in the life of the college.