

# Diving Into Her Studies

Faculty and students from UNLV's College of Sciences and aquarists at The Mirage resort are engaged in a variety of marine-based research projects that hold promise for discovery in subjects ranging from the handling of delicate fish species to advances in human health. UNLV students participate in these research activities through the Aquarium Internship Program, established in 1992. The program enables UNLV students like Chelsea Hess, seen here in the resort's 20,000-gallon saltwater aquarium, to gain valuable hands-on learning experiences in marine biology, genomic studies, and aquatic species care. Students work with more than 80 species of fish, eels, sharks, and bottlenose dolphins that reside in Mirage facilities. "It's not every day that you get to hand-feed a five-foot moray eel or scuba dive with a porcupine puffer," says Hess, whose internship experiences included taking blood samples from marine specimens, viewing sonograms of pregnant sharks, attending a conference, and participating in the renovation of the aquarium. PHOTO BY AARON MAYES

