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UNLV Magazine

Carol C. Harter
Black Mountain Institute

Holly Ivy De Vore
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Andy Grossman
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

David G. Schwartz
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, david.schwartz@unlv.edu

Mayumi Itoh
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

See next page for additional authors

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Watching the Horizon

Institute for Security Studies capitalizes on UNLV's unique resources for fighting terrorism.

Government classifiers turn to computer engineers for help finding needles in a haystack.
Dr. Joseph Lapan built his career as a pediatrician caring for young patients and their heads, shoulders, knees, and toes. Although he is retired, Joe and his wife, Joan, continue to provide for a healthy future. Their support as members of the President’s Associates annual fund gift club and as donors to the newly opened Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center benefits UNLV today to help it thrive as a world-class university.

Together, they wrote an additional prescription for success: Joe and Joan have named UNLV in their estate plans. Their gift will help students for generations listen to their own hearts and develop strong, healthy futures.

To make your own investment in UNLV’s future, please contact Bud Beekman, director of gift planning, at (702) 895-2841.
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When Intellect Meets Resolve

It is with great pride that I introduce the current issue of UNLV Magazine. In the wake of 9-11, homeland security has, of course, become a pressing, ubiquitous topic. I would speculate that it is being discussed regularly in the offices of virtually every government agency in America; related issues have been covered with great frequency on our nightly newscasts, debated at length in Congress, interpreted in our courts of law, and are still being considered in the planning of all sizable public events. It seems only fitting that this subject should also be discussed and analyzed in the halls of academe. I am pleased to know that we are contributing to the public dialogue on this issue, both in this publication and in the classrooms of our campus.

UNLV’s involvement in matters surrounding homeland security developed just as the term itself did: in the aftermath of the horrific, world-altering events of 9-11. After the shock of the tragedy subsided, I believe we – at UNLV and collectively as a nation – resolved to search for constructive ways to restore peace of mind to the American psyche. At such times, it is the best in our resilient human nature that leads us to identify and take positive action. At our university, that meant using our most valuable skills – teaching, research, and service – to begin exploring the possible causes of this terrible act, to discuss solutions to the myriad social, political, and religious issues that may have produced it, and to better understand – and, thus, help combat – terrorism in general.

Out of this resolution to contribute in a meaningful way, we began examining what actions UNLV could take. One of the results was the creation of the UNLV Institute of Security Studies, which was established last year. The institute utilizes and coordinates the educational and research capabilities of our institution in the analysis and distribution of the body of knowledge relating to homeland security. Through the institute, UNLV partners with a number of federal, state, and local governmental agencies, as well as private industry, to study and combat terrorism.

The institute houses a number of units, including the offices of academic programs, educational outreach, applied technology, human considerations, cybersecurity, and domestic preparedness. More detail on the programs and services these offices provide is offered in the following pages of this magazine, and I encourage our readers to learn more about them. I congratulate those members of the campus community who founded the institute on their thoughtful consideration of the roles the institute has adopted and the functions these offices perform; they seem to mesh well with the needs of the community, state, and nation, and they effectively complement UNLV’s goals and research capabilities.

I would be remiss in my discussion of the institute’s formation if I did not also mention that we were able to obtain startup federal funding with the help of UNLV’s
A Million and Counting...

This spring, Lied Library celebrated the acquisition of its one millionth volume, *The General History of the Deeds of the Castilians in the Isles and Mainland of the Ocean Sea*. Admiring the collection are, from left, Alene Schofield, wife of Regent Jack Lund Schofield; and emeritus professors Shirley Emerson of counseling and David Emerson of chemistry.

Written by Antonio De Herrera in Spanish, *The General History* consists of four volumes published between 1601 and 1615 in Madrid, Spain.

The set is on display in the Special Collections Reading Room. About 800 copies were printed originally. Today 25 copies are located in libraries in North America and Great Britain.

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**Partnership Creates Orthodontics Program, Improves Access to Care**

A new public/private partnership between UNLV and Orthodontic Education Ltd. (OEC) is allowing the university to create a residency program in orthodontics at the School of Dental Medicine.

The partnership includes an initial $3.5 million commitment by OEC to construct and equip a 50,000-square-foot facility for clinical research and health sciences at UNLV’s Shadow Lane Campus.

Additional annual revenues to be collected from tuition and clinical fees – projected to be between $480,000 and $720,000 – will fund, among other things, operational support and scholarships for Nevada residents. The partnership was approved for a 30-year term by the University and Community College System of Nevada Board of Regents.

“This is an exciting new partnership for UNLV and one that will go a long way toward improving the dental health crisis in our state,” said President Carol C. Harter. “We are looking forward to establishing a first-rate orthodontics program that will serve our students and community well.”

One of the partnership’s major components is a scholarship program that will cover students’ full tuition and living expenses, estimated to cost approximately $65,000 per year, per student. In exchange, scholarship recipients will be required to fulfill a seven-year service commitment to OEC following graduation. These graduates will receive a guaranteed minimum income from OEC of $150,000 per year, profit sharing, and funding for capital and startup operations of a new practice.

Students not participating in the OEC scholarship program will be eligible for financial aid. Approximately $175,000 per year will be designated for Nevadans.

“This unique scholarship program will not only provide access to advanced dental education for individuals who might not otherwise be able to afford the opportunity,” said Dr Patrick Ferrillo, dean of the dental school, “but it will also offer underserved citizens of Las Vegas greater access to low-cost orthodontic services.”

Orthodontic residents will provide services to approximately 900 economically disadvantaged individuals each year. UNLV officials expect the program’s first graduates to start serving the public by 2008.

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**You like us. You really like us.**

We feel like we’ve won an Oscar. *UNLV Magazine* has always had the great fortune of loyal readers. Now our readers are telling us they want more.

So, starting with this summer issue, you’ll find your alumni magazine in your mailboxes four times a year. We’re also expanding the number of pages in each issue to incorporate more news and features about our alumni, students, and faculty.

But we won’t rest on our laurels. We plan to continually improve our content and add new features. This issue you’ll note a new section, called Foundations, that keeps you informed about the way donors are changing the campus. Look for more changes in the future.

Of course, you’ll miss all this if you don’t keep us informed. Update your address (and give us the scoop on your latest accomplishments) by visiting http://myupdate.unlv.edu.
Tipping the Scale…

1,787 ink jet and laser toner cartridges collected by UNLV’s Rebel Recycling Program in 2003.
1,662 pounds of aluminum recycled.
22,291 pounds of plastic collected.
8,000 pounds of reusables, including clothing, shoes, and housewares. Collected mostly as students move out of the dormitories, these items are sold to raise funds for the program or donated to local charities.
11 student workers who collect all that stuff.
2.1 million gallons of water saved by UNLV’s recycling of 301 tons of paper and cardboard.
4 dumpsters’ worth of cardboard alone collected from the Dining Commons daily when school is in session.
$8,752 amount saved in garbage collection fees per year because of cardboard recycling at the Dining Commons.
1995 year the Rebel Recycling Program was launched. The program grew out of a class project of student Tara Pike, ’94 BA Environmental Studies. She is now director of the program.

(Numbers compiled by UNLV Rebel Recycling. Water-saved figure extrapolated using Environmental Protection Agency impact calculations.)

Stressed-out Teenager? Public Workshop Teaches Coping Strategies

Pressures in school, trying to fit in, and coming to grips with their true selves—all can cause stress among kids. Like adults, adolescents can find themselves in stressful situations, but sometimes they don’t know how to deal with them. To help local youth keep tabs on their emotions, a doctoral candidate is offering free anxiety-prevention workshops.

Led by student Kelly Drake, the one-day classes target youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who experience a moderate level of anxiety, but are not currently receiving psychological or drug treatment. Parental permission and attendance are required.

“Estimates indicate that approximately 5 to 15 percent of youth suffer from an anxiety-related disorder, such as separation anxiety, social phobia, panic attacks, or obsessive-compulsive disorder,” Drake says. “These disorders are associated with impairment in functioning, such as having problems with school, peers, or family.

Research with adult subjects has found that workshops are effective in preventing anxiety from becoming a problem in people’s lives, she says. “However, the same has not been done with youth. The goal of my project is to see if we can help prevent anxiety in youth by teaching them anxiety-management coping strategies,” she says.

The workshop teaches participants how to handle stressors and manage anxiety-provoking thoughts. Among the techniques she introduces is progressive muscle relaxation, in which individuals learn to tense and relax all of their major muscle groups. “This method demonstrates how teens have control over their bodies and can calm themselves,” she says.

Participants also learn how to calm themselves through breathing exercises. “When we experience fear, anxiety, or stress, our breathing sometimes becomes rapid and shallow,” Drake says. “We teach corrective breathing techniques. This involves taking long, slow, deep breaths into the stomach as opposed to the chest. This will help youth feel more in control of their bodies and also reduce some of the uncomfortable symptoms of anxiety.”

–Holly Ivy De Vore

Interested in helping your teen learn anxiety-prevention techniques? Contact Kelly Drake at 702-895-3305 to attend one of the workshops.

NEW ON CAMPUS

Great Works Academic Certificate – There’s a reason the works of Plato and Shakespeare have stood the test of time. They teach lifelong critical thinking skills sought by both future employers and graduate schools. This undergraduate program emphasizes the teachings of the world’s greatest philosophers, writers, politicians, and artists.

Bachelor of University Studies – Some students just can’t be satisfied with one major. This new degree is ideal for students who want the unique educational experience of an interdisciplinary degree. For example, through university studies, a student wanting to launch a day-care business can study both business and early childhood education. The bachelor’s degree is offered by UNLV’s new University College, which is also the academic home to freshmen who have not declared a major.

Ph.D. in Nursing – With a nationwide nursing shortage, universities like UNLV are charged with increasing the number of nursing graduates. But you can’t do that without qualified professors to instruct them. This program will focus on nursing education, emphasizing the teaching, research, and service skills needed in future professors.
Hats Off

More Than 2,100 Receive Degrees

As they moved their tassles from the right side of their mortar boards to the left, more than 2,100 people transitioned from students to graduates this May. Among those walking the stage were DeGlorias Bass (near right). The 63-year-old Bass fulfilled her longtime dream by receiving a bachelor’s degree in special education after 30 years of sporadically taking classes. She joins three of her four daughters in what has become a family tradition – teaching – and plans to work with special needs teenagers for the Clark County School District.

The spring class of 2004 is:

- 60 percent female, 40 percent male.
- 28 percent minority.
- 77 percent Nevada residents.
- from 44 states and Guam; and 31 foreign countries.
UNLV recently named Robert Boehm distinguished professor, the highest honor awarded to a faculty member at the university. President Carol C. Harter named Boehm, a member of the mechanical engineering department faculty, a distinguished professor based on the recommendation of a university committee.

The designation of distinguished professor is not bestowed every year. Nominees must have demonstrated extraordinary qualities both as teachers and scholars and must have achieved national and international recognition in their fields of study.

"Robert Boehm is not only an exemplary teacher but also an exceptional scholar," said Harter. "Through his dedication to students and commitment to research, he has made invaluable contributions to the field of engineering and to the community of Southern Nevada and beyond. His accomplishments embody the very goals of this institution."

Since joining the faculty in 1990, Boehm has created and taught courses on solar energy use, radiation heat transfer, design of thermal systems, and entertainment engineering.

In 1995, Boehm established the Center for Energy Research at UNLV, an interdisciplinary entity that focuses on solar and renewable energy and the development of energy-efficient technologies. He has collaborated in developing a hydrogen-fueled combustion engine for buses that could potentially reduce pollution and significantly improve air quality in urban areas.

"It is a privilege to be designated as distinguished professor," said Boehm. "In receiving this honor, I owe a great deal to our excellent students, the encouraging atmosphere for research at UNLV, and the opportunity to develop interdisciplinary programs."

Boehm has published several books on the design of thermal systems and heat transfer, has written more than 300 articles in refereed journals and collections, and has been a featured presenter at conferences and workshops around the world.

John Readence, professor of literacy education, was named as the dean of the recently created University College. He joined the UNLV faculty in 1993. While working for the department of curriculum and instruction, he focused on adolescent and content area literacy, as well as teachers’ thought processes and instructional practices. He also mentored doctoral students, co-authored more than 25 textbooks, and served as editor of Reading Research Quarterly. University College will begin serving students this fall. It is the academic home for students exploring their academic options before choosing a degree program. Under his direction, the college also will offer the Bachelor of University Studies, an interdisciplinary degree program.

Andy Nazarechuk of the tourism and convention administration program was named Tourism Educator of the Year for 2003 by Zhejiang University and the Zhejiang Hotel Association. The university is the largest comprehensive university in China and the association has more than 400 hotel members and is the largest provincial association in China. Recently Nazarechuk spent two semesters teaching in China and continues to write articles about tourism on a regular basis.

George Edward Stelluto was awarded the Bruno Walter Memorial Prize and invited to join the Artist Diploma Program at the Juilliard School in New York City. Stelluto is the first conductor invited to join this highly competitive professional-development program. The program is designed to develop both the artistry and professionalism in performers who possess the ability to realize their talent in the contemporary world. Stelluto is the music director of the Las Vegas Music Festival, which will be held July 27 to Aug. 15. He is also an artistic advisor for the Chernigov Winter Festival in the Ukraine.

Eugene Moehring, professor of history, and Dina Titus, professor of political science, each received an Outstanding Faculty Award from the UNLV Alumni Association. Moehring, a faculty member since 1976, specializes in U.S. urban history and teaches courses in business history, Nevada history, and history of science. He has also published three books and written numerous articles. Titus has been a faculty member since 1977 and has taught numerous courses in political science and public administration, in addition to publishing two books and writing hundreds of articles on Nevada politics and the nation’s atomic legacy.

Joanne Goodwin of the history department was appointed to the National Advisory Board for the Status of Women and Girls in the States. The Institute for Women’s Policy Research in Washington, D.C., made the appointment. Since coming to UNLV in 1991, she has become intensely involved in writing histories of women who have helped build the community. She chaired the advisory board for the Nevada Women’s Archives and directs the Las Vegas Women’s Oral History Project and the Women’s Research Institute of Nevada.
Kruger Named Head Basketball Coach

by Andy Grossman

As far as Athletics Director Mike Hamrick is concerned, UNLV found everything it was looking for in its next Runnin’ Rebel basketball coach when it hired Lon Kruger.

A coach with years of experience at both the collegiate and NBA levels, Kruger became the 10th full-time coach in the history of UNLV men’s basketball.

A primary goal of the search was finding a college coach with success at more than one university, Hamrick said. “We wanted a coach who knew what it took to get into postseason play. We wanted a coach who knew how to get to the Final Four. We found a coach who took a program that was down and out and within three or four years took it to the top.

“But most important, we wanted an individual who had class, integrity, and who did everything the right way.”

Hamrick said the decision to hire Kruger was easy. “Every time I got on the phone to talk with the so-called basketball gurus about potential candidates, Lon Kruger’s name was the one that brought the conversation to an end.”

A veteran of two decades as a head coach on the collegiate and professional levels, Kruger came to Las Vegas after a four-year stint in the NBA. Following an 18-year career as one of the nation’s most successful college coaches, Kruger spent three seasons (2000-03) as the head coach of the Atlanta Hawks and part of this season as an assistant with the New York Knicks.

At the collegiate level, Kruger compiled an impressive 318-233 (.577) overall mark in 18 seasons as a head coach at Pan American (1982-86), Kansas State (1986-90), Florida (1990-96), and Illinois (1996-2000). He led all four programs to 20-win seasons and is one of only a handful of active Division I head coaches to have taken three different programs to the NCAA Tournament.

Kruger mentioned several reasons that he and his wife, Barb, decided to move to Las Vegas, including the standard for winning set by past teams and the supportive community. “After visiting with Dr. (Carol) Harter, Mike, Jerry Koloskie, and others in the community, we knew this was a great fit. People are excited. They’re hungry. They’re supportive of the basketball program.”

Kruger piloted his teams to the postseason on 11 different occasions, with nine appearances in the NCAA Tournament and two in the NIT. He compiled seven 20-plus victory seasons, was a two-time SEC Coach of the Year (1992 and 1994), and led his 1993-94 Florida squad to the NCAA Final Four.

“UNLV is a place you can win,” Kruger said. “And you can win because you can attract the quality of student-athletes that it takes to win on a national scale. Las Vegas is a town that is recognized by recruits everywhere. They’ll listen to you and once you get them on campus and give them the chance to experience the feelings that exist here, it will be very appealing for them to go to school here.”

Filling the Slots

Since joining UNLV this spring, head basketball coach Lon Kruger has hired four new staff members.

- **Marvin Menzies**, assistant coach. A former assistant coach with University of Southern California and San Diego State University (SDSU); assistant coach and associate head coach at Santa Monica City College; and head recruiter at SDSU.
- **Lew Hill**, assistant coach. A former associate head coach at Texas A&M University; and assistant coach at East Carolina and Southeast Missouri State universities.
- **Steve Henson**, assistant coach. A former assistant coach at University of South Florida and University of Illinois; scout and assistant coach for the NBA’s Atlanta Hawks; and played in the NBA for Milwaukee, Atlanta, Charlotte, Portland, and Detroit.
- **Mike Shepherd**, director of basketball operations. A former assistant coach at Northern Illinois and University of Florida; and scout for the NBA’s Atlanta Hawks.
Suburban Xanadu
The Casino Resort on the Las Vegas Strip and Beyond

by David G. Schwartz, coordinator of UNLV's Gaming Studies Research Center
Routledge, 2003

Don’t look to the television show Las Vegas for the scoop on the gaming industry today. Instead, curl up with this analysis of the rise in popularity of legal casino gaming in the United States.

Schwartz used the Lied Library’s collections to research his UCLA doctoral dissertation, from which this book was written. Gaming mogul Steve Wynn says of the book, “Schwartz shows us that the popularity of casinos is no accident, but part of larger trends in American history.” UNLV history professor Hal Rothman, author of his own studies of the Las Vegas phenomenon, calls it a “must for anyone who cares about culture in the new century.”

Schwartz grew up near Atlantic City, N.J., and took a job in casino security and surveillance while working on his degrees. “I was kind of an apprentice,” he says, declining to name the casino. “I left that casino three times, and each time I was free to come back,” he adds, in reference to the “apprentices” who have been fired by that casino’s owner.

When it came time to select a topic for his doctoral dissertation in history, Schwartz says, “I was curious about my surroundings, and I didn’t think anyone had done a really good job of explaining why casinos are designed the way they are.”

The book’s title, Suburban Xanadu, reflects both his observations of the appeal of casinos to middle-class Americans and the fantasy destination that his former employer created.

As for the show Las Vegas, which centers on a surveillance director, Schwartz says that if it was a reality show, “it would make terrible television. There is nothing happening most of the time. You occasionally get a few minutes of excitement, and people rarely leave the room to go to the casino floor, as the hero does in the TV show.”

Schwartz just finished another book on gambling prohibition and is working under contract on Roll the Bones, a history of gambling from the “dawn of time to today.”

The Hatoyama Dynasty
Japanese Political Leadership Through the Generations

by Mayumi Itoh, political science professor
Palgrave (Macmillan), 2003

Mayumi Itoh tells the story of a Japanese family that, much like the Kennedys in the United States, has played a major role in its country’s politics. The Hatoyama dynasty began in the mid-19th century with Kazuo, a politician, professor at Tokyo Imperial University, and deputy foreign minister.

Kazuo’s son, Ichiro, was a member of the House of Representatives for 44 years and created the Liberal Democratic Party, a major force in Japanese politics since 1955. Altogether six Hatoyamas filled major political positions, and others became renowned scholars. Ichiro, who served in government through both world wars and the American occupation of Japan following WWII, ran afoul of Gen. Douglas McArthur over the issue of Japan’s military presence. He subsequently spent a number of years in exile.

Later those on both sides of the armed forces issue criticized Ichiro. Today, Japan is still grappling with the issue as U.S. President George W. Bush seeks assistance in Iraq and Afghanistan, Itoh says.

The third generation of politicians included Ichiro’s son, Ichirō, who reluctantly became foreign minister. “He personally detested politics,” Itoh says, “but family tradition required him to follow in his father’s footsteps.”

Of Ichirō’s sons, the elder is like his father and would prefer teaching engineering but has been pressured into politics; the younger embraced politics. Together they formed a new liberal political party to challenge the ruling conservative party that their grandfather had created 40 years before. “I had hopes and expectations for political and economic change in Japan,” Itoh says, but the two brothers later split, and the younger returned to the long-time ruling party.

Commenting on the current state of politics in Japan, Itoh says, “Young people are not interested because of the corrupt politics. They don’t take traditional values as seriously, and they don’t feel obliged to follow in the footsteps of their fathers.”

Itoh’s current project is to examine China-Japan relations from the mid-19th century to today.
**Children Who Witness Homicide and Other Violent Crimes**

**A Practical Guide for Law Enforcement, Child Services and Mental Health Professionals**

by Tascha Boychuk-Spears, nursing professor
Specialized Training Services, 2002

For 16 years Boychuk-Spears has conducted forensic interviews with more than 3,000 children listed as victims or witnesses in criminal investigations. In 1997, she started the nation’s first forensic interview program for children who witness homicide with the Mesa, Ariz., police department and Arizona State University.

Boychuk-Spears says her book “is meant for professionals and families whose lives have been marked forever by exposure to the tragedies of human violence. … (It is) not the presentation of theory and formidable research findings. Instead, the book evolved from years of professional forensic and clinical work.”

When a child is the only witness to a violent event, authorities have the challenge of eliciting information they need for their investigation while not adding to the trauma the child has experienced. Boychuk-Spears offers interviewing principles appropriate to different age levels and backs up her advice with case-study results.

“The children and their resilience continue to astound me, but we need more resources. Most efforts today are for stabilization at the scene of the violence; we don’t devote many resources to follow up,” she says, noting that the subject becomes more complex as researchers continue to make discoveries in related issues, such as the neurobiological effects of trauma.

Boychuk-Spears will follow up with the people she studied for the book after five and 10 years to assess the longer-term impact of the violence they witnessed.

**The New Urban Park**

**Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Civic Environmentalism**

by Hal K. Rothman
University of Kansas Press, 2004

History professor and department chair Hal K. Rothman has been in these pages before with his forthright analyses of Western environment and culture. One of UNLV’s most prolific writers, Rothman this time turns his attention to the urban national park, an oxymoron to people used to thinking of national parks in terms of grand peaks, deep canyons, and other kinds of pristine scenery.

With public lands becoming scarce, Rothman suggests, the urban park may represent the future of national parks in the United States, and he presents the Golden Gate National Recreation Area as a model. He delves into the park’s history, the politics that accompanied the acquisition of the land, and the many challenges that national and local leaders faced in its development, and he does all this in his usual thoroughly researched and engaging style.

Communication studies professor Barbara Cloud compiles the Books section.

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**ON THE BEDSIDE TABLE**

What are UNLV faculty and staff reading for pleasure?

Joseph McCullough, UNLV Distinguished Professor of English

Contemporary literature is on McCullough’s besides, including *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels and Demons*, both by Dan Brown; *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold; *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier; *The Alienist* by Caleb Carr; and *The Human Stain* by Philip Roth.

Raymond W. Alden III, executive vice president and provost

Alumni Affiliation Q&A: Jim Kirkwood, association president

Jim Kirkwood, ’83 BSBA Accounting and Finance, is president of the UNLV Alumni Association. A Harrah’s Entertainment Inc. executive for the past 15 years, he currently serves as director of finance for Binion’s Horseshoe. Kirkwood’s professional background includes positions in banking and small business ownership. He and his wife, Pat, have a daughter, Jolyn; a son, Joel, ’00 BS Health Care Administration; and one grandchild.

Why should graduates stay connected through the UNLV Alumni Association?
Those who benefit most from our institution’s growth are its graduates, as the value of a UNLV degree continues to build in stature. UNLV is building a legacy of leadership both here in Nevada and across the nation one graduate at a time. You are essential to our university’s reputation, and it is through you that we leverage our collective strengths.

How does my affiliation help UNLV?
Our role is to carry the message into our community to help UNLV reach the goal of becoming a Level I research institution. As our alumni mature and achieve success in our industry, business and community arenas, and in political circles, we build crucial support for UNLV, expand our institution’s influence, and enhance economic diversity in our state.

This improves the learning environment for all of our students and engages the faculty. It helps to attract and retain the best and the brightest students and professors.

What programs does the Alumni Association support?
By affiliating with the association, you enable other students to benefit from our scholarship endowment and make possible the extension of important programs and services to our alumni, faculty, and friends.

How do I become involved?
Join the UNLV Alumni Association today, and, while you’re at it, consider sharing this opportunity with a fellow alumnus, a current UNLV junior or senior student, or corporate associate. Get reacquainted with the deans and faculty from your college. Visit with classes to share experiences and insights with current students. Serve on a committee within your college alumni group, with the UNLV Foundation, or with the Alumni Association. Help recruit high school graduates to UNLV colleges and schools. Use your professional and personal relationships to bring the best and brightest to our institution as students, administrative staff, and faculty.

Get a UNLV credit card or proudly display the Rebel license plate on your car. The plate program is a very easy and personal way to exhibit your pride while generating funds for student scholarships.

Last Chance Campaign Under Way as Member Benefits Grow Stronger

The registration form has probably been tucked away in the corner of your desk waiting for a stamp. You may have wanted to join the UNLV Alumni Association forever now, but just haven’t gotten around to it. Well, this is one case in which delaying something you meant to do may work to your advantage.

Alumni have a limited opportunity to become members of the UNLV Alumni Association for the current rate of $40 for a one-year individual membership or $80 for a two-year membership. Later this summer, the price for individuals will be raised to $50 so that $10 can go to the scholarship endowment. The fees for other membership levels also will increase to ensure that talented students continue to receive financial support.

“This is an important opportunity for those who have never affiliated or who have let their memberships lapse to enjoy some solid savings,” says Fred Albrecht, vice president for university and community relations. “The best offer is the two-year membership rate for $80, which provides you with the opportunity to commit today to enjoy affiliation programs and services at the lowest price possible.”

There are a number of direct benefits to membership and reasons to act now. Members enjoy:

- An established networking environment with professionals in Las Vegas and throughout the nation.
- Access to E-Grad, a superior educational loan consolidation program.
- Tuition reduction for children of out-of-state alumni.
- Marsh Affinity health and life plans.
- MBNA credit cards.
- Voting privileges for the association board elections.
- Event access and discounts.
- A subscription to Alumni News, the association’s primary outreach publication.

“We encourage you to take advantage of this important avenue to remain strategically and socially connected,” Albrecht says. “Thank you for considering how involvement will benefit you, your institution, and the good work of the association.”
The juniors and seniors at this year’s Career Day came looking to jump-start their transition into the professional world. But as a bonus, many discovered how to stay connected to their university and to each other. Alumni relations staff and four volunteers from the Student Alumni Association (SAA) distributed information, collected contact data, and promoted membership at the spring event.

In front of an audience of more than 100 prominent area employers, university representatives, and students, the association recognized SAA President Heather Ratigan, a political science major, for her dedicated service. “This young woman is an inspiration,” said Fred Albrecht, vice president for university and community relations, when presenting the award. “She is strong academically and interpersonally, engaged in her university community, and a model of young leadership. It is a pleasure to acknowledge her many contributions to the SAA and her continuation of this bridge from student to alumna membership.”

Nearly 300 student leaders have served the SAA since its inception in 1991. They organize two annual community service events: the Candlelighters’ party for children with terminal cancer and a party for the UNLV/CSUN Preschool in the spring. They also communicate the importance of supporting the university through involvement in the UNLV Alumni Association to their fellow students.

Senior Send-Off: Graduation Gear, Free Food, and a Pitch

With most of their program requirements out of the way and finals just around the corner, May graduates headed to the Richard Tam Alumni Center for their caps and gowns, rings, and announcements. Attendees at the two-day event registered with alumni relations and enjoyed the free food provided by Applebee’s.

Those who signed up for association membership received a free T-shirt and were automatically entered into a raffle for a computer donated by Knight Systems. Bottles of wine to open following commencement were given to the first 10 individuals who selected two-year memberships.

Partnering in the event, sponsored by alumni relations and the Alumni Association, were UNLV career services; E-Grad, a student loan consolidation company; and MBNA Corp., a credit card company.

Career Day Connects Students to Association

The juniors and seniors at this year’s Career Day came looking to jump-start their transition into the professional world. But as a bonus, many discovered how to stay connected to their university and to each other.

Alumni relations staff and four volunteers from the Student Alumni Association (SAA) distributed information, collected contact data, and promoted membership at the spring event.

In front of an audience of more than 100 prominent area employers, university representatives, and students, the association recognized SAA President Heather Ratigan, a political science major, for her dedicated service.

“This young woman is an inspiration,” said Fred Albrecht, vice president for university and community relations, when presenting the award. “She is strong academically and interpersonally, engaged in her university community, and a model of young leadership. It is a pleasure to acknowledge her many contributions to the SAA and her continuation of this bridge from student to alumna membership.”

Nearly 300 student leaders have served the SAA since its inception in 1991. They organize two annual community service events: the Candlelighters’ party for children with terminal cancer and a party for the UNLV/CSUN Preschool in the spring. They also communicate the importance of supporting the university through involvement in the UNLV Alumni Association to their fellow students.

About the Association

The UNLV Alumni Association was established in 1967 to provide volunteer leadership, support, and resources to the campus community. To date, the organization has contributed more than $5.9 million to the university for various programs.

Joining the association as an alumnus or a friend is an easy and highly effective way of showing support.

For information, call 702-895-3621 or visit http://alumni.unlv.edu.
The UNLV Research Foundation emerged just two years ago and has quickly become an important and influential organization on campus and in the community. Created as a branch of the UNLV Foundation, it serves as a major pathway for millions of dollars in federal research grants. UNLV’s research project funding has mushroomed in the last few years, from about $11 million a year in 1996 to more than $31.6 million this year. As one of its more important jobs, the Research Foundation helps the campus find – and then manage – a significant percentage of these funds.

These funds support specific research initiatives, including homeland security, solar technologies, hydrogen fuels, earthquake studies, advanced fuels cycles research, and transportation studies, according to Tom Williams, executive director of the Research Foundation.

The Research Foundation also serves as a resource for faculty members who create new knowledge, techniques, or products that are eligible for patents and other rights. Intellectual property developed at UNLV can be sold or licensed to provide increased venture capital and further support research endeavors. Over time, the Research Foundation also will provide venture capital to UNLV’s research faculty.

“These research dollars will greatly enrich the educational experiences and long-term opportunities of every student and faculty member at UNLV,” says Williams. “There is great potential to attract nationally renowned scientists to engage in these new and innovative scientific activities.”

This year, the Research Foundation takes ownership of 115 acres in southwest Las Vegas near the I-215 Beltway. The Research Foundation will develop the property – which came to UNLV from Clark County largely because of the work of U.S. Sen. Harry Reid – as a research park. The site will house university and private research activities as well as a business incubator.

“There is a wonderful alliance between the university and the Nevada Development Authority in creating a real catalyst for economic development and diversification,” says Don Snyder, this year’s Nevada Development Authority chairman and a member of the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees. “The UNLV Research Foundation is absolutely at the heart of taking this synergy beyond what we ever envisioned.”

John F. Gallagher is vice president for development and executive director of the UNLV Foundation.
Residence Hall Named to Honor Longtime Las Vegas Residents

This spring, a wing of the Upper Class Complex residence hall had a new name “stamped” to its side: Margie and Robert Faiman Sr. Residence Hall. The three-story facility, which houses sophomores, juniors, seniors, transfer students, graduate, and nontraditional-aged students, was named to acknowledge an endowment in memory of the 40-year Las Vegas residents.

In late 2003, the Faimans’ daughter, Deborah Shoofey, auctioned her mother’s lifelong hobby – a stamp collection valued at more than $1.1 million – and donated the proceeds to the UNLV Foundation. The resulting endowment provides students financial aid for tuition and room.

Dolores Owens Scholarship Established for Harrah Hotel College Students

Friends, family, and colleagues of Dolores Owens, an MGM MIRAGE senior marketing executive who died in November, have raised more than $65,000 to establish a scholarship fund in her memory.

Terri Lanni, CEO of MGM MIRAGE and a member of the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees, worked with Owens for many years and created the scholarship for students pursuing degrees from the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration.

Owens, one of the highest-ranking female casino executives, was known by many as a pioneer in the gaming industry.

To contribute to the Dolores Owens Scholarship Fund, contact Deborah Young, director of development, at 702-895-3148.

To Honor and Serve: Bluecoats Scholarship Brings Children of Police and Firefighters to UNLV

As Shereena Dyer’s days as a senior at Green Valley High School dwindled, she wondered about college. She knew she would attend UNLV, but was unsure how she would finance her undergraduate education. So, like many young college hopefuls, she looked to her father – not for money, but for an important association.

“My dad is a corrections officer with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and I knew about a scholarship opportunity available to the children of active-duty and retired Clark County police officers and firefighters,” Dyer explains.

Bluecoats Inc. started in 1967 to provide immediate assistance to the families of Las Vegas police officers and firefighters who died in the line of duty. Twenty years later, its focus shifted from short-term aid to long-range dreams as volunteers for Bluecoats established a scholarship program at UNLV. To date, more than 30 students – including Dyer’s sister, Kuwanna, ’03 BS Geology – have received this full scholarship, which covers the costs of tuition, fees, and textbooks.

“The best thing is that, because of the Bluecoats scholarship, I can concentrate on school and my studies without worrying how I will pay for the next term,” Dyer says. Indeed, she transitioned into university life with the greatest of ease, completing her first semester at UNLV with a 4.0 grade point average, while working a part-time job and volunteering as the webmaster for the campus Geoscience Club.

Bluecoats Inc. has awarded more than $213,000 in scholarships to students like Dyer. Program administrator Mike Corrigan is proud of the organization’s impact. “It is important to us to acknowledge the untiring efforts of those who serve on our police force and in our fire departments,” he says. “Helping some of their children obtain a college education is just a small token of our appreciation.”

— Lori Bachand

For information on UNLV’s privately funded scholarship programs, contact Wendy Nelson, director of scholarship giving, at 702-895-2818.
**Foundations**

**Your Dollars at Work**

Distinguished Teaching Awards: The UNLV Foundation’s gift clubs – the President’s Associates, the President’s Inner Circle, and the Academic Corporate Council – support academic excellence through donations of unrestricted funds. One of the indispensable programs these funds support is the UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Awards, which provide a $5,000 stipend to committed faculty.

This year’s recipients are:
- Donald Bell, food and beverage management.
- Pradip Bhowmik, chemistry.
- Colin Loader, history.
- Peggy Perkins, educational psychology.
- Roberta Williams, biology.

**Honor Roll of Donors**

The UNLV Foundation recognizes the following new members of its annual gift club programs for their contributions of unrestricted funds, their involvement in the university’s development, and their advocacy on behalf of UNLV.

Academic Corporate Council
Corporate gifts of $5,000 or more
- Dymon Investments

President’s Associates
Individual gifts of $1,000 to $2,499
- Barbara & Anthony ’97 Daileda
- Sabrina & Mark ’85 Doubtova
- Wilma & Jerry Ehrens
- Douglas Geinzer
- Zoltan Hollo ’98
- Stephanie E. Horne ’03
- Kelly & John “Buck” Lee
- Monica M. Moradkhan ’04
- Georgene & Gerard Savio
- John U. Tippins IV
- Jolyn & R.J. Welch

President’s Inner Circle
Individual gifts of $5,000 to $9,999
- Debra ’96 & John ’82 Guedry

President’s Inner Circle – Gold
Individual gifts of $10,000 to $24,999
- Sue & Jerry Lykins

*(Member listing updated: April 23, 2004)*

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**Student Callers Raise $50,000 During Phonathon Event**

Student callers from the Rebel Ring Phonathon program contacted more than 11,000 alumni this spring during a drive to raise money for individual colleges. Graduates pledged a record $50,000 to fulfill needs that the college deans identified as priorities.

The money is enhancing student programs and funding scholarships, laboratory equipment purchases, and additional graduate student assistantships.

The Rebel Ring Phonathon, now in its ninth year, is an outreach opportunity that allows students to give graduates personal updates about UNLV and to discuss how alumni can invest in the university’s future.

**Banfi Vintners Grant Offers Learning Under the Tuscan Sun**

Banfi Vintners, a New York-based importer of Italian wines, has renewed a $25,000 grant with the Harrah Hotel College to provide a culinary arts tour of Tuscany, Italy, for a small group of students from the college’s food and beverage management department. Professor and chef Jean Hertzman will lead the trip this summer.

Banfi, the nation’s leading wine importer for more than three decades, has sponsored two previous trips to Italy for UNLV students.

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**Palladium Society honorees Sonja, ’78 MA Psychology, and Michael Saltman visit with keynote speaker Sally Ride, right, the first American woman in space, at the UNLV Foundation’s annual dinner gala.**

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**Donors Honored as New Members of Top Giving Society**

The UNLV Foundation recently added five names to its 65-member Palladium Society, a recognition level for donors who have given more than $1 million cumulatively to the university. This year’s inductees – the city of Las Vegas, Monsanto Co., Michael and Sonja Saltman, Sierra Health Services/Health Plan of Nevada, and Sun Microsystems – were feted at the Foundation’s annual appreciation event at the Bellagio.

During the event, President Carol C. Harter honored history professor Hal Rothman as the third annual recipient of the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award. The award, funded by the UNLV Foundation, is named in honor of U.S. Sen. Harry Reid for his support of research activities on campus and recognizes faculty engaging in research that is both highly regarded and responsive to the needs of the community and state.
Moradkhan Transitions from Student Leader to Leading Donor

Monica Moradkhan made UNLV history this spring. No, it wasn’t that she was the first woman to be elected student body president twice — that happened last year. In April, Moradkhan — still six weeks shy of her spring commencement — became the youngest alumna to donate to the President’s Associates annual fund. Her yearly gift of $1,000 provides unrestricted money, some of the most important funds the university raises to support emerging campus needs.

Her awareness of the impact that the UNLV Foundation makes on students’ lives came early in her college career. As a student ambassador, Moradkhan acted as an emissary of the alumni relations office at campus and community events. Soon, she found herself speaking to prospective donors at special events, telling them about her experiences as a proud Rebel.

“I felt it was important to develop a rapport between our students and our supporters,” Moradkhan says. “I wanted to share my experiences and express to donors the true impact they have on our students.”

In addition to her leadership activities with student government, the Nevada Student Alliance, and Alpha Delta Pi sorority, Moradkhan crusaded for the annual fund during her first year as student body president. She authored a letter urging current and previous university donors to continue their support. Her efforts helped bring in more than $75,000 in unrestricted funds to UNLV.

As her final year in school began last fall, Moradkhan donated one of her presidential paychecks to UNLV. “I knew that money came from our student body and it was right to reinvest it in our student body,” she explains. Her first gift to UNLV helped support the Alumni Association’s scholarship fund.

The recent hotel administration graduate is not shy about her thoughts on alumni leaders’ links to UNLV. “Alumni who have rich leadership experiences through student government, Greek life, or professional associations should lead the cause among their graduating classes by contributing through the UNLV Foundation and the Alumni Association. We should invest in the university that invested in us.”

— Lori Bachand

For information about the President’s Associates gift club, contact Grace Devitt or Stephanie Horne at 702-895-3641. For information on alumni programs, contact Gillian Silver at 702-895-3621 or visit alumni.unlv.com.
By Holly Ivy De Vore

For art professor Catherine Angel, taking photographs is more than just the pointing and clicking of a camera. It’s personal.

“I really only photograph people I’m very close to because, for me, taking someone’s photo is an intimate act. I use photography to show the person who you can’t see. I’m interested in who the person really is, and I hope that my photography reveals that,” says Angel, who joined UNLV in 1991.

Angel is best known for the photographs of her daughters. “I have been taking black-and-white pictures of my daughters – Helen, who is 15, and twins Nadine and Bessie, who are 12 – since we adopted them from India,” she says. “For seven years, I did it without very much thought and didn’t really view it as ‘art.’ But then one day I was looking at the prints and began to view the pictures as ‘true art.’”

The photographs have been accepted in the art world and exhibited nationally and internationally. She currently has exhibits at the Blue Sky Gallery in Portland, Ore., and at the Center for Photography in Mumbai, India.

Before turning her lens to her daughters, she focused on mixed media photographic collages, many of which reflected on her struggle against ovarian cancer.

This spring she received the Nevada Regents’ Creative Activity Award, which came with a $5,000 stipend and recognition at commencement in May.

Among those who wrote the regents to recommend Angel for the award was Jeffrey Koep, dean of the College of Fine Arts. “Catherine Angel is one of those rare jewels that make Nevada and UNLV glisten a bit more,” he wrote. “She has proven she is both an excellent artist capable of ‘playing’ at the national and international levels, as well as an outstanding educator. She is certainly a ‘poster child’ for the type of faculty member who deserves recognition by the board of regents for her accomplishments in art.”

Angel takes pride in teaching students how to infuse their photography with creativity. “I try to give my intermediate and advanced students an assignment that they don’t know how to solve and, in the process of not knowing, they come up with a solution,” she says. “I hope that they are able develop a body of work that is unique to them. I am not just teaching art, I am also teaching self-discovery.”
“Nadine and Bessie”
Junk Food Generation

New Program Helps Kids Choose Healthy Meals Over Happy Meals

by Gian Galassi

Guess which food provides the highest source of vitamin C for a typical adolescent boy? Orange juice, you say? Not quite – try french fries.

It seems McDonald’s, Jack in the Box, Carl’s Jr., and other fast-food joints have cornered the playground market, appealing to our nation’s kids in ways that a food pyramid simply can’t. The result, of course, has been a super-sized childhood obesity problem. A recent study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found that one in five children over the age of 6 is either clinically overweight or obese.

But a three-year collaborative health education program is proving to be a successful model for educating kids about the benefits of turning their happy meals into healthier ones.

UNLV and the city of Henderson parks and recreation department partnered to bring the national Hearts N’ Parks program to children in school Safekey programs. Designed and implemented locally by faculty and students in UNLV’s nutrition sciences department, the program combines fun activities with science-based lessons on good nutrition, portion control, and physical fitness.

Motivating Kids to Eat Well
Molly Michelman, a visiting instructor in the department of nutrition sciences, said the program already has produced encouraging results during its first year of operation.

“Of all the states participating in the Hearts N’ Parks program, Nevada has shown the most significant progress so far,” Michelman said. “Our testing indicates that the children who participated have not only dramatically improved their ability to identify heart-healthy foods, but are also more willing to eat healthier and engage in more physical activities.”

Michelman developed an undergraduate course specifically designed for the Hearts N’ Parks initiative. Students are required to develop, teach, and modify lesson plans that stress the importance of good nutrition and physical fitness. During a six-week period, UNLV students visit the Henderson school four times to administer a standard pre-test questionnaire, a nutrition intervention lesson, a fitness intervention lesson, and a post-test questionnaire.

The test results are compiled and entered into a national database that will be used to develop future Hearts N’ Parks programs around the country.

Hands-on Learning for UNLV Students
Susan Meacham, director of the nutrition sciences department, said the initiative not only has obvious benefits for the children but provides unique learning opportunities for UNLV students, too.

“It’s hard enough to explain to an adult what we know about nutrition, but to do so for a room full of 80 children is a whole different kind of challenge,” said Meacham. “The UNLV students participating in the program are learning how to do that – which is a valuable lesson in

Could your child live on hot dogs and popsicles alone?

Nutrition sciences professor Molly Michelman offers these tips for improving children’s eating habits.

1 Grab an apple yourself – You are the most important role model for your children. If they see you making healthy eating and lifestyle choices, they’ll be more likely to follow suit.

2 Let them eat cake – All foods in moderation can be part of a healthy diet so don’t be too strict.

3 Be a family that cooks together – Encourage your children to be involved in meal planning and preparation. Enlist their help in finding ways to incorporate a variety of foods into the household.

4 Don’t dangle the carrot(cake) – Find rewards other than food that your children will enjoy and appreciate.

5 Do the mashed potato, not the couch potato – Exercise doesn’t have to be work. Seek out creative opportunities for physical activity. Put on some music and dance around the house, go bowling, or play miniature golf. Get your kids involved in your housework, such as washing the car, painting the house, and gardening.
itself – but are also excited to see how they can make a positive difference in the lives of children.”

Nutrition major Sherri Kush, who was one of the first UNLV students to become involved in the program, said her experience already has proved invaluable.

“Being able to pick up a lesson plan and know how to reach people, especially children, is a really important skill to master,” said Kush, who also serves as president of the Student Dietetic Association. “Ultimately, it’s those kinds of things that will open up doors for me in this field.”

Kush and other students in Michelman’s class hope the program helps counter the mass marketing efforts of fast food franchises.

“Our challenge is to turn somewhat didactic lessons into fun, interactive programs that are of interest to young kids,” Michelman said. “Most of these kids understand the general principles of good nutrition, but sometimes it takes just a few more bells and whistles to help them apply it to real life.”

Nevada was one of only 11 states selected to participate in the Hearts N’ Parks program. In addition to the UNLV-Henderson partnership, the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Reno, and Sparks are participating.

The program is also allowing the city of Henderson to tap into the teaching resources at UNLV, said Sheri O’Berto, Henderson’s recreation coordinator. “Collaborating with UNLV’s nutrition sciences department has been great. Without them I don’t think we could’ve provided our Safekey students with such a high level of nutrition education.”

The program is co-sponsored by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the National Recreation and Park Association. Locally, the program is funded through a grant from the General Mills Foundation with additional support from the American Dietetic Association.
On Sept. 10, 2001, dealing with terrorism was largely the province of the federal government. The next day, it became everybody’s business. And, as time passed, some American universities joined the fight to make the country safer. UNLV was one of them.

UNLV created the Institute for Security Studies, one of the nation’s first programs devoted to homeland security, to capitalize on the unique resources it has to offer Nevada and the nation. “Our educational capability in America is absolutely unsurpassed,” says Lee Van Arsdale, a West Point graduate and retired Army Special Forces officer who heads the new institute. “Now we have this threat against America, and it makes sense to focus some of that educational capability on something that threatens our very lives.”

UNLV’s institute is part of a national trend of academic involvement in homeland security. In Pittsburgh, for instance, Carnegie Mellon University has a team looking at ways to make the nation’s electric power grid less vulnerable to sabotage. And Colorado State University researchers are trying to develop houseplants that change color when they are exposed to toxic agents.

But UNLV is going a step beyond. The university has designated homeland security as one of its 12 current and emerging strengths, or macrothemes. The homeland security macrotheme responds to the national demand for improved training and research associated with threats to community infrastructure, including issues in emergency management, public transportation, bioterrorism, and cyberterrorism.

The institute is an umbrella organization for the university’s numerous homeland security programs – which range from risk analysis for the transportation of hazardous materials to counseling programs to help emergency workers deal with the emotional toll their jobs can take on them.

“The institute is an outgrowth of where we want to go as a university,” says Paul Ferguson, vice president...
UNLV’s Institute for Security Studies is taking a multifaceted approach to homeland security issues.

A Natural Fit
Already the institute has launched an applied technology laboratory to develop new motion detectors, improved sensors, and other technological devices that will immediately be used to combat terrorism.

“The lab will provide a mechanism for the rapid prototyping, field testing, and deployment of technology to those with an immediate need for it,” Van Arsdale says. “The lab’s goal will be to turn around much-needed gadgets – like motion detectors, sensors, and communications devices – in a matter of weeks and months, not years.”

On the academic front, UNLV’s public administration department launched a new executive master of science in crisis and emergency management program. The degree is designed for mid- to upper-level law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical officials who want to upgrade their ability to deal with crisis events. It also helps the students, who are generally working professionals, develop coordinated responses to terrorism strikes and other emergencies.

In effect, the students often become the teachers, says Dennis Cobb, deputy chief of the Las Vegas
Metropolitan Police Department, who is enrolled in the program. “When you discuss a hazardous material spill, you don’t have people saying, ‘If this had happened, I would have done this.’ Instead, they are saying, ‘When this happened, this is what I did and this is how it worked out,’” says Cobb, ’79 BA Political Science.

Homeland security was a natural fit for UNLV for several reasons. The university is located within easy driving distance of the Nevada Test Site, where the federal government tested nuclear weapons. The site is isolated and heavily guarded – perfect for homeland security exercises that involve explosives or other hazardous materials. There is little chance that civilians could inadvertently wander into a mock security exercise.

Another reason for establishing the institute was the concern that Las Vegas was a possible future target for terrorists. “The university has a tremendous interest in protecting Las Vegas,” Ferguson says.

The nature of Las Vegas’ economy, which is largely based on tourism and features highly visible, high-rise Strip casinos, could make it an attractive potential target. “Everything Las Vegas advertises itself to be is anathema to Islamic terrorists,” Cobb says. “In addition, Las Vegas is a city known throughout the world. It would mean something to those abroad if it were targeted.”

The establishment of the institute reflects the view that terrorism against the United States is an ongoing...
Firefighter Chris Magenheimer has spent his 19-year career putting out fires. In the future, however, he figures he could be called on to deal with something much bigger – the aftermath of a terrorist strike.

To gain the expertise he would need to deal with that, he has joined the first group of students in a new degree program – the executive master of science in crisis and emergency management.

Magenheimer signed up for the program even though he works as a captain for the rural North Tahoe Fire Department, located well away from any large city that might be targeted. But if Las Vegas or another large city in the region were hit, he figures, fire departments from around Nevada would send personnel and equipment. There is ample precedent for this. Crews are routinely dispatched long distances when major wildfires break out. “During the fire season, we send engines and crews as far as Southern California,” he said.

Though Magenheimer is only part-way through the master’s course, his view of the world of emergency services has begun to change. He once thought of emergency response solely from the viewpoint of a firefighter, but the master’s program has thrown him together with police, paramedics, and other emergency personnel.

Now he sees the need to coordinate with all the agencies that might show up at a scene, including the FBI. “You really have to step back and see the big picture.”

He’s also learned that he needs to “think outside the box,” just as terrorists have done. This is difficult for Americans to do, says Magenheimer, but he has gotten help from another student in the program who grew up in the Middle East. “He sees things from a different perspective. In our society we look at things one way. But you take someone from a different culture – they think way outside our box. For instance, the terrorists flew airplanes into major buildings, something we never would have expected.”

The master’s program may help him find a second career when he retires as a firefighter. “Homeland security is an up-and-coming field,” he says. “With this pilot program, it looked like a good time to jump in and be on the cutting-edge.”

The course is so cutting-edge that it changes from day to day as events take place. “Look at this attack in Spain,” he says just after the March 11 bombings in Madrid’s train stations. “I guarantee this will be a topic of discussion.

“One of the neat things about being in the very first group is that this program is an experiment. And it will change as events unfold.”

—Doug McInnis

Photograph by GERI KODEY
The war on terror is as much about knowledge as it is about military action. Much of that knowledge is locked up in the brains of the country’s first responders – the 9 million police officers, firefighters, Hazmat specialists, paramedics, and other emergency personnel who are first on the scene of a crisis.

Some have already seen terror firsthand – at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the Oklahoma City federal building. These experts are needed to teach others what to do when terrorists strike.

But they may not be good teachers. UNLV is addressing that problem through its new “Train the Trainers” program, which instructs professionals how to teach what they know. “We can take people who have the expertise and we can make them incredibly effective communicators,” program coordinator Chris Schearer says. “You may have someone, for instance, who knows how to deal with radiological hazards. But if they aren’t able to teach it, there’s a problem. Using established principles of instruction, we can provide them with training so that they will be very good teachers.”

Those who take the program are required to make a presentation when they begin the noncredit course and another when they complete it. Each presentation is videotaped to allow students to see how they’ve improved.

To counter an ever-changing enemy will require an ever-changing response, Van Arsdale says. It will be part military, part economic, part diplomatic. And in this struggle to develop tactics that work, he believes that universities such as UNLV will play an important role.

The war on terror has many fronts and we have many resources to wage the fight here in Nevada,” Reid says. “The ingenuity of our fellow Nevadans is making the whole country safer from the scourge of terrorism.”

In the end, it is the ultimate cat-and-mouse game. “Terrorism and counterterrorism comprise a dynamic, ever-changing tableau of tactics and countertactics,” says Van Arsdale. “Our goal at UNLV is to help develop the body of knowledge to fight terrorism and then to disseminate that knowledge accordingly.”

—Lee Van Arsdale, Institute for Security Studies
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there’s just as much pressure to not be overly cautious,” Borsack says. “Pass two of HSC includes three levels of manual review for each document before it is judged to be sensitive but unclassified.”

In the second pass, the software highlights just the passages that contain potentially sensitive information so the human classifier can zero in on the appropriate passages. Only about 5 percent of the pages in the entire collection are actually reviewed by a classifier. “You simply couldn’t start on page 1 and manually review all of these documents in a timely manner with absolute accuracy,” Borsack says. “By automatically identifying the passages that need further evaluation, HSC has saved the government tremendous time and expense.”

The institute was able to deliver the Homeland Security Classifier quickly because it is based on software tools it had designed for other uses. “These have not been small projects,” says computer science professor Kazem Taghva, associate director of the institute. “It has taken many years and several million dollars to get ISRI where it is today.”

Launched in 1989, ISRI is well-established in the field of information-access technology. It has won more than $10 million in federal research and software development grants and employs 11 full-time programmers, document analysts, and support personnel.

“We go straight from the research drawing board through to product development and delivery – that’s a different paradigm for research groups on university campuses,” Taghva says.

Long-term Benefits for UNLV and Its Students
The finished products the institute delivers to its government clients also have commercial applications. The Homeland Security Classifier, for example, can be modified for a variety of classification tasks. It could be licensed to corporations that need to ensure they comply with the Privacy Act or with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

“The benefit of the Internet – that it gives everybody access to information – can also be its drawback,” Borsack says. “I think people are concerned about too much access to their personal information. Both individuals and businesses want some protection.”

Nartker added, “Managing electronic information these days is no small task. At the most basic level this might mean sorting our e-mail to eliminate spam and boost productivity. At a higher level, it means ensuring that some information, such as Social Security numbers, remain private.”

Among the products that ISRI is now patenting or licensing for commercial use is MANICURE. The
Energy Department currently uses this program to convert printed text into electronic documents. Setting MANICURE apart from similar programs on the market are its quality-control features, which identify the accuracy of the conversion.

Another project that has both homeland security and commercial applications is ISRI’s development of the Multilingual Search Technology (MLST). It indexes and retrieves documents in other languages. Taghva and a group of graduate students are applying the technology to search documents written in Farsi, the official language of Afghanistan, and Arabic, which is used in Iraq.

While software currently on the market does a good job of translating documents, searching for relevant information in other languages can be difficult. “The difficulty is not so much in translating documents from another language, but in finding the documents that relate to your search,” Taghva says. “What good is a translation program if you don’t know which documents to translate?”

MLST incorporates a browser and Web application so the user can type a search in English and find the documents in Arabic or Farsi. The documents can then be displayed in English without the font issues that plague other Middle Eastern language systems.

Should these products be commercially licensed, the university will reap a portion of the proceeds. “Our current contracts not only fund ISRI research, they support overhead for the university’s research administration, the Engineering College, and the computer science department,” Taghva says.

But the benefits go beyond the financial for the university. ISRI research has a direct impact on student learning. The institute employs more than 70 graduate and undergraduate students, whose resumes are enhanced by the hands-on programming and classification experience. “Employers look to our graduates because of the expertise they gained from our program,” Taghva says. “Their experience at ISRI is not something they can get in a classroom.”

CyberSpace Invaders: Turning Your Computer into a Weapon

Many people rely on computers to meet their business, communication, financial planning, and entertainment needs. But for users with malicious intent, computers also can be a weapon of “cyberterrorism.”

Computer science professor Hal Berghel defines “cyberterrorism” as the use of computers and networks for premeditated, politically motivated violence. In other words, it’s a high-tech way to instill fear, says the director of the School of Computer Science. Berghel is also the director of UNLV’s Center for Cybermedia Research and the Internet Forensics Lab.

“To place things in perspective, the low-tech exploits of the Unibomber and (Oklahoma City bomber) Timothy McVeigh didn’t diminish the ferocity of their actions. The use of modern computer networks just makes the activity of terrorism more efficient and global,” says Berghel, who is also a member of a subcommittee of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security that focuses on cyberterrorism.

At one end of the spectrum, computers are used simply as a communication medium by terrorists. An example, he says, is the use of a watermarked graphic attached to an e-mail to signal the September 11th attacks. “At the opposite extreme, cyberspace is the actual weapon used. Examples would include hack attacks that trigger the unintended use of military weapons systems and the disabling of utility control systems, such as those that maintain power grids and water supplies. At this point, most of the damage is coming from the first extreme. That will change over time.”

Such attacks are likely to have an indirect effect on the typical computer and network user because hackers generally distance themselves from the scene of an exploit to avoid detection, he says. But terrorists can use an unsuspecting individual’s computer as a “relay” to carry out attacks.

Hacking exploits cost organizations in terms of lost business and downtime and can halt the activities of home computer users. In August, when several viruses, worms, and Trojan horses were launched, the cost of computer hacking alone was estimated to be more than $30 billion, without producing any physical damage or violence, according to mi2g, a digital security company. The societal costs of cyber-fear are difficult to measure however.

The best thing home and office computer users can do, Berghel says, is ensure that their computers have the latest software updates, anti-virus and spyware detection software, and both a hardware and software firewall.

The UNLV Center for Cybermedia Research and the Internet Forensics Lab are working with local, state, and federal agencies to develop software that can be used to help combat cyberterrorism in different areas.

—Holly Ivy De Vore
Don’t let the name bug you. Cockroaches may be ugly nuisances that you don’t ever want to find in the kitchen sink, but their endurance and ability to outlast any situation is inspiring to the founding members of a new Las Vegas theater group.

“The angle we’re taking is that we’re survivors. When everything else in the world goes to pot, that’s all that will be left: cockroaches and theater,” jokes Levi Fackrell, ’02, one of several UNLV theatre alums who founded Cockroach Theatre. “If there’s life, there’s theater.”

Fackrell and his fellow founders established the company because all wanted to stay on stage in Las Vegas. After all, they’d all lived in town for at least 10 years, some much longer.

“We all have our dreams, but when you think about it, why do you want run into the grind in New York or L.A. when we have a great, cohesive group of actors here?” says Fackrell, who is a bartender/waiter by day and actor by night. “We think it’s possible to create a reputation that can speak outside of Las Vegas.”

Cockroach Theatre, which includes Will Adamson, ’02; Ernie Curcio, ’02; Barbara Rollins, ’01; John Lorenz, ’02; and Andrew Kaempfer, ’01, stages original and rarely produced plays while bringing theater performers from around the world to Las Vegas.

Cockroach Theatre has already taken flight in its mission, performing at the 2003 Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland with its production of *Savage*, an original play by UNLV playwriting alumnus Shawn Overton, ’03. Through fundraising that included live readings at a local poet’s home, 12 cast and crew members were able to travel to the festival.

For more information, visit www.cockroachtheatre.com

**Catch Cockroach Theatre Next:**

Albert Camus’ *Caligula*

SEAT Theater in the ARTs Factory

103 E. Charleston Blvd.

June 4-5 and 11-13.

The company now hopes to become a permanent part of the cultural renaissance downtown. It is presenting Albert Camus’ *Caligula* at the ARTs Factory in Las Vegas’ downtown arts district. That play is directed by Jason Defreitas, ’00, who joined the company as artistic director.

So far, the founders, along with some of their fellow artist-collaborators, have been running the show.

“Ultimately, we’d like to have a board of advisors,” Fackrell says. “We’re artists, and running a business is something we could use more help with. We were recently granted nonprofit status and (that) has enormous benefits that we haven’t taken advantage of yet.”

Cockroach hopes to fill a void that Las Vegas’ established theater groups – which appeal to an older core audience or to visitors – do not, Fackrell says.

“We want to bring younger people into the world of theater,” he says. “They don’t traditionally go to the theater anymore. We offer youth, energy, and risk-taking. That’s not to bash anybody – there’s a lot of good stuff around town.”

Adamson adds, “It’s much more experimental than anything else in town.”

Fackrell and Adamson say that when they find a permanent space, they would like to present a four-show season and bring in international productions. Eventually, the Roaches want to host their own fringe festival in Las Vegas.

“One of our major goals is to bring people in who haven’t been exposed to theater already to give them an example of what theater can be,” Adamson says.

**THE AUTHOR:** Erin Auerbach, ’98 MA Theatre Arts, is a freelance writer for BackStage.com, *Back Stage West*, *Stage Directions Magazine*, *LA Stage Magazine*, *Dramatics Magazine*, and the Riverside, Calif., *Press-Enterprise* newspaper. She is working on a second master’s degree in print journalism at the University of Southern California. She lives in Los Angeles.
No Run-of-the-Mill Job: Catherine Fletcher, FBI administrator

A career with the FBI wasn’t what Catherine Fletcher had in mind when she took an accounting technician position with the bureau. She was just looking for a job she could handle during the day while returning to college at night to complete her bachelor’s degree.

But, 17 years and two UNLV degrees later, she’s still building her career at the FBI. Fletcher isn’t an agent — the job that most people undoubtedly think of when they hear “FBI.” Instead, she is one of the thousands of support employees who make it possible for the agents to do their jobs.

Fletcher, ‘95 BSBA and ‘03 EMBA, is the administrative officer for the bureau’s Las Vegas division. She oversees 45 people in the Las Vegas and Reno offices whose jobs involve everything from human resources and records management to budgeting, vehicles, and facilities maintenance.

“It is no run-of-the-mill place to work,” she says. “This is a particularly exciting time to work for the bureau as we face many changes and challenges. Particularly in this time of terrorist activity, we’re all called upon to use all our education and skills to meet these challenges.”

Fletcher is a longtime federal employee, having worked for the Department of Energy in Chicago and for the Social Security Administration in Las Vegas before joining the bureau. After her initial FBI job as an accounting technician, she became a financial analyst. Applying the knowledge she was gaining as a UNLV undergraduate concentrating on management information systems, she moved into a computer specialist position. In 1996, she assumed her current job.

Like many people, she says, she wasn’t aware of the variety of careers available in the FBI when she first joined the staff.

“Professional support positions were just being developed in the bureau when I first joined,” she says. “That development provided me with opportunities for career growth, which is what I wanted.”

It was that desire for career growth that led Fletcher to enroll in 2002 as a member of the inaugural class of UNLV’s Executive Master of Business Administration program.

“My aspiration is to be in the senior executive service, which would entail working at headquarters in Washington, D.C.,” she says. “When I will pursue that, I don’t know, but that’s the long-term goal. That’s where you feel like you can make the biggest impact.”

To achieve that, “I felt that I had to have an education equal to the agents who would be competing for positions at the senior executive level. I had to have an MBA.”

But a traditional MBA program wouldn’t suit her needs, given...
The demand of her job. She figured it would take too many years to complete and would place her in classes with much younger students who might be bright, but who wouldn’t have much job experience to bring to class discussions.

UNLV’s new EMBA program, however, with its 18 months of twice monthly Friday and Saturday classes and with its focus on educating mid-career and executive-level professionals, proved to be ideal for her needs.

“The EMBA program exceeded my expectations. At the end of the day I think I’m better able to step away and look at situations from a strategic and executive perspective rather than from that of a middle manager.”

As a cohort program, all 20 EMBA students went through each class together. “You build a camaraderie. You learn a lot from each other. It teaches you a lot about teamwork.”

Fletcher says she immediately began using in the workplace those things she was gaining from her classes – including a growing level of confidence in herself and her management skills. For instance, as co-chair of the Administrative Officers’ Advisory Committee, she has to periodically brief senior executives on issues that affect support operations across the FBI.

“The EMBA program gave me the confidence to articulate the operational concerns of support managers across the FBI to senior executives in Washington,” Fletcher says. “It is extremely gratifying to employ the strategic techniques I learned in the program when I work with senior executives to develop business solutions to problems that affect such a large organization.”

As the EMBA students neared graduation, they traveled abroad for the international component that will be a part of every EMBA experience at UNLV. For the first cohort group, the destination was Brazil. There they met with representatives of a number of businesses, including the petroleum and airline industries.

“I particularly liked the finance and banking section of the program,” Fletcher says. “I learned a lot listening to people who live and breathe politics, economy, and security. It was interesting to hear them talk about their aspirations.

“I think the international seminar course was a great way to wrap up. It was the perfect way to end that experience.”

—Diane Russell
**Child At Heart: Lynn Rosencrantz, author**

S he's a charming cherub, resplendent with lush black curls and an ever-present pencil and journal set – a casual contradiction found on the shelves of an upscale retailer.

But don’t let the whimsy of Lynnie’s appearance underestimate her power. This particular soft cloth doll, a visualization of the “little girl within,” is sparking a marketing whirlwind while inspiring personal growth.

Lynnie is the creation of Lynn Rosencrantz, ’75 M.Ed. The impetus was a self-parenting exercise 16 years ago that required writing with the nondominant hand. Pouring reflections into a journal that day started what Rosencrantz describes as a “quest to understand the significance and depth of her inner child.” Today, Rosencrantz has 15 Lynnie stories and a line of inspirational products for adults.

“We all have an inner child,” Rosencrantz says. “We have a chance to live a healthy life with this child or ignore it, which can wreak havoc or be disruptive.

We need to recapture the feeling of swinging high and reaching for the treetops, of being tucked into bed, and of having someone care for us. And, if our childhood memories are unhappy, we need to promises our child within a better today and more joyful tomorrow.”

Adults have responded to Lynnie: “A Friend Forever,” the foundation book in the expanding series, “in a playful and curious manner,” Rosencrantz says.

“The more they consider Lynnie, the more they may want to learn about their former selves and how this influences who they are in present day.

“My hope is that Lynnie will do for others what she has done for me,” she explains. “For a very long time, I had an inner child-sized hole in my soul. Then I found Lynnie and she was a perfect fit. It is my hope that others will be motivated by my stories to reconnect with their own inner child and reclaim joy and magic in their lives.”

In 2000, Rosencrantz and business partner Cindy Williams traveled to China to develop a full line of what she calls “life-enhancing products.” In addition to the Lynnie doll, the company offers a faceless interactive doll with six washable markers so people can create and re-create the face of their own inner child. A line of greeting cards carry messages such as “My Inner Child had such a great time … Thank You!” Products also include books, calendars, gift bags, and, of course, journals.

“Mainland China was everything we had heard about and still very surreal,” Rosencrantz says. “The factory that manufactures our products is very large and clean, and the employees seemed happy.

Lynnie doll, the company offers a faceless interactive doll with six washable markers so people can create and re-create the face of their own inner child. A line of greeting cards carry messages such as “My Inner Child had such a great time … Thank You!” Products also include books, calendars, gift bags, and, of course, journals.

**Warren B. Hardy, ’91 BA Political Science,** is president and CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors. He also is a Nevada state senator representing Clark County’s District 12.

**Odeh Kheir, ’91 BS and ’93 MS Architecture,** was named architecture director for the Las Vegas division of Pulte Homes.

**Gina Polovina, ’91 BA Political Science,** was named secretary of the Nevada Commission for National & Community Service. She is vice president of government and community affairs for the Boyd Gaming Corp.

**Anthony Zuiker, ’91 BA Communication Studies,** received the Silver Nitrate Award from the Nevada Film Critics Society for outstanding contributions to film in Nevada. Additionally, his television show CSI: Crime Scene Investigation was named the favorite dramatic television show at the People’s Choice Awards.

**Justin Doucette, ’92 BS and ’00 MS Hotel Administration,** is chairman of the Nevada Restaurant Association’s board of directors for 2004.

**Karim Erickson, ’92 BS Hotel Administration,** is a teacher at the Clark County School District’s Area Technical Trade Center. She previously worked for Newmarket International where she was involved with the Delphi sales and catering software system in hotels around the world.

**Susan Corey-Tuckwell, ’93 MS Hotel Administration,** is executive director of human resources for the San Diego Padres baseball team. She previously worked as human resources director of the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego.

**Kristin Cavanaugh, ’94 BS Marketing,** was named the single copy marketing and sales manager for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Las Vegas Sun. She is responsible for marketing both papers to tourists.

**Lisa Freestone, ’94 BS Civil Engineering,** was promoted by the engineering firm of PBS&J to the position of civil engineering division manager. She oversees key client management responsibilities and daily operations of the firm’s Henderson office.

**Michael Franks, ’95 BS Management** and ’99 M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction, serves on the board of directors of First Book, a non-profit group that promotes literacy.

**Jerry Hartman, ’95 BS Radiological Technology** and ’99 Master of Public Administration, is clinical operations director for Desert Radiologists.

**Tayfun Ozeren, ’95 BS Hotel Administration,** is the founder, shareholder, and director of KATOPARK in Istanbul, Turkey. The company specializes in manufacturing parking lifts. The United States is among the nations that import his products.

**Kimberley McGee, ’96 BA Communication Studies,** is a full-time journalist freelancing for People, In Touch, The New York Post, Redbook, and Executive Travel.

**Lisa Scheller, ’96 BA Psychology,** was named human resource manager for GeoTek, a Las Vegas-based geotechnical, environmental sciences, and materials testing consulting firm.

**Jay Vogel, ’96 BS Civil Engineering,** recently launched the firm of Sierra Consulting Structural Engineering. He lives in Henderson.

**Riccardo Caponi, ’97 BS Hotel Administration,** has a Florida real estate license and sells deeded timeshares, which also are known as vacation ownerships. He participates with
We toured the facility to be certain no children were working there. It was important to us that we meet and talk with people, and translate our satisfaction into something meaningful.

“We also had to realize that China is not America, and we needed to reconcile our respect and understanding for a different culture into a more prominent place in our lives. One of the most cherished compliments we received was that we negotiated like men.”

The products were launched at the Las Vegas Neiman Marcus in December 2003 with a book signing. Since then the “Lynnie An Inner Child” line has been positioned in gift stores around the country and a major retailer is considering a contract.

Rosencrantz shares that, “This is an exciting dream we are living, and even on the most difficult of days, we are getting through our challenges together.”

Rosencrantz and her husband, Arne, have two children, Marcus and Amy.

—Gillian Silver

For more information, visit www.LynnieAnInnerChild.com.


Lynette Boggs McDonald, ’98 Master of Public Administration was appointed to the Clark County Commission by Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn. She previously served on the Las Vegas City Council.


Clark Kincaid, ’99 MS and ’03 Ph.D. Hotel Administration, was named to the 2004 board of directors of the Nevada Restaurant Association.

Nicholas G. Vaskov, ’99 BS Biological Sciences and ’02 JD, is an attorney with Kummer Kaempfer Bonner & Renshaw. His practice concentration is commercial law and litigation. He and his wife, Tiffany Moore Vaskov, ’98 BS Elementary Education and ’01 M.Ed. Instruction & Curricular Studies, became the parents of twins girls, Megan and Amanda, on Aug. 28, 2003.

Tony Zaranti, ’99 BS Hotel Administration, recently was named catering manager at Desert Highlands in Scottsdale, Ariz. He previously served as the assistant manager at Cherokee Town and Country Club in Atlanta. He has earned the Certified Club Manager designation from the Club Managers Association of America.

2000s

Alan Chen, ’00 BS Marketing, won a Public Health Hero Award from the Clark County Health District for his service to the district’s environmental health division.

Grace Devitt, ’00 BA Anthropology, joined the staff of the UNLV Foundation as a development officer for the annual fund program.

Coreena Fletcher, ’01 BS Hotel Administration, recently started her own business, Scoretek. The company is a golf scoring solutions and event management firm that operates in and around Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. She lives in Whistler.

Samuel Bateman, ’02 JD, is an associate with the Hale Lane law firm where he primarily practices commercial litigation. Before joining the firm, he clerked for U.S. District Judge Larry Hicks.

Jason Farrington, ’02 JD, is an attorney with the firm of Piper Rudnick. He represents clients involved in corporate reorganizations and liquidations. Previously, he served as a law clerk for then-U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Clive Jones in Nevada.

Shay-Anne Spencer, ’02 BS Hotel Administration, works as the acting operations manager for the Yakama National Legends Casino in Washington state. She is responsible for a $1 million budget, internal controls, policies and procedures, safety and security, and marketing.

Greg Tin, ’02 Architecture, was named landscape designer for the Henderson office of WRG Design, a multidisciplinary design firm based in Portland, Ore.

Nicole Truax, ’02 BA Communication Studies, has been named communications specialist for Houldsworth, Russo & Co., a Southern Nevada accounting firm.

Stephanie E. Horne, ’03 BA Anthropology, is a development officer for the annual fund program of the UNLV Foundation.

Michael J. Janssen, ’03 Master of Public Administration, is an engineering project manager in the traffic division of the Las Vegas Public Works Department. He recently earned the Professional Traffic Operations Engineer certification from the Transportation Professional Certification Board, which requires the passing of a rigorous daylong exam and at
James Jusayan, ’03 BS Computer Science, is a web developer and programmer for Resource Associates, a Las Vegas-based recruiting firm and staff augmentation company. He provides technology support services. The firm’s specialty areas include geographic information systems, engineering, and construction management.

Aislinn Lagomarsino, ’03 BA Communication Studies, is an in-house copywriter and proofreader for V2 Creative advertising agency. She also manages the Benedict’s Garden Bistro & Terrance account.

Deaths
Rene Aravena, ’85 Master of Music and ’88 MA Foreign Languages, died on March 9 in California.

Safety First: Tim Jones, director of safety

Tim Jones is a man on a mission. As director of safety for the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino, Jones assumes responsibility for the safety and well-being of more than 20,000 people each day. The 1986 public administration graduate accepted the position at MGM after 21 years of service at the Employer Insurance Company of Nevada and says he was attracted by the challenges inherent in working for a large resort property.

“It’s an exciting job,” Jones says. “The MGM is a huge company, and there is so much that needs to be done each day. The challenge is choosing the areas in which you can be most effective.”

Finding areas of maximum effectiveness is no small task when the company you work for has a population that rivals that of many small towns – and you are a department of one. The 117-acre property employs 8,500 regular workers, houses 1,000 contract employees, and is the home-away-from-home for those staying in its 5,005 guestrooms. “And that’s just on a typical day,” Jones laughs.

“If we have a large event on the property, like last year’s de la Hoya fight, then our numbers can swell to 50,000 people. Add to that the dozen or so construction projects that are under way in a given year and you have some idea of how huge this company really is.”

To ensure that all of the diverse areas of the hotel are operating safely for employees and guests, the MGM charges the individual departments with training responsibilities. Jones develops the safety curriculum for each department and then trains department heads to deliver the program to their employees. Although each department has different needs, Jones says his curriculum is built around three key areas: understanding the risks in a given area, identifying hazards that contribute to the risk, and then developing operational procedures that bring the risk down to an acceptable level.

“I work with executive chefs in our restaurants, tenant shop owners, construction contractors, housekeeping, and any number of other departments,” he explains. “On any given day, we probably have at least three different training classes going on. Safety is clearly a priority.”

Jones also works closely with the security department to ensure that guests and employees know what to do in the event of an emergency. He says the MGM, like all other large resort properties in Las Vegas, has added additional security measures since Sept. 11, 2001, to comply with recommendations from homeland security and local and state agencies.

“Every time the (national homeland security) alert level goes up, we get this wave of TV and newspaper reporters who want to know what we have done to increase security,” Jones says. “But the reality is, you’re not going to see anything different or necessarily be able to identify the ways in which the hotel has increased security. We have very objective procedures that specify how the property is observed and how we will respond to issues. But guests should not be unduly inconvenienced as a consequence of staying at the hotel.”

Protecting employees and guests at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino is certainly a big job, but Jones says he wouldn’t trade it for anything. “I’d like it better if I could wear shorts every day but otherwise, I love my job.”

—Laurel Fruth
Go ahead. Give us the Scoop.

Did you get a promotion, add a family member, or earn another degree? Have you run your first marathon, won an award, or moved to a new town? Share the news with your UNLV family.

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Family & Hobbies

Send entries to: Diane Russell, UNLV Magazine, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 451024, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1024; fax 702-895-1596; or e-mail russell@ccmail.nevada.edu. Deadline for the fall issue of UNLV Magazine is Aug. 15, 2004.

Or fill out our online form at: http://myupdate.unlv.edu

President’s Message

continued from page 2

longtime friend and supporter, Sen. Harry Reid. As always, we are grateful for Sen. Reid’s unwavering support, which has led to a number of research-oriented projects and partnerships benefiting UNLV. He consistently observes the university’s potential for involvement in addressing timely and critical issues.

And that is, after all, one of the most important endeavors a university should undertake, in my opinion: to help address and remain involved in the crucial issues of the day. The pursuit of that endeavor guided us recently as Provost Ray Alden led the development of what we call our 12 “research macrothemes,” which are current or emerging areas of study that characterize the contribution UNLV is making to Nevada and the nation. These macrothemes identify and support scholarship and research clusters that most keenly represent our commitment to partnering with our community, that promote economic diversification efforts, and that illustrate the interdisciplinary nature of the programs active on campus. In short, they were developed to help us concentrate our research efforts on areas of greatest need.

One of these macrothemes focuses specifically on the development and protection of community infrastructure with regard to ensuring homeland security. Researchers in this area – many of whom are working through our Institute of Security Studies – are responding to the national demand for improved training and research associated with threats to the safety and stability of community infrastructure. They focus on multidisciplinary approaches in the study of homeland security, including examination of emergency response and management by fire and police; public transportation; public health and bioterrorism; engineering and construction; and strategies to ensure efficient interactions of local, regional, and national governments.

The UNLV faculty members working in this area are seeking to find concrete solutions to the problems associated with homeland security; they are employing their knowledge, skill, and ingenuity to discover new and innovative techniques, equipment, and ideas to thwart the very real threat of terrorism. I would like to acknowledge them for their willingness to apply their abilities in such constructive ways; I often speak of the noble endeavors of higher education, and I see examples of these endeavors every day on the UNLV campus. But when I allow myself to speculate that the human condition could be improved through the work of a researcher or educator from our university – through the study of homeland security or any other discipline – I know the definition of meaningful contribution.

So, as you can see, we are finding our path, as are many fine institutions and people throughout the country, to help restore peace of mind in the post-9-11 world without engaging in any activity that restricts human or civil rights. I encourage you to read on to learn more specifically about UNLV’s programs and research on the issue of homeland security. I believe you will find it a powerful reminder of the remarkable results produced when intellect meets resolve.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

August  Luncheon, featuring football coach John Robinson, men’s basketball coach Lon Kruger, women’s basketball coach Regina Miller. Tam Alumni Center. Date and time TBA.

Sept. 5 Tailgate, Tennessee away game, Knoxville.
Sept. 10 Breakfast, Networking Pointers. 7:30-9am. Tam Alumni Center.
Sept. 11 Tailgate, Wisconsin away game, Madison.
Sept. 18 Tailgate, Air Force home game.
Sept. 25 Tailgate, Utah home game.

Oct. 2 Tailgate, Reno home game.
Oct. 8 Breakfast, Developing Your Professional Commercial. 7:30-9am. Tam Alumni Center.
Oct. 8 Dinner Theater, PROOF. 6 pm. Tam Alumni Center.
Oct. 13 Symphony Orchestra, “A Date with the Devil.” 8 pm. Performing Arts Center.
Oct. 15 Homecoming Dinner. Tam Alumni Center.
Oct. 16 Homecoming Tailgate, New Mexico game.
Oct. 23 Tommy Tune and the Manhattan Rhythm Kings: Tap, Tunes, and Tails. 8 pm. Performing Arts Center.

For event information, call the UNLV Alumni Association at (702) 895-3621 or (800) 829-2586

June 2004

5-6 Ballet: Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre Annual Recital. June 5, 7pm; June 6, 2pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-4712.


July 2004

16 Business Seminar: Preparing and Presenting the Business Plan. Nevada Small Business Development Center and Technology Ventures Corp. 8am. 948-4222.

August 2004

13 Business Seminar: Operations Start Up Monitoring and Human Resources. Nevada Small Business Development Center and Technology Ventures Corp. 8am. 948-4222.

September 2004

10 Business Seminar: Attracting Equity Investors. Nevada Small Business Development Center and Technology Ventures Corp. 8am. 948-4222.

CAMPUS INFORMATION

Athletic Events: (702) 895-3267 unlvrebels.com
Campus Operator: (702) 895-3011
Campus Tours: (702) 895-3443 http://www.unlv.edu/admissions/frTours.html
Fine Arts Events: (702) 895-2787 finearts.unlv.edu
Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery: (702) 895-3893 finearts.unlv.edu
Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History: (702) 895-3381
University Libraries: (702) 895-2286 www.library.unlv.edu
University Infoline: (702) 895-3131
UNLVtickets: (702) 739-3267, toll-free (866) 388-3267, or www.unlvtickets.com

Events are subject to change/cancellation
A constellation of headliners will light up the stage this fall at the Performing Arts Center at UNLV. Subscriptions are now available for the PAC’s recently announced 2004-05 “Stars at the Center” season.

“Stars at the Center” was created to be a return to our traditions, said Larry Henley, PAC director of artistic programming and production. “We boast a solid Master Series with three symphonies and Itzhak Perlman; the New York Stage and Beyond with Tommy Tune, Vienna Choir Boys, and the amazing Linda Eder … not to mention a solo tour de force in Bobby McFerrin.”

**Master Series**
The season opens Oct. 13 with the Charles Vanda Master Series concert “Samuel Ramey: A Date with the Devil.” Ramey, the foremost interpreter of the bass and bass-baritone repertoire, will perform with UNLV’s own symphony orchestra. He will sing the arias of the most famous devils and villains from the operatic canon.

Additional Vanda series performances are the Warsaw Philharmonic with Olga Kern, pianist, on Nov. 13; Itzhak Perlman, the reigning virtuoso of violin, in an exceptional recital with accomplished pianist Janet Guggenheim on Jan. 6; the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra with violinist Cho-Liang Lin on Jan. 28; the St. Petersburg State Ballet Theatre on Feb. 18; and the Prague Symphony Orchestra, led by new phenomenon Ratislav Stur, on March 19.

**New York Stage & Beyond**
The New York Stage & Beyond series opens Oct. 23 with the “Taps, Tunes, and Tails” performance by Tommy Tune and the Manhattan Rhythm Kings. Called the quintessential Broadway song and dance man, Tune is featured in this sparkling combination of close harmony singing and toe-tapping dance.

Other performances in the series include Broadway songstress Linda Eder on Dec. 4; the National Acrobats of Taiwan, featuring fire-works, death-dangles, and hoops of fire, on Jan. 25; the Vienna Choir Boys, a group that has enchanted millions with its unique charm and beautiful singing for five centuries on March 5; Barry Bostwick & Diahan Carroll presenting “TV Hit Parade – A Concert Salute to the TV Generation” on March 26; Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company on April 15; and “Claire Bloom: Shakespeare’s Women” on April 23. Celebrate the 440th birthday of Shakespeare as the award-winning Bloom performs his greatest women characters.

**Season Finale**
Concluding the season is Bobby McFerrin on May 17. No mere singer, McFerrin is music’s last true Renaissance man – a vocal explorer who has combined jazz, folk, choral, a capella, and classical music with his own special style.

Founded in 1976, the Performing Arts Center at UNLV is Southern Nevada’s premier performing arts venue. Located on the north end of the UNLV campus and served by a convenient parking garage, the PAC hosts a variety of performances each year in two very distinct series – the Charles Vanda Master Series and the New York Stage & Beyond. Series subscriptions offer substantial savings and preferred seating.

—Jennifer Vaughan

For tickets and information, call the Performing Arts Center Box Office at 895-2787. Box Office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.
Drum roll, please...

(Left) The UNLV Indoor Drumline is winning accolades with its non-traditional style. The 23-member group placed first in the collegiate division of an American Drumline Association competition in Apple Valley, Calif., and placed second out of 42 groups overall. In May, the ensemble placed second at the association’s national championship in Santa Fe Springs, Calif. This was the drumline’s first year back in the competition after winning the national championship in 1997.

Practice makes perfect, according to Nick Waters, a senior music education major who helps lead the group. “The nature of the activity is extremely competitive, so it is very intense, very meticulous. The point system that we compete under is to the 10th of the point, so in order to win, the performance has to be flawless.”

The group, whose members are selected through auditions, performs locally at area high schools.

(Below) The more traditional look of UNLV’s marching band drumline, circa 1987.
“Nothing happens unless first a dream.”
-Carl Sandburg

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