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Inside UNLV

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Construction Zone Ahead

Work Begins Soon on New Student Union, Rec Center
By NANCY C. SYZDEK and DIANE RUSSELL

The campus community soon will see “concrete” evidence of the much-anticipated new student union and student recreation center as construction crews begin work just east of the Moyer Student Union and in the Thomas & Mack parking lot.

While actual construction is not slated to begin until June, precursors of construction, such as the erection of fences, should be visible next month following commencement.

Timelines call for the first phase of the new student union to open during the summer of 2006, with the second and final phase opening the following summer. In between, the student recreation center is slated to open during the winter of 2006.

When completed, the projects will provide a 135,000-square-foot union with increased food selections and a 184,000-square-foot recreation center. Faculty and staff will be able to use the recreation center for a membership fee. A committee currently is reviewing possible fee structures.

Changes Coming

Once work begins, the campus will experience the inconveniences that generally accompany major campus construction projects.

Among the most noticeable will be the impact on parking in the lots east of the MSU and east of the Thomas & Mack Center. Parking in those areas will decrease during construction, and some spaces will be lost permanently.

Plans call for the eventual construction of additional garages.

“We know that change always is difficult, but we feel confident that once the campus community is able to see “concrete” evidence of the much-anticipated projects, they will be proud of what was accomplished in such a short time,” said Boyd, chairman and chief executive officer of Boyd Gaming. “The leadership of Dean (Richard) Morgan and President (Carol C.) Harter has been tremendous and they deserve a lot of the credit for the early success.”

“The school is creating opportunities for Nevada’s young people that were not possible a decade ago. My gift today will help to make sure the school continues its success and has a bright future for many years to come.”

Boyd was a leading advocate and one of the founding supporters of the William S. Boyd School of Law, pledging $5 million in 1997 for its creation. Funds from the $25 million gift will support professorships, chairs, scholarships, and ancillary educational opportunities for students and faculty.

“Bill Boyd’s gift is a reflection of his leadership in Las Vegas, and continues his family legacy in supporting higher education,” Harter said. “We are deeply appreciative of his generosity, his advocacy, and his vision. His remarkable commitment to the university brings enormous returns to our entire community.”

Boyd’s pledge is the latest in a personal and family history of support for UNLV.

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Fast Cash: Direct Deposit Puts Pay in Your Pocket Sooner
By CATIE WEEKS
When Toni Arcadipane switched banks and had to cancel her direct deposit service until her new account was established, she suddenly realized how much she had come to rely on this handy benefit. With this secure service, employee pay is automatically deposited into their checking or savings accounts.

“I had forgotten how inconvenient it was to deposit a paper check,” said Arcadipane, an administrative assistant in student financial services. “My pay had always just been there for me, no matter where I was. I really can’t think of many reasons why people would choose not to have direct deposit.”

To find out exactly why more than 60 percent of UNLV employees don’t take advantage of this service, the Division of Finance conducted a web-based survey on direct deposit.

More than 1,200 employees responded, and those currently using the service feel much the same as Arcadipane — 97 percent reported they are satisfied with how it is handled.

Controller Brent Morgan attributes that high level of satisfaction to the fact that UNLV employees are paid twice a month.

“DEPARTMENTAL REMINDERS:
A million-dollar gift, one of the largest private donations ever pledged to UNLV, is one of the largest private donations ever pledged to UNLV.

William S. Boyd of Boyd Gaming Corp. recently pledged $25 million to the law school bearing his name. His is one of the largest private donations ever pledged to UNLV.

“I am so proud of what the Boyd School of Law at UNLV has accomplished in such a short time,” said Boyd, chairman and chief executive officer of Boyd Gaming. “The leadership of Dean (Richard) Morgan and President (Carol C.) Harter has been tremendous and they deserve a lot of the credit for the early success.”

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Boyd’s pledge is the latest in a personal and family history of support for UNLV. A million-dollar endowment to the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration in 1985 included the Sam and Mary Boyd Gaming Chair, three annual Sam and Mary Boyd Distinguished Professor Awards, and the establishment of the Boyd Dining Hall Complex. The family’s support of UNLV athletics is reflected in the name of the football arena, Sam Boyd Stadium.
Realizing the Dream of Serving Nevada Better

William Boyd’s recently announced pledge of $25 million to the law school carrying his name is not only indicative of incredible generosity, vision, and support by one of our community’s leaders, it’s also a real history-maker, raising the bar for public-private partnership as we head into our first-ever capital campaign this fall. It is truly a sign of the power of public-private partnership, personal involvement, and leadership — for without Bill’s efforts, we would not have a law school, let alone one which has achieved so much success so early in its history.

I was newly hired at UNLV in 1995 — just getting ready to pack up and head for Las Vegas — when I started getting excited calls about growing community interest in creating Nevada’s first law school. Though there had been talk in the state on this topic for years, at that magic moment the effort was picking up renewed and serious momentum from a variety of sources. In fact, at the very end of that year’s legislative session, Assemblyman Morse Arberry snagged an appropriation toward planning a law school at UNLV, getting the ball rolling on one of the most exciting adventures of my career.

I am very happy to have shared that journey with Bill Boyd.

An Advocate and a Leader

In 1996, Bill and I worked together to secure private funding and marshal statewide support for a UNLV law school. As a new president, it was exhilarating to work with such a tireless advocate and business leader who truly believes in the importance of giving back to, and ensuring the future of, the community he loves.

I remember Bill telling me in one of our earliest meetings that, as a Nevadan, he wished there had been a law school for him in our state at the time he was starting his career. Though he ended up going to law school at the University of Utah, he recognized that many other Nevadans might not have the resources to attend an out-of-state school.

Providing access for future Nevadans was his prime concern — and he backed that concern with both the sweat equity of his advocacy and a $5 million gift to establish the William S. Boyd School of Law.

A Legacy of Outreach

Today, a mere 10 years later, the Boyd School of Law proudly carries the legacy of Bill Boyd and many other community leaders and benefactors — not only through academic excellence, but also through a philosophy that embraces community outreach and engagement. Law students are taught the value of public service in classroom and clinic settings, and many of the school’s graduates are becoming catalysts to improve the lives of the citizens of Nevada.

Much of what we have been able to accomplish in this relatively short period of time is because of the tremendous support we have received from Bill Boyd and others who remain deeply committed to legal education at UNLV. A $25 million pledge represents an exceptional commitment from any benefactor, but to have a gift of this magnitude come from one of the founders of our law school is truly remarkable.
Kudos for Colleagues in Demanding Jobs

Readers’ Poll Recognizes Hard Work of Employees Across Campus

BY DIANE RUSSELL

What do campus custodians, academic advisers, groundskeepers, department chairs, departmental secretaries, administrative assistants, and the enrollment management staff have in common with President Carol C. Harter?

According to Inside UNLV readers, they hold down some of the hardest jobs on campus.

Harter’s inclusion in the group probably surprises no one. As one reader said, “She has to lead the way for many competing interests internally and stay on mission, and, at the same time, show our external stakeholders and constituents how UNLV is meeting their expectations. Whew! Just describing her job was hard work.”

Another said, “I’ve learned that she has way too many things on her plate, and the fact that she balances them is quite amazing.” “I cannot even imagine the enormity of her responsibilities,” commented one reader. Others said her job is tough because “she has to deal with all the political drama from everywhere” and because she has to deal with “the politics and the RJ.”

Behind-the-Scene Workers

Custodians, many of whom toil long after most folks have gone home for the night, may not see their “customers” often, but their efforts do not go unnoticed. “They primarily work indoors behind the scenes, unrecognized for their efforts to keep our work environment presentable, safe, and clean; they are asked to do the cleanups others would not, and are the first to receive complaints if the trash can didn’t get emptied or the floor vacuumed,” said one reader.

Academic advisers also were given their due. “So many students, and so few advisers — with antique technology,” one person wrote. With so many students per adviser, “they do an amazing job,” another said. “No one else on campus is asked to be our ambassador and hold, literally, the hands of students to see that they succeed at UNLV,” said another.

At the Departmental Level

As for department chairs, “These men and women have to endure a lot of issues, both from students and the administration, and try to maintain harmony in the respective departments,” one reader said. They are “constantly squeezed between demands of faculty and demands of their dean,” said another.

And where would department chairs be without a good departmental secretary or administrative assistant? Up the oft-mentioned creek, according to readers. “They field phone calls from angry people, upset people, and people with questions. They manage the office supplies, help manage budgets, schedule meetings, support professors in many ways, and keep people in their departments informed every day. They are also the key point of contact for students,” one reader said. Another pointed out that they typically are juggling several tasks while at the same time attempting to meet multiple deadlines.

Working with Students

Many kudos went to the people working in enrollment management — still known to some on campus as the admissions office and the registrar’s office. “They not only have to deal with the students (who are usually unhappy about something) but also the staff (and the staff is usually having some sort of a problem),” one reader said.

While workers throughout the enrollment management area were praised, several readers singled out the client services representatives who man the “front lines” when students come in to register. “They are expected to have all the answers and have to deal with students on a day-to-day basis,” one person said. “To have to tell students they have problems with their school status would be hard,” said another.

And, the people who labor to keep our campus beautiful did not go unnoticed. Members of the grounds crew “have to work outside in all kinds of heat or cold weather to beautify our exterior surroundings by trying to get plants to grow despite water restrictions; moving, cultivating, fertilizing, and watching as campus construction creates new challenges,” one person said. Another commented, “Sun or rain, they keep the campus looking wonderful.”

Campus custodians were cited for their behind-the-scenes efforts to keep buildings clean. Earl Thompson, a recent classified employee of the month, is seen polishing a floor in Frank and Estella Beam Hall.

Kristi Rodriguez, left, and Isabelle Johnson of undergraduate recruitment work on a project. Undergraduate recruitment is part of enrollment management — an area that was named by a number of Inside UNLV readers as having some of the hardest jobs on campus. Some of those polled also said that administrative assistants, such as Johnson, have some of the most challenging jobs. Rodriguez is director of undergraduate recruitment.

Client services representative Ed Ronca, right, works with new student Susan Stein. Within the enrollment management staff, the client services representatives were singled out by some readers for manning the “front lines” and answering myriad questions from students on a daily basis.

Department chairs were lauded for balancing the needs of sometimes competing constituencies. Isabelle Emerson, chair of the music department, is seen with the campus’ new pipe organ.

President Carol C. Harter
Invites the Campus Community to

The 35th Annual Classified Staff Award Ceremony & Reception

Monday, April 25
1:30 p.m. Ceremony
2:30 p.m. Reception
Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
BUSINESS

Hall of Fame Inductees Honored

Three business leaders who significantly contributed to the state's economic prosperity were inducted into the Nevada Business Hall of Fame in a February ceremony at the Bellagio Hotel and Resort. This year’s inductees were William S. Boyd, chairman and chief executive officer of Boyd Gaming; the late Hank Greenspun, who was publisher of the Las Vegas Sun and a real estate developer; and Glenn Schaeffer, president and chief financial officer of Mandalay Resort Group.

The Hall of Fame is sponsored by the college, in association with Deloitte & Touche USA. Previous inductees include William F. Harrah, Howard Hughes, Irwin Molasky, William “Sir” Redd, Jim Rogers, E. Parry Thomas, J.A. Tiberti, Claudine Williams, and Steve Wynn.

Social Security Reform Explored

Thomas R. Saving, professor of economics at Texas A&M University, presented “Social Security Reform: Tradeoffs and Costs” at a special lecture in March.

Saving’s research has covered areas of antitrust economics, monetary economics, and international economics, and the general theory of the firm and markets. In 2000, President Clinton appointed Saving as a public trustee of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds. In 2001, President Bush named him to the bipartisan President’s Commission to Strengthen Social Security.

EDUCATION

Dolphin Habitat Helps Train Future Science Teachers

Future science educators will benefit from a new cooperative effort between the college and the Mirage Hotel’s dolphin habitat. The dolphin habitat, which focuses on education in addition to scientific research related to Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, is a unique outdoor venue for informal science education in Southern Nevada.

This new project is designed to integrate elements of the habitat’s school tour program into a lesson for future teachers on preparing students for successful science field trips.

Professors of science education Kent Crippen, David Wetzel, Nam-Hwa Kang, and Charles Kotulski, in collaboration with Melissa Giannantonio, curator of education at the Mirage, are helping education majors understand the importance of appropriate classroom instruction and after-school science field trip. They developed a two-hour seminar course, delivered onsite at the habitat, to engage undergraduates in a hands-on approach to science education. The program, now in its second semester, is receiving positive feedback from students.

ENGINEERING

Hispanic Engineering Group Helps Form Junior Chapter

The UNLV chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) was instrumental in recently establishing the first recognized junior chapter of SHPE in the United States at Rancho High School.

Since 1974, SHPE has encouraged Hispanics to pursue careers in engineering, science, and other technical professions in order to achieve educational excellence, economic opportunities, and social equity. Part of the Minority Engineering Program, the UNLV chapter was founded in 1991 and was the first professional chapter in Nevada. It currently has more than 100 members. The chapter sponsors student attendance at SHPE leadership retreats and career and leadership conferences, and emphasizes networking and career development skills for its members.

At a recent regional leadership retreat, UNLV’s Tanya Abrimax was presented the Most Promising Student Award for the region. The chapter also has funded an all-girls’ model aircraft engineering team at Rancho High School and designed a young students’ website for boosting student confidence in engineering careers.

Senior electrical engineering student and chapter president Rafael Ybarra leads a board that includes Vanessa Luera, Adrian Huerta, Robert Chavez, and Victor Villa. Chapter members Ulysses Ramirez and Joe Huerta played critical roles in the formation of the junior and professional chapters.

Future plans for SHPE-UNLV include co-sponsoring a career fair for future engineers.

FINE ARTS

‘Wit’ Coming to Black Box

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre is proud to present Margaret Edson’s Wit in the Black Box Theatre from April 1 through April 17. Directed by Glenn Casale, Wit explores the life of a renowned English professor who has been diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. The professor’s rational approach to her illness is not unlike her approach to the study of the poet John Donne. She comes to reassess her life with a profoundity and humor that are transformative.

Dance, Shakespeare at PAC

The UNLV Performing Arts Center welcomes the Bill T. Jones/Arnze Zane Dance Company on April 15. The award-winning company has performed in more than 130 American cities and 30 countries. Jones remains committed to movement as a means of expressing our interior world.

On April 23, the PAC will celebrate the 440th birthday of William Shakespeare with Claire Bloom: Shakespeare’s Women. Bloom, a stage actress who has won awards on two continents, performs Shakespeare’s greatest female characters in a show the Boston Globe calls “heartbreakingly beautiful.”

Call ext. 5-2787 for more information.

GRADUATE

Faculty Forms on the Web

Faculty members interested in establishing or renewing their graduate faculty status will now find the necessary forms online at graduatecollege.unlv.edu. Obtaining graduate faculty status is necessary for participation in graduate education instruction.

There are two levels of graduate faculty status. Full graduate faculty status is granted on the recommendation of the department chair and college dean to any full-time UNLV faculty member who holds a terminal degree, teaches courses in a graduate-degree-granting program, supervises thesis or dissertation committees, and maintains an active program of scholarship. This status is granted by the graduate dean for a five-year period.

Associate graduate faculty status may be granted to qualified individuals, also on the recommendation of the department chair and college dean, who teach specific graduate courses or serve as graduate committee members (but not committee chairs). This status is for a limited time and circumstance, such as participation on a particular committee, and is usually granted for a two-year period. Individuals who do not hold a terminal degree but who provide evidence of outstanding qualifications, such as a record of research or creative activity, may be considered for associate status.

Departments should maintain records of the status of their full and associate graduate faculty. Faculty new to UNLV should consult their department chairs as to which status is appropriate for their circumstances. Status for all members of the graduate faculty is reviewed at the time of application or renewal.

For more information or to access the forms, visit graduatecollege.unlv.edu.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Nurse Educator Track Takes Off

Responding to the growing nationwide shortage of nurse educators, the School of Nursing has launched a nurse educator track within its graduate program in fall 2003. Since then, enrollment has more than tripled and the program will graduate its first class in May. The program is offered primarily online in order to increase access, convenience, and flexibility for students, many of whom are working as nurses in acute care settings or community-based agencies.

Students enrolling full time can complete the program and graduate with a master of science in nursing in as few as four semesters. Part-time students can finish in six semesters. The program also offers a two-semester post-master’s nurse educator certificate. This has special appeal for nurses who have obtained a master’s degree in nursing programs that did not include coursework specific to the role of the nurse educator.
The program also has been integrated into the nursing doctorate program that began in fall 2004. Though the problem has received relatively little attention, the protracted shortage of nurses is directly linked to the shortage of nursing educators. The lack of educators is cited as one of the major reasons that qualified students are turned away from nursing programs. In Nevada, the shortage is particularly severe as all eight nursing programs across the state work to meet the legislative mandate to double the nursing enrollment. The program will be instrumental in alleviating shortages of both nurses and nurse educators in the state.

**HOTEL**

**Singapour Program Approved**

The board of regents recently approved the development of UNLV’s first overseas degree-granting program, to be opened in Singapore in fall 2006. The college will offer junior- and senior-level undergraduate courses. Students in the region will be able to transfer to UNLV Singapore to obtain their bachelor’s degree in hospitality management.

Additionally, hospitality industry professionals will be able to enroll in UNLV’s 30-credit-hour executive master’s degree program in hotel administration, attending classes both in Singapore and via distance education. The college is expected to have an enrollment of 200 undergraduate students and 50 to 60 graduate students within a few years.

According to Dean Stuart Mann, the Singapore program will be staffed by a half dozen faculty members and four or five support staff. The faculty will be a mix of new and tenured members; they are likely to serve on a rotating basis.

Professor Andy Nazarechuk will head the new program and will begin the process of hiring staff, developing facilities, and marketing the new program throughout Asia. He has had extensive experience in Asia and is well respected in the region.

This project came about through a Singapore Economic Development Board initiative to create a “global schoolhouse” featuring top-tier programs from around the world. Singapore has approximately 60,000 international students and hopes to increase enrollments to 150,000 by 2012. UNLV Singapore will play an important role as the tourism industry grows and the need for tourism and hotel education expands.

**LIBRARIES**

**Psychology Serves Community**

The psychology department leads several projects that benefit UNLV students as well as the surrounding community. One such project, the UNLV Child School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic, is an on-campus clinic offering services to youths with difficulties attending school or with anxiety-related problems.

The clinic is directed by Christopher Kearney, a professor of clinical child psychology, and staffed by graduate student therapists and undergraduate student paraprofessionals. Staff at this research-based facility use structured interviews, questionnaires, observations, and discussions with school officials to develop plans to assist youths ages 5 to 15. The clinic, open from September to May, bills services on a sliding scale.

The Center for Individual, Couple, and Family Counseling provides counseling and mental health services to the Las Vegas community. Services are delivered by graduate students from the psychology and counseling departments under the supervision of program faculty. The center is open year round, providing a wide range of services to individuals, couples, families, and children for a sliding scale fee.

The department is also beginning a collaboration with the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic’s multidisciplinary legal team to provide consultation on mental health issues and psycho-legal questions that arise in ongoing legal cases.

The department will continue these collaborations and establish new ones, all with the goals of training students, building knowledge, and serving the community.

**PROJECT SEeks UNLV Stories**

As part of the university’s 50th anniversary year, the Oral History Research Center will conduct an oral history project of UNLV. The center is seeking stories about UNLV to demonstrate the diversity of the university. All that’s needed to be interviewed is longevity, a good memory, and great stories.

The interviews have already begun and have generated excitement about this endeavor. History professor Tom Wright, for example, remembered the campus when he was 14. His father was a young professor, and there were no buildings. “Classes were taught wherever space could be found,” the younger Wright remembers.

Bruce Layne, an early UNLV student, told a story about earning such poor grades that he was asked not to return to school. But baseball coach Michael “Chub” Drakulich believed in him. “It was as if someone turned the light back on when he told me he wanted me back and that he would give me a scholarship,” Layne said. He cites Drakulich’s support as one of the major reasons that he became a successful insurance broker and is now a UNLV donor.

The interviews will be companion primary-source documents lending personal accounts to the official UNLV history that history professor Eugene Moehring is writing. The recording of all of the interviews will be completed by May 2006 when Moehring’s narrative history is slated for unveiling. The project will culminate with a reception at the end of that year to honor those who have shared their memories.

While collecting these interviews, the center will continue recording sessions with some of the earliest arrivals to our city for the Boyer Early Las Vegas History Project. That project will include approximately 150 participants.

**SCIENCE**

**Microbiology Specialists Added**

Microbiology may be the study of small organisms, but student interest in this area is growing. As a result, the college has recruited three new faculty specializing in complementary areas of bacteriology to the biology department.

Eduardo Robelo, recruited in 2002, researches genes important for adaptation of microbes to soil and genetic programs that increase diversity. In addition, Robelo examines microbial activity in conditions of elevated carbon dioxide and how this activity influences biogeochemical cycles.

Brian Hedlund joined UNLV in 2003 and has interests in microbial ecology, physiology, and evolution. His primary interest is the study of microbial life in extremely hot springs. Single-celled bacteria and archaean live in these springs at temperatures of at least 121°C (250°F), taking advantage of the unusual chemistries there. He is learning to grow these organisms in the laboratory to complement measurements made in the field.

Helen Wing, the most recent hire, studies the bacterial pathogen Shigella and the molecules that cover the...
Margaret Towne (Philosophy) recently gave a lecture as part of the Far West Popular Culture and the Modern Wedding series at the Canyon Institute for Advanced Studies, a research institute for interdisciplinary and foundational issues at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. Her lecture was titled "Genesis and Evolution: Integration."

Suzanne LaVopa (Physical Therapy) was named Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for February in the administrative category. A five-year employee, she is an administrative assistant III. She works with budgets and performs general office duties for the physical therapy department.

Robert Boehm (Mechanical Engineering) and Brackley Frayer and Joe Aldridge (Theatre) were authors of an article, "Engineering for the Spectacle, Technology on the Stage Keeps Reaching Higher," which was published in the January issue of Mechanical Engineering Magazine. The article described UNLV's entertainment engineering program.

Carol Kimball (Music) has edited a new music anthology titled Women Composers: A Heritage of Song, published by Hal Leonard, Inc. With 45 songs by 22 composers, this is the most comprehensive single volume ever published of art songs composed by women. It includes biographical information about the composers and historical information about each song, with songs in English, French, German, and Italian. The anthology was released in February.

Tim Graham (Facilities) was named Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for March in the service category. He is the campus access services administrator and manages both electronic and key access. His first entrance with the university came when he was 9 and was invited to make a guest appearance with the UNLV Choir. He began working full time on campus in 1993 after receiving a BA in communication studies. He is a past chair of the Classified Staff Council.

Stephen Rosenbaum (Honors) spoke to local health care professionals in January about "Morbidity and the Primacy of Virtue." The presentation was hosted by the veteran services office. In March, he spoke to the Las Vegas Humanist Association on "Character and Ethics: The Virtues of Ancient Greek Moral Ideals."

Vincent Kethen (Purchasing) was named Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for March in the technical category. He joined the UNLV staff three years ago as a purchasing technician II and was promoted to buyer I a year ago. He currently is the buyer for the Shadow Lane campus.


Dolores Valencia Tanno (Honors) will be the keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Society for the Advancement of Management, which is taking place in Las Vegas this month. The title of her talk is "Diversity to Diversity: A Winning Strategy."

Satish Sharma (Social Work) wrote a chapter, "Immigrants from the Indian Subcontinent," which will appear in the book Ethnic Las Vegas, edited by Thomas Wright (History) and Jerry Simich (Political Science) and published by University of Nevada Press.

Maurice Finocchiaro (Emeritus, Philosophy) has just had his book, Retracing Galileo, (1633-1992), published by the University of California Press. It examines the historical aftermath and cultural significance of the famous trial that is often taken to epitomize the incompatibility between science and religion. Written at UNLV while he was on sabbatical in 2001-02, but researched at Harvard University in 1988-99 while he was on a Guggenheim Fellowship, the book was also supported by a four-year grant from the National Science Foundation.

Larry Golding (Kinesiology) published a manuscript titled "Convincing Adults to Exercise" in the American College of Sports Medicine's Health & Fitness Journal. The article addresses questions such as "Why should one exercise?" and "What are the benefits of exercise?"

Donovan Conley (Communication Studies) presented the paper "David Fincher’s Political Claustrophobia" at the Far West Popular Culture and American Popular Culture associations’ annual meeting in Las Vegas in February.

Bronze Quills Honor Campus Communicators

UNLV communicators fared well at the annual Bronze Quill awards ceremony hosted by the Las Vegas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators, and one campus communicator captured the top honor. Professor of Communication Studies Donna McAlleen was named the 2004 Communicator of the Year, the top award presented by the chapter. She has worked at UNLV since 1987.

Others receiving awards were:

- Josh Rankin (Reprographics) and Geri Kodey (Marketing and Public Relations), who received two awards of excellence, one for her "Fruitful Research" color photograph and one for her portrait of U.S. Sen. Harry Reid
- Dave Melton (Creative Services), Geri Kodey (Marketing and Public Relations), and David Phillips, formerly of News & Public Information, who won awards of merit for their work on the Premier UNLV poster.
- Cate Weeks, Diane Russell, Geri Kodey, Aaron Mayes, and Ken Kelleher (Marketing and Public Relations), who won awards of merit for the summer 2004 issue of UNLV Magazine.
- Nancy Cleveland (Reprographics), who won an award of merit for her cover design for the "Kids Count" report.

CONSTRUCTION: MSU to Remain Open While New Union is Built

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

use the new facilities, the consensus will be that the benefits outweigh any inconvenience,” said Blake Douglas, special assistant to the vice president for student life.

“The new student union and student recreation center will revolutionize life at UNLV. Students will find it easier to engage in the life of the campus when they have well-designed, inviting places to meet other students, access services, and obtain information,” Douglas said.

Open for Business

The campus won’t be without a student union during construction. The union project will begin with construction of the new section, adjacent to the existing MSU. Once that is complete, services and offices now housed in the MSU will move into the first-phase area, while construction begins on the existing MSU site.

The McDermott Physical Education Complex will remain open for workouts and intramural events until the new recreation center opens. Once the new center opens, McDermott probably will continue to be used for some physical education courses, said Bob Eason, senior vice provost. Consideration is being given to whether it could also be used for other purposes, including academic and research purposes, given the limited space available on campus, she said.

New Facilities

The new student union and the new student recreation center will bring with them expanded amenities. The union will offer more food choices, including Panda Express, Taco Bell, and Starbucks. In addition, there will be more space for meeting and conference rooms, social and study lounges, and outside seating. Plans also call for a 300-seat theater for special lectures and student talent shows.

The new recreation center will feature a full-service fitness center, exercise classrooms, and swimming pools. A whirlpool, juice bar, and social lounge also will be included. The new student union will include a full-service cafeteria, newly expanded student union office, the Student Health Center, and the student counseling and psychological services office also will be housed in the new building.
Bones of Contention
Anthropologists wrestle with ethics of handling human remains
BY GIAN GALASSI
Under the watchful eyes of observers and a 24-hour security detail, UNLV anthropology professor Vicki Cassman methodically examines the bone fragments of a dead man. Only this is no crime scene investigation, it’s the Burke Museum of Natural History at the University of Washington.

The object of her scrutiny is the 9,200-year-old Kennewick Man. In 1998, Cassman was tapped by the Mandatory Collections of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as one of two members from the American Institute of Conservation to oversee the curation and preservation of these valuable skeletal remains.

 Custody Battle
Kennewick Man has sparked a custody battle between the federal government, several Native American tribes who want to claim him, and several scholars who want to carry out extensive studies of him. It’s Cassman’s job, along with colleague Nancy Odegaard of the University of Arizona, to ensure that while Kennewick Man’s ultimate fate is determined in the courts, the fine balance between scholarly inquiry and respect for the dead is maintained.

As an archaeologist and a conservator, Cassman is no stranger to the often competing interests regarding access to and preservation of human remains. But it was her Kennewick experience that finally brought the issue into sharp focus. She said that at the outset of the project she encountered many curatorial practices that conflicted with the spirit of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the federal legislation requiring museums and federal agencies to return some Native American cultural items, including human remains, to lineal descendants.

“When we first saw him, he was housed in a very crude masonite box with bits and pieces in brown paper bags,” Cassman said. “The whole experience was a real eye-opener into how little information there is out there about proper curation. It also made me realize that stewardship ethics in anthropology are in need of a little updating.”

Although the repatriation act does not explicitly call for the revision of curatorial practices, Cassman and her colleagues say the legislation has forced professionals in the field to pay closer attention to how remains are handled. Cassman said the condition in which the remains of Kennewick Man were kept was typical and illustrative of the need for change in her profession.

“Human remains are in this very odd place where they’re sometimes a specimen and yet they are still an individual — a sacred thing,” said Cassman, who initially became interested in the issue while studying funerary objects in northern Chile. “As a result, they’ve never quite received the same amount of curation scrutiny that, say, paintings, textiles, or other artifacts have.”

 Human Remains Box
In an effort to change that, Cassman developed a human remains box that meets the concerns and standards set by all interested parties, including scientists, museum managers, and Native Americans. She and a group of graduate students designed it to be 31 inches by 24 inches by 6 inches. It allows bones to be arranged to closely resemble the human form — a concern common among many tribes — while remaining easily identifiable and accessible — a concern among many anthropologists. Although they met both those requirements in the design, she said the box will likely evolve as other issues arise.

For now, the boxes are being produced by Hollinger Co. and were used to store UNLV’s own collection of remains as they were being prepared for a move into a new storage facility.

In addition, Cassman is completing one of the first comprehensive source books on the preservation of human remains. Co-edited by Cassman, Odegaard, and Joseph Powell of the University of New Mexico, it brings together the expertise of scholars on topics such as care and handling, health concerns, field methods, storage, documentation, and museum display. It also provides an overview of applicable laws, as well as a discussion on the needs for an updated code of ethics.

While she knows she can’t remedy each of the conflicts that arise, Cassman said that the recent developments in her career have strengthened her resolve to at least reconcile some of them.

“I hope some of what I’m doing will challenge conservators to work in a new way,” said Cassman. “In the past, conservators have been seen as roadblocks to certain kinds of research, but our mission now is to find ways for people to carry out their work while minimizing the impact on the objects of study.”

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Anthropology professor Vicki Cassman’s expertise in dealing with human remains includes her work with the 9,200-year-old Kennewick Man. She and graduate students developed a special box for storing human remains.

STUDENT LIFE
National Award for Program
Student Wellness’ case management program, the 2004 recipient of the Pacific Coast College Health Association’s Golden Gull Award, also was selected by the American College Health Association for its 2005 Best Practices Award for Clinical Services. The Golden Gull acknowledges programs that improve college health practices and advance the health of students, while the national award recognizes exemplary programs and practices.

The case manager of Student Health Center (SHC), Student Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), and the Jean Nidetch Women’s Center, Student Wellness uses an integrated approach to wellness for UNLV’s students. In order to best serve students, clinicians developed an innovative case management program to enhance students’ use of clinical services.

The case manager monitors student activities in relation to care plans, follows up with students who indicate interest in specific wellness programs, contacts students who do not attend appointments, maintains contact with students waiting for services, and develops a database of program users. The manager also monitors students to enhance continuity of care, coordinates referrals between CAPS and the SHC, assists with referrals to campus and community departments and agencies, and ensures that appropriate referrals and follow-ups are completed. As a result, Student Wellness is providing more efficient and effective referrals, and students are followed closely to ensure they receive follow-up care and that they do not “fall through the cracks” after a referral is made.

Kim Grande serves as case manager. Tina Suddler, director of the SHC; Ann Shanklin, associate director of CAPS; and Jamie Davidson, assistant vice president for student wellness, provide leadership for this program.

Urban Affairs
New Shows Kick Off Membership Drive
KUNV-FM, Jazz 91.5, has added two exciting new shows to its program schedule: “Beale Street Caravan” and “European Jazz Stage.” From the home of the blues, Memphis, Tenn., “Beale Street Caravan” offers heartfelt sounds and colorful stories of the blues and its music makers. The most widely distributed blues radio program in the world airs 8-9 p.m. Saturdays. “European Jazz Stage” provides a slice of international jazz from stages across Europe. The program offers listeners jazz from a variety of venues, including intimate clubs and concert platforms, and a variety of styles, such as intricate jazz vocals and sizzling Latin rhythms. The program features the best American and European jazz performers live 9-10 p.m. Tuesdays.

April 1 marks the kickoff of KUNV’s annual spring membership drive. For information on becoming a member/supporter of KUNV and its wide range of culturally based music offerings, visit kunv.unlv.edu. All donations are tax deductible.
Cluster Builds Bridge Between Teaching and Research

By Erin O'Donnell

As UNLV progresses toward its goal of becoming a top research school, it also is working to ensure it doesn’t sacrifice quality in teaching along the way.

That’s why the university joined the Research University Consortium for the Advancement of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. The goal of the 15-member group is to produce better teaching and learning, and to create an atmosphere where teaching complements research, instead of competing with it.

“In practical terms, UNLV doesn’t want to become a Research I school and then have to answer to all kinds of constituents as to, ‘How is the teaching going?’” said Leora Baron, director of the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) and UNLV’s representative to the consortium.

“The challenge is to recognize that research and scholarship can take different forms, and that the true strength of individual faculty and institutions lies in a dynamic that bridges the divide between research and teaching activity.”

Each institution in the cluster is at work on its own projects to support the scholarship of teaching and learning. Twice a year, representatives meet to exchange ideas and update each other on their projects. The consortium is halfway through its three-year cycle of work.

Last fall, a campus steering committee was established to educate faculty about the initiatives at UNLV and to show them how these efforts can help them find funding and get published. Baron said she was especially pleased that the group, which will continue after the research cluster disbands, attracted College of Sciences Dean Ronald Yasbin as its chair.

“That’s a big statement because the sciences are one of the key areas for traditional research,” Baron said.

UNLV is the lone Research/Intensive school in the cluster; the rest have achieved the highest level, Research/Extensive, as classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. (The consortium is sponsored by the foundation and the American Association for Higher Education.)

UNLV’s membership is one sign that the university is being proactive in addressing the tension between research and teaching that many Research/Extensive institutions experience.

Baron said UNLV’s rapid acceptance into the group is partly due to the success of several programs that already are advancing teaching on campus, including:

- The TLC, which offers programs to faculty in teaching and learning and Learning Center (TLC) and UNLV’s representative to the consortium.

- The Planning Initiative Awards program, which grants some of its $300,000 annual allocation to faculty who redesign foundation courses, introduce research elements into undergraduate courses, or develop student learning support services.

- The Creative College Teaching Journal, published annually in the spring by the TLC.

At least one other university in the cluster, Iowa State, has gone so far as to incorporate teaching and learning requirements into its personnel policies, Baron said.

More Info: Visit tlc.unlv.edu/scholarship

UnityFest’s Festival of Communities brought a number of groups to Pida Plaza in March to share traditions, foods, music, and activities from a variety of cultures. The annual event gives the campus community the chance to explore the diversity of UNLV. Above, the Las Vegas Kaminari Taiko group performs traditional Japanese percussive music. The group includes UNLV students and community members. At right, Gabriela Davila, a criminal justice major, marks her hometown of El Paso, Texas, with a sticker on an oversized map of the world.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sisters Megan Jackson, left, and Genova Hooks sell cupcakes to raise money for their group, one of UNLV’s seven traditionally African-American Greek organizations.

CELEBRATING UNITY

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Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sisters Megan Jackson, left, and Genova Hooks sell cupcakes to raise money for their group, one of UNLV’s seven traditionally African-American Greek organizations.