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Inside UNLV

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BORDER CROSSING

Education professor LeAnn Putney builds bridge to Mexican school.

Page 3



THE WRIGHT WAY

Mobile computer cart enhances Wright Hall's wireless capabilities.

Page 7



CIRCUIT CITY

Thousands of high school students flock to the T&M for regional robotics competition.

Page 8



Inside UNLV

News & Information for UNLV Insiders

May 2005

INSIDE

From The President	2
Winter Break	2
Across Campus	4
'Today' Show	4
Spotlight	6

Health Insurance Changes Boost Benefits

BY ERIN O'DONNELL

For the first time in two years, university employees will see an increase in both benefits and premiums in their health insurance.

The changes, which take effect July 1, mean employees will get more help paying for glasses, get help quitting smoking and losing weight, and be able to visit the dentist more, among other enhancements.

During open enrollment, which takes place throughout May, employees will be able to make changes to their insurance choices and the amount they put aside in flexible spending accounts for unreimbursed medical expenses and dependent care.

In addition, two of the PPO plans are being replaced with a single \$2,000 high-deductible option that requires no co-pays. And a new health risk assessment program promises to cut deductibles in half for employees who are willing to share details of their medical history and habits.

Premiums on the Rise

Many university employees will pay more for their health coverage next fiscal year because of reductions in the state subsidy. UNLV benefits manager Pat La Putt said premiums are normalizing after a reduction last year, which was offered because benefits were unchanged.

"The hardest hit are the ones just covering themselves," La Putt said. Employee-only monthly premiums are going to increase to \$20.81 from \$4.53 for PPO members and to \$12.07 from \$2.76 for the HMO plan.

Which Plan is for You?

Changes in the benefit structure between the low deductible and the high deductible mean employees will need to evaluate their risk levels to decide which plan best suits their needs.

On one end of the spectrum, the new high-deductible plan has no monthly premium or co-pay — that's the \$20 you shell out for a typical office visit. But it is a major medical plan, meaning members are responsible for all of their medical costs until they cross the \$2,000 threshold. After that, 80 percent of costs are paid by insurance, 20 percent by the employee.

"The people who probably best fit into this plan are those who only go for an annual physical, who are not high risk or getting any kind of regular treatment," La Putt said.

"If you're fairly healthy, this may be for you."

But employees who anticipate ongoing or substantial medical costs may find a better match in the low-deductible plan or the HMO.

●SEE INSURANCE ON PAGE 7

Benefit Breakdown: Changes for 2005-06

Medical

- Chiropractic care becomes a specialty visit (\$30 co-pay)
- Pre-certification requirement for MRI, CT/MRA/PET scans eliminated
- Medicare part B premium added as a covered expense
- Expanded wellness benefits



Dental

Covered cleanings increased to four per year

Prescription

Nicotrol Inhaler and Spray added (\$40 for retail, \$70 for mail order)

Vision

- Lens/frame allowance added for \$125 every two years
- Exam coverage increased up to 80% of charges



Wellness Benefit

Increased from \$600 to \$2,500 per person, and eliminated co-pays when accessing wellness services, which include:

- Adult immunizations
- Pelvic exams and Pap smear lab tests
- Physical exams, screenings, labs, and x-rays
- Prostate screening (PSA blood test)
- Routine sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy
- Screening mammograms
- Smoking cessation programs
- Stress management programs
- Weight-loss programs with medical supervision. (Does not include programs such as Weight Watchers or Slim Fast, or the cost of exercise equipment.)
- Well-child examinations and immunizations



Making Changes to Your Coverage

Open enrollment in the health plan starts May 1. If you have not received your enrollment packet, call human resources at ext. 5-3504. Representatives from the state health plan will be available to answer questions at two meetings in the Moyer Student Union ballroom — at 2 p.m. May 9 and at 9 a.m. May 10. Benefit counselors will also conduct labs during May to help employees.

Questions? Call human resources at ext. 5-3504 or go to hr.unlv.edu



Carol C. Harter became UNLV's longest-serving president in April. She's pictured speaking at the solar dish dedication last fall.

A Record-Setting Presidency

After 10 Years, UNLV Still a Good Fit for Harter

BY DIANE RUSSELL

If her staff hadn't alerted her, President Carol C. Harter would have let April 16 pass without realizing she was setting a record.

That's the day that Harter became the university's longest-serving president, eclipsing the former record of 3,576 days set by Robert Maxson.

The university's seventh president said in a recent interview that when she was hired

in 1995, she wasn't thinking about longevity records.

But she does remember thinking that if the UNLV presidency "was a good fit," she might be staying longer than the four and a half years that is the average tenure of a public university president.

"I remember thinking that the UNLV presidency might be the major career commitment of my life," said Harter, who was then serving as president of the State University of New York at Geneseo.

●SEE PRESIDENT ON PAGE 7

New Projects Enhance Campus Living and Learning

There's no doubt that the new student union and recreation center projects — the subject of a ceremonial groundbreaking last month — will have a dramatic effect on student life at UNLV, and on our campus as a whole as we grow together into the future.

The "living-learning" experience we strive to offer our students throughout their time at UNLV recognizes that interaction with peers on social and academic issues outside the classroom is a critical part of student development. Facilities offered for student health and recreation, leadership development, service-learning opportunities, and other activities strengthen the mind and body and sharpen development in many areas as students go through their academic program.

As UNLV will continue to embrace the many types of traditional and non-traditional students seeking a world-class education, an on-campus "home" and activity



BY CAROL C. HARTER

hub will be of tremendous benefit to commuter as well as resident students — helping them to connect with their campus community on a whole new level.

Student Pride: Past and Present

The importance of these projects to the campus experience is evident in the excitement and hands-on participation of both past and current students. As you may be aware, students not only elected that specific fees be allocated to these projects, but

were also involved in building and programming concepts and designs at every level. The excitement of our student community shone through strongly at the groundbreaking ceremony, with student body President Henry Schuck leading a brigade of enthusiastic shovel-wielding students on video, as well as a delighted, cheering crowd of supporters in person — all of whom worked very hard to make these projects a reality throughout the various stages of development.

Equally remarkable was the enthusiasm of alumni — including many past student leaders — who came out in great numbers to applaud and support this next-generation look at campus life. One of our most famous alums — Congresswoman Shelley Berkley — recalled with nostalgia her own student life experience on campus, and remarked with great pride at how that experience had evolved over the years for subsequent generations.

Community Connections

The new student union and recreation center will not only be signature buildings for campus student life, but also for the entire Las Vegas Valley as UNLV continues to evolve as both a critical resource and an intellectual and cultural center for our community.

The student union, prominently sited along Maryland Parkway, will be a bold icon for the university in the forthcoming revitalization of the surrounding district we've dubbed "Midtown UNLV." It is quite appropriate that an anchor structure in this planned cultural and intellectual corridor be such a visible representation of student life on campus.

All of these initiatives will enhance the already strong ties between campus and community and help to create a true university district at the center of culture as well as academia for growing populations both on and off campus.

Thanks to Widespread Support, Winter Break to Continue

BY ERIN O'DONNELL

After a well-received pilot run in 2004, the university will continue to close for winter break in the years to come.

The cabinet last month approved the four-day break at the end of December for future years. For 2005, all non-essential operations will shut down Dec. 27-30. Just as with the pilot program, employees taking advantage of the break will need to use annual leave or compensatory time for the extra days off.

An online survey answered by nearly 400 employees earlier this semester showed widespread support for winter break, with 85 percent in favor. Classified staff members showed the greatest support, with 91 percent of respondents in favor, followed by 88 percent of professional staff respondents, and 60 percent of faculty respondents.

"The overall sentiment from participants was that the break was a really good family and friend time," said Larry Hamilton, director of human resources administration. "Additionally, given that only non-essential operations were taking place, there was



Paycheck Tip:

Avoid the hassle of picking up your paycheck during winter break. Sign up now for direct deposit. Call ext. 5-3825 or visit payroll.unlv.edu for more info.

Saturday, Dec. 24, through Monday, Jan. 2. All regular operations will resume Jan. 3.

Vice presidents and deans will determine which operations qualify as essential. But departments that remain open likely will operate with reduced staffing or services, as public safety and computing services did last year.

Planning Ahead

This year, employees have more time to plan for the break and make sure they set aside four days' worth

much less stress associated with coming back to work and a much less overwhelming workload to face."

Combined with the surrounding week-ends and holidays, the actual time off for most employees will amount to 10 days — from

of leave to use for the break. Classified employees also have the option of using compensatory time.

Employees won't be forced to take time off, however. "Anyone who wants to work can work," Hamilton said.

Employees who don't have sufficient time saved may request to take leave without pay or may choose to work. Such arrangements should be made with supervisors in advance.

Hamilton said there are no material changes from the way the break was handled in 2004. But classified employees have one new option — they can accrue up to 32 hours, or four days, of comp time specifically for use during winter break. At any other time, classified workers must deplete their comp time before taking annual leave.

Although most employees responded favorably in the survey, Hamilton said there were suggestions for improvement that human resources will continue to review, such as clearer time-keeping guidelines, better communication about the break, and reviewing services available to employees who work over the break.

Craftsmen Showcase Their Trades

Representatives of more than 15 universities and colleges recently gathered at UNLV for the Physical Plant Crafts Association Conference.

Participants work in a variety of crafts and trades at their universities. They included electricians, plumbers, welders, and heating and air conditioning technicians. Specialists, including UNLV staff members, conducted training seminars on topics such as asbestos abatement, back-flow, and work order success. Tours

of both the main and Shadow Lane campuses and the campus craft shops were available.

"We were pleased to host this event because it provided a great chance for us to show our colleagues from across the nation the high standards we maintain in the UNLV craft shops," said Harold "Arch" Archibald, executive director of facilities management.

This was the second time UNLV had hosted the conference.

Inside UNLV

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

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Border Crossing: Education Faculty Reach Out

Putney Builds Bridge Between Schools in Las Vegas and Mexico

By ERIN O'DONNELL

Bilingual education has always been LeAnn Putney's passion. It started in high school, when she taught English to migrant workers, and continued through graduate school, where she focused on language and culture in education.

But it wasn't until this year that Putney, an associate professor of educational psychology, taught Spanish speakers in their native language. Her students were teachers at Instituto CEFI, a new private school for low-income children in Monterrey, Mexico, that UNLV's College of Education has helped mentor from concept to reality.

"The teachers were so inviting and so eager," Putney said. "They really wanted to understand a different perspective."

Now Putney is co-developing the Clark County School District's first bilingual and full-inclusion charter school. Innovations International Charter School of Nevada got the green light from the school board last month and plans to open in southeast Las Vegas in August.

Bilingual education is controversial in the United States, Putney said, partly because the term is misapplied to English immersion programs. At Innovations and CEFI (short for Centro Educativo y Formación Integral), Spanish and English have equal footing.

"You can't take language away from someone. That's part of their culture," Putney said. "You can do English as an additive language. You don't have to subtract Spanish."

She hopes to establish an ongoing relationship between Innovations and CEFI through staff exchanges and regular communications, including videoconferencing, between the Mexican and American students. "They're from different countries, different cultures. It's a window on the world they wouldn't be able to get otherwise," Putney said.

New School Seeks Guidance

Long before Putney paid her January visit to Instituto CEFI, she and other faculty members were consulting with the school's founders on everything from building features to curriculum and instruction.



LeAnn Putney chats with a kindergartener at Paradise Elementary School as the girl takes a self-guided lesson on the computer. Putney has observed classes at the school for her research on classrooms functioning as a community. She is now co-developing the first bilingual charter school in the Clark County School District.

The school opened in the fall with about 600 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Tuition is subsidized by the government.

CEFI founders Pedro and Coco Kalifa wanted to provide the quality of a private education at a price that families in the neighborhood could afford, said Bob McCord, assistant professor of educational leadership. Pedro, the owner of several garment factories, and Coco, the daughter of a prominent Mexican education official, needed guidance to start a school from scratch, so they turned to friends in the United States, former Nevada Gov. Bob Miller and his wife, Sandy.

Sandy Miller contacted McCord, who had been an administrator with the Clark County School District for almost 30 years. He arranged for the couple to tour Las Vegas schools and connected them with faculty experts, including Putney.

Faculty members throughout the college have been involved, said McCord, who advised Pedro on the design of CEFI's modern, four-story building.

Putney gave Coco a copy of the textbook she co-authored on one of the central figures of her own scholarship — Lev Vygotsky, a Russian psychologist

who explored social, cultural, and historical influences on child development and learning.

Coco knew of Vygotsky's work from her own studies. She was so intrigued by Putney's research on the classroom functioning as a community that she stayed in her hotel room to read the book while the rest of their party enjoyed a night on the town in Las Vegas, Putney said.

"Coco's very strong in how she sees the school," Putney said. "She wants it to be collaborative and strong, but she wants it to have heart."

The Community of a Classroom

Putney, who specializes in qualitative research, has studied Vygotsky's theories in action by observing classrooms in elementary schools such as Paradise Professional Development School on the UNLV campus. The partnership between the school and the university provides a living lab for student teachers, and it offers feedback to teachers on their methods.

There, Putney teamed up with teacher Juanita Falls to do an ethnographic study of her fifth-grade class as its own community. It's a more subjective way to do research because she allows herself to become part of their community, but she said it's also very rewarding.

"It was so exciting to watch this teacher, already strong in her own right, continue to blossom. She said it strengthened her perspective on teaching, and that no one had ever validated her teaching in that way," Putney said.

Putney said she hopes UNLV develops a similar relationship with CEFI. After the school year ends, she'll return to see how the teachers applied the techniques she taught them. And next fall, graduate student Heidi Stanger will spend the semester student teaching at CEFI. The college has placed student teachers internationally from Ireland to Costa Rica to New Zealand, but Stanger will be the first to go to Mexico.

A fluent Spanish speaker, Stanger said she's looking forward to practicing in an environment that embraces bilingual education. "Here in the U.S., many times bilingual schools are seen as a detriment rather than something positive," she said.

Spring Commencement Ceremonies Set for May 14

Spring commencement ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. May 14 in the Thomas & Mack Center.

This year, the colleges participating in the morning and afternoon ceremonies have traded places. The colleges of Law, Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Sciences, and Urban Affairs will participate in the 9 a.m. ceremony. The 2 p.m. ceremony will involve the colleges of Business, Education, Engineering, and Hotel, and University College.

Participating faculty and staff members should arrive one hour

before the start of the ceremonies.

Faculty who are hooding doctoral students and all faculty marshals assisting with commencement should go to the Cox Pavilion arena (upstairs). Hooders and doctoral students should meet up and march in together behind the Graduate College banner. All other faculty members attending commencement, including platform guests, should enter the Thomas & Mack through the north-west tunnel.

Commencement rehearsal is scheduled for 9 a.m. May 13 in the Thomas

& Mack. All deans, marshals, student speakers, and other members of the platform party should attend.

For more information, go to commencement.unlv.edu or call the commencement hotline at ext. 5-3229.

For general questions not answered on the website or hotline, call education professor Jane McCarthy, chair of the commencement committee, at ext. 5-1208.

For questions about marshaling duties, contact committee member Rainier Spencer at ext. 5-3401.

Cultural Diversity Theater

WHO: Actors from SST Communications

WHAT: Present "Synergy from Others, Cultural Diversity in the Workplace," dramatic scenes examining the key dimensions of diversity

WHEN: 10-11 a.m. May 17

WHERE: MSU ballroom

MORE INFO: Call human resources at ext. 5-3504

BUSINESS

Entrepreneurial Education Programs Launched

Recognizing the tremendous growth in the state's business start-ups, the college has moved to better serve the entrepreneurial spirit of its students.

The college recently developed an undergraduate degree in entrepreneurship as well as a venture management concentration in its MBA program. In addition, the college is encouraging the practical application of entrepreneurial learning through participation in the Governor's Cup Business Plan Competition.

The new initiatives are enhancing the college's mission to "advance the knowledge and practice of business, develop business leaders, and foster intellectual and economic vitality."

Students in these programs learn concepts and practices that will allow their businesses to survive and grow. A study by the Kauffman Foundation's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership found that business school graduates with a degree focused on entrepreneurship education were three times more likely to be involved in the creation of a new business, were more likely to own their own businesses, and, on average, earned a higher income.

At the same time, the programs provide benefits to all Nevadans by enhancing economic diversification and job creation efforts. This in turn leads to a higher standard of living for residents.

The Las Vegas Valley annually garners top rankings in the "Best Cities for Entrepreneurship" listing by Dun and Bradstreet and *Entrepreneur* magazine. In 2004, *Inc.* magazine ranked Las Vegas as the third-best large city for business and the fifth for fastest, most sustained growth.

EDUCATION

Inclusion Partnership Expands

After a successful pilot program last academic year, the College of Education is expanding a new service-learning program in partnership with the Clark County School District. The Inclusion Partnership (TIP) has also already garnered honors at the convention of the National Urban Inclusive Schools Institute.

Through the program, select education majors receive instruction in special education techniques and inclusive practices and then participate in a semester-long service-learning project. The students work across the curriculum and are often placed in classes co-taught by a general and special education teacher.

To address the service-learning component of the course, students serve as inclusion facilitators in general education



'TODAY' TAPING

Doug Hill, assistant director of the senior adult theatre program, coaches Connie Robinson during a scene study class in the Black Box Theatre last month while a crew from NBC's "Today" show captures the action. The segment was slated to air April 29 in conjunction with the show's coverage of the opening of the Wynn Las Vegas hotel-casino.

math, English, and science classrooms for approximately 10 weeks.

This year, approximately 80 education majors have been paired with teachers from White Middle School and Green Valley and Del Sol high schools. TIP will expand to seven CCSD schools during 2005-06 and to as many as 18 schools by 2007-08. In addition, the Community College of Southern Nevada and Nevada State College have recently joined the partnership to enable participation by their students as TIP expands.

CCSD teachers who are involved with the Inclusive School Project also have the opportunity to take graduate coursework at UNLV on inclusive special education techniques.

ENGINEERING

Gewali Receives Fulbright Grant

Laxmi Gewali of the School of Computer Science has been awarded a Fulbright senior specialists grant under the prestigious Fulbright scholarship program. He will spend six weeks at Tribhuvan University in Nepal this summer developing curriculum for information technology and training professionals to run their computer science department.

This is Gewali's third Fulbright award and third trip to Nepal. He has been instrumental in starting Tribhuvan's computer science department; it now has 22 students and four professors who began as students three years ago.

Gewali wrote proposals to garner funding for the program from India, the United Kingdom, and Japan, and was the coordinator for the funding activities. In previous visits, he initiated Tribhuvan University's curriculum development in

computer science, prepared lecture notes and labs, and advised the diplomatic community on outsourcing for developing countries and the process for achieving university degrees in the United States.

Gewali received master and doctoral degrees in computer science from the University of Texas and worked in the artificial intelligence lab at Texas Instruments in Dallas prior to joining UNLV in 1989. He received the UNLV Distinguished Teaching Award in 1999, the year he attained the rank of full professor.

His research is supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, UNLV's Applied Research Initiative, and Cray Research.

FINE ARTS

McFerrin Caps PAC Season

The Performing Arts Center season finale features the spectacular Bobby McFerrin in a solo performance May 17. No mere singer, McFerrin is a true Renaissance man — a vocal explorer who has combined jazz, folk, choral, a capella, and classical music with his own ingredients.

Beginning May 15, the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery will feature "Trading Spaces," an art exhibit that celebrates Las Vegas' 100th birthday. The show, curated by art and architecture history professor Robert Tracy, will consist of photographs and digital imagery.

The Women's Chorus and Varsity Men's Glee Club will present their spring concert May 1 in the Doc Rando Recital Hall of the Beam Music Center. Artist-in-residence Bede Parry will perform an organ recital May 8 in the Rando Recital Hall. On May 15, the UNLV Children's Chorale will present

its spring concert at Artemus Ham Hall.

For ticket information, call the Performing Arts Center Box Office at ext. 5-2787.

GRADUATE

Student Research Forum Held

An unprecedented number of students — 88 — submitted abstracts for the poster and oral platform presentation sessions of the annual Graduate and Professional Student Research Forum.

The forum, which is sponsored by the college and the Graduate and Professional Student Association, was open to all graduate and professional students, and participation was required for students receiving association funding for 2004-05. Graduate faculty volunteers judged this prestigious student research event. The college and the association commend all participating students for their achievement and scholarship.

Awards went to students:

- in the science & engineering section of the poster session — first place, Wendy Barrow of geoscience; second place, Aaron Hirsch of geoscience; third place, Stacy Mantooth of biological sciences.

- in the social science section of the poster session — first place, Gregory Strauss of psychology; second place, Susan Bahnick Jones of environmental science; third place, Marilyn Strada of psychology.

- in the humanities & business section of the poster session — first place, Florian Haerle of educational psychology; second place, Ann Sharp of educational psychology; third place, Suzanne Broughton of educational psychology.

- in the science & engineering section of the platform session — first place, Jeffrey DaCosta of biological sciences; second place, Tereza Jezkova of biological sciences; third place, Melissa Hicks of geoscience.

- in the social science section of the platform session — first place, Janice McMurray of psychology; second place, Luz Andrea Pfister of anthropology; third place, Jodi Olson of criminal justice.

- in the humanities & business section of the platform session — first place, Bob Hoffman of educational psychology; second place, Amy McManus of hospitality administration; third place, Matt McCrudden of educational psychology.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Nutrition Sciences Joins in Healthy Weight Program

The nutrition sciences department, along with the Las Vegas department of leisure services and the Henderson department of parks and recreation, was selected to partner with the National Heart Lung and

Blood Institute (NHLBI) — part of the National Institutes of Health — and become an “intensive community site” in the new Healthy Weight Initiative. This national consumer education program encourages healthy weight for youths through home and community activities.

Intensive community sites serve as model organizations for supporting healthier communities. Benefits include receiving free educational materials that would otherwise be available only in limited format or for a fee, receiving national media recognition, and receiving targeted assistance to implement and evaluate the initiative. Additionally, NHLBI will conduct site visits to provide technical assistance.

Nutrition sciences professor Molly Michelman will manage the overall effort of the Southern Nevada team. Program activities began in March and will continue through June 2006.

Radiochemistry Ph.D. Added

The Board of Regents granted approval to UNLV’s doctoral degree in radiochemistry. This joint venture between the departments of health physics and chemistry also includes researchers from the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies.

Administered by the Graduate College, the program’s research areas include environmental radiochemistry / health physics, radioactive separation, and nuclear fuel. For more information, go to radchem.nevada.edu.

HONORS

Final Theses, Projects Presented

Honors students shared their final research projects with the campus community April 14 during the college’s eighth annual Thesis/Project Poster Session.

The following students made presentations:

- Psychology and German major Melanie W. Bailey, “Flucht

aus der Heimat” (“Fleeing from the Homeland”)

- Economics major John Courtney, “Alcohol Consumption vs. Poor Economic Conditions”
- Art major Bonnie Morris, “Cinematica: An Animations Film to Music”
- Business management major Steven S. Neiger, “702 Designs: A Small Business”
- Biology major Archana Nelliot, “The Hormonal Control of Tissue Dissociation”
- History and interdisciplinary social science studies major Stephen Grant Nilsen, “The Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male and its Legacy in the African American Community”
- International business major Raquel M. Velazquez, “Latinos(as) in American Film in the 1940s”
- Civil engineering major Ching-Chieh Wang, “Community Outreach Using Web-Based Tools”

HOTEL

Olsen Named New Development Director

The college welcomes Karin Olsen as its director of development. She received her bachelor of general studies and master of arts degree in organizational leadership from Gonzaga University. She joins UNLV after working for six years as assistant dean for development, alumni relations, and career services for the Gonzaga Law School.

Outreach Events Announced

The college is planning several social and academic events to continue outreach activities to alumni and industry friends.

The second annual International Hospitality and Convention Summit will be held June 5-7 at the Stan Fulton Building. This academic conference features research in the greater hospitality

field and brings in people from around the country. For information, visit tca.unlv.edu/summit.

The college’s Alumni Board of Directors hosts hospitality networking receptions at 5:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Stan Fulton Building. Alumni and friends are invited to take advantage of this networking opportunity in a social atmosphere. For information, call ext. 5-2934.

LAW

Students Win National Counseling Competition

Lisa McClane and Jay Odum, two second-year students at the Boyd School of Law, placed first in the American Bar Association Law Student Division National Client Counseling Competition in March in Anaheim, Calif. They beat all the teams who also had advanced from the twelve regional competitions to the finals.

The theme of this year’s competition was sports and entertainment law. Odum and McClane performed the role of attorneys jointly conducting an initial interview of their clients. Facing actors playing the roles of their clients, the two attorneys had to obtain relevant information from their clients, advise the clients about their options, help the clients decide whether to retain the attorneys, and then speak amongst themselves about the next steps.

The Client Counseling Competition emphasizes the importance of preventive law and the idea that many clients’ problems can be resolved more effectively outside the courtroom. Aided by coach Jean Sternlight, Saltman Professor of Law and director of the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution, McClane and Odum were successful in large part because they were able to guide their client to non-legal, as well as legal, solutions. The team emphasized the possibility of negotiated resolutions and also often discussed approaches

in public relations, private fundraising, and psychological counseling.

LIBERAL ARTS

Language Choices Abound

The selection of majors and minors offered by the department of foreign languages continues to expand.

One sign of the continued growth is the minor in classical studies. The program’s language core curriculum of Latin and classical Greek is complemented by courses in literature, art, history, political science, and philosophy. Several departments within the College of Liberal Arts offer the courses.

The foreign language department now offers majors and/or minors in Chinese studies, French studies, German studies, Italian studies, Spanish, Spanish for the professions, romance languages, and classical studies.

UNLV Named Test Center

The internationally recognized Certificate of German for the Professions examination will be given at UNLV this month, marking the fifth time in the past six years that the university has been a test center. Ten students majoring or minoring in German are registered to take the demanding test. UNLV’s historical pass rate has been 93 percent.

SCIENCES

New Science Center Proposed

The college is working to establish a Center for Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Science to prepare students for careers in these fields and related disciplines. Creation of the center is subject to Board of Regents approval.

If created, the center will serve as a platform for qualified college faculty to start new research, nurture and sustain existing research, and participate in activities supported by the U.S. departments of Defense and Energy, the National Science Foundation, and NASA. Its establishment will enable faculty to build firm and equitable relationships with industries doing business with those agencies and competing for external funding. This, in turn, will help the state reach its goal of becoming the next NASA spaceport, which involves implementing work force development programs for the federal agencies.

Information gathered by the center would improve instruction at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. The college would work diligently toward creating a graduate program in atmospheric, oceanic, and space science. The center’s development plan also calls for an instrumentation program, which would encourage faculty to design,

●SEE ACROSS CAMPUS ON PAGE 6

LIBRARIES

Volumes of Visitors: Technology Attracting Record Numbers

Anyone who has used Lied Library lately knows it’s busy. For those people who have been wondering just how busy, the following statistics may be of interest: early-in-the-week visits average around 8,500 visitors per day, with some days during study week and finals topping 10,000 visits per day. The record high was 11,358 visits on Dec. 7.

Between the last full year in the old Dickinson Library (fiscal year 2000) and the first full year in Lied Library (fiscal year 2002), the percent increase in visits was 103 percent — from 603,000 to nearly 1,224,000. By fiscal year 2004 the gate count reached 1,460,560 — a 142 percent increase over the Dickinson’s final year. Fall 2004 saw an increase of 2.7 percent over the previous fall — bringing the number of visitors to 776,444 from 756,298. If those numbers are any indication, this fiscal year will again see more visitors.

So what is it that so many people are doing at Lied? The answer: using the 300-plus Internet-accessible computers; practicing their Power Point presentations in the group study rooms; using the fully networked study booths to prepare their group projects; using the media preview rooms and viewing stations; checking out laptops; studying quietly in one of the silent study rooms on the third and fourth floors; using the multimedia design studio resources to integrate a video clip into their paper; taking an instructional tour, class, or workshop; locating books from the Libraries’ million-volume collection; seeking research help; or simply relaxing or studying in the Book ‘n’ Bean Café.

The building has something to offer everyone and that’s the story behind the stats.

SPOTLIGHT ON PEOPLE

● **Vicky Albert** (Social Work) and **David Thronson** (Law) presented their refereed paper "Immigration and Child Welfare Services" at the annual meeting of the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences held in Las Vegas in February.

● **Barbara Cloud** (Journalism and Media Studies) has been appointed to the marketing committee of the national honor society of Phi Kappa Phi.

● **Tony Jackson** (Campus Housing) was named Classified Staff Employee of the Month for April in the custodial category. The four-year employee performs a variety of tasks, depending on what is needed that day.

● **Chris Stream** (Public Administration) presented his paper "The Relationship Between News Media Coverage and People Volunteering for Clinical Trials" at the annual conference of the American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences, held in Las Vegas in February.



Stream

● **Dolores Valencia Tanno** (Honors) will present the keynote speech at the International

Communication and Media Conference in Lodz, Poland, in June.

● **Gary Freemont** (Rebel Recycling) was named Classified Staff Employee of the Month for April in the service category. A 32-year employee, he held jobs in facilities maintenance, the paint shop, and motor pool before joining the Rebel Recycling staff in 1998. He traverses campus collecting cardboard and other recyclables. A life-long environmentalist, he says he loves having a job that allows him to do his part in saving the earth.



Freemont

● **John Massengale** (Kinesiology) recently was elected to the North American Society of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport, and Dance Professionals. The society honors outstanding individuals in the allied health and physical activity professions in the United States and Canada. The recognition and medallion presentation will take place at the R. Tait McKenzie Lecture in Chicago.

● **Thomas R. Burkholder** and **David Henry** (Communication Studies) wrote the chapter "Criticism of

Metaphor" in *The Art of Rhetorical Criticism*, published this year by Allyn and Bacon.

● **Douglas Unger** (English) is author of *Looking for War and Other Stories*, published by the Ontario Review Press. The book, which includes seven short stories and one novella, has been reviewed favorably in several publications, including the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the American Library Association's *Booklist*. He also recently learned that one of his earlier books, *Voices from Silence*, is being published in France by Daniel Arsand/Editions Phebus.

● **Patti J. Shock** (Tourism and Convention Administration) will be presented with a Professional Achievement Award from the Professional Convention Management Association at a dinner in Washington, D.C., on May 25. She is the first educator to receive the award.



Shock

● **Marree Perrault** (Education Advising Center) was named Classified Staff Employee of the Month for April in the administrative category.

An administrative aide in the College of Education Advising Center, she staffs the front desk and works closely with students. She has been a full-time employee for one year. She previously served as a student worker in the same office. She will graduate this month with a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

● **Millie McClain** (Dental Medicine) was selected as the 2005-06 Enid Neidle Scholar-in-Residence for the American Dental Education Association at its recent annual meeting in Baltimore.

● **Tom Sharpe** (Sports Education and Leadership) recently published three papers in conjunction with doctoral students: with Daniel Balderson, "The Effects of Personal Accountability and Personal Responsibility Instruction on Select Off-Task and Positive Social Behaviors," which appeared in the *Journal of Teaching in Physical Education*, and "Promoting Positive Social Behavior in Physical Education," which appeared in *Strategies*; and with

Matthew Martin, "Teaching Fitness-Based Content Knowledge in Physical Education," which also appeared in *Strategies*.

● **Larry Strate** (Finance) is retiring this month after 24 years at UNLV. He is relocating to the town of Hamilton in Montana's Bitterroot Valley to be closer to family. He plans to write a book on the bridges of Bitterroot. He also intends to "do some long-overdue fishing" and work on his Model A Ford restoration project.



Strate

● **Roy Hill** (Purchasing) was named Classified Staff Employee of the Month for April in the technical category. A senior buyer, he is responsible for purchasing a variety of items for numerous campus entities, resolving invoice issues, modifying purchase orders, and meeting vendors. He began work at UNLV on April 2, 1990, the day the men's basketball team won the NCAA championship.

Submit Your Accomplishments Info to:
inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu

Items should be no more than 75 words.

ACROSS CAMPUS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

develop, test, and launch new instruments in cooperation with the federal government and industrial partners.

STUDENT LIFE

Funds Raised for Tsunami Relief

Staff from departments of student involvement and activities, campus housing, and international students and scholars collaborated with CSUN and other student organizations to raise money for tsunami relief. More than \$2,200 was raised.

Donations went to the Acumen Fund South Asia Tsunami campaign. The Acumen Fund supports sustainable change in areas where the average income is \$4 a day or less. UNLV's contributions will support local businesses working to improve health, water, and housing in these areas.

Fundraising activities occurred during the first four weeks of the semester and included collection jars around campus and collection tables on Pida Plaza and the Alumni Walk. In addition, student organizations held fundraisers for the project as part of a combined UNLV effort. The Maitri India Students Organization alone raised \$1,200 for the campaign. Fundraising competitions in

the residence halls accounted for more than \$650 of the donations. Additional contributions came from CSUN senators, Greek organizations, Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Association, and faculty and staff contributions.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Growth Expectations Exceeded

The college is acquiring students at a much faster rate than anticipated. Before the college was established, predictions forecasted an FTE of 10 in the first year; as of March 15, approximately 382 students had declared themselves to be university studies majors. This May, 16 students will graduate from the college and approximately 50 to 60 students are expected to graduate during the 2005-06 academic year.

The college's potential graduates are demonstrating ingenuity and foresight when putting together their capstone projects. A number of those projects will be directly applicable to the graduates' careers once they leave UNLV. Some of these projects include a bilingual children's book, a business plan for a new spa in Clark County, a schematic for innovative furniture design, and a template for making informed real estate purchases nationwide.

A number of students are also looking forward to graduate studies in education, law, English, and psychology.

Gerontology Emphasis Offered

University College now offers special credentials in aging to prepare students for a future in serving older adults — a bachelor of university studies with an emphasis in the practical as well as the theoretical aspects of gerontology.

Careers in the field of aging are expanding rapidly, with job opportunities in assisted living facilities, senior centers, and educational sites. This degree is a cutting-edge training program for the student who wants expanded knowledge and practical training in working with older adults.

For information, call ext. 5-1079.

URBAN AFFAIRS

Department Receives Award

The department of marriage, family, and community counseling recently received the Organizational Achievement Award from the Association for Addiction Professionals for its contributions to the field of addictions.

UNLV Helps National Group Beat the Odds

The department of marriage, family, and community counseling has formed a partnership with the National Council on Problem Gambling to increase awareness of problem gambling among health-care professionals with a column in the council's quarterly newsletter.

Additionally, the council will provide support for a problem gambling conference on campus in September hosted by UNLV's Student Organization of Addiction Professionals (SOAP). Established in fall 2004, SOAP's undergraduate and graduate student members work to increase awareness of addiction prevention and treatment.

As part of National Recovery Month, the "Beating the Odds" conference is designed to make campus and community organizations aware of pathological gambling as it relates to college students and adolescents. Last summer SOAP hosted a booth at the Las Vegas Recovery Fair. The group also received a \$2,000 donation from the Las Vegas Recovery Center, which also sponsors scholarships for two undergraduate students and a graduate student in the department of marriage, family, and community counseling.

●INSURANCE: Wellness Benefits Expanded

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Keeping Your Costs Down

Employees can defray out-of-pocket costs with a flexible spending account, which allows them to set aside pre-tax dollars for expenses such as co-pays, deductibles, and prescriptions.

There are two ways to save even more on out-of-pocket expenses — discounted deductibles for those who take a health risk assessment, and expanded wellness benefits.

The assessment will be an online survey with 25 to 30 questions about employees' medical history and lifestyle. PPO members who fill it out will get a 50 percent cut in their deductible and increase their maximum for dental care from \$1,500 to \$2,000. HMO members, who have no deductible, will get the dental increase.

La Putt said employees can't have their coverage revoked or denied based on their answers to the questionnaire. "It doesn't matter whether you are low risk or high risk. If you answer 'yes' to any questions, it's not going to work against you," La Putt said.

Patient privacy laws also keep your responses confidential from employers. "My benefits staff has no access to that information," La Putt said. But state health plan officials will review the questionnaires and may contact employees to tell them about plan benefits or programs that address their needs or risks.

Focus on Prevention

For wellness benefits, which focus on prevention and early detection, the state has eliminated the co-pay and will cover up to \$2,500 of expenses a year stemming from those services, up from \$600. Wellness services include:

- Annual checkups for adults and well-child exams
- Lab tests and x-rays
- Immunizations
- Medically supervised weight-loss programs
- Cancer screenings such as mammograms
- Programs for smoking cessation and stress management

Employees should become aware of which services qualify for the wellness benefit, La Putt said, and make sure their doctors are billing them as such.

The added wellness benefits and risk assessment show that the plan is shifting its focus toward helping employees stay healthy, La Putt said. "Plan administrators are trying to concentrate more on preventive measures versus paying claims on the other side."

Computer Access the Wright Way

By ERIN O'DONNELL

Wireless access in Wright Hall is now available à la cart — the laptop cart.

Stocked with 30 computers for students, plus one for the instructor, the oversized locking cabinet turns any classroom in the newly renovated building into a computer-equipped teaching facility.

Cam Johnson, manager of the Student Computing Support Center, said the cart was developed to ease demand on traditional computer lab space, which is at a premium.

"The laptop cart doesn't occupy a room all day, or on days when the class doesn't need the computers," Johnson said. "It's a better use of space, it offers more accessibility, and it satisfies the occasional need for computer access."

UNLV has about 20 classrooms equipped with computers for the instructor and students, Internet access, the latest productivity software, class-specific software, an overhead projector, and more tech-friendly features. But they book up quickly, and many are reserved for use only by certain departments.

Although the laptop cart is restricted to Wright Hall, which has wireless capabilities, any faculty member can reserve classroom space there to use it, either for one-time or regular use.

Roughly 6 feet long by 2.5 feet wide by 4 feet tall, the cart is a bit unwieldy as it lumbers down the hall, but it has everything an instructor needs to use computers in class.

Inside the cabinet are Internet-ready laptops loaded with commonly used software, such as the Adobe and Microsoft suites, web browsers, and the statistical program SPSS. All of the requisite battery chargers, surge protectors, and power supplies are on board.

Best of all, Johnson said, the cart comes with something else a traditional teaching facility doesn't have: its



More Info: contact Cam Johnson at ext. 5-0760 or cam.johnson@ccmail.nevada.edu



Spanish instructor Irene Levayen prepares students to take an exam via WebCT. A mobile laptop cart in Wright Hall makes computers available for any classroom in the building, which has wireless Internet access throughout.

own tech support person.

"My employees check out the laptops to students and ensure that all equipment is working during the first 15 minutes or so after class starts," he said, "and will return at the end of the class time to collect materials."

Foreign language instructors have been among the regular users of the cart because the tests for introductory Spanish are now done online via WebCT.

Graduate assistant Mark Howard, who teaches two sections of that course, said he hopes to start using the cart for regular classroom exercises, too, because the course textbook has an online component for homework.

Howard said he prefers the cart to standard classrooms with rows of computers, in part because the students aren't hidden behind bulky monitors. "The laptops are smaller. It takes away that barrier."

●PRESIDENT: Research I Designation a Top Goal for Future

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"You needed a longer haul here to see through to some fruition the kinds of things that needed to be done," she said, citing the creation of the law school as one example of a greatly needed, time-intensive project. Its creation occupied much of the first two years of her presidency.

Although Harter anticipated some challenges at UNLV, what she primarily saw were its extraordinary and plentiful opportunities.

"I'm not ambitious for ambition's sake. That's just not where I am," she said. "I really want to make a difference in life and a difference where I am."

Decade of Firsts

During her 10 years, not only has UNLV established the state's first public law school, but also several other major schools and programs, including the state's only dental school, the School of Architecture, and the School of Public Health. The 302,000-square-foot Lied Library also was built during her tenure.

And during the same 10-year period, external dollars have more than tripled with nearly \$372 million

coming to the university, including more than \$232 million for research activities.

"Not many presidents get this kind of rare opportunity to do these things," she said.

Harter said that when she was contemplating a career move back in 1995, she was clear on what she wanted: "I want a world in which we can develop things for the sake of advancing human capital."

Looking Ahead

Although much has been accomplished during her tenure, she said much remains to be done.

A primary goal is the push to have UNLV accepted as a Research I institution, placing it in the top tier of the nation's research universities.

But reaching that goal should not be at the expense of undergraduate education and teaching, she said.

Pointing to the upcoming construction of a new student union and a new student recreation center, she said, "I think the groundbreaking for those wonderful facilities said the commitment to undergraduate education and student community is here."

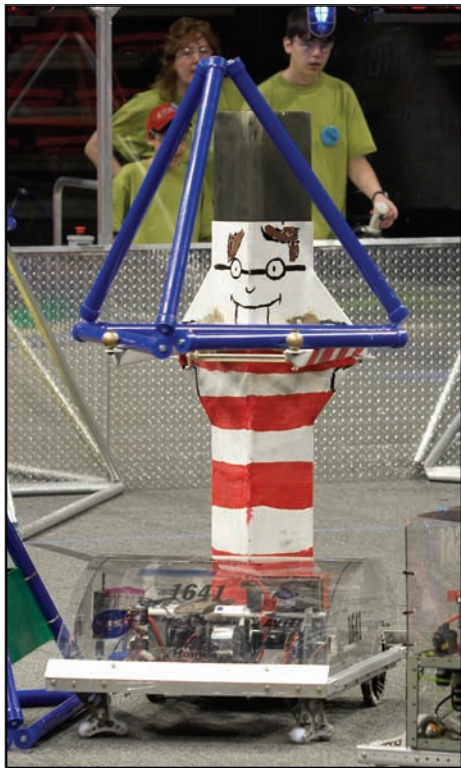
Another goal is the successful completion of the multimillion-dollar capital campaign, which will be officially launched in the fall.

Gone is the day when a public university could expect state funds to make up the lion's share of its budget, Harter said. Private giving is vital at every top-tier university in America, she added, noting that UNLV is fortunate to have generous benefactors who have made possible many of its advancements, from the law school to the new library to the International Institute of Modern Letters.

Harter said that as she works to ensure continued high-quality undergraduate education while at the same time trying to raise millions of dollars and advance UNLV's research status, she is careful to remember why she is doing all that.

"I think too many presidents and others forget why we're here," she said. "The ultimate goal of higher education, in my view, is the advancement of human beings one at a time, one after the other."

"The reason for that is to increase the total quality of human life, and I am an absolute believer that education is the key to doing that."



Circuit City

Thousands of high school students competed last month in the first Las Vegas Regional of the FIRST Robotics tournament at the Thomas & Mack Center. Teams must build working robots to perform complex tasks in a high-tech, head-to-head game format. Las Vegas' hometown team from Cimarron-Memorial High School was part of the winning alliance that earned a trip to the national competition in Atlanta in late April. The competition is sponsored by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a non-profit organization that works to make science, math, engineering, and technology appealing to young people.

Clockwise from above: Cimarron-Memorial team mentors Marc Rogers, center, and Eric Stensrud, right, celebrate the team's win in the semifinals; robots take the battlefield; Dean Eric Sandgren of the College of Engineering addresses the crowd; members of the Cody and Redford High School Alliance from Detroit work on their robot between matches; and Mojave (Calif.) Robotics' "Waldo" carries its load.

