

Fall 2007

UNLV Magazine

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Repository Citation

Weeks, C., O'Donnell, E., Bevell, S., Cloud, B., Drohan, J., Baer, A., De Vore, H. I., Galassi, G., Leake, E. (2007). UNLV Magazine. In C. Weeks (Ed.), *UNLV Magazine*, 15(3), 1-44.

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UN

MAGAZINE

FALL 2007

Whitacre's Way

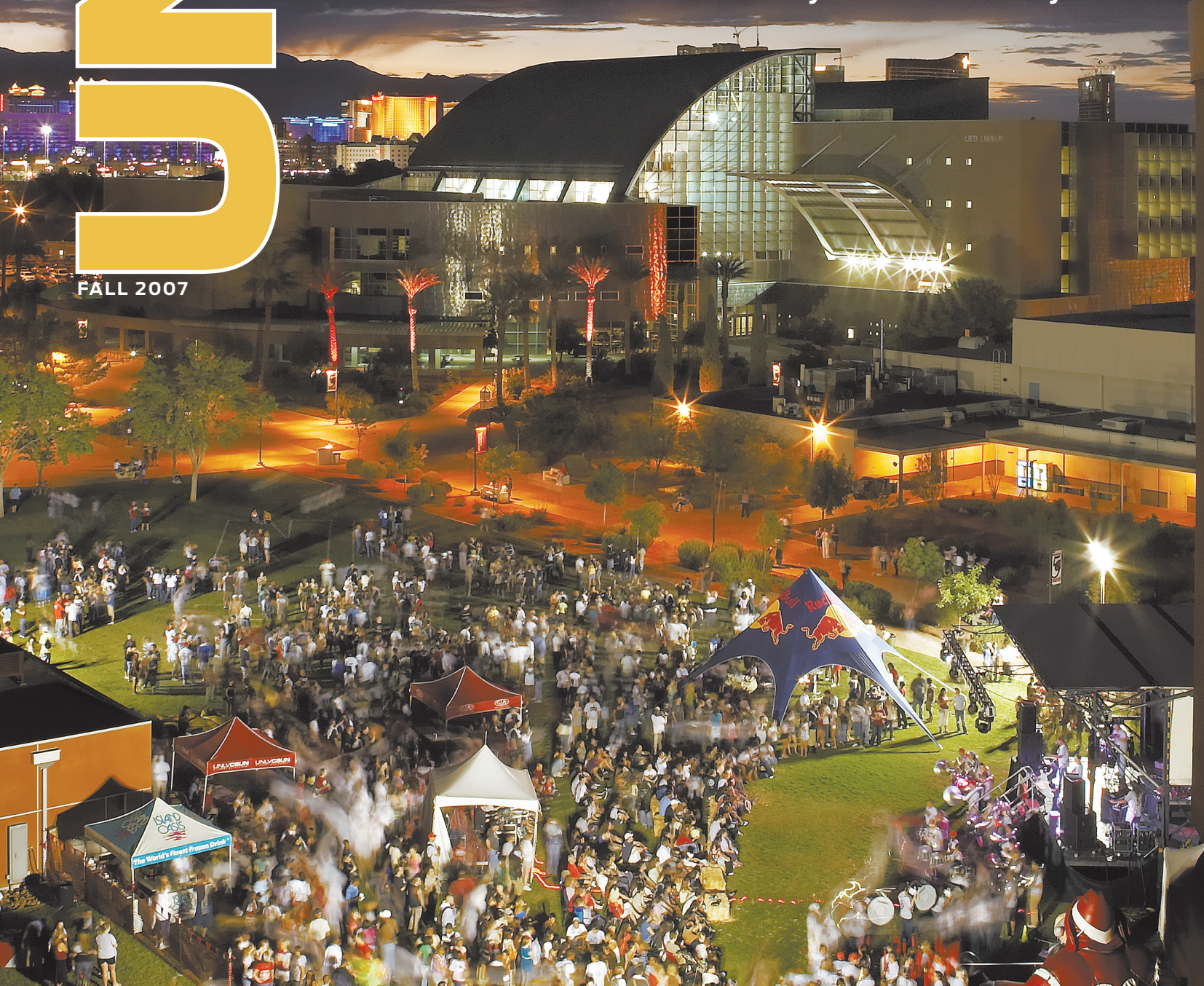
GRAMMY-WINNING ALUMNUS BUILDS FAN BASE FOR HIS CLASSICAL MUSIC WITH THE MYSPACE GENERATION

What Lies Beneath

THE LESSONS LEARNED IN RUSSIA MAY HELP NEVADA HARNESS ITS GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

The Golden Anniversary

A look back at the university's first half century



Setting the Tone

In the 1960s, students voted to use their fees to pay for the construction of the Moyer Student Union. Four decades later they did it again to build a new 135,000-square-foot facility with expanded meeting rooms, a theater, and a colorful food court. Get a glimpse of the new Student Recreation and Wellness Center on Page 20. [Photo by Aaron Mayes]



ON THE COVER:

This year's
Premiere UNLV,
a fall tradition
on campus.
[Photo by
Geri Kodey]

A Half Century

22 On Sept. 10, 1957, UNLV held its first classes in the lone building on the Maryland Parkway campus. Five decades later, we're celebrating our storied past.

What Lies Beneath

16 Why one professor hiked to a remote Russian volcano to figure out how to tap into the scalding water below Nevada.

Whitacre's Way

32 Eric Whitacre walked into his first UNLV music class as a pop musician who couldn't read music. He left for a composing career that's garnered Grammy nominations and a devoted fan base.

Class of 1964 ... Where Are They Now?

36 At the campus's first commencement, 29 students moved their tassels from right to left. *UNLV Magazine* caught up with four of these proud pioneers.

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18 MY THOUGHTS • **20** PIXELS • **32** CLASS NOTES

1 9 6 6

Tonopah Hall adds rooms

1 9 9 0

The dining commons gives flavor

2 0 0 7

Campus life thrives

UNLV is celebrating 50 years. Over that time, we've improved student housing, provided more dining options, and enhanced the quality of student life. Today's students do more than live and learn on campus — they stay fit, well, and active in a brand-new recreation and wellness center and relax in the new student union. So as we celebrate a half-century, our students are celebrating a more vibrant campus community.



Visit <http://celebrating50.unlv.edu>
for more information on anniversary events.



Defining UNLV's next 50 years

This academic year marks the beginning of UNLV's second half century — a milestone we are recognizing with a year of 50th anniversary activities, and a year of comprehensive and collaborative planning.

When this university held its first commencement, the graduates and faculty fit in a couple of rows in the old gymnasium. These pioneers relished their unique place in history and boldly embraced the challenge of turning a dusty patch of land into a great university.

Now, five decades later, our graduates number in the thousands, we have satellite campuses in Las Vegas and Southeast Asia, and our faculty exceeds 1,000. But UNLV is about more than simple growth. Today we emphasize focused growth. Deliberate growth. Like the city we call home, rapid growth does not define us — it merely describes us. A larger population — be it citizens or students — is evidence of something greater at work.

Our scientists and researchers are winning prestigious competitive grants and the scientific community is taking note. This summer, a National Science Foundation study ranked UNLV among the top five universities in the nation for the greatest increase in publication of research findings. UNLV also made the pages of *The Atlantic*, which ranked our graduate writing programs among the nation's top five and most innovative.

Another major accomplishment is our progress toward raising \$500 million through the Invent the Future campaign. Last month, the Harrah's Foundation pledged \$30 million to help us put research and education at the forefront of the hospitality industry (see page 10 for more information).



We are no strangers to excellence in the world of sport, either. And we have stayed true to form with conference titles in basketball, baseball, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, and track and field — not to mention the advancement of the Runnin' Rebels to the NCAA Sweet 16.

As these most recent accomplishments demonstrate, we are poised to achieve goals that 50 years ago our founders had not yet even dreamed. This year, we will chart the next steps in our development through a comprehensive strategic planning process. Firmly linked to our budget, this process will set the priorities for defining our future excellence.

As past students and university supporters, you left a mark on this campus, but there is still much work to be done. I hope our 50th anniversary will inspire you to rediscover your alma mater. To come to the many special events we have planned this year. To call up an old professor to ask how you can help today's students.

And to act as an ambassador for us in your community.

A half-century mark is a fine time to look back. But it is a better time to look forward. With your help, we can set an even higher standard for those who follow.

David B. Ashley
UNLV President

Learn how you can be part of UNLV's 50th anniversary by visiting celebrating50.unlv.edu.

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UNLV Magazine is published three times a year by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Marketing & Public Relations Office 4505 Maryland Pkwy, Box 451024 Las Vegas, NV 89154-1024 www.unlv.edu

UNLV is an AA/EEO institution.

THE Flashlight

BY THE NUMBERS

The Bookstore

6,500

Number of textbook titles ordered by the bookstore each semester.

\$340.55

Price of the materials package for NURS 307, Health Assessment of Diverse Populations. It is the most expensive item in the bookstore and is kept behind the information desk. Used copies run a relatively thrifty \$255.40.

\$900K

Annual amount paid by the bookstore in cash to buy back used textbooks.

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Varieties of decals stocked, including "I ♥ UNLV."

Source:
UNLV Bookstore



Building Boom

This summer, UNLV completed the new Student Union, as well as the four-story Student Recreation and Wellness Center. Next up are some much-needed academic spaces.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING BUILDING

Size: 205,779 gross square feet

Location: Main campus, west of the Cottage Grove parking garage

Funding: \$113 million

Completion date: mid-2008

The building's office, classroom, and lab spaces were designed for interdisciplinary research projects. It is being built to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver rating. The stone tile on the building comes from a local quarry. Water from the labs will be purified using reverse osmosis for reuse in the toilets and urinals. Its advanced environmental systems will also reduce the indoor air contaminants.

1 GREENSPUN HALL

Size: 121,000 gross square feet

Location: Main campus, southeast of the Student Union

Funding: \$93.7 million, including \$37 million donated by the Greenspun family

Completion date: June 2008

This facility will bring together almost all the College of Urban Affairs units into one complex. It is designed with sustainability features and includes a distinctive courtyard shaded by a solar power array, which will provide more than 15 percent of the total annual energy for the building. The project's design is also in keeping with the streetscape planned for Midtown UNLV, a redevelopment project along Maryland Parkway.

2 STUDENT SERVICES COMPLEX ADDITION

Size: 15,960 gross square feet

Location: Main campus

Funding: \$6.5 million

Completion date: May 2008

This addition will give the campus more space to serve UNLV's 28,000 students, bringing many of the student business offices into one facility. The new space will house a much larger public counter as



well as the registrar and admissions offices, which are currently crammed in UNLV's oldest building, Frazier Hall.

3 ADVANCED DENTAL EDUCATION

Size: 44,000 gross square feet

Location: Shadow Lane campus

Funding: \$16.4 million

Completion date: This fall

This facility will expand the opportunities for patient care at the School of Dental Medicine's Shadow Lane campus, with expanded space for the specialties of orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, endodontics, periodontics, and oral and maxillo-facial surgery. Last fiscal year, the school's clinics provided 62,333 oral-health services to residents, many of whom would not ordinarily be able to afford routine dental care.

AARON MAYES



The English department's all-stars include recent Ph.D. graduate Joshua Kryah (author of *Glean*) and doctoral candidates Heather Winterer and Christopher Arigo (author of *In The Archives*).

National Ranking

"Move over, Runnin' Rebels; hello, Writing Rebels," proclaimed a recent article in the *Las Vegas Sun*. The story highlighted the accolades UNLV's creative writing programs garnered in *The Atlantic*, a venerable arbiter of literary taste.

Douglas Unger, interim chair of the English department, learned the magazine was interested in UNLV when a fact-checker called to verify some details. "I knew from the call that the Schaeffer Ph.D. program was selected as one of the top five creative writing programs in the country," Unger

says. "But the bonus, when the magazine came out, was that the MFA program made it into the list of top five unique and innovative programs."

That's heady stuff for programs founded less than a decade ago. The ranking, Unger says, recognizes the "vision that many of us had of building a literary art culture that fit well within Las Vegas and asserted to the world that we are about more than just glitz, glitter, girls, and a fine basketball team." — Gian Galassi

(For the record, the photo was Unger's idea.)

EDITOR'S NOTE

Whaddya think?

In a place like Las Vegas, becoming a bit too yesterday seems to happen, well, overnight. So it's no surprise that *UNLV Magazine's* look and content felt dated. Though we introduced new sections here and there, the publication hadn't changed much since its precursor, *Oasis* magazine, launched in 1991. For a little perspective, that was the year the song "I'm Too Sexy" hit the music charts, the Soviet Union collapsed, and the World Wide Web was released.

So, in your hands is the new *UNLV Magazine*. We've put more emphasis on our stellar photography and introduced several new departments. The update comes in no small part from one of UNLV's own — designer Ched Whitney, art director at the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and a former editor of *The Rebel Yell*.

No matter how large, no magazine could quite capture all that happens at UNLV. Instead we hope to bring you glimpses of the people who fill this university with vitality and promise. More than anything, we hope this magazine inspires you to say, "I'm proud to be a Rebel." Have we accomplished this task? Please tell us when a story strikes a chord or hits a sour note. E-mail me at magazine@unlv.edu.

Cate Weeks

UNLV MAGAZINE EDITOR

BRIEFLY:
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Join the fun

This year's homecoming combines traditional favorites with special UNLV 50th anniversary festivities.

- Take to the fairways on **Oct. 17** for the annual alumni golf tournament.
- Show your school spirit no matter where you live by wearing school colors on Rebel Red Day **Oct. 19**.
- Attend the Alumni Association's homecoming dinner **Oct. 19**.
- Watch the parade wind its way around Sam Boyd Stadium at 4 p.m. **Oct. 20**; and stay for the game at 6 p.m.

More association events:

Alumni mixers, gameday tailgates, and other events throughout the fall are open to all alumni. Call 702-895-2394 or visit alumni.unlv.edu.

More 50th: The full calendar, campus trivia, and ways you can get involved are posted at celebrating50.unlv.edu. You can even send friends UNLV e-postcards.

Send us your comments

We know you're a diversely opinionated bunch. Let's hear it. We welcome letters to the editor. Please include your name and a daytime phone number. Our full policy on printing letters is posted on our website, magazine.unlv.edu.

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Lifting the Burden on the Citizen-Journalist

The Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies was a winner in this year's 21st Century Knight News Challenge, a worldwide contest designed to find new ways to gather and distribute news. The \$230,000 award is the journalism program's largest competitive grant.

A team of UNLV students is collaborating with groups from six other colleges on the yearlong project. They will use an incubator process to develop ideas for using digital information to build local communities. Professor Charlotte-Anne Lucas assembled an international team of students: Robert Ponte and Jenna Kohler of Nevada; Kristin Dero of Idaho; Lauren Johnson of California; Johann Castro of Peru; and Heperi Mita of New Zealand.

We asked **Ponte** for his thoughts on local news in a digital world:

The newest version of media consumers, dubbed citizen-journalists, enjoy a great opportunity — or suffer a heavy burden, depending on how you look at it. They must not only inform themselves but also help inform others within a community.

Coverage of the Minneapolis bridge collapse and the Virginia Tech shooting showed how on-the-fly cameramen can add content. But the transition from paid professionals to circumstantial citizen-journalists in news coverage doesn't reach down to the most local level.

Imagine a place where members of a community can easily go and tell their most interesting stories, share their brightest ideas and their most profound insights. Sound like a blog? Not quite. Blogs are usually dedicated to individual experiences or interpretations, augmented by reader comments. Think more of a ramped up online forum. A place that conveys collective experiences, using many interpretations to yield the most accurate one. When the opportunity hits, those involved in a story would speak, telling their own stories in their own words; the rest of us need only to digest and respond.

Forums are nothing new, but they have been limited in their ability to lead readers quickly through information. My generation of journalism students will have to find an effective system for summarizing each story quickly, at a glance actually. Pictures do this for the content found on YouTube and Flickr, but it's tougher with text and audio. I see two complementary methods for browsing these less visceral mediums. First, sort and filter your way to a manageable list using meta-tags, geo-tags, comments, and popularity

"Las Vegas still suffers from policies that failed to foster interaction in our residential areas — but I think this deficiency can become a competitive advantage."

indexes. Then build up a social network, which casually presents content according to social connections.

Applying social networks to news has been attempted by MySpace and others but poor results led to their eventual demise. It might be better to build the network from the news side rather than adding news to the networking side.

So it's back to the basics. How can we build a system that brings you the news that matters, from the people and communities that

matter to you? And how do we get you and your grandma to use it?

My fellow students and I in the 21st Century Knight News Challenge project are trying to apply the fundamentals of city planning to an online social network. Combine commerce, work, and social life as a city does and connect it all to an actual place through citizen-journalism. Integrate the opportunity for spontaneity and connections into the DNA of the website, just as a real-world city does.

Of course, we don't have the best model for bringing neighborhoods and their residents together — Las Vegas still suffers from policies that failed to foster interaction in our residential areas — but I think this deficiency can become a competitive advantage. We all realize that our actual neighborhoods are merely collections of houses and big-box stores. We know that our homes and apartments are arbitrarily connected. So we Las Vegans have a niche to fill for some kind of semi-anonymous, interactive community. And that's where we come in. Let's discuss (preferably online somewhere).

Rob Ponte, PRINT JOURNALISM MAJOR



Rob Ponte is among the group of students tasked with inventing new ways to get your local news online.

BRIEFLY:
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Say a quick 'Thanks, prof'

Next time you get that call from the Rebel Ring Phonathon, send a faculty-gram to your best-remembered professor. The student-callers often swap stories with the more than 25,000 alumni they contact each year. When graduates mention favorite professors, students pass the messages along. More than \$125,000 is raised annually through the Phonathon, which has the added benefit of employing about 30 students.

One more bit of Rebel Ringer randomness: A recent pledge was made in Swahili after a student discovered the alumnus on the other end of the line in Washington, D.C. also spoke the language. Students also have fielded pledges in Spanish, French, Japanese, and Mandarin.

BRIEFLY
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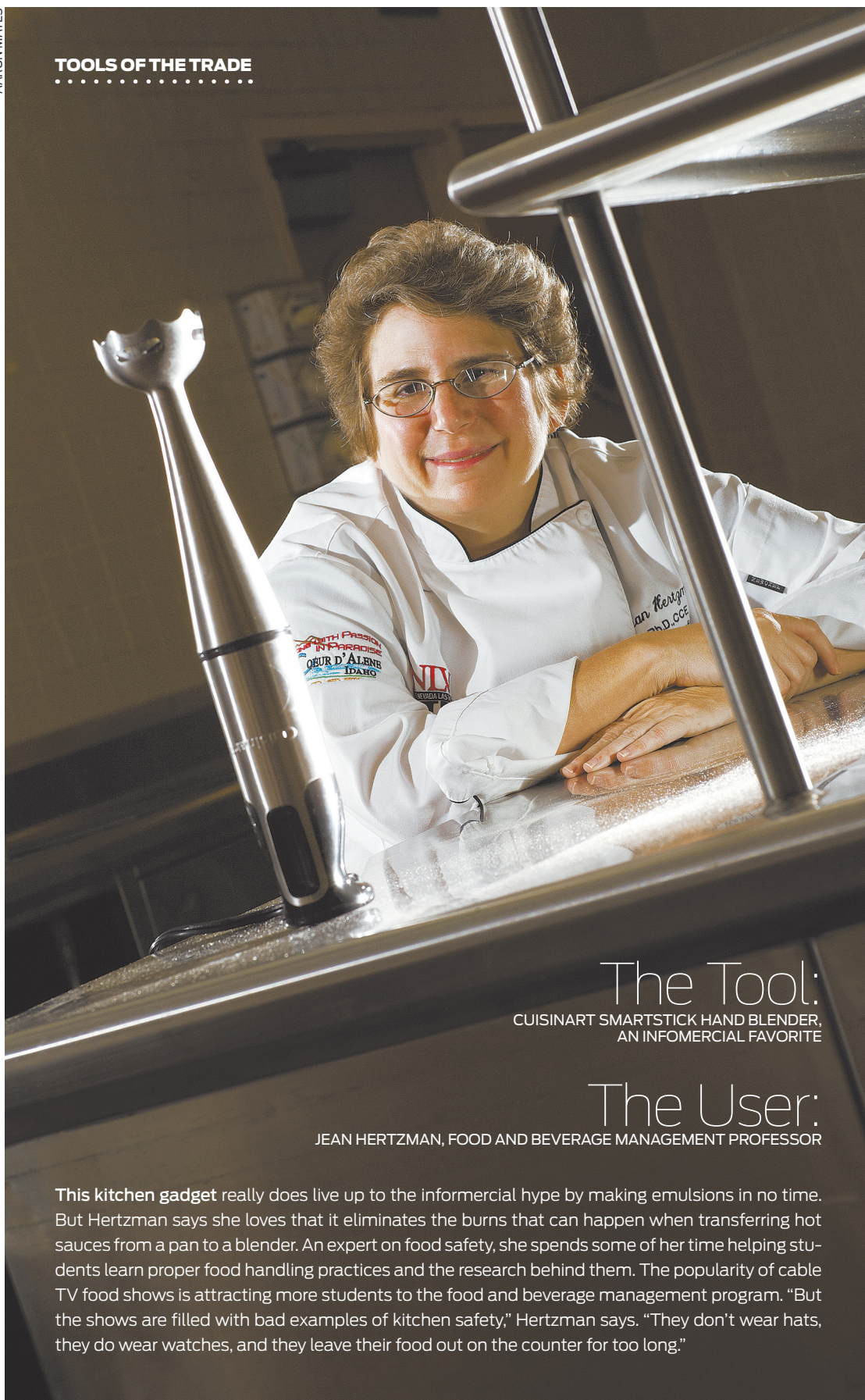
Campus politics

College campuses are no strangers to debate. On Nov. 15, the political rhetoric will heat up as UNLV hosts its first nationally televised presidential debate. The debate for Democratic candidates will be held in the Cox Pavilion and aired on CNN.

With Nevada's early caucus date, candidates have made UNLV a common campaign stop. Students have been able to get a first-person look at the candidates who've held town hall events in UNLV's Student Union and Tam Alumni Center.

Insider's Tip: For more politics, don't miss the satire of The Capitol Steps at the Performing Arts Center on Jan. 17. This 50th anniversary signature event is just two days before the state's caucus. Visit celebrating50.unlv.edu for ticket information.

AARON MAYES

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
.....

The Tool:

CUISINART SMARTSTICK HAND BLENDER,
AN INFOMERCIAL FAVORITE

The User:

JEAN HERTZMAN, FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR

This kitchen gadget really does live up to the infomercial hype by making emulsions in no time. But Hertzman says she loves that it eliminates the burns that can happen when transferring hot sauces from a pan to a blender. An expert on food safety, she spends some of her time helping students learn proper food handling practices and the research behind them. The popularity of cable TV food shows is attracting more students to the food and beverage management program. "But the shows are filled with bad examples of kitchen safety," Hertzman says. "They don't wear hats, they do wear watches, and they leave their food out on the counter for too long."



HOLLY WALKER

Freshman

Walker couldn't settle on one major, so she's seeking a dual degree in computer engineering and psychology. "Some people might consider me indecisive," says the soft-spoken 17-year-old. "But I like trying a lot of different paths." When it came time to pick a college, though, Walker was single-minded about UNLV.

By the numbers: A stratospheric SAT score of 1,380 vaulted the Silverado High School valedictorian into the elite circle of National Merit Finalists and qualified her for the MGM Mirage Academic Excellence Award. She was the first recipient of the four-year scholarship.

Precocious coder: One of Walker's first memories about computers was watching her brother, David, practice DOS programming. "I was probably 5, and I just loved to see him get so excited about it." He's a UNLV computer engineering and science major. She took up web design in grade school, just as the Internet caught on, and she soon started building sites for her father's bookkeeping clients.

How does psychology fit?: Walker got hooked on human behavior in her high school advanced placement psychology course. "I'm trying to figure out how to cross reference artificial intelligence with psychology."

But she really wants to be a lawyer: She's attracted to law's community service aspects. "I believe one of the greatest things we can do is help each other. Although it's idealistic and seems lofty, it's still important."

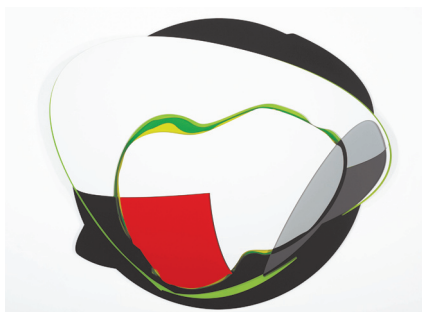
— Erin O'Donnell

Exhibiting a Special Breed

Las Vegas circa 1990 was hardly an art town, but art critic and English professor Dave Hickey figured its energy would attract "a special breed" of student.

"I wasn't surprised that the kids who came here were adventuresome, cosmopolitan, self-sufficient, and indifferent to parental oversight," Hickey says. "As a result of their industry and courage, some things that happen in Vegas don't stay in Vegas. They go out and change the world."

Now they're coming back in an exhibit featuring 26 artists who earned degrees in studio art at UNLV. Las Vegas Diaspora: The Emergence of Contemporary Art from the



"TCV15" by David Ryan

Neon Homeland runs through Dec. 30 at the Las Vegas Art Museum. Hickey, a recipient of the MacArthur Foundation "genius" award, curates the exhibit of his former pupils.

Alumni artists participating include: Las Vegans Tim Bavington, Curtis Fairman, Sush Machida Gaikotsu, Jack Hallberg, James Hough, Shawn Hummel, Angela Kallus, Wayne Littlejohn,

David Ryan, and Sean Slattery; the Rev. Ethan Acres, Muscle Shoals, Ala.; Robert Acuna, Gajin Fujita, Sherin Guirguis Carrie Jenkin, and Victoria Reynolds, Los Angeles; Philip Argent and Jane Callister, Santa Barbara, Calif.; Aaron Baker, Chicago; Thomas Burke, Jason Tomme, and Almond Zigmund, New

York; Brad Corman, Redlands, Calif.; Jacqueline Ehlis, Portland, Ore.; James Gobel, San Francisco; and Yek, who goes by one name and splits his time between Singapore and Las Vegas.

NEWSMAKERS

Jorge Villavicencio Grossmann received some fanfare for the common composer with his 2007 Aaron Copland Award. The award comes with a residency at Copland House, the only composer's home in the United States devoted to nurturing American composers. This year, he also received the Jacob Druckman Award from the Aspen Music Festival for his orchestral work *Pasiphaë*.

Geosciences professor Brenda Buck broke new ground by receiving the Soil Science Society of America's top award. A foremost expert on arid soils, she is the 16th recipient and the first woman to receive the prestigious award. Buck's prolific research projects have taken her from the playgrounds of Las Vegas to the deserts of Chile, Jordan, and China.

Astrophysicist Bing Zhang came to UNLV two years ago to do research on gamma ray bursts, some of the most powerful sources of light in the cosmos. His scholarship made him a star in his own right. One of Zhang's articles was named a "new hot paper" by *Essential Science Indicators*. Hot papers are selected every two months by virtue of being the most highly cited works in a field. Since new hot papers are very recent scientific contributions, they may signal important new trends in research.

Music professor and guitarist Jimmy McIntosh released his first solo CD, *Orleans to London*, after years spent racking up an impressive list of credits on the albums of other artists. His funk-rock-blues album features such names as Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones, Jeff Beck of The Yardbirds, and the Neville Brothers. In addition to teaching at UNLV, McIntosh plays in the Las Vegas production of *Mamma Mia*.

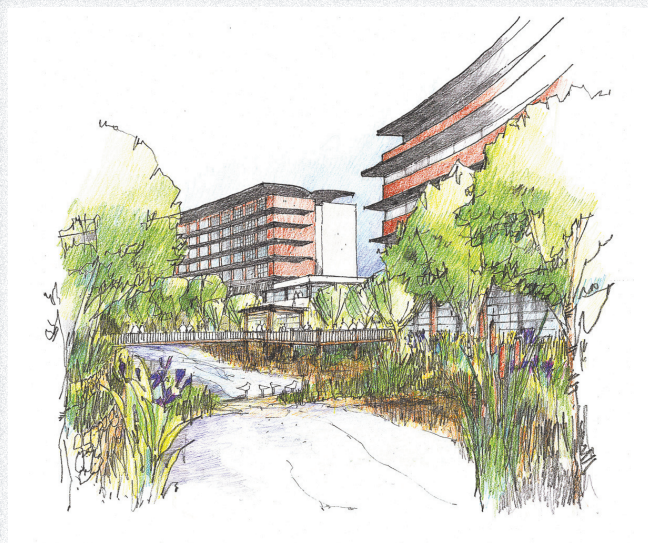


Brenda Buck

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2



Welcome to the Real World

1

The proposed INNOvation Village will bring Hotel Administration students into one facility.

2

The new complex will fill the southeast corner of Swenson Street and Flamingo Road.

3

A hotel and conference center will give faculty and students a real-world lab.

4

The new facility will accommodate 4,000 students and 100 faculty members.

A landmark gift from Harrah's gives a boost to a proposed academic complex that will keep Hotel College students and researchers on top in the industry.

BY ERIN O'DONNELL

By the time this year's incoming freshmen are ready to graduate, faculty and students in the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration could be experimenting in new labs, testing products for major corporations, and getting real-world experience right here on campus.

In September, the Harrah's Foundation announced a gift of \$30 million for INNOvation Village, a proposed academic and research facility with a hotel and convention center. The gift provides nearly half the funds needed for the academic building, with \$25 million going toward construction costs and \$5 million for related research, recruitment, and training initiatives. It is the largest corporate gift in UNLV history.

Stuart Mann, dean of the college, said the project will guarantee UNLV remains at the top in hospitality education and research. "In the hospitality industry, our lab is the real world," he said, "so bringing a hotel and conference center to campus will help us expand our industry research."

The facility will be located at the corner of Flamingo Road and Swenson Street. At full buildout, the complex will include:

- A 100,000-square-foot academic building with classroom space, offices, food and nutrition science labs, teaching kitchens, a gaming laboratory, and dedicated interdisciplinary research space.
- A fully functioning hotel with 200-300 rooms.
- An executive conference center.

The project will also include a renovation of the existing 35,000-square-foot Stan Fulton Building, which houses the International Gaming Institute. Mann hopes to break ground on INNOvation Village in 2009 or 2010.

ALTHOUGH INNOVATION VILLAGE is still conceptual, faculty have no trouble envisioning the possibilities. We asked some of them what the facility could mean to their research, their students, and the hotel industry at large.

Cheri Young

HOTEL MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR

Building a hotel right on campus seems a natural way for students to learn the how-to of hospitality. Cheri Young says it can also help them learn about human nature in the work environment.

Young studies organizational behavior — how people think, feel, and act — within the hospitality

3



industry. INNOvation Village's labs could help her show students why change isn't always well-received. "It is very difficult for young students to understand why employees might resist a supposed improvement," Young said. "By having students involved in the testing of these new technologies, products, and processes, the intersection between man and machine becomes very real to them."

Having a hotel and lab space in the same complex would be a real plus, Young said, especially to attract companies that want to float some trial balloons. "So often managers generate what they think are great ideas, and they do so without considering the impact on — or reaction of — the employees. My hope is that we would take a holistic approach to any kind of laboratory testing."

Curtis Love

TOURISM AND CONVENTION ADMINISTRATION PROFESSOR

INNOvation Village is envisioned as a state-of-the-art academic campus, but Love sees benefits that reach beyond the lab and classroom.

Hotel college faculty and students are now split between Beam Hall and the Stan Fulton Building. Love looks forward to having a unified facility for more interaction among the disciplines. "Having a complex like that will give students a place to network," said Love, who is also interim head of the tourism and convention department. "It will be like getting the family back together."

Love experienced the benefits of having a hotel on campus when he taught at the University of Alabama. INNOvation Village's proposed hotel and

4



convention center would provide much-needed space for campus meetings and events, said Love, as well as a new revenue stream for the university.

Christine Bergman

FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR

Food scientists such as Christine Bergman help improve the process of getting food from farm to market. Her research takes place largely in the lab — but she doesn't have one of her own at UNLV. "I spent the summer at a lab in Texas, away from my family. I really, really don't want to do that anymore," said Bergman, who came to UNLV three years ago from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A food science lab at INNOvation Village would fulfill her department's desire to significantly expand research capabilities, Bergman said, to meet the demands of consumers who want to know what they're eating and how it's processed.

A sophisticated sensory evaluation lab would complement class activities and attract corporate attention, too. "That would give us the opportunity to interact with big food companies," Bergman said. "We could test things for them, and we could feed people in a controlled environment and test their responses."

Sensory labs aren't just for food, either. A hotel could get virtually anything evaluated, from the texture of bedsheets to the taste of breakfast. "INNOvation Village offers a real hope for connection," Bergman said. "We have all of these incredibly innovative food operations in town, and we need to be involved with them. We're teaching the people who are going to work for them."



"With all due respect to Ithaca, N.Y., and its 11 hotel rooms the greatest hotel school in the world will now be the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration."

***Gary Loveman**

president and CEO of Harrah's Entertainment, referring to Cornell University. UNLV and Cornell are perennial contenders for the top spot in college rankings of hotel administration programs.

BRIEFLY

Kruger has successful surgery

Despite open-heart surgery this summer, men's basketball coach Lon Kruger is expected to be back on the Runnin' Rebels bench when the season begins in Nov. 6. In July, Kruger, 55, had his annual stress test, which led to bypass surgery to open six blockages. Doctors performed the four-hour surgery on Aug. 2.

First football coach dies

Bill Ireland, UNLV's first football coach, died July 31 in Reno at the age of 80.

Named head coach in 1967, "Coach I" built the program from scratch at what was then Nevada Southern



University. His first squad compiled an impressive 8-1 record in 1968. He left coaching to serve as athletics director. He was a key to establishing women's athletics, building the Thomas & Mack Center, and hiring Jerry Tarkanian to coach the men's basketball team.

'Kickers don't get hurt'

An 'unhappy triad' of injuries doesn't sideline star kicker for long.

BY SHANE BEVELL

Yolanda Aguayo watches her son, senior kicker Sergio Aguayo, play football with one eye closed, cringing as linemen come his way. But still she watches. He's her only son, her *hijo*.

Imagine her anxiety at last year's season opener in Sam Boyd Stadium. After a poor kickoff, Aguayo tried to make a tackle and felt his left knee buckle. He jogged off the field trying to pop it back into place. Mom could tell something was wrong.

In the locker room, while mom called Aguayo's cell phone four times, trainers determined that he had torn the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and the medial collateral ligament (MCL).

He thought back to the day he'd told his mom he was going to play football. "She told me I was crazy, and that I would get hurt," he says. "I'd told her, 'Mom, I'm the kicker, and kickers don't get hurt.'"

FÚTBOL AND FOOTBALL

Growing up in Pasadena, Calif., Aguayo remembers kicking a soccer ball around the house since he could walk. "Soccer was always my true love," he says. "Me and my dad would go to L.A. Galaxy soccer games in the Rose Bowl every weekend."

As a freshman at San Jacinto High School, Aguayo played clarinet in the band at Friday night football games. "I remember the lights, the crowds, and the excitement in the air — I wanted to be a part of that."

He tried out as a wide receiver for the junior varsity team, but the varsity coach pulled him aside to be the kicker. "I tried to get my friends to trade positions, but no one wanted to be the kicker," he says laughing. "It has worked out pretty good for me though."

Aguayo played football in the fall and soccer in the winter. The U.S. Soccer Olympic Development Program invited him to try out, but a knee injury during the first practice ended his chances. In football, he earned all-state honors, and was offered a full scholarship to UNLV. "It was really exciting because I would be able to attend college without my parents having to worry about paying for it," he says.

REHABILITATE AND RETURN

Trying to make that tackle derailed him from being the most prolific kicker in UNLV history. He didn't want the injury to end his junior season. Since no further damage could be done, doctors told him

he could rehabilitate his MCL and delay ACL surgery until after the 2006 season. "I have never heard of anyone who continued to play after an 'unhappy triad' — a torn ACL, MCL, and medial meniscus," says Russell Muir, the athletic training graduate intern assigned to Aguayo last year. "If the injury had occurred on his plant leg, which bears more weight, he would have been done for the year."

Muir's first goal was to decrease the swelling and restore a full range of motion. "There is no textbook for this situation, so we had to feel it out and just use a good philosophy for recovery," he says.

Aguayo's daily regimen called for 90 minutes of strength and motion exercises. "I would close my eyes and bite down on a towel, fighting through the pain, in order to get the flexion back in my knee."

Muir, who is completing a master's degree in sports medicine, kept Aguayo from overdoing it. "Sergio was very motivated and wanted to do more and more to get back faster," he says. "Unfortunately, that is not the prescription for a quick return."

After three weeks, Aguayo returned for the UNR game wearing a custom knee brace. "I give Russell a lot of credit," Aguayo says. "It's nice to know that someone cares that much. After all, I am just a kicker."

THE RIGHT DECISION?

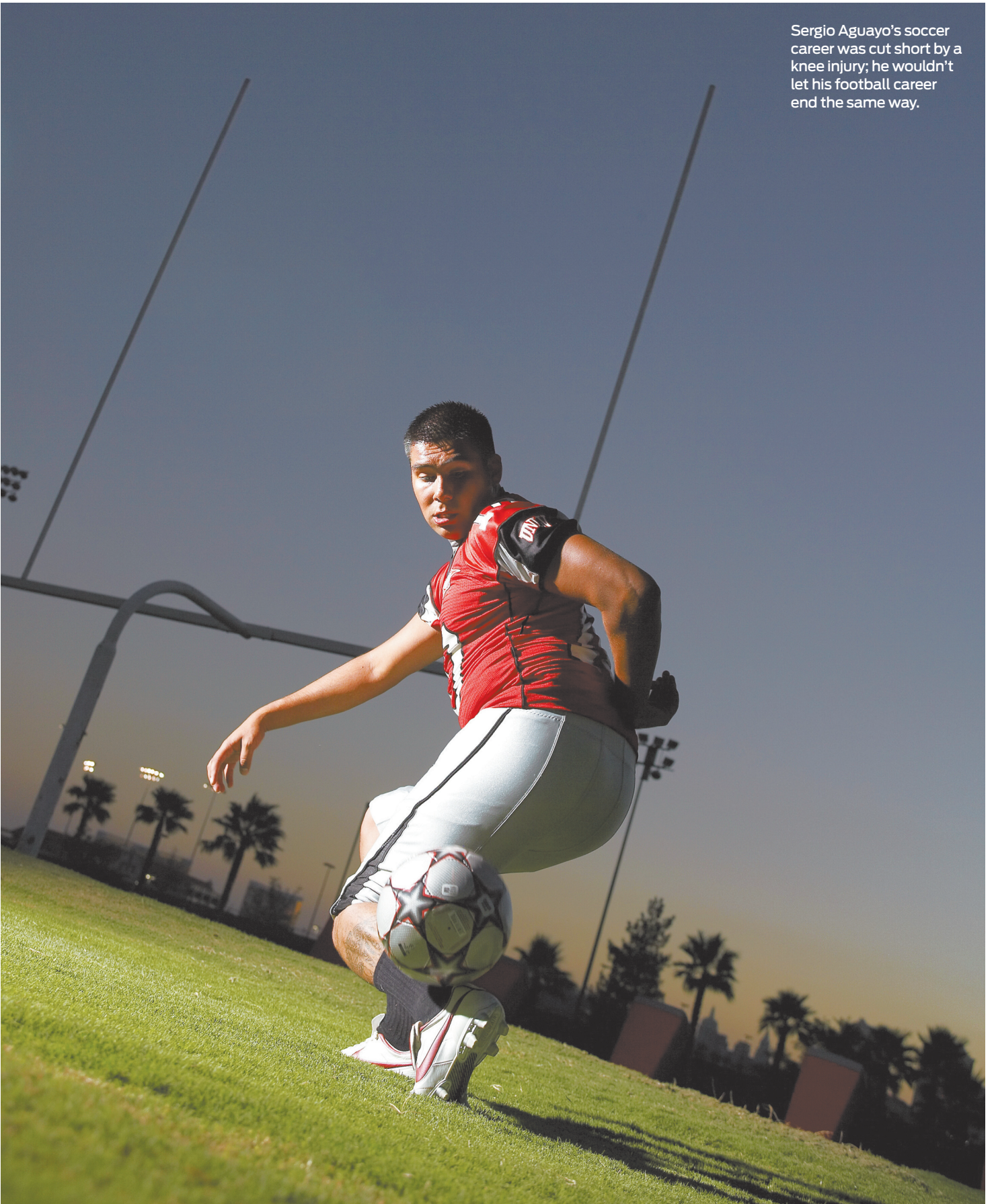
Aguayo's mental game was tested when he missed five field goals — more than he had missed in any entire season — in a 21-7 loss to San Diego State on Nov. 11. "After that game, I wasn't sure if I had made the right decision," says Aguayo. "A kicker's performance is magnified because the crowd sees you make and miss field goals — they either love you or hate you."

His pre-game routine helps him refocus for each game. He listens to comedian George Lopez and sleeps in the bed closest to the window in hotels. Before home games, he goes to In-N-Out Burger for a double-double, animal style, with a Coke.

After a season-closing win over Air Force, Aguayo had his knee surgery with Muir in the operating room. "Having a familiar face there helps ease the anxiety," says Muir. "It is also beneficial for me to witness the surgical procedures that I rehabilitate."

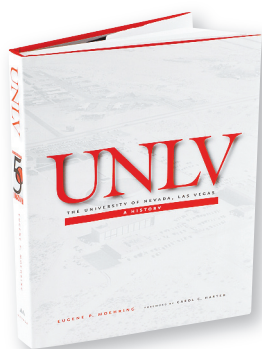
This season, Aguayo is on the watch list for the Lou Groza Award for best kicker in the nation. In December, the university studies major will become the first in his extended family to graduate from a U.S. college. "I have a lot of relatives, including my 15-year-old sister, who look up to me and realize they, too, can go to college."

Sergio Aguayo's soccer career was cut short by a knee injury; he wouldn't let his football career end the same way.





Eugene Moehring reflects on UNLV's phenomenal growth in his 392-page book for the university's 50th anniversary.



**UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
LAS VEGAS: A HISTORY**
by EUGENE MOEHRING
University of Nevada Press

Rebels From the Beginning

From visionary legislators to controversial coaches, the book covers the personalities who shaped UNLV.

BY BARBARA CLOUD

UNLV is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and who better to chronicle those years than a historian who has personally witnessed more than half of them. Professor Eugene Moehring, chair of the history department, was hired 31 years ago to replace historian John Wright, one of the university's founding faculty and the man for whom Wright Hall is named.

Starting with materials collected by Robert Davenport, retired UNLV history professor, Moehring spent another two and a half years researching

and writing the university's history, which was published this summer by the University of Nevada Press. Among the "old timers" Moehring interviewed to complete the book was Davenport himself.

"I worked with Bob for nearly 20 years," Moehring says. "He had begun the book in the 1990s and had completed about 50 typed pages up to 1968. Bob had interviewed all of the UNLV presidents up to [Robert] Maxson and also spoke with William Carlson's widow, and we spent several hours reminiscing about the 1960s and 1970s on this campus."

In the book's nearly 400 pages, Moehring brings to life the personalities who helped establish the young university; discusses the decisions and controversies that influenced its location, goals, programs, and personnel; examines the relationship between UNLV and the Las Vegas community; and recounts the impact students have had on the direction of the institution.

The university's story actually begins in 1951 when the University of Nevada, Reno began offering extension classes. Twelve students signed up to attend classes held at Las Vegas High School. Four years later, students and supporters went door-to-door for donations to purchase land for a permanent campus. Finally, in September 1957,

students traveled to the Maryland Parkway campus to take their classes.

Moehring says he did not expect to find the high level of student involvement in the early years. "They (students) were instrumental in convincing regents to fund a campus and really battled the regents and northern administrators to get needed buildings for this campus," he says.

A chapter on athletics addresses the issues that led to the departures of then-President Maxson and basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian. "I don't take sides," Moehring says about this chapter. "I articulate what each man was fighting for." Both Maxson and former athletics director Brad Rothermel read the chapter before the book went to press.

A number of chapters address the leaders who have shaped UNLV during its half century of providing higher education in Southern Nevada. For example, Wil-

"I don't take sides. I articulate what each man was fighting for."

***Eugene Moehring**

history professor, on the departures of President Robert Maxson and basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian

liam Carlson, for whom the building that houses the College of Education is named, served as the university's first chief executive. Known as the dean of the Southern Nevada Regional Division of the University of Nevada, Carlson persuaded the Board of Regents to allow the southern campus to offer its own degrees in 1964 as a way of

celebrating the state's centennial.

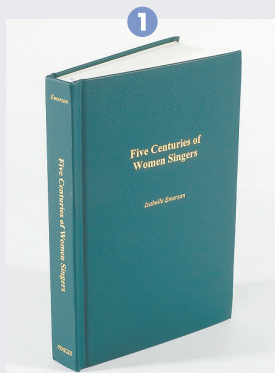
Moehring says leadership has been important to the university's development. "Every leader at some point has done something to move us up," he says. "We have not had a bad leader."

Aside from interviews, Moehring's sources included the records of the Nevada Southern Land Foundation in special collections at UNLV's Lied Library. The foundation was started by Moyer in 1967 and consisted of a group of bankers and other businessmen who bought the land for the existing campus.

"From the files, it is clearly evident that President Roman Zorn (1969-1973), who has long been regarded as a somewhat obscure figure, was really quite involved with the land assembly process when the (Latter-Day Saints) Institute and the Newman Club were moved from their old locations on Harmon west of the library to their present site on Brussels Road," Moehring says. "Zorn also worked to have the future Swenson Street veer much farther west until it almost touches Paradise Road at Harmon, so airport traffic would not cut through campus."

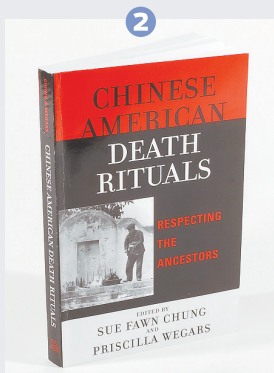
Aside from quality leadership, if there is a theme in the UNLV history, Moehring says it is the university's need to keep up with the growth from 12 students to more than 28,000 without a corresponding increase in tax support.

While he has worked on the book, Moehring has also chaired the department of history. And research on the UNLV story overlapped with publication of Moehring's *Las Vegas: A Centennial History*, co-authored with Michael Green of the College of Southern Nevada. The centennial history was Moehring's second book about Las Vegas. In 1989, he published *Resort City in the Sunbelt: Las Vegas, 1930-2000*, a work that grew out of his fascination with the development of cities in the Southwest. Between the two Las Vegas books, he turned his attention to urbanization, and in 2004 the University of Nevada Press published his *Urbanism and Empire in the Far West, 1840-1890*, a study that furthered his reputation as a specialist in the field of urban history.



1 Five Centuries of Women Singers
by ISABELLE EMERSON, music professor
Praeger, 2005

Emerson originally envisioned a study of 50 singers, encompassing vocal music from classical to jazz, that would have resulted in primarily a biographical dictionary. So she narrowed the field to 20 and provided more depth about their lives and careers. Each subject has made a long-term contribution to the vocal arts, even though the singer's name may not be well-known.



2 Chinese-American Death Rituals: Respecting the Ancestors
by SUE FAWN CHUNG, history professor; and
Priscilla Wegars, University of Idaho
Altamira Press, 2005

"Death is a topic that has fascinated people for centuries," write Chung and Wegars, in their new anthology of articles about Chinese American death rituals. This book starts with the history of Chinese death rituals and traces their evolution and impact on the Chinese American

life and culture from the late 19th Century to today.

Historical Romance Linguistics: Retrospective and Perspectives

Edited by DEBORAH ARTEAGA, foreign languages professor; and Randall S. Gess, University of Utah
John Benjamins Publishing Co., 2006

Arteaga and Gess edited this compilation of 17 studies illustrating a variety of current theoretical linguistic frameworks in all the Romance languages.

3 The Sagebrush State: Nevada's History, Government, and Politics

by MICHAEL BOWERS, vice provost and political science professor
University of Nevada Press, 2006

Bowers found time while also serving as interim co-provost for the past year to update his successful volume on Nevada history and politics. First published in 1996, *The Sagebrush State* now includes the elections of 2002 and 2004, as well as the controversial 2003 and 2005 legislative sessions.

BRIEFLY
.....

Nice rice

Food and beverage professor Christine Bergman's research is helping allay fears about genetically modified rice. She and other experts say there's no need to worry about the trace amounts a genetically engineered rice recently found in the American supply. She also addressed why people on special diets are particularly concerned about the issue. She has used her extensive research on the chemical properties of rice to teach patients with celiac disease how to replace wheat in their diets.

Water woes

New plans to pump more groundwater to Southern Nevada will likely reduce or eliminate many spring and wetland communities in the Great Basin, according to a study by scientists at UNLV, Trout Unlimited, and the National Center for Conservation Science and Policy. They found that the plans by Southern Nevada Water Authority and Vidler Water Co. to tap a regional aquifer in Nevada could adversely affect 20 species and subspecies listed under the Endangered Species Act as well as another 137 species in the region. Groundwater pumping would also negatively impact agricultural water users, the researchers say.



Geoscientist Adam Simon and a team of fellow researchers hope to tap deep into the geothermal resources of the Kamchatka Peninsula of Russia.

What Lies Beneath

Why one professor hiked to a remote Russian volcano to figure out how to tap deep into the scalding water below Nevada for renewable power.

BY JOY DROHAN

The hike to the volcano, says geoscience professor Adam Simon, was nearly 7 miles over snow- and ice-covered terrain. At times, a slip could have sent him sliding nearly a thousand feet into a crater lake. The final push came via a rope needed to scale the steep slope to the crater rim. Standing on a volcano 20 time zones from home, the air reeking with sulfur and deafened by the roar of venting steam hot enough to cause third-degree burns, Simon knew he'd chosen the right career.

"Most people have an image of Mount St. Helens in their head," says Simon, "and that's enough to convince them to stay away. For me, it's the opposite — an adrenaline rush that is hard to compare

to anything else."

Simon was peering into Mutnovsky volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia as part of an international symposium on geothermal energy resources. His research team's work there could help harness more efficient, renewable geothermal energy sources in Northern Nevada and elsewhere.

Geothermal energy comes from underground steam. Water from rain or snow enters the ground and travels downward, where it can be heated by volcanic activity.

About 62,000 people currently receive electric power from Mutnovsky's geothermal reserves, and the power plants' owners hope to at least quadruple the output to serve the entire peninsula by tapping



wells deeper and closer to the active crater. The deeper the well, the higher the temperature of the steam. Doubling the steam temperature increases the potential electric output tenfold.

Simon is part of a research team aiming to drill farther (3 miles) into an active volcano than anyone ever has. Nobody has yet drilled into an active lava conduit, which is the “straw” through which magma reaches the surface, as this team hopes to do. Reaching these hottest of hot places will allow access to the highest temperature steam, which produces geothermal power most efficiently.

South of Carson City, near Mammoth Lakes, Calif., and extending west-northwest of Reno, lies the Long Valley Caldera, one of the country’s most geothermally active areas. Geologists project that the area’s geothermal energy could supply electricity to between 250,000 and 300,000 people.

“Most people have an image of Mount St. Helens in their head and that’s enough to convince them to stay away. For me, it’s the opposite.”

Nevada’s 15 geothermal plants power about 73,000 homes, which is only about 2 percent of the state’s population. The state has committed to obtaining at least 20 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2015. Knowledge gained in Russia about maximizing efficiency of geothermal power production will help the state reach that goal.

But energy isn’t the only resource Simon is investigating in Russia. As an economic geologist, Simon is also interested in the potential of volcanoes to produce high quality ore deposits. Steam laced with metallic particles leaves the magma chamber and undergoes a strong drop in temperature and pressure as it rises quickly toward the surface of the ground. The ores drop out of the solution with the decrease in temperature and pressure.

Simon’s role in the project will be to link the chemistry of Mutnovsky’s lava to the causes of eruption and the surrounding ore deposits: massive, very high-grade gold and silver deposits that also contain platinum and palladium. The latter two metals are important in catalytic converters, and platinum is used as a catalyst to produce cancer medications.

The presence of the ores at Mutnovsky provides an unusually complete picture of volcanic activity, Simon explains. “We can do geochemistry analyses on the ore, on the volcanic lavas, and on the fumaroles [holes that release hot gases and vapors] and build a complete story,” he says. Volcanically related ore deposits are primarily studied after volcanic activity has ended, and often after the volcano has eroded away. At Mutnovsky, all the evidence is still available. Determining the critical factors in ore deposition should help Simon identify the most likely places for additional ore deposits in Russia, Nevada, and around the world.

So far, the Mutnovsky project has shown Simon how many unproven inferences geologists have made about volcanoes. “The science is still evolving,” he says, “and for me, that’s a blast.”

Simon wasn’t always jazzed about geology. He started college as a political science/German double major. In 1992 he took an introductory geology course to fill a lab science requirement, and “the instructor blew me away,” says Simon. “I looked around at my classmates in poli sci wearing khakis and ties and arguing about Clinton versus Bush versus Perot, and then I looked around the geology department and saw their dress code and how they spent their summers — the decision was easy.”

BRIEFLY

Bucking trend in research productivity

A new study by the National Science Foundation ranked UNLV fourth on the list of fastest-growing universities for scholarship. The study showed that UNLV scientists and engineers increased their output of publication in peer-reviewed journals by 99 percent during a recent 10-year period. The rate at most top 200 universities has remained flat for more than a decade.

In 2006 alone, faculty members from the College of Sciences and Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering published more than 370 articles in traditional printed peer-reviewed journals — considered the gold-standard for sharing results with the scientific community.

Deans Eric Sandgren (Engineering) and Ron Yasbin (Sciences) attribute the dramatic rise to efforts to hire and better support research-oriented faculty.

Research Growth

Among the top 200 U.S. universities, by amount of federal funding

1. Drew Univ.	127%
2. Florida A&M	116%
3. Clark Atlanta	101%
4. UNLV	99%
5. U. of Montana	89%

Source: National Science Foundation 10-year study

The plaques on Yu Xu's office wall bear two names, one Chinese and one American. Both suit the nursing professor — known to friends as Philip. He was born in China but has seen more of America than have most Americans. He arrived at UNLV two years ago via Connecticut, Alabama, New York, and Henan Province. This journey is reflected in his research, which centers on the adaptation of Asian nurses to the American health-care system.

CROSS-CULTURE

Yu Xu, nursing professor

High Stakes: If (Asian-born) nurses are not successful, everybody loses. Asian nurses lose. The hospitals who invest at least \$10,000 per nurse to recruit, bring, and train them here lose. Most importantly, the American public loses in quality of care and patient safety.

Nursing Shortage: I don't believe that bringing foreign nurses to this country will solve the long-term shortage of nurses because the gap is too big. On the other hand, I do think that bringing foreign nurses is a realistically quick way to boost the supply of nurses in this country.

Colorblindness: When I was a teenager I found out that I was colorblind. So, I couldn't study any health-related professions in China. There are dyes that you need to differentiate in chemistry. But, I believe, the test is a tool to screen applicants because there were not enough spots.

Career Path: My doctorate is in education. Once I came to this country, I realized there is no restriction to study any health-related field even if you have a genetic defect like colorblindness. So my dream to go into a health field was revived. Then I designed my career path very meticulously. It was a dramatic turn.

American Heroes: I particularly believe in the values of this country, of equal opportunities.

You can start from scratch and become self-made if you push yourself. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, those are my American heroes.

Credentials: My wife is always making the joke that I have more degrees than a thermometer.

Voice of America: I listened to VOA every night for 12 years. On Mondays was science in the news—I still remember. The more I learned about America the more it seemed to be that I fit better in American culture.

Male Nurses: There are virtually no male nurses in China. There are some ignorant people who think you don't need any preparation to become a nurse. And there is the cultural perception that the nurse's job is dirty because they come in contact with people who are ill, body fluids, waste. Anything associated with that from a Confucian perspective is not perceived as worthy study.

Adaptation: A lot of the Asian nurses may not be able to speak English fluently. They don't know the policies yet and, more important, they don't know the social and interpersonal dynamics involved. They have a soft voice, small stature, but a higher position and a much higher salary than subordinates who have worked for the hospital for five, 10, or even 20 years.

That can create resentment. So the Asian nurses are put in a very awkward position because they need to lead as well as depend on their team.

Nurse Duties: In Asian countries nurses don't do baths, don't feed patients. That's taken care of by the family members who are staying at the bedside 24/7. But when you come here, you have to wash patients, give showers, turn patients — all these are perceived low-level duties. It is physically exhausting to the nurses.

Personal Changes: Asian nurses basically have to change who they are in order to survive in the American health-care setting. Your biggest enemy is yourself a lot of times. The most difficult thing to change is yourself.

Nurse Migration: I believe that to immigrate is a fundamental human right. But then there's an ethical issue involved in recruiting nurses from other countries that need them to a greater extent than you do — particularly for those sub-Saharan African countries, which are hit hard by HIV and AIDs.


Human Exports: If you are looking from the perspective of individual nurses, you will probably arrive at a very different conclusion than if you are looking from a facility's perspective or a national perspective. The Philippines has been exporting nurses for at least 40 years. In

2004, these nurses sent back \$8 billion. So the Philippine government has intentionally adopted the policy of training nurses for export. It's their name brand product.

Move to Vegas: In Las Vegas there are a lot of foreign nurses and a large Asian community. That gave me a population to study. And, of course, there is the Chinese food. We didn't have much in rural Connecticut.

Missionaries: My father was saved by missionaries during the Japanese occupation of China. He had contracted tuberculosis — at that time a deadly killer. These missionaries cooked him nine eggs each day. As a result of their tender loving care, he survived, miraculously, and was given the name Philip. When I came to this country I intentionally changed my name to Philip because I am really the son of Philip Hsu — "Hsu" is an old spelling for "Xu."

Personal Mission: Before coming to study in the United States, I asked my father to tell me about the missionaries. I located the family of one in Alabama. We went to visit her church. I gave a speech for the congregation and visited her grave and thanked her family. I videotaped the entire trip. My father passed away two years after watching the tape. It gave my family a sense of closure, and that brings me solace and comfort.

A middle-aged man with glasses is sitting on a wooden stool. He is wearing a light blue short-sleeved button-down shirt over a white long-sleeved shirt, and dark trousers. His arms are crossed over his chest. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The floor is made of polished wood, reflecting some light.

"I feel that this is a culture that fits me better. In China, I was doing education policy research, but in that environment you cannot criticize government policy. You feel that you are suffocating. Here you can speak your mind."





Recreation Evolution

More than 2,000 students used the new Student Recreation and Wellness Center on opening day, Sept. 17. The 184,000-square-foot space features a four-court gym, indoor jogging track, lap and leisure pools, cardio and circuit training machines, and a juice bar. It's also the new home to the student health center, pharmacy, and psychological services. [Photo by R. Marsh Starks]



A Half Century of Rebels

UNLV THROUGH THE YEARS

1951 James Dickinson, an English instructor at University of Nevada, Reno, serves as first director, registrar, and only full-time instructor of the new extension program in Las Vegas; each course costs \$7.50 with a maximum fee of \$23 per semester.

1952 Veterans begin enrolling in classes under the GI Bill of Rights and remain a fixture of the student body from then on.

1954 With growth in enrollment, the extension program becomes the Southern Regional Division of University of Nevada, popularly known as Nevada Southern.

The first Confederate Cotillion takes place and becomes an annual event typically held at a Strip hotel. Students name the dance after the balls of the Old South because they attend

the southern branch of the University of Nevada.

1955 Confederate Students of Southern Nevada adopts the Rebel name — to reflect a desire for autonomy — and the first official mascot, Beauregard, a Confederate cartoon wolf meant to challenge the Wolf Pack mascot.

After a lengthy search for a campus site, the regents choose a 60-acre parcel donated by Howard and Estelle Wilbourn and the school buys an adjacent 20-acre parcel for \$35,000. The state Legislature appropriates \$200,000 for a building with the provision that residents raise money for the additional land. Local leaders form the Campus Fund Committee to raise \$135,000 for the campus and an additional \$100,000 for supplies, books, and equipment.

Monthly student paper, *The*

Rebel Yell, debuts with a female editor, Lydia Malcom.

1956 Dickinson hires seven more professors, including pioneers John Wright in history and Holbert Hendrix in education.

1957 On Sept. 10, the first classes are held on campus in a new 13,000-square-foot building, which houses all offices, classrooms, science labs, and the library. Two years later, the building is named for **Maude Frazier**, a retired principal and assemblywoman who was a founding force behind Nevada Southern.



William D. Carlson, dean of stu-

dent affairs at Reno, takes over as dean of Nevada Southern.

With instruction and service emphasized over research, faculty teach a strenuous 5-5 courseload (five courses each semester).

1958 Classes are cancelled on Jan. 11, so students can attend the first flag-raising at NSU.

To boost campus morale, the school holds University Day, which becomes an annual weekend of enormous bonfires and greased pig, egg-throwing, and tug-of-war contests.

Nevada Southern receives accreditation from the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools, lending respectability and helping with recruitment.

“No other undertaking so typifies Nevada spirit as the birth and growth of Nevada Southern. It was the same dedication, the same defiance of opposition, and the same unity of purpose that overcame the challenges of man and nature to bring Nevada to statehood in 1864.”

Those words were spoken by Gov. Grant Sawyer on June 3, 1964, at the first commencement of what was then called Nevada Southern University. The former university regent marveled at the campus’ growing student body and six buildings among the “sand and sagebrush.”

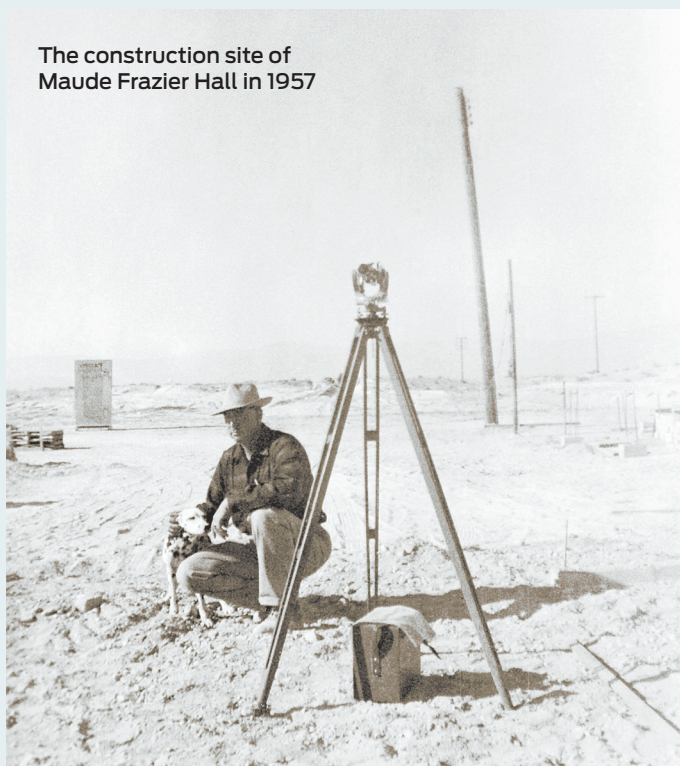
He predicted that UNLV would “emerge as one of the outstanding educational centers of the great Southwest, an area marked as the coming dominant force in the new America.”

Today, as the university celebrates its 50th anniversary, there is much evidence that his prophecy came true. Take a look back at the moments that defined UNLV as it rose from a dusty outpost to become the state’s largest university.



UNLV THROUGH THE YEARS

The construction site of Maude Frazier Hall in 1957



1959 Archie C. Grant Hall, named for the Las Vegas regent who championed a separate state college in Southern Nevada, opens for classes.

1960 Regents authorize establishment of a baccalaureate program.

The first student bookstore is built across Maryland Parkway.

1961 New \$612,000 science and technology building opens (today’s Lilly Fong Geoscience Building).

State legislators appropriate \$145,000 to purchase 80 acres of adjacent land, doubling the size of campus.

Catholic students form Newman Club and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints students form Deseret Club.

1962 Nevada Southern Foundation, a nonprofit run by local businessmen, begins its first drive to raise \$100,000 for the new library. Residents mail in coupons from local newspapers pledging to buy books for the library.

1963 The number of majors expands to include elementary and secondary education, history, political science, psychology, biology, botany, mathematics, pre-medical, pre-dental, and zoology.

About 3,000 students and residents turn out for a Peter, Paul, and Mary concert.

The first floor of the library opens (which is now the south wing of the William S. Boyd School of Law), designed to hold 75,000 volumes. The library, named for James R.

Tales to tell

UNLV's history may span only 50 years, but there's no denying it's filled with some colorful moments.

WHOLE LOTTA SNAKIN' GOING ON: When classes were first held on campus at Maude Frazier Hall in 1957, students weren't the only beings hanging in the halls — cages of lizards, frogs, and snakes from biology class lined the walls because of the lack of storage space. A few years later, rattlesnakes in hallways, under the desks, and on bookshelves forced the library's 2,000 books housed there to be moved to Grant Hall.



▲ THEM THAR HILLS: What to do when you think the campus is too flat? Just ask Regent Helen Thompson, who, after complaining about the campus topography in 1973, donated \$9,000 to build a 3-foot hill west of the Dungan Humanities Building. The Alumni Association carved the amphitheater out of the hill in 1993.

KEEP OFF THE GRASS: In 1963, the superintendent of buildings announced that, with the sidewalks connecting four campus buildings nearly finished, tickets would be given to any student caught walking on the lawn.

SHOW IN PROGRESS: When 12 full-time students and 16 part-timers met in the dressing rooms of Las Vegas High School's auditorium in 1951, little did they know classes would be cancelled whenever the high school staged a play.

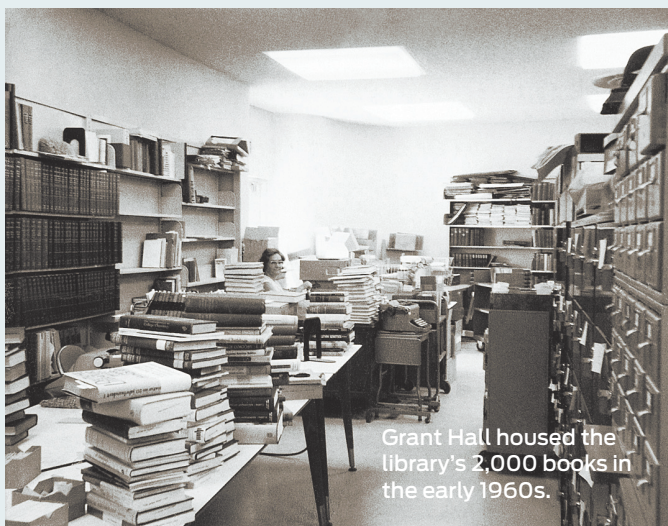
UNLV THROUGH THE YEARS

Dickinson in 1965, added two more floors in 1967. Library head Harold Erickson asks residents to contribute books, microfilm, and professional journals from their own collections.

1964 Legislators require Las Vegans to raise \$750,000 for the proposed performing arts center; millionaire developer Wing Fong leads the campaign.

At Nevada Southern's first commencement, 29 students graduate as the "Centennial Class," commemorating Nevada's 100th anniversary. Their diplomas do not arrive from Reno until the following May. The official explanation is that more time was needed to print new boilerplate material, but the delay only intensifies south-north tensions.

Nevada Southern creates the Division of Graduate Studies.



1965 The college becomes the semi-autonomous Nevada Southern University (NSU), with its own curriculum.

Donald Moyer of Eastern New

Mexico University becomes Nevada Southern's first chancellor.

The Social Sciences Building opens (named in 1976 for longtime history professor John S. Wright).

With the creation of the Faculty Senate, professors become part of a governing body that plays a major role in curricular development.

Officials of Sigma Z, a scientific research society, establish the first national honor society on campus.

Former student government leaders Jim Bilbray, Bob Schnider, and Stan Colton form the Alumni Association.

To meet demand for off-campus, professional development classes, Moyer creates the Division of Continuing Education.

1966 NSU publishes its own catalog, symbolizing its independence from Reno.

To create a hotel school, the Nevada Resort Association pledges \$280,000 — Nevada

► **BOOZE TO OOZE:** Formal dances gave way to foxy performances when the raucous annual Oktoberfest celebration began in 1978. A human in a fox costume sang bawdy songs and drank beer while standing on his head. A decade later, UNLV adopted strict policies on alcohol consumption and created Oozeball (mud pit volleyball) as an alternative to the alcohol-laden festivities of the past. Today's traditions include homecoming; Premier UNLV, which kicks off the fall semester; and Unity-fest, a day to celebrate cultural diversity with food and music.



Juanita Greer White Life Sciences Hall, 1977



UNLV THROUGH THE YEARS

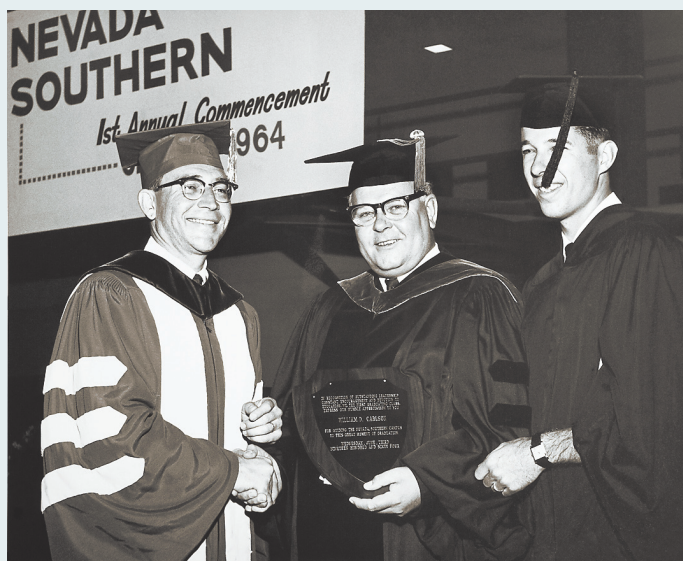
Southern's first major gift from private industry.

Confederated Students of Southern Nevada sponsors the first homecoming in conjunction with a basketball game against UNR.

With a growing number of students from out of state, the first residence hall, Tonopah Hall, opens. UNLV's residence halls now accommodate 2,000 students.

1967 With land prices soaring, banker Parry Thomas and other businessmen form the Nevada Southern Land Foundation. The foundation races to acquire key parcels bordering the campus, giving the university essential room to expand over the years.

The first students graduate with master's degrees — nine



from the School of Education and two from the School of Science and Mathematics.

To increase Nevada Southern's national visibility, Bill Ireland

is hired to recruit and coach a football team.

The School of Business stops offering typing and stenography classes.

UNR President Charles Armstrong, Dean William Carlson, and graduate Dominic Daileda, the first recipient of the Centennial Medallion.

1968 With a new student union building, complete with a bookstore, students no longer have to socialize on the patio behind Maude Frazier Hall.

The university is granted autonomy under the state's higher education system, giving it status equal to that of UNR. Moyer reorganizes NSU's six schools — Business Administration, Education, Science and Mathematics, Fine Arts, Social Science, and Humanities — into colleges.

Jewish organizers form the B'nai Sholom group.

The Fame Game

UNLV has attracted its share of the spotlight as the only university in Entertainment Capital of the World.



UNLV THROUGH THE YEARS

Playing pool in the Student Union, 1971.

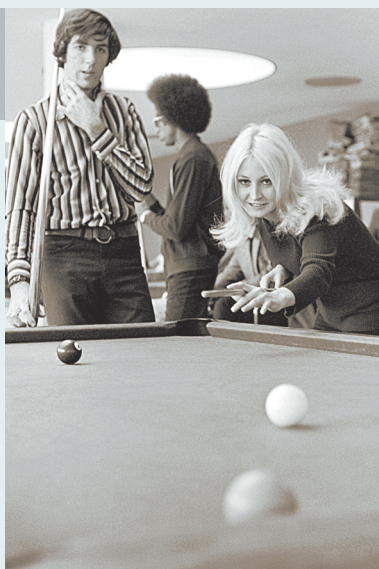
1969 Roman Zorn of Keene Teachers College becomes president.

The Board of Regents approves the school's name change to University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

1970 The teaching load is reduced to three courses per semester and faculty in graduate programs are required to publish to gain tenure.

1971 The first full-time faculty member for ethnic studies is hired, reflecting the growing importance of black history and the civil rights movement.

Student government, now



called Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, establishes a birth control and abortion information center in the student union.

In response to protests, Zorn supports creating the student senate, allowing students to serve alongside faculty representatives and vote on university matters.

Groundbreaking for William D. Carlson Education Building.

1972 The 575-seat Judy Bayley Theatre opens as the first building of the Performing Arts Center.

1973 A bilingual recruitment booklet highlights the achievements of UNLV's Hispanic students and urges Spanish-speaking high school seniors to apply.

Donald Baepler, academic vice president, becomes UNLV's next president.

Students organize a chapter of the National Organization for Women and begin scheduling gender-equity workshops.

1974 A new humanities building is named for Flora Dungan, the Las Vegas assemblywoman who successfully sued in federal court to get Clark County a majority of seats in the state Legislature.

The College of Hotel Administration, together with Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada, begins UNLVino, an annual wine tasting event to raise money for scholarships.

1975 Charles Vanda, director of the new performing arts center, establishes the Master Series, bringing to campus such luminaries as Isaac Stern, Andre Previn, and Aaron Copland.

◀ **VIVA UNLV:** Take a closer look next time you watch 1964's *Viva Las Vegas* and see if you can recognize the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History — then Nevada Southern's gym, which served as the backdrop for Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret's famous dance scene.

FROM ACTIVISTS TO ANTHROPOLOGISTS:

Margaret Mead, Angela Davis, and Harrison Salisbury visited in 1964, and in 1980, Marjorie Barrick donated \$1.2 million to fund a community lecture series that continues today. It brings major world figures to campus, such as Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Mikhail Gorbachev.



◀ MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD:

Wole Soyinka, the first black African to win the Nobel Prize for literature, was appointed to the Elias Ghanem Chair of Creative Writing in the department of English in 2000. In 2006, Nobel laureate Toni Morrison's lecture marks the debut of the Black Mountain Institute, which brings artists and scholars together for public forums on major issues.

MOVIE STARS AND MUSIC MAESTROS:

Most universities can't boast to having a member of the Rat Pack serve on its foundation board as UNLV can. Aside from

organizing two benefit shows for the university in the late 1970s, Frank Sinatra, alongside Mr. Las Vegas, Wayne Newton, served on UNLV's board in the 1980s. Ol' Blue Eyes' efforts didn't go unnoticed — he was awarded an honorary degree during the 1976 commencement.

▶ FLASHLIGHT IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

The 1981 dedication ceremony for Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen's Flashlight sculpture garnered national attention when it was covered on the "Evening News with Walter Cronkite." According to Smithsonian.com, the Flashlight "caused quite a stir in 1981 on its trip from the Connecticut foundry where it was made. Truck driver 'Red' Morgan constantly fielded the same question on his CB radio from fellow drivers: 'What the devil are you hauling?'"



UNLV THROUGH THE YEARS

1976 The Life Sciences Building (later named for regent Juanita White) and the 2,000-seat Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall open.

1977 UNLV's enrollment surpasses UNR's.

Five students receive the first doctor of education degrees.

1978 The Faculty Senate votes to make physical education an elective rather than part of the core curriculum.

The Star of Nevada Marching Band begins pumping up the crowds at Rebel football games.

The Alumni Association establishes annual awards to recognize faculty, alumni, and members of community.

1979 Leonard "Pat" Goodall of Uni-



A student views exhibits during Black History Week, 1972.

versity of Michigan-Dearborn, becomes president.

1981 The UNLV Foundation is created to coordinate university's endow-

ment and gift-giving programs.

UNLV Libraries stops updating the card catalog and adds a microfiche catalog. A computerized database is introduced by 1989.

1982 The Alumni Association starts awarding academic scholarships.

Alta Ham Fine Arts Building opens.

1983 Frank and Estella Beam Hall opens, housing colleges of Business and Hotel Administration.

1984

Robert Maxson of the University of Houston's main campus becomes president.

The civil and mechanical engineering programs win certification from the National Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, held by only 275 other schools.

1985 22 valedictorians arrive at UNLV, taking advantage of the Elardi Scholarship, which awards each \$2,000 annually for four years.

The UNLV campus is designated a state arboretum by the Nevada Legislature.

1986 UNLV begins offering degree programs at nearby Nellis Air Force Base.

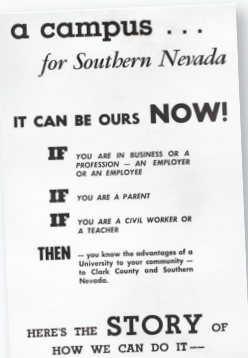
UNLV launches "Year of the Arts" to raise

President Robert Maxson's belt buckle.



Living up to the name

Activism has always been a part of UNLV's history, even before adopting the Rebel name in 1955.



THE REBEL INSIDE: University supporters had their rebel spirit as early as 1954, when an overflow crowd persuaded the regents to acquire land for a campus at the first Board of Regents meeting in Southern Nevada. That same year, students banded together to create the Confederated Students of Nevada Southern (CSNS), electing Tom Krause as their first president.

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: In 1955, local high school seniors visited nearly every home in the metropolitan area to raise funds for a new campus. The students' diligent fundraising became known as the "Porch Light Campaign" because their efforts extended into the evening hours and porch lights came on when they knocked on doors.

REBEL RUCKUS: The Dec. 11, 1970, issue of the student newspaper was changed to *Yell* for a short time in response to African-American student Bert Babero's well-articulated criticism

UNLV THROUGH THE YEARS

public awareness through special exhibitions, concerts, and fundraising drives.

1988 To celebrate their new home, students from the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering paint a trail of green footprints on the sidewalk leading to the \$14.7 million Thomas T. Beam Engineering Complex.

In response to a large increase in out-of-state and northern Nevada applicants, four new residence halls open.

1989 UNLV is awarded one of only 34 supercomputers in the world as part of a federal funding bill for the U.S. Department of Energy to study the suitability of building a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

1990 The Desert Research Institute,



the nonprofit research campus of the Nevada System of Higher Education, announces plans to build a new \$50 million headquarters on Flamingo Road.

Reflecting the more socially responsible atmosphere of the time, Unityfest — a celebration of diverse cultures, foods, and tradi-

tions — replaces Oktoberfest as the big student party of the year.

1991 The university grants its first Ph.D., in English.

Built with funds from the alumni association, the Richard Tam Alumni Center opens.

Oasis, UNLV's alumni magazine, premieres. It is renamed *UNLV Magazine* two issues later.

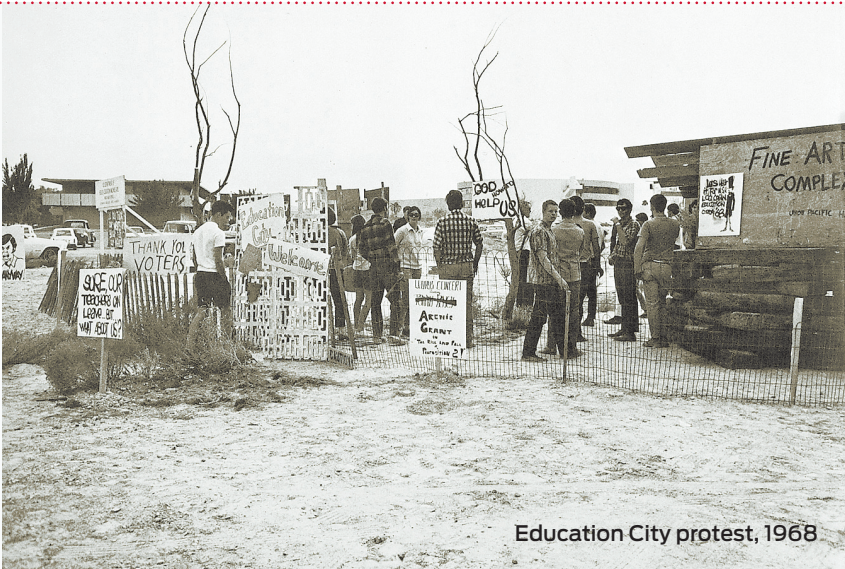
Valerie Pida Plaza in front of the Student Union is dedicated to a former UNLV cheerleader.

1992 The Rod Lee Bigelow Health Sciences Building opens.

1993 UNLV replaces the old sunburst logo with its current mark.

A new campuswide prefix for phone numbers, 895-, replaces the five prefixes previously used, making it less confusing for people calling campus. (A second prefix, 774-, was added a decade later.)

1994 Kenny Guinn, who went on to become governor of Nevada, serves as interim president.



Education City protest, 1968

soldier toting a musket, which eventually gave way to a more geographically appropriate pioneer mountain man toting a rifle. Today's Hey Reb! has dropped the firearm.

◀ **CREATIVE SOLUTIONS:** In 1967 members of SHAME (Students Helping to Assist and Maintain Education) hung Gov. Paul Laxalt in effigy from Grant Hall to call the attention of state legislators to their campaign for better funding. The next year, activists formed Students to Remove Upstate Domination to support Chancellor Donald Moyer's efforts to gain autonomy for NSU. That same year budget cuts prompted students to create Education City — a scrapboard shantytown on campus, where professors teach classes for a week. The stunt saddles UNLV with the nickname "Tumbleweed Tech," but also effectively communicates student unhappiness to the regents.

Memory Lane

The Barrick Museum of Natural History is featuring a collection of UNLV memorabilia from alumni, students, faculty, staff, and community members. Photos and oddball tchotchkes, like the **freshman beenie**, will give you a glimpse of campus life through the years. The exhibit will be on display through Jan. 4, 2008. Visit celebrating50.unlv.edu for the year's event information, school trivia, and more.



UNLV THROUGH THE YEARS

The Robert L. Bigelow Physics Building and the Classroom Building Complex (later named after President Harter) relieve a space crunch on campus.

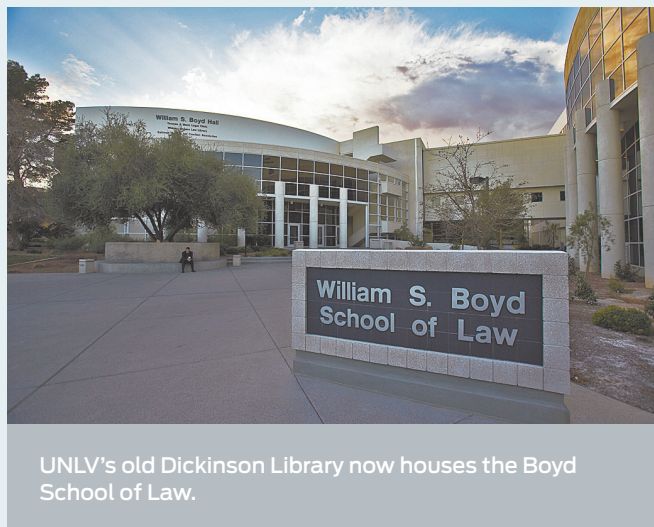
S.C.O.P.E., a student environmental organization, removes sod near the Fong Geoscience Building to conserve water on campus.

1995 Carol C. Harter of the State University of New York-Geneseo becomes president.

UNLV begins charging a parking fee — \$30 a year for students and \$60 for faculty and staff.

1996 Greenspun College of Urban Affairs created.

1997 The Paul B. Sogg Architecture Building opens with 20,000 square feet of studio space.



UNLV's old Dickinson Library now houses the Boyd School of Law.

The honors program is elevated to a college offering an innovative curriculum and small classes.

1998 The William S. Boyd School of Law opens in a temporary

facility. A year later, it receives \$28.5 million from James E. Rodgers and the Rodgers family, the largest charitable gift pledge in Nevada history. In 2002, the school moves on campus to the old site of the

James R. Dickinson Library.

The campus radio station, KUNV, becomes a National Public Radio affiliate.

1999 UNLV joins the Mountain West Conference.

2000 The Women's Research Institute of Nevada is founded to encourage high-quality research on women.

The Stan Fulton Building, housing the International Gaming Institute, opens.

Hotel executive Glenn Schaeffer establishes the International Institute for Modern Letters to support emerging writers and combat censorship worldwide.

2001 The UNLV Foundation Building

From the lanes to the limelight

UNLV athletics has come a long way since the 1957 bowling team took to local lanes on Thursday nights.

FOR THE RECORD: Basketball records were set as early as 1967, when Elbert Miller set the school record of 55 points in one game. The team set a home attendance record of 20,321 at the annual holiday festival in 1986, and when the team captured the NCAA Men's Division I tournament in 1990, they did so with the greatest margin of victory in a championship game — 103-73 over Duke. On the baseball diamond, Herb Pryon threw UNLV's only perfect game in 1971.

WOMEN FIRST: Women's club sports, such as tennis, began in 1960, and in 1974 basketball became the first women's varsity sport on campus. To encourage excellence in sports and the classroom, the Women's Sports Foundation was created in 1989. Ten years later, the women's soccer program started.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: The football team won the rights to the Fremont Cannon for the first time in 1970. The traveling trophy resides each year with the winner of the game between UNLV and UNR, and is a replica of the one used by explorer John C. Fremont as he headed west in 1843. In 1994, the team won the Big West Conference championship. UNLV golfers also have had their moments in the sun. In 1998, the men's golf team won the NCAA national champi-

UNLV THROUGH THE YEARS

opens at a cost of \$4.3 million, giving the university's chief fundraising arm vital space for offices and meeting rooms.

The 301,000-square-foot, \$58 million Lied Library opens, named for real estate entrepreneur Ernst W. Lied, with a robotic retrieval system, and hundreds of computer workstations.

The Lee and Thomas Beam Music Center — housing a library of thousands of recordings, a 300-seat recital hall, and recording studio and rehearsal rooms — is dedicated.

A four-story garage alleviates the need for parking.

2002 The University Research Foundation is established to help the university obtain and manage highly specialized federal research grants.



The School of Dental Medicine opens in 2001 to train students and to offer low-cost dental care to residents.

2003 The Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution opens to

provide a venue for studying the nature of conflict and how to avoid disputes. The Institute for Security Studies is established to address homeland security concerns.

The Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Development Center opens. The center supports research conducted by faculty and their students at the state-of-the-art preschool

2004 University College opens to improve graduation rates and attract students seeking individualized courses of study.

UNLV opens its first regional campus in the medical district, with a facility for the School of Dental Medicine and the Forensics and Biotechnology Center.

The School of Public Health is established to address new and emerging public health issues.



Fans cheer their Runnin' Rebels at the Thomas & Mack.

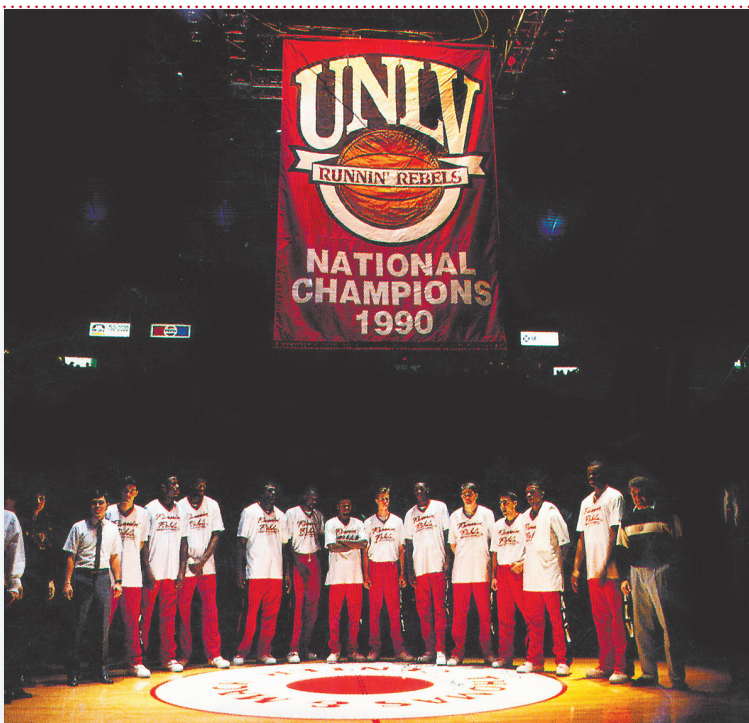
The Lied Library purchases its one-millionth volume, *The General History of the Deeds of the Castilians in the Isles and Mainland of the Ocean Sea*, which was printed between 1601 and 1615. It's on display in special collections.

onship, only the second team to do so in UNLV's history. And in 2004, golfer Ryan Moore became the only amateur ever to win five championships in a single year — U.S. Amateur, U.S. Amateur Public Links, Western Amateur, Players, and NCAA.

FEARLESS LEADERS:

While the 1957 bowling team was the first athletic organization, UNLV's formal athletic program began in 1958 when UNR graduate and professional player for the Reno Silver Sox, Michael

"Chub" Drakulich, dubbed the "founding father of UNLV athletics," started a men's basketball team. The Rebels lost nine games before recording their first official victory against Nellis. Jerry Tarkanian joined the basketball hierarchy as the men's coach in 1973. In his 19-year career, he posted a 509-105 record, and took four teams to the NCAA Final Four, including the 1990 national champions. The basketball court at the Thomas & Mack Center was dedicated to him in 2005.



IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME:

UNLV's athletic expansion started in 1960 with the groundbreaking for the Physical Education and Health Center (today's Marjorie Barrick Museum). The \$5 million Paul C. McDermott Physical Education complex opened in 1975. The basketball team got a new home in 1983 with the 18,500-seat Thomas & Mack Center. The football team followed suit in 1984, when UNLV negotiated with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor Authority

to transfer ownership of what became known as the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl. Cox Pavilion opened in 2001, providing space for student athletes, women's basketball, and volleyball games. In 1993 the 12-court, \$1.5 million Frank and Vikki Fetitta Tennis Complex and the 3,000-seat Earl E. Wilson Baseball Stadium opened. Three years later, the Lied Athletic Complex opened, offering comprehensive facilities for members of all 15 sports. In 2001, women's softball got Eller Media Stadium.

UNLV THROUGH THE YEARS

The School of Nursing begins a doctoral program to train much-needed nursing professors.

2005 The Air Force ROTC program is established on campus.

UNLV launches its first comprehensive campaign, Invent the Future, with the goal of raising \$500 million by December 2008.

UNLV embarks on "Midtown UNLV," a public-private partnership to revitalize the Maryland Parkway area with cafes, art galleries, residences, and pedestrian-friendly walkways.

Construction begins on the \$113 million Science and Engineering Building to support interdisciplinary research.

2006 David B. Ashley of the University of California, Merced, becomes president.



The regents raise the minimum GPA to 2.75 for admittance to UNLV.

The Harrah College of Hotel Administration opens UNLV's first international campus in Singapore to serve the growing Asian tourism industry.

2007 UNLV confers more than 2,700 degrees during its 44th commencement.

The Greenspun College of Urban Affairs breaks ground for the \$94 million Greenspun Hall, which will showcase

sustainable building technologies.

The Harrah's Foundation makes the largest corporate gift in UNLV history — \$30 million — to support the Hotel College's INNOVATION Village, an academic and research facility.

The fall semester brings two new facilities built by students: an expanded Student Union and the Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

What's Missing?

Assembling a timeline in just 10 pages is a tall task. Tell us about the milestones and moments you remember. E-mail us at magazine@unlv.edu.

Eric Whitacre walked into his first UNLV music class as a pop musician who couldn't read music. He left for Juilliard and a career in classical music that's garnered Grammy nominations and a devoted fan base among the MySpace generation.

Whitacre's Way

Los Angeles's Route 101 is a passage to success. In Hollywood, it snakes north into hills, Passing the iconic Capitol Records building before coming to Mulholland Drive mansions and soon Universal Studios. Nearby, the neighborhood of Studio City houses those working in "the business": studio heads, casting agents, music execs. This is where TV stars buy glitzy rims for their Range Rovers while screenwriters order pricey sushi next to cellists who just recorded the latest Pixar score. It is a land that rewards creative risk-takers, proud to know how to market their art. It is also home — at least, for now — to composer Eric Whitacre.

STORY
BY ADAM BAER

PHOTOGRAPHS
BY ETHAN PINES

Called "fabulously gifted" and a "major discovery" by the American Record Guide, Whitacre ('95 BA Music) is an anomaly among artful concert music composers, many of whom suffer from a lack of broad appeal and exposure. At just 37, Whitacre stands among the top-selling composers of choral and band music in the United States and Europe. He is a skilled synthesist with an innovative voice known for deeply eclectic and emotional scores made of intuitive mood transitions: a little minimalism, a little romanticism, even some electronica.

In August, when we meet at a local café as his newest rock-musical-opera *Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings* plays at Pasadena's Boston Court theater, he wears stylish jeans and his blonde hair long. With a chiseled grin and relaxed confidence, he could easily be mistaken for one of the neighborhood's popular film actors. This man is happy. But you would be, too, if your MySpace page was flooded with fan messages as your latest Grammy-nominated album has enjoyed more than a year (and counting) on the Billboard charts.

"I never thought this would happen," Whitacre says. "But people began asking me to write music for them in college — for money." Whitacre chronicles his seven-year undergraduate degree. "I had terrible grades and couldn't even read music when I started. I thought of it as an apprenticeship — that they let you out when you were good enough."

But soon enough, Whitacre, who could improvise on the piano and played in a high-school pop band, found himself "tricked" into auditioning for choir, and the experience changed his life. "I got obsessed," he





says. “I’d go to the library constantly and listen to CDs while following along with the scores. Every day was a new discovery: Mozart, Mahler, Mussorgsky.”

He began writing music and soon enough, David Weiller, UNLV’s director of choir studies, had performed one of Whitacre’s first pieces at a choral convention in Hawaii. A publisher approached the student and asked if she could sell his work. A year later, the 23-year-old Whitacre wrote a short piece called “Ghost Train,” which continues to sell phenomenally well.

He had also learned an important lesson: hold onto your rights. Whitacre had been working at Kinko’s at night, so he self-published, making the copies himself and keeping 80 percent more potential revenue than a publisher would pay him. “That was the last real job I ever had,” he says.

Whitacre went on to graduate school at Juilliard in Manhattan — “It was the only school that didn’t require a GPA,” he says. The transition wasn’t easy. Whitacre stayed in touch with his UNLV mentors. He wrote the decidedly anti-establishment piece

Eric Whitacre backstage at the Boston Court Theatre in Pasadena, Calif. The composer’s *Paradise Lost: Shadows and Wings* premiered at the theater in August.

NOTES
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1980s

Mustafa Adamu, '82 BS Hotel Administration, is the owner and CEO of Hotel de France, an 18-room property located in Kano, Nigeria. He lives in Kano with his wife and two children.

Genie Garner, '82 BA Communication Studies, recently received a Peabody award for excellence in journalism for serving as executive producer of a 21-part series called *Left Behind*. The series focused on the failure of the East St. Louis, Ill., school system. The ceremony took place at New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel in June. She works as assistant news director at television station KMOV in St. Louis. She began her journalism career at *The Rebel Yell*, starting as a writer and becoming editor her senior year. Her first job after graduation was at KTNV.

Linda Iniquez-Taylor, '82 BA Communication Studies, works as an employment program representative for the job service of California's employment development department. She has been married for three years and has one 14-year-old child. She enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, dancing, and photography. She lives in Cypress.

Sally Jean Jones, '83 Master of Education, is a special education teacher for seventh- and eighth-graders at a U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) school in Germany. She began teaching for DOD schools in 1987, when she moved to England. She spent 15 years teaching there and was selected as the 1999 United Kingdom Teacher of the Year. She relocated to Germany in 2002. Her hobbies include reading, aerobics, kickboxing, line dancing, and cooking. She and her husband, Eric Measells, live in Wiesbaden.

Dave Matthews, '83 BS Hotel Administration, is co-owner of Century 21 Act 1 Realty. He specializes in residential and commercial real estate with an emphasis on corporate relocation.

Ron Schratter, '83 BS Hotel Administration, has worked in the industry for more than 15 years, mostly with Fairmont and Hyatt Hotels. For the past 10 years, he has been the president of Elite Hospitality Group, an executive recruiting firm specializing in luxury hotels, resorts, and casinos. Previously, he was general manager for a premier country club, hosting numerous Ladies Professional Golf Association events. He lives in Atlanta with his wife and two daughters.

Godzilla Eats Las Vegas for UNLV's wind orchestra. Of Juilliard, he says, "There was touched-by-the-hand-of-God talent there. But there were also people whose cortexes were burned by their genius. Young musicians should be careful of that kind of academia — it can burn your spirit."

Whitacre found support at Juilliard from one of classical music's most famous atonal composers: Milton Babbitt, who advised, "Do what you were made to do." And he began studying with celebrated tonal composer John Corigliano of *Red Violin* fame.

REACHING INTO THE SOUL

After graduating, Whitacre moved to Los Angeles with his new wife, Juilliard-trained soprano Hila Plitmann, to explore film music. Meanwhile, his popularity grew among the educational band and choral community, a world that academics and symphony purists shun even though it offers tremendous exposure. Recently at a Northwestern University performance of *Paradise Lost*, for instance, Whitacre heard audience members singing along with a brand new work (they'd heard snippets of it online).

Whitacre humbly admits that he could live off his royalties alone. "Water Night" is a choir staple and "Ghost Train" has been recorded more than 40 times. His February Hyperion album — featuring the beloved U.K. conductor Stephen Layton and his choir, Polyphony, performing the hit "Cloudburst" — debuted at 11 on the Billboard classical charts and elicited glowing reviews from such outlets as *The London Times*, *BBC Music Magazine*, and *Opera News*. (Whitacre's music is arguably the most performed choral music in England.)

UNLV director of bands Thomas Leslie worked with Whitacre from his start. The two collaborated on the university's alma mater: Whitacre wrote the music; Leslie and graduate student Robyn Lemon Chapman wrote the lyrics. Leslie continues to champion Whitacre's music. "It reaches into your soul and lifts you," he says. "It started from choral writing. He took the sounds of choirs and integrated them into his approach with wind instruments and then realized the potential of every instrument, their ranges, and color contributions."

Whitacre's inventiveness, Leslie notes, helped an unusual instrument become popular: Whitacre found an instrument called the waterphone. Leslie describes it as "a big metal trombone mute that you fill with water and bow like a violin." It creates a "metallic screeching sound that mimics a railroad coming to a halt." Others have likened it to the sound of whales. Whitacre used

"There was touched-by-the-hand-of-God talent there. But there were also people whose cortexes were burned by their genius."

this instrument — which, incidentally, was invented by a man called Richard Water — in "Ghost Train." And, as Leslie tells it, "Mr. Water has sold hundreds of instruments simply because of that piece's success."

CLASSICAL FOR THE INTERNET GENERATION

"It's totally misleading," Whitacre says of the term "classical music." "People hear it and get a very specific

idea in mind. It's not what I'm trying to do. It implies stuffiness. I'm just trying to write beautiful, engaging music." While he doesn't claim to feel stuck in choral and band music, he also admits that his phone isn't ringing off the hook with calls from symphony orchestras. "I just don't think I'm on the symphony orchestras' radars," he adds. "I know that because I've submitted orchestral works and not even received a rejection letter."

Whitacre's latest work, *Paradise Lost*, is a departure for the classical music fan. It blends taiko drumming, computerized sounds, and projected anime with operatic singing and martial arts fights. "It's like a musical. It has songs and scenes, but it's like an opera in that there's big story-telling with classically trained voices," Whitacre says. "It's very story-heavy, like an action film."

In fact, it's a brand of music that appeals to the Internet generation. Hence, Whitacre's popularity on MySpace and Facebook, two social networking sites that have revolutionized — and globalized — the popular music world.

YouTube has more than a hundred videos of ensembles playing Whitacre's music. A two-minute clip of Whitacre energetically conducting a recording session with the University of Southern California Concert Choir attracted more than 17,000 viewers in six months and a slew of gushing fan mail.

"Being published is strange," he says. "Music gets purchased and performed, and sometimes you don't even know. It wasn't actually until I started MySpace two years ago that I started getting contacted from European groups."

So when will Whitacre compose a big film score? He admits that he hasn't yet had the time to pursue that goal despite his Hollywood home. "I would actually love to do it," he says. "Some of my favorite composers write film music. Thomas Newman, John Williams. These people are extraordinary musicians. But I like what I'm doing now. There's not as much madness surrounding it. No one [a producer or financier, say] is telling me what to do. If there is a song or a scene I dislike, I can cut it."



And what of being a part of the educational repertoire? “I’m grateful,” Whitacre says. “One of the beautiful things about writing for college choruses and bands is that every four years, it’s a new group of people. Once a piece enters the standard repertory, it just keeps getting purchased and repurchased. I just now signed a partnership in London and Europe, and I’ll soon be releasing my recordings on my own label.” And Universal Classics, no slouch in record sales, will release a Whitacre album in the spring with a big marketing push.

In fact, like popular artists, Whitacre doesn’t see his interest in electronica or other genres as inorganic. “I fell in love with Petshop Boys and Duran Duran and European techno as a kid,” he says. As a teenager, he used the \$15,000 he earned for being in a McDonald’s commercial to buy the electronic instruments he learned to compose on. Acquiring technical facility on these tools from a young age paid off. “If you’re going to score films or even compose, you have to be a computer-head. It’s all about home studios. That said, I write my scores on paper and hire somebody else to notate them on a computer. But that’s just to be efficient. What if I have a meeting or a new e-mail connection to follow up on? Or another piece to write?”

“I had terrible grades and couldn’t even read music when I started. I thought of it as an apprenticeship — that they let you out when you were good enough.”

For now, Whitacre remains content in L.A. — he fits in here. But if *Paradise Lost* moved to London or Broadway, he’d follow. “There’s a wild-west entrepreneurial spirit here that’s energizing.” As is the quality level of L.A.’s musicians. “You know the big joke at Juilliard used to be: ‘What’s the best orchestra in the world? A pickup band in Hollywood.’ There are ridiculous sight-readers here. When the stress level is highest, that’s when they get most relaxed. You just can’t miss anything because you have to get hired again.”

As if getting hired were a concern for Whitacre. He’s currently writing two commissions: one for the King Singers’ 25th anniversary and one for the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus’s 40th anniversary. He also just accepted a commission for the opening of the new Long Center in Austin, Texas. “They want a 70-minute oratorio for full chorus, orchestra, and soloists,” he says.

“So the symphony orchestra world isn’t noticing you?” I ask. Whitacre nods modestly again. Perhaps that’s just a matter of time for the young composer. As we both know, some pretty important composers did all right with choral music and oratorios. Their names were Handel and Bach.

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Jeff Jarvis, ’87 BS Business Administration, is senior vice president and team leader of the business development department for Service 1st Bank of Nevada. In that position, he is responsible for loan and deposit generation. He has more than 18 years’ experience in the financial industry. Previously, he worked as vice president/development officer for Bank of America.

Ed Conway, ’88 BS Hotel Administration, is the general manager for Sedona Rouge Hotel in Sedona, Ariz. The hotel was given AAA’s four-diamond award last year and its restaurant, Reds, has received a *Wine Spectator* award. In the early 1990s, he served as general manager for various Marco Polo Hotels, which allowed him to work in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Novgorod, Russia. He then returned to the United States as a general manager in the San Francisco area for several properties, including Savoy Hotels, Greenhorn Creek Resort, and Radisson Hotel. He enjoys spending time with his two sons, Steven, 13, and Alex, 7; participates in a men’s ice hockey league; and serves as co-chair of the 2007 Sedona Miracle Charity event benefiting the Sedona Community Foundation. He lives in Cornwell.

Tony Sanchez, ’88 BA Political Science, was named corporate senior vice president at Sierra Pacific Resources. Sanchez received his law degree from Arizona State University in 1991. He most recently was a partner in the Jones Vargas law firm. Previous positions include associate legislative counsel for then U.S. Sen. Richard H. Bryan, assistant general counsel for the Nevada Public Utilities Commission, and executive assistant to then-Nevada Gov. Bob Miller. He serves on the boards of the UNLV Alumni Association, Latin Chamber of Commerce, Nevada Partners, the Latino Bar Association, and Clark County Pro Bono Foundation. He and his wife, Elaine, have two children, Antonio and Tomas.

Amy Watner-Freeman, ’88 BS Secondary Education, is vice president of human resources for the Fulfillment Fund, a nonprofit college-access program that helps promising, yet underserved, students graduate from high school and attend college. She previously had a successful career in social services. She and her husband, Will Freeman, have been together 10 years. She loves trivia and board games. She skis and also enjoys the desert with her husband. They live in Altadena, Calif.

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1990s

Kristen Alderson, '90 BS Hotel Administration, has been named general manager of the new Sheraton Fort Worth Hotel and Spa in Texas, which is slated to open late this year or early next year. She lives in Fort Worth.

Loralee Boughton, '91 MS Hotel Administration, has worked with USA Hosts-Las Vegas since 1989, both full and part time. USA Hosts is a full-service, nationwide destination management company.

Laura Trampusch, '95 BS Recreation Management, is a police officer at UNLV. She said she enjoys serving her alma mater. She helped found the UNLV Police Vocal Ensemble with the help of music professor David Weiller. Her hobbies include biking, hiking, music, and camping.

Margaret Erstad, '96 MS Hotel Administration, has worked in England since graduating from UNLV. In 2001 she joined Hand Picked Hotels as deputy operations director in Kent. Hand Picked is a collection of 14 country house hotels located across the United Kingdom. In 2004 the company was voted Hotel Group of the Year by the Automobile Association in the United Kingdom. She previously worked for the Forte Hotel Group. She lives in London.

Chris Roe, '96 BS Hotel Administration, is customer service manager for the southwest division of Micros-Systems Inc. Micros is the world's largest hospitality technology firm for point-of-sale products. He previously served as implementation manager for the company. He and his wife, Susan, have a daughter, Taylor.

Jung Hoon Lee, '97 MS Hotel Administration, is the director of human resources for Sun@Food Co., a leading restaurant operation company that owns and operates seven Tony Roma's, seven Italian wine bistros named Mad for Garlic, 30 pasta restaurants named Spaghettia, and four Japanese steak restaurants named Pepper Lunch in Korea.

Thomas Castleberry, '98 BS Hotel Administration, is general manager of the southwest division of Micros-Systems Inc., the world's largest hospitality technology firm for point-of-sale products. He previously served as customer service manager. He and his wife, Leslie, are the parents of Carter and Claire.

Class of 1964 ... Where Are They Now?

In 1964, when the university was elevated from a branch of UNR to a full-fledged university, the campus hosted its first commencement ceremony. (Previous graduates had to travel to Reno for the honor of participating in commencement.) Education majors dominated that initial group of 29 graduates, which included Ray Rawson, who would go on to become a prominent dentist and state legislator. We picked four of his fellow graduates at random to see what they are doing now. **STORIES BY ERIN O'DONNELL**

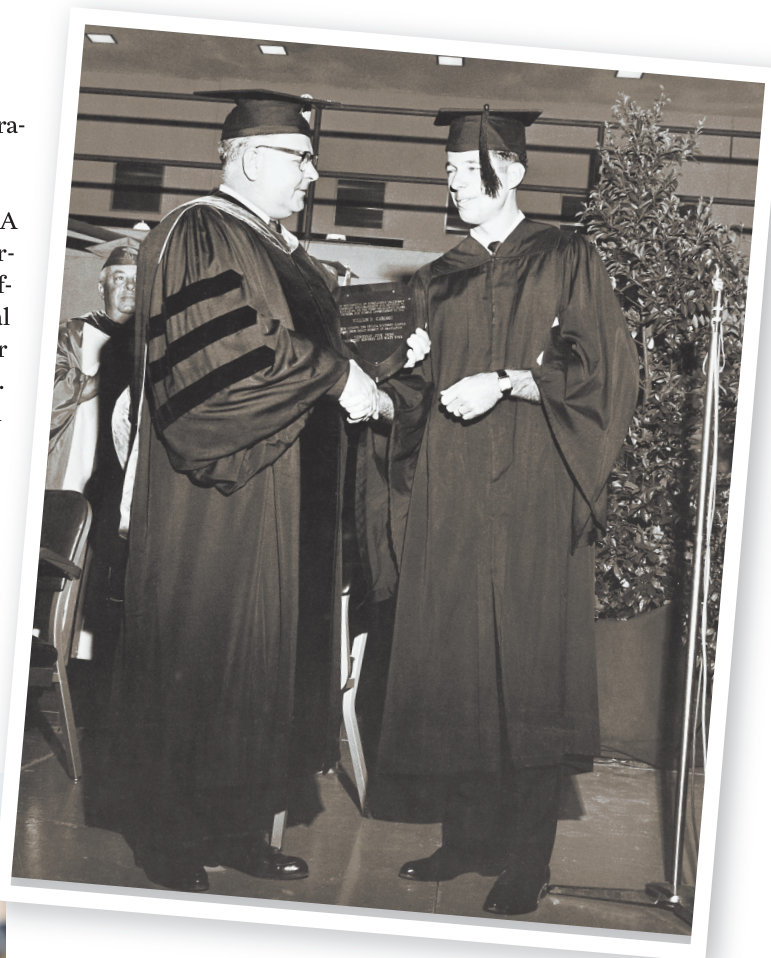
Jon Cobain

Degree: BS Business Administration

Lives in: Monarch Beach, Calif.

Career: Cobain earned his MBA at Northwestern University, spearheaded nationwide marketing efforts for truck giant International Harvester, and headed up customer development for Beatrice Foods. Since 1979 he has run his own mergers and acquisitions firm, Fomento Ltd., in Irvine.

Today: "I help people convert their hard work and their dreams into a big payday," Cobain says, by finding buyers for the businesses he represents. His big client of the moment is the largest lighting company in all of Latin America.



Jon Cobain at 1964 commencement ceremony (above) and today in the UNLV Student Union (left).

UNLV Memories: As president of the first graduating class, Cobain had the honor of receiving the university's first degree. He's now challenging fellow alumni and others with connections to UNLV from 1957 to 1974 to support Division of Student Life programs. He will match their donations to the Early Pioneers Scholarship Endowment Fund and the Early Pioneers Student Union Fund up to \$200,000 during this 50th anniversary year.

Notable: A pilot for 30 years, Cobain has flown a Russian MiG-29 fighter jet. He studied Russian and aerobatics for months before his three-week trek to the former Soviet Union. "Getting an up close and personal look at the Russian people turned out to be the most positive aspect of the trip. They're just like everybody else."

Quotable: "I thought I was going to be a senior executive at a Fortune 500 company. As it turned out, I didn't care for the big corporate environment. All the wasted time drove me away. I spent my career in small, boutique environments where you have a direct relationship between what you're doing and the results you achieve."

Fredric "Rick" Watson, Joanne Favero Watson

Degrees: His, '64 BS Elementary Instruction and Curricular Studies, '69 M.Ed.; Hers, '64 BS Business Administration

Lives In: Henderson

Marriage: The Watsons met in college but didn't start dating until after graduation. They've been married nearly 42 years and have four children and eight grandchildren.

Careers: Rick taught in the Clark County School District for six years, then worked at district headquarters for eight more. In 1978, he became principal of his first elementary school, then went on to lead four more schools. He retired in 2000. Joanne worked in insurance after their children were in school.

Today: Rick is archiving school district memorabilia and has helped an author who is writing a history of Clark County schools. Joanne is now as devoted to her grandchildren as she was to her children.



Fredric "Rick" Watson and Joanne Favero Watson

UNLV Memories: Rick credits UNLV with guiding his hands-on approach to education. "I learned the importance of making the school experience inviting for children and appropriate for what they are able to do — not developing a curriculum that shoots at midline of all students, but one that helps each individual at their own skill level. That's a good part of the educational philosophy I learned there; I didn't come by it naturally."

Notable: He also recalls studying with Holbert Hendrix and James Dickinson, both of whom had campus buildings named after them. Watson now is similarly honored. Fredric W. Watson Elementary School opened in North Las Vegas in 2001. He said it was an honor for his entire family. "From the time we start school until we leave our life, I think that's what drives us: to make our families proud and to be remembered."

Quotable: His advice for new principals? "When you're down in the mouth and you need to have your self-confidence restored, go down to the kindergarten. They're just crazy about their teachers and their principal, and it will improve your mood in about two seconds."

Phyllis Darling

Degree: BA Political Science

Lives In: Port Angeles, Wash.

Career: Darling taught in Clark County schools for 20 years, then spent 11 more as head of the district's social studies program. She later moved to the Olympic Peninsula of Washington. "My intention was to retire up here, but it didn't quite take."

Today: She's in her sixth year as executive

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Michael Peltyn, '98 MS Hotel Administration, is vice president of staffing for MGM Mirage CityCenter. He will oversee the recruitment and selection process for the 12,000 employees expected to be hired at the project. CityCenter is a 76-acre mixed-use project that is slated to open in November 2009.

Beth Appelbaum Weinstein, '98 MS Hotel Administration, is the director of summit operations for the Academy of Achievement. The nonprofit organization annually hosts an international summit at which world leaders share their wisdom and experience with graduate students. She previously worked in convention services at the Bellagio. She now works from home in Phoenix when not traveling for an event. Her husband, **Todd Weinstein,** '99 MS Hotel Administration, is a manager of learning and organizational development at PetSmart's corporate headquarters in Phoenix. Previously, he worked in human resources on the opening team for Paris Las Vegas, as well as at its sister property, Bally's. He then joined Expedia.com to work in human resources and in learning and development both in Las Vegas and at corporate headquarters in Bellevue, Wash.

Christian Augustin, '99 BA Political Science and '03 Master of Education, has been coaching volleyball for nine years — the last four as head coach for the men's volleyball program at Shadow Ridge High School. The team won the 2007 4A Nevada State Championship — the first statewide championship for the school. He was named coach of the year by fellow coaches in his area in 2005 and 2006. In 2006, he became a USA Volleyball certified coach. He is proud that more than half of his graduating senior players during the past four years have gone on to play at the collegiate level. He also serves as assistant head coach of the women's team and teaches government and sociology. He also coaches a men's team for the Vegas Valley Volleyball Club, which recently participated in the Junior Olympics in Atlanta. The team finished 18th nationally among 61 teams. He previously worked as a political and diversity issues analyst for MGM Mirage.

Ruben Curiel, '99 BS Hotel Administration, received his master's degree in hospitality administration from Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne in Switzerland. Previously, he worked as a general manager at Hotel Coral & Marina, a 147-suite hotel with a marina in Ensenada, Mexico. He is married with a 2-year-old daughter and another child on the way.

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Marni Moorhead, '99 BS Hotel Administration, joined Sunriver Resort in the heart of central Oregon as a sales manager in 2006. She joined Sunriver, a premier golf, meeting, and vacation destination, after working in San Francisco as a catering manager for six years. She lives in Bend, Ore.

Rodney Woodbury, '99 Bachelor of Music, has taught music at Century High School in Pocatello, Idaho, for the past eight years and has seen the band program grow in both size and quality. In February, Century's symphonic band performed at the northwest division biennial conference of the National Association for Music Education. He and his wife, Cassie, are the parents of twins: a son, Topher, and a daughter, Millie.

2000s

Don Mitchell, '00 BS Business Administration, is a project manager with Dynalectric.

Blake Rudman, '00 BS Hotel Administration, is president of Pink Taco. He helped develop and re-engineer the first Pink Taco outside Las Vegas, located in Scottsdale, Ariz. He then opened the restaurant's first California location in Century City. He previously managed a restaurant chain called Chaucer's; worked for Rosa Mexicano in both New York and Washington, D.C.; and worked for El Torito Grill. He lives in Los Angeles.

Michelle Scher, '00 BS Hotel Administration, '06 MS Hotel Administration, teaches hotel accounting and operations management at UNLV. An avid traveler, she has visited 15 countries so far.

Rebecca Kimbrough, '01 BA Education, recently was honored as a finalist for teacher of the year for the North Little Rock (Ark.) Public School District. She teaches third grade.

Marco Benvenuti, '02 BS Hotel Administration, recently joined Wynn Las Vegas as a director of information technology for the hospitality account. He is in charge of system architecture, configuration, design, and development for all hotel systems. His special project for the next two years will be to contribute to a smooth opening of Encore at Wynn Las Vegas.

C. Michelle North, '02 BS Hotel Administration, is a project development assistant for Big World Villas in Santa Catalina, Panama. She assists in sales and development of a resort community in an area

director of her local American Red Cross chapter. "When I taught, I felt responsible for my kids. I worried about their futures every day. Now I worry about the future of the country, how we can prepare for disaster and minimize the impact."

UNLV Memories: As a member of the university's delegation to the regional Model U.N. conference, Darling says the group was the first to use the name "UNLV" because no one understood "Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada." Darling also remembers meeting with her advisor, John S. Wright — namesake of Wright Hall — under a tree because their department didn't have office space. And she was the first class secretary. "We all got to be big fish in a small pond. We were all chairman of this and president of that."

Notable: Darling won a \$25,000 national educator award from the Milken Family Foundation in 1991.

Quotable: "I have a lovely job. You just can't go wrong when you get up in the morning you know you're going to help someone."

Binnie Zink

Degrees: BA History, '73 M.Ed.

Lives In: Flagstaff, Ariz.

Career: Zink taught for 10 years in Las Vegas



◀ Binnie Zink and her husband, John

and Ohio, then went into guidance and counseling for the Clark County School District. "It turned out to be something I loved," she said. She retired in 2002 from Western High School and moved to Flagstaff with her husband, John.

Today: The Zinks have a 1957 Chevy — painted Air Force blue in honor of her husband, a retired colonel — and they're active in the Route 66 Car Club. "But I'd really rather have a hot rod, like Nash Bridges had on TV."

UNLV Memories: Zink, a Las Vegas native, tried going away to the University of Southern California. "I hit L.A. and it scared the crud out of me." She came home and found her place at budding Nevada Southern University. "It was absolutely wonderful. It was so small. Everybody knew everybody."

Notable: Zink was a woman of firsts on campus. She was one of the first cheerleaders, when Nevada Southern had only a basketball team, and she was president of the first sorority, which was named Nu Sigma Upsilon — initials "NSU," of course.

Quotable: "My diploma said 'Nevada Southern.' Later they asked me if I wanted to turn it in and get one that said UNLV. I said if I can't keep this one, then no. I wouldn't give it back."

Tell us all about it

Got a new job? Expanded the family? Fulfilled a lifelong dream? Submit your accomplishments to the Class Notes section of *UNLV Magazine*.

Fill out the online form at:
myupdate.unlv.edu

Or mail to: Diane Russell, UNLV Magazine, Box 451024, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1024



Tree farming isn't much different than the casino business says alumnus Illan Kessler.

Illan Kessler

'99 BS Business Administration

BY ERIN O'DONNELL

Job: Sole proprietor of North Pole Xmas Trees, his family business, in Nashua, N.H. The company sells trees and evergreen decorations, both wholesale and retail. It supplies dozens of resellers with trees grown at farms from North Carolina to Nova Scotia.

Why UNLV? An uncle who was a dean at Adelphi University recommended it. "He said, 'Think about how much money you're going to save when you graduate to start your own business versus how much you'll be in debt if you go to another school.' It seemed like a logical choice." Uncle was right: Kessler worked his way through college as a table game dealer and graduated on time, without a single student loan.

From Casinos to Christmas Trees: After graduation, Kessler spent a year working for slot machine manufacturer IGT — not in Nevada but Down Under. His mother, who is Australian, registered all six of her children for dual citizenship. "Because of that, I had the upper hand and I was able to land a little higher position than I would have in the U.S." He soon discovered common ground between slot machines and holiday items, and decided to come home to the family business. "It seemed dichotomous, but the techniques for selling the trees were exactly the same. It's a niche product."

Growing the Business: Kessler's father had been doing business with "pen, paper, and handshakes" for about 30 years, but Kessler wanted to bring the business into the computer age and expand beyond local vendors. In the past six years, the company has become the market leader in corporate supply, sending trees all over the country, including major malls, the World Bank, and the Wynn Hotel and Casino. "I was tickled pink when I gained that account. I consider it to be a big personal achievement. And it's bragging rights for my friends who went to UNLV too."

I'll Know I've Made It to the Top When ... "I haven't done the White House yet, but the World Bank is next door, so we're closing in."

'Tis the Season All Year: "The Christmas tree industry encompasses all our time year round. We sell about 30,000 trees a year, and it takes the entire year to coordinate."

Tree Trivia: The tree you'll decorate this year was probably planted the same year *Toy Story* was released. It takes about 12 years for a tree to grow to the most popular height of 6 to 7 feet.

Kessler's Favorite? It's a toss up. "Aesthetically, the Fraser fir is the most beautiful tree, and it has the best needle retention. However, the smell of a Balsam is the most invigorating fragrance in the world."

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known for its surfing and diving. She enjoys snorkeling, sport fishing, languages, travel, and consulting with young professionals who want to begin businesses in Panama. She lives in Panama City.

Dan Cormany, '04 MS Hotel Administration, returned to UNLV this fall to begin work on his doctorate in hotel administration with an emphasis on convention/trade show study. Previously, he worked at Loews/Hyatt Lake Las Vegas and on the preparation and opening of Wynn Las Vegas.

Renato N. Estacio, '04 Bachelor of Music, joined the Las Vegas Philharmonic as director of marketing in March. He also oversees public relations for the orchestra. In 2008 he will receive a master of music degree with an emphasis in applied voice as well as an MBA. He helped get the Philharmonic's young professionals program off the ground. He sits on the board of directors of the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society and teaches voice and music appreciation at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center. He joined the Las Vegas Philharmonic Guild in July. He enjoys singing opera, cantata, and anything Mozart; spending time with his dogs; and traveling. He recently visited, Belgium, France, and the United Kingdom.

Kymberly Platt-Foley, '04 BS Hotel Administration, recently graduated from St. Mary's University Law School in San Antonio. She now is an attorney with Kornblit & Associates, practicing in the area of wills and estate planning. She lives in Houston.

Jennifer Eskin Smith, '04 MS Sport and Leisure Services Management, is a development officer for the School of Humanities at the University of California, Irvine. She previously spent four years working in marketing and catering sales at the Thomas & Mack Center. During that time she served as a member of the Harrah Hotel College Alumni Board.

Gabriel A. Gordon, '05 BS Business Administration, is a financial advisor at Wachovia Securities where he is a member of a team that helps people effectively manage their wealth. He enjoys studying the capital markets and watching sports. His goal is to visit every major league baseball stadium by the time he is 30.

Nolan Halterman, '06 BS Hotel Administration, works at Pronghorn, a high-end private golf club in the Pacific Northwest. He previously worked at a private golf club in Park City, Utah. He lives in Bend, Ore.

Spooky Quiet

"When you close the doors in the room, you're totally deprived of sound — you start hearing the blood flow through your veins and your heart beating. It's just eerie," says Doug Reynolds of UNLV's anechoic chamber. The room blocks out all external noise and the fiberglass wedges lining the walls absorb the echoes within the room, so no sound bounces around. Researchers use the room to calibrate sound sources, determining exactly how much noise a speaker or a piece of equipment will add to a room.

Reynolds, a mechanical engineering professor, is director of the Center for Mechanical and Environmental Systems Technology, which researches air quality, ventilation systems, and human exposure to sound and vibration. [Photo by R. Marsh Starks]

1955

Students raise money by porch light

1981

UNLV creates a foundation for fundraising

2007

The Harrah's Foundation donates \$30 million

UNLV is **celebrating 50 years**. Our community support has changed significantly in that time. It began with students traveling to donors' homes well into the night to raise funds for campus land. It evolved further with the creation of a formal fundraising program in 1981. And it continues today with a comprehensive campaign that has generated more than \$375 million in private support — including a \$30 million gift from the Harrah's Foundation, the single largest corporate donation to higher education in Nevada history. These gifts help fund innovative opportunities for students and faculty and cutting-edge research that will power our next half-century of progress.



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for more information on anniversary events.



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