Inside UNLV

Cate Weeks
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Diane Russell
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, diane.russell@unlv.edu

Erin O'Donnell
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Carol C. Harter
Black Mountain Institute

Mark Wallington
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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VPs Take on New Roles in Reorganization

BY DIANE RUSSELL

In a move designed to maximize efficiency, top-level administrators Juanita Fain and Gerry Bomotti recently assumed new duties and titles. The reorganization puts Fain in charge of planning and moves nearly all fiscal and operational responsibilities under Bomotti.

Fain now is vice president for planning, as well as chief of staff. In her vice presidential role she leads activities of the University Planning Council, oversees the office of institutional analysis and planning, and oversees the revision and advancement of the university’s master plan. In the newly created chief of staff role, she provides high-level support in the president’s office and acts as the president’s liaison to many members of both the campus and external communities.

“I’m looking forward to becoming more deeply involved in the university’s planning processes,” Fain said. “Strategic planning is important to any organization, but is particularly critical...”

SEE REORGANIZATION ON PAGE 2

Show Them The Ropes

New Back-to-School Program Rounding Up Volunteers

BY ERIN O’DONNELL

Think back to your first day at UNLV. Did you feel lost or overwhelmed?

Maybe you didn’t, but many do — especially new students. Now you can help ease their transition to campus by participating in The Rebel Connection — a new program that encompasses the university’s traditional orientation and welcome week activities, along with some new additions.

Tom Studdert, assistant director for student involvement and activities, said staff volunteers for the program are vital to its success. Employees are asked to attend a rally next month, hosted by President Carol C. Harter, to learn more about ways they can contribute and to start signing up.

“You can volunteer where you are, by wearing an Ask Me! button or The Rebel Connection T-shirt,” Studdert said. “We want faculty and staff to be customer-service oriented.”
UNLV Crosses Finish Line With Capital Project Coups

“Thank goodness it’s over” is the typical refrain, expressing relief at the end of another simultaneously wacky, exciting, maddening, and even inspiring legislative session. Because of Nevada’s biennial legislative structure, the participants in this monumental government exercise are a lot like marathon runners: off-seasons are spent training and preparing for the myriad issues and agendas; stamina is needed to pace through the cycle of bill drafts, hearings, and committee movements; and it all leads to an all-out final sprint to the finish — where the burnt-out and exhausted participants reach deep inside for that extra burst of adrenaline and pure will required to end things on a high.

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Max Hardy: Pressing Ahead in Tough Times

Virtually every UNLV employee and student sees Max Hardy’s work on a daily basis. As a supervisory off-set machine operator in reprographics and design services, Hardy runs two presses that crank out everything from forms to four-color brochures.

In a department that sees little downtime, Hardy was especially busy over the past year and a half. When two key employees died, Hardy took up much of the slack — including the workload of his best friend and motorcycle riding partner, Harry Knocke.

Hardy said everyone in the shop felt the loss of Knocke and their supervisor, Bobbie Jo Childers, who died of cancer last year. “It left two big holes in the whole operation. People were kind of floundering,” Hardy said.

But the work kept coming, and Hardy made sure jobs were still accomplished on time and done well. For his dedication, he was named the President’s Classified Employee of the Year. 

“Max has been a pillar of strength to everyone,” wrote graphic artist Nancy Pratt, who learned while acting as supervisor to brainstorm solutions with co-workers.

Cara Loomis: Keeping the Momentum in Physics

Cara Loomis also won praise for shouldering extra work this past year. As office manager for the physics department, Loomis oversees employment issues, builds semester schedules, supervises other staffers, and more.

When the department’s accountant left in February, she took on additional duties for several months.

“The pressure of working short-handed was taking a toll, but then Loomis got a big boost: She won second place in the Classified Employee of the Year Awards, plus $750 and a plaque.

The timing was perfect, Loomis said. “I brought up the idea of being the Classified Employee of the Year, and now I get the plaque, but had to settle for $500 instead of the juice.”

Saundra Pratt: Behind Every Good Dean is a Great Assistant

Saundra Pratt was convinced she wouldn’t win a Classified Employee of the Year award. Not even when people were competing to write her letters of recommendation. Not even at the ceremony, when she didn’t recognize her own description until she heard her name called as the third-place winner.

“That was a shock. I thought the competition was too steep,” said Pratt, executive assistant to the dean of Urban Affairs. “If they’d given me a plaque and a Jamba Juice coupon, I would have been pleased.” (She got the plaque, but had to settle for $500 instead of the juice.)

Pratt came to UNLV 12 years ago and worked in a number of departments before joining the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs.

“It’s been a privilege for me to represent the classified personnel and make sure our needs are met,” she said.

Ken Hughes: Rookie Roofer’s Innovation Keeps Us Dry

Ken Hughes doesn’t see the UNLV campus quite the same as everyone else. His workday starts in the dark, and he usually watches the sun rise from several stories up as he inspects or corrects a problem with a roof.

Since Hughes became UNLV’s sole roofer in October 2003, calls about leaks no longer pour in when it rains. His supervisors estimate that the number of leaks has fallen from the hundreds to fewer than 10, and that he has saved the university more than $1 million through new solutions and efficiency measures.

In April, Hughes was named the first-ever President’s Classified Rookie of the Year. The $250 prize honors employees who have been at UNLV for one to five years.

“I was pleasantly surprised to be nominated, and thankful for that, for people to recognize that your efforts are paying dividends on the other end,” Hughes said.

With two decades in the trade, Hughes is no rookie at all; he has managed roofing projects at resorts including Bellagio and Mandalay Bay.

His first month on campus was especially wet, and neglected roofs gave way. “I had 84 calls in one day, and I thought, ‘What did I get involved in here?’” When the rains forced an emergency job at the new Shadow Lane campus, Hughes suggested the university buy its own materials for the work.

“I brought up the idea of being the buyer instead of letting the contractor mark up all of the materials by 30 or 40 percent,” he said. The move saved more than $400,000, said Harold Archibald, executive director of facilities management, in a nominating letter.

Hughes also persuaded the planners of the Science, Engineering and Technology Building that they needed a different type of roof than requested.

“At the time he was a Grade 30 (roofer), successfully debating roofing issues with the mechanical engineers and architects. I was absolutely stunned by his deep and thorough knowledge,” Archibald wrote.

Hughes was soon promoted, and a second roofer has since been hired. Now Hughes oversees bidding and managing roof projects, and he developed a 20-year maintenance plan for all university structures.

“My husband has told me on more than one occasion, ‘I want my wife back,’ because I was so stressed. Winning this award renewed my sense of wanting to be here.”

Loomis has been with the physics department since coming to UNLV in 1993. The faculty and staff keep her busy, she said, but they’re never demanding. “They value the office staff, and that’s why I’ve never left. I’ve had the opportunity to move on, but I’ve chosen not to because I really like the people I work with.”

Loomis also coordinates the arrival of international faculty and researchers. In the process, she’s become an expert on the requirements for work visas and other immigration issues. “There are not many physicists who are U.S. citizens anymore.”

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By Erin O’Donnell

The 2005 President’s Classified Employees of the Year don’t have a lot in common. They work in offices, in workshops, and on rooftops. Some use Microsoft, others use machinery. But these employees do share their colleagues’ admiration for their dedication and innovation. And each was genuinely surprised to be singled out. When any of them says, “I was just doing my job,” they’re not telling the whole story. Here’s what set them apart.
**Business**

**Alumni Association Elects Officers**

The college’s Alumni Association recently elected officers and executive board members. They are Brent Bell, president; Jim Ratigan, vice president/president elect; Gary Sepele, secretary/treasurer; and Pamela Newell-Schaefer and Kenneth Fong, members at large. Douglas Cook remains on the board as immediate past president.

The board and the membership program were created to build affinity for the college and stimulate business alumni participation in university events. A committee is working on plans for a Nov. 5 homecoming mixer on campus prior to the tailgate event at Sam Boyd Stadium.

**Enterprise Student Team Takes ‘Rookie’ Honors**

A team of students involved in several community service projects won the Rookie of the Year award at the regional Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) competition in Los Angeles. SIFE’s goal is to change the world by involving students who are learning about free enterprise in significant community service activities.

UNLV’s team, which was formed this spring, boasts 39 members. Nine members, led by team president Greg Hafen, participated in the formal competition. Most of the 40 teams in the regional event were from colleges in Nevada, California, and Arizona.

The UNLV team performed service projects with small businesses, with veterans coming into the work arena, and with disadvantaged youth in the Las Vegas community.

SIFE is organized in 40 countries with 1,600 active teams at universities and colleges.

**EDUCATION**

**College Recognized in National Publication**

The college and its department of educational psychology both received recognition in a special issue of U.S. News & World Report devoted to education rankings.

The college ranked in the Top 100 graduate colleges of education. Additionally, the department of educational psychology placed in the Top 20.

**Engineering**

**Local Engineers Learn About New UNLV Building**

Members of the local engineering community recently were the guests at a breakfast meeting focused on the new Science, Engineering and Technology Building.

This informational meeting brought industry personnel up to date on plans for this important facility and invited community involvement in the project. Todd Kenner, president of PBS&J, hosted the event and was assisted in his presentation by Clark County Commissioner Chip Maxfield, Assistant County Manager Virginia Valentine, and Las Vegas City Manager Doug Selby, all graduates of UNLV.

**FINE ARTS**

**NCT Announces Season**

Tickets are now on sale for Nevada Conservatory Theatre’s 2005-06 season lineup.

- *The Gambler*, Oct. 7-16. In this Freya Thomas play, young Valere and beautiful Angelique are joyously in love. He must choose, however, between his love for her and his desire for gambling because she’ll have none of it.
- *Carnival!,* Dec. 2-11, “Love Makes the World Go ’Round” in this enchanting musical about the love between a carnival girl and a crippled puppeteer who can only talk to her through his puppets. Music and lyrics are by Bob Merrill. Michael Stewart wrote the book.
- *Inherit The Wind*, Feb. 10-19. This play is based on the famous 1925 Scopes “monkey” trial, which pitted the teachings of Darwinist evolution against Christianity in a monumental legal clash. The play was written by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee.
- *Wait Until Dark*, April 28 through May 7. NCT will wrap up its season with the thriller by Frederick Knott. This is the story of a deadly cat-and-mouse game between a murderous con man and an innocent blind woman.

For single-event or season-ticket information, call ext. 5-2787.

**HONORS**

**Students Earn Awards**

Several students in the college received prestigious recognition during the past academic year. These achievements range from an internship in the Washington, D.C., office of U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, to first place in a regional micro-mouse competition (see photo above), to honorable mention in the National Science Foundation’s national Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

**HOTEL**

**College Hosts Dinner Of Distinction 2005**

The college honored hospitality industry executives for their outstanding contributions to education at its first Dinner of Distinction. The master of ceremonies for the event was Don Snyder, former president of Boyd Gaming.

The event also included a book-signing by special guest Jerome Vallen, founding dean of the college. He recently published a history of the college’s beginnings, The Right Place: An Anecdotal History of the UNLV College of Hotel Administration (2005). In addition, Vallen was honored with the Dean’s Medal of Distinction for demonstrating excellence in hospitality throughout his career.

The following people also received awards:

- Bill McBeath, ’86, president and chief operating officer of Bellagio Hotel & Casino — alumnus of the year
- Richard Melman, chairman and founder of Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises — industry executive award, food & beverage management
- Steven Hacker, president of the International Association for Exhibition Management — industry executive award, tourism & convention administration
- Stan Bromley, regional vice president of Four Seasons Hotels — industry executive award, hotel management

**Law**

**Lawless’ Bankruptcy Research Makes National News**

Boyd Law School Professor Robert M. Lawless’ research on business bankruptcies made national news in June. Professor Lawless and Harvard professor Elizabeth Warren co-authored an article in the California Law Review that found that large numbers of entrepreneurs use the bankruptcy system, despite official data, which lists only about 66,000 business cases. The research conclusions are that new bankruptcy legislation failed to account for hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs, independent contractors, and self-employed individuals who traditionally have turned to bankruptcy relief as an important safety net in their effort to recover from a failed undertaking.

“It is apparent that entrepreneurs continue to use the bankruptcy system in big numbers. The surprising thing is not so much that they are there but why it took so long for...
someone to notice that the government figures were so divorced from reality,” commented Lawless.

“Each year, the bankruptcy system provides a critical reality for hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs. Our findings again suggest that the popular image of the bankruptcy system as full of irresponsible, overspending consumers is myth.”

Lawless is the Gordon & Silver, Ltd. Professor of Law. The Kauffman Foundation for Entrepreneurship funded this research.

**Liberal Arts**

**Women’s Studies Awards First Graduate Certificates**

Four UNLV students recently became the first to earn graduate certificates in women’s studies. To earn the certificate they took feminist theory, principles of feminist inquiry, and a reading seminar, as well as two additional courses from a range of disciplines.

Many potential students have expressed interest not only in the graduate certificate, but also in a master’s degree, which the department is working to implement before the decade ends.

Last fall, women’s studies chair Lois Helmbold taught the largest graduate seminar yet (19 the first night). It drew students from the colleges of Education and Liberal Arts and the law school; faculty members from CCSN and Nevada State College; staff at Women’s Research Institute of Nevada; and part-time instructors in women’s studies. Several dropped out for personal reasons, but do not know which courses professional schools require or that substitute courses will be accepted.

The positive impacts of this project are many. Students were able to access their grades within 24 hours of posting. This meant students had information about their academic standing much sooner than under the old system. In addition, the project addresses the goal of maximizing efficiency.

The full implementation of web grading during spring semester — a semester that saw the posting of more than 47,500 grades — revolutionized the process for submitting grades.

After creative work by members of the student life technology area, faculty were able to submit the grades for all classes online. Formerly, faculty entered grades by hand on paper and submitted them to the registrar’s office; staff there then entered each grade individually into the Student Information System. This process took dozens of people several days to complete.

Students will receive information on course policies and procedures, graduate student funding, professional development programs, handbooks, important forms, and more. A segment of this orientation will be dedicated to important information for graduate assistants (GAs), including contracts, direct deposit, student health insurance, campus benefits, and the Graduate Assistant Loan Program.

Interested students can learn more and register for orientation at graduatecollege.unlv.edu.

**Students**

**New Web Grading System Successfully Launched**

**Encourage Your Grad Students to Attend Orientation and Teaching Workshop in August**

Faculty members are asked to encourage graduate students to take advantage of two key events next month.

The Graduate College’s annual new graduate student orientation, which assists incoming students with the transition to graduate education at UNLV, will take place 8:30-11:30 a.m. Aug. 25 in the MSU ballroom. Sign-in and breakfast will be at 8 a.m. Following orientation, a question-and-answer session will be held in the Fireside Lounge.

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Interested students can learn more and register for orientation at graduatecollege.unlv.edu.

**The two-day workshop “Intensive Introduction to Teaching” will take place 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Aug. 23-24 in the MSU ballroom. Sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) and the Graduate College, this workshop has been redesigned to include shorter daily sessions, additional facilitators, and updated topics. Topics will include course, syllabus, and assignment development; learning styles; assessment; smart uses of PowerPoint; and testing options.

This workshop is open to all fully admitted graduate students and is essential for graduate assistants needing to refresh their teaching skills or learn new ones. Contact the TLC at ext. 5-2293 for more information.**

**Inside UNLV**

**Women’s Studies Welcomes New Faculty and Staff**

The department of women’s studies has added a new assistant professor, Anita Tijerina Revilla (PhD, social science and comparative education, UCLA, 2004) and a full-time administrative assistant, Gay Sessums (BA, philosophy with honors, UNLV, 2004). The department is also now searching for a tenured associate professor to join UNLV in August 2006.

Graduate assistant Joseph Nika is located in the McDermott Physical Education Complex, Room 131, and is available for advising by appointment. He can be reached at ext. 3-5170 or joseph.nika@ccmail.nevada.edu.

**Graduate College**

**College Graduates First Students**

University College made history in May with its first graduating class of 16 students. One of the graduates, Louis Amundson, was spotlighted for his accomplishments as a both a student and a basketball player. The university studies major with areas of study in philosophy and English graduated with a 3.31 GPA.

The college hosted an honors reception at the end of spring semester to recognize 44 students who received scholarships during the 2004-05 school year. And at a student-athlete honors luncheon, awards were presented to numerous student-athletes in various sports.

**SEE ACROSS CAMPUS ON PAGE 6**
Editor’s Note: During spring semester, a number of regents’, university, and college honors were bestowed upon employees. For a list of many of these awards, go to facultystaffinfo.unl.edu.

**Bob Ackerman** (Educational Leadership) and **Bill Werner** (Hotel Administration), along with Lux Vaccaro, edited Student Freedom Revisited: Contemporary Issues & Perspectives, to which they each contributed a chapter. The book was published by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

**Gerald Weeks** (Marriage, Family, and Community Counseling) published an article, “The Emergence of a New Paradigm in Sex Therapy: Integration” in the Journal of Sexual and Relationship Therapy. His promotional statement for a new text was also published on the book cover.

**Suzan Slaughter** (Harry Reid Center) was program chair for the 5th annual conference of the Nevada Archaeological Association held in April in Tonopah.

**William D. Davenport, Jr.** (Dental Medicine) was elected to the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Council of Sections Administrative Board at the annual session in Baltimore. He was also appointed vice chair of the ADEA Task Force for Developing Competencies and Foundation Knowledge for the New General Dentist. This project, which evolved from the Foundation Knowledge Task Force he has chaired for the past three years, is a major focus of the recently established ADEA Commission on Change and Innovation in Dental Education.

**Linda Lucken** (Facilities) was named Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for May in the custodial category. A custodial worker I, she is responsible for the overall appearance of the Lied Library, including restrooms, entrances, and interiors. She assists staff and students with custodial issues.

**Patrice Hollrah** (Writing Center) presented her essay, “The Voices Still Are Singing” in Orlando/Ponce Continuum in the Poetry of Carter Revard,” at the Native American Literature Symposium in Minneapolis in April.

**Edith Rusch** (Educational Leadership) wrote “Institutional Barriers to Organizational Learning in School Systems: The Power of Silence,” which appeared in Educational Administration Quarterly. At the American Educational Research Association meeting in Montreal, she presented the papers “Learning About Learning: The Transformation of Transformational Leadership” and “The Journey to the Next Level of Legitimacy: Accreditation and New Institutional Scripts.” The latter was presented with C. Willner.

**Erika Engstrom** (Communication Studies) and **Michael D. Murray** (Journalism and Media Studies) presented “Distinguished Scholars: The Contributions of Ed Bliss,” broadcast news author and news writer for Edward R. Murrow and Walter Cronkite, at the Broadcast Education Association annual convention in Las Vegas in April.

**Felicia Campbell** (English) appeared on Delias’ Unscripted on CNN-dicussing gaming behavior. At the Popular Culture Association (PCA) meeting in San Diego July, she was presented with a plaque in honor of the first presentation of the Felicia Campbell Service Award. The award will be presented annually to the most deserving area chairs. In 2004 she received PCA’s Service Award for dedication to the organization and to popular culture studies.

**Jeffrey Wedding** (Harry Reid Center) and **Alex Heindl** (Barrick Museum) presented an historical archeology research paper, “Patterson’s Invasion of Southern Nevada: The Highwater Mark?” at the 38th annual meeting of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Sciences, held in Las Vegas. They also presented a paper titled “The Crossroads Site: Desert Training or Desert Strike?” at the 34th annual conference of the Nevada Archaeological Association in Tonopah.

**Kyle Wilson** (Athletic Training) presented a paper on methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) at the annual session in Baltimore. He also served as a vice chair of the Nevada Board of Education.

**Patrick Carlton** (Educational Leadership) wrote a chapter, “A Community of Professionals: Locally-Based Public School Principals Share Their Craft Wisdom With the World” in Reflection and Integration, the 25th anniversary publication of the National Archives of Singapore. He also received a grant from the Las Vegas Conference on Education to produce oral histories on the development and evolution of the Clark County School District since the 1960s.

**Kyle Ethelbah** (Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach) received the Outstanding Community Service Award at the 12th annual Honor the Elders Banquet in May. The Las Vegas Indian Center honored him for his contributions to the American Indian community in the Las Vegas Valley.

**Yamila Matinata** (Preschool) was named Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for May in the technical category. A five-year employee, she has been head teacher in the Grasshopper (ages 12-18 months) and Heart (ages 3-5 years) classrooms. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from UNLV in August and now is pursuing a master’s degree in early childhood special education.

**Larry Ashley** (Marriage, Family, and Community Counseling) was named a “Rebel Man” by the Jean Nidetch Women’s Center’s sexual assault facts education (SAFE) team for his accomplishments in fighting sexual and physical violence against women. The award was part of the center’s “Men Rebuilding Against Violence” outreach project in April.

**Diane Winslow** (Harry Reid Center) presented a research paper, “Mishandling Guns: Coiling; Defining Basketmaker Culture in Southern Nevada” at the 70th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, held in Salt Lake City.


**Brad Eden** (Libraries) is the author of 3D Visualization Techniques: 2D and 3D Visualization Resources, Applications, and Future (ALA TechSource, 2005). The book describes how information visualization is the next major step for the presentation of information in libraries and on the Internet.

**Andrew Nazarechuk** (Tourism & Convention Management) recently spent a month teaching at the University of Macau. He taught two condensed courses, gaming issues in Asia and convention & exhibition management. Macau is rapidly expanding its gaming, hotel, and convention facilities. In the next two to three years the city will be adding a number of new casino properties featuring more than 60,000 hotel rooms.

**Tom Bean** (Curriculum & Instruction) co-presented a research session, “Multiple Test Usage in the Content Area Classroom,” with Nancy Walker of California’s University of LaVerne and UNLV doctoral student Benita Dillard at the 50th annual convention of the International Reading Association in San Antonio.

**Isabelle Johnson** (Enrollment and Student Services) was named Classified Staff Council Employee of the Month for May in the administrative category. A four-year employee, she works as an administrative assistant II to the associate vice president of enrollment and student services. She previously served as the assistant to the director of undergraduate recruitment and worked at the front counter in the registrar’s office. She is pursuing a degree in counseling.

**Linda Blair** (Harry Reid Center) and Richard Ondorff (Eastern Washington University) presented a paper, “Cleared Circles and Enigmatic Depressions,” at the 70th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, held in Salt Lake City.

**Mary Palevsky** (Nevada State Oral History Project) received the Southwest Oral History Association’s 2005 Mink Award for outstanding contributions to the field of oral history at its annual meeting in Santa Fe in April. She also presented at the plenary session, “Human Dimensions of Nuclear Weapons Development,” and conducted an advanced writing workshop. Her essay commemorating the atomic bomb’s 60th anniversary will appear in the July/August issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

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**Submit Your Accomplishments**

E-mail entries to: inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu

Items should be no more than 75 words.

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**ACROSS CAMPUS**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

**Urban Affairs**

Faculty Members Fare Well at Speech Conference

Faculty members and graduate students in the department of communication studies made a strong showing at the Western States Speech Association conference in San Francisco.

Professor Jennifer Bevan was first author of a top-four paper in the interpersonal communication division, “General Partner and Relational Uncertainty and Topic Avoidance Between Siblings in Late Adolescence and Early Adulthood,” with graduate students Kristen Stetenbach, Eric Bosh, and Jeffrey Yeda. She also served as a co-author of “Social Networks, Reconciliation Attempts, and Quality of Alternatives in Post-Dissolutional Relationships,” with graduate students Michelle Mosbacher (first author) and Sina Foley and with K.A. Cameron of the University of Georgia.

Bevan also served as respondent for “Siblings, Siblings, and Male Friends: Relational Perceptions and Communication Behaviors,” and chaired “Negotiating the Effects of Media on Health Attitudes and Communication Behaviors,” titled “Top Four Papers in Rhetoric and Public Address,” and was a panelist on The Rhetoric of the 2004 Presidential Campaign: A Scholar’s Roundtable. Dean Martha Watson, president of the National Communication Association (NCA), served as a panelist for “How-To’s for Enhancing the Undergraduate Experience: A Visual Display of NCA Student Organizations in the West.”
Sanford Kicks Off New Era in UNLV Football

BY MARK WALLINGTON

New Rebel head football coach Mike Sanford played for the legendary John Robinson at USC in the 1970s and then coached under him with the Trojans in the early 1990s. Now the first-time head coach is succeeding none other than Robinson right here at UNLV.

But make no mistake, UNLV’s football program is now all Sanford.

Since his December hiring, Sanford has quickly and decisively overhauled everything from the coaching staff to the practice regimen to the office letterhead. At the same time, he tackled the not-so-small matter of installing a new offense, defense, and special teams system.

Today, Sanford appears no less positive about the team’s potential than the day he proclaimed his lofty goals to success-starved UNLV football followers at the press conference announcing his appointment.

“I really feel that there is an excitement and expectation around town about Rebel football,” said Sanford, who was considered by many to be one of the hottest coaching prospects in the nation while at league-rival Utah. “We’ve also had a great response from the local high school players and I’d say the recruiting year we had was indicative of that. I believe we have one of the top staffs in the nation. It is a collection of really good people who are also good teachers of the game.”

Sanford said the first order of business was to change the culture of Rebel football.

“We are developing an attitude and ethic on our team where we play hard every play. A lot of what we are doing was a shock (to the players). But it turns out there are a lot of people on this team who just want to win and are willing to do what it takes.”

Defensively, while listed as a 3-4 on the depth chart, the Rebels will show opponents a lot of different looks come fall. But it is an emerging never-take-a-play-off attitude that should most refresh fans.

“Our defense is starting to learn what we expect as far as effort, running around and flying to the ball,” he said. “We need to continue to develop that into the season.”

Sanford also brought down from Salt Lake City his innovative and wildly successful offense, officially listed as the “shotgun spread.” A head coach who will change the culture of Rebel football.

“There is an anticipation surrounding our program because an exciting spread offense is being put in place. There is an attitude of a fresh start. People saw what we did at Utah and are hoping that we can do something similar here. This is a different school and a different program, but we are taking much the same approach.”

Sanford’s Rebels will be put to the test immediately as UNLV plays four of its first five games on the road. The season opener is Sept. 3 at conference foe New Mexico.

“We are looking forward to getting started and even though we have a new offense, defense, and special teams, we have to hit the ground running if we are to win that game in Albuquerque,” Sanford said. “We don’t have the luxury of getting to ease into anything.”

Having waved off a long-range rebuilding plan since his December hiring, Sanford, after seeing his personnel in action for the first time during a month of spring practices, said his plan to elevate Rebel football remains on track.

“My expectations are very high and haven’t changed since the day I took this job. Our goals are to win the Mountain West Conference, go to a bowl game, and get ranked nationally.”

About Mike

“This train is moving down the tracks. Either you’re going to get on board or it’s going to run you over.”

— Mike Sanford, Dec. 6, 2004

Education:
BS, Physical Education, USC

Family:
Wife Melinda; daughter Lindsay, a Notre Dame grad who recently worked in Washington, D.C.; for Ohio Sen. Mike DeWine; and son Mike, a Boise State grad — and former quarterback — who this summer becomes a graduate assistant coach with the Rebels.

New head football coach Mike Sanford wants nothing less than a national ranking and a bowl-game bid for the 2005 Rebels. The former Utah coach takes over at UNLV from his former USC coach, John Robinson.

Game Time: Get the Rebels’ 2005 schedule online at unlvrebels.collegesports.com. Click on Football in the menu.

Inside UNLV Poll

Participation Winners Announced

Patience has its rewards. And, boy, have you been patient.

A few months back, Inside UNLV conducted a poll on topics such as which campus jobs are the most difficult and which of our colleagues work the hardest, and we promised prizes would be awarded to some participants.

The lucky few whose names were drawn at random have won big — we mean really big — UNLV coffee mugs, the kind you use on the days when there is no such thing as too much caffeine. The winners are:

• Sheri Beyer of the office of international students and scholars
• Melissa Closek of student life
• Ruthanne Fein of educational outreach
• Peter Hurley of student financial services
• Jennifer Personius Zipoy of research and graduate studies

Participation Winners

Inside UNLV Page 7

Smiles All Around

New graduates spy familiar faces in the crowd at the 42nd commencement ceremonies May 14 at the Thomas & Mack Center. More than 2,000 degrees were awarded this spring. Nevada residents made up 77 percent of spring graduates, with the remaining grads representing 46 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and 35 foreign nations.
THE INSIDE VIEW

Adviser Gives Students the Tools to Make Multiple Choices

BY CATE WEEKS

When you want to reach Rimi Marwah, senior adviser for University College, you might have to play a little phone tag. The busy adviser returns calls between appointments (and often after hours) because she devotes the prime hours of her day to serving students in person. And the student before her always has her full attention. She gave that same attention to inside unlv when we asked about her view from the inside of the college’s advising center.

On coming to UNLV: This was my first job out of grad school. Panic was just starting to set in when several job offers came. My adviser sat me down and pointed out that UNLV was a growing school that would probably give me many opportunities. He was right. It turned out to be the best choice I could have made.

Traits of a good counselor: I can’t remember what I had for dinner last night, but somehow I can remember the story behind the student I haven’t seen in two semesters. Students really appreciate that. They sense that they are your No. 1 priority. Once you establish that, they seem to open up to the advice you give them.

Her most difficult days: It’s really hard to see students not succeed to the potential you know they can. You know it’s not because they aren’t bright, but because external factors are interfering with their motivation. On the flip side, I also see students interfering with their motivation.

On the success of University College: The power of peer-to-peer conversations are amazing — we’ve grown so much just from students talking to each other and saying, “Hey, did you know you could do this over at University College?” It’s been the experience of a lifetime for me, personally and professionally. I mean, how amazing is it to start a college from the ground up? Of course, we’ve had our hardships along the way, but we’ve all learned so much in the process.

What you might not know about University College: Only 12 out of 124 credits required for a university studies degree are taught in the college; University College students must succeed in all the same classes that students with other majors are taking. You’d be amazed at the ways that students are integrating learning from all sorts of disciplines into their capstone projects. One student is an English and Spanish major — she’s writing a bilingual children’s book.

Interesting things she’s heard from students: One woman told me she couldn’t do well in school because she was being followed by the mob. I must say, I got a little paranoid myself after talking with her. Another student wanted to know how to become an AT&T operator.

A proud UNLV moment: After 9/11, many students of Middle Eastern and Asian backgrounds came to the advising center because they needed to vent and figure out how they should react. Because I have an Asian background, they felt I could understand cultural differences and family pressures. Some of these same students later formed the Indian Subcontinent Association for students and asked me to be their faculty representative. I was very much honored.

What surprises her after 10 years of advising: I’m still blown away by students who tell me, “Just pick a major for me.” I barely know anything about them so I’m amazed that they would ask me to make such a big decision for them. What I’ve come to realize is that it’s the voice of frustration. They’re overwhelmed and need tools to make the decision for themselves. That’s what advisers do: provide those tools for self-discovery.

Employees Get Great Deal on MS Software

UNLV employees now have easy and free access to the newest Microsoft programs. Under a new agreement the university will save about $20,000 a year and campus users will save time previously spent on purchasing paperwork.

The agreement covers Mac and PC upgrades on Word for word processing, Excel for spreadsheets, and PowerPoint for presentations. PC users can also upgrade their operating systems to Windows XP and get updates on the Access database program.

In addition to the cost savings, the new agreement will streamline the process of buying and maintaining software. Previously, departments had to purchase individual licenses using the LPO process before the office of information technology could install or upgrade software. In 2003 and 2004, purchasing and disbursements processed paperwork for more than 5,000 licenses.

“That process was cumbersome, especially in an environment where offices frequently exchanged or relocated computers,” said Lori Temple, vice provost for information technology.

The agreement makes it easier for employees to keep their software up to date both in the office and at home, Temple said. “It is easier to share documents with colleagues when everyone has the same versions. Otherwise, users can lose formatting, design features, and sometimes content.”

Keeping software current also makes it easier for the computer help desks to troubleshoot problems.

Employees who work from home can access the same software upgrades by contacting the Computing Resource Center. For $10, the center will issue a CD that allows for two installations on home computers.

Get the easy instructions for upgrading your software at facultystaffinfo.unlv.edu or call ext. 5-0777.