Inside UNLV

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Canning Spam

New system proves reliable at blocking unwanted e-mail

By Mamie Peers | IT

Tired of wading through e-mail messages offering questionable medical products or a way to get rich quick just by providing your bank account information? The office of information technology’s new spam-filtering program helps you reclaim your Lotus Notes inbox. The easy-to-use Proofpoint anti-spam software should cut the amount of time employees waste sorting through unwanted messages.

The system, which was introduced in July, is already getting rave reviews. When budget officer Georgia Stergios came back from 10 days off in August, she didn’t need to delete the 79 spam messages sent to her; Proofpoint managed it for her. “My inbox is so much easier to approach in the morning,” Stergios said. “No more messages from bogus Pay Pal, Target, or Citizens Bank senders.”

Understanding The Digest

Proofpoint rates messages based on the likelihood that the message is spam. The original subject lines of these messages are preceded by a percentage rating such as “100% spam...” You can then set your preference to quarantine messages tagged as spam and manage the system using the spam digest, which is sent periodically via e-mail.

All Lotus Notes users by default receive the digest, but this doesn’t mean that spam is being blocked from your inbox. You will continue to receive the digest as well as the individual messages until you request that the system block unwanted messages.

To block spam, follow the instructions at ccs.unlv.edu.

Once you’ve told the system to block spam, scan your inbox regularly to ensure that Proofpoint has not quarantined a message you want to read. Messages in quarantine are automatically deleted after eight days. Click “release” if you want the message taken out of quarantine.

You can also designate that the sender of a message be added to your “safe list” so future messages are automatically released to your inbox. Proofpoint features also let you block specific domain names and e-mail addresses. This is handy when you’ve subscribed to an e-mail list you no longer want to receive.

More Info: Learn how to manage your spam through Proofpoint at ccs.unlv.edu or attend the Computing Resource Center’s spam seminars in the third week of September. The schedule for the 30-minute sessions is posted on the site above.

Free shuttle connects campus and lots

By Cape Weeks | Marketing & PR

The thought of finding a parking spot the first few weeks of school is enough to send shivers down any employee’s spine, even on a hot August day. This year, though, staff and students can hop on free air-conditioned shuttles to get from their cars to convenient drop points around campus.

“The Ride” shuttle program, a joint effort by CSUN and UNLV parking services, was introduced Aug. 22 and is a vital part of the university’s strategy for addressing parking needs as enrollments soar and major new buildings take shape.

“UNLV is becoming like many major urban universities, where parking is pushed away from the core to perimeter lots,” said Ted McDowell, director of parking services. “Our growth is only going to accelerate the trend away from door-to-door transportation services. ‘The Ride’ is designed to meet that need.”

‘The Ride’ Shuttle Pilot Program

UNLV/CSUN’s shuttle program features 21-passenger buses on two routes.

Main Campus Route: These shuttles wind through the Thomas & Mack lots and then circle the campus clockwise entering the interior along key access roads. Pickups are scheduled approximately every 8-10 minutes, but may vary depending on weather and traffic conditions.

Thomas & Mack Express: This shuttle circulates through the Thomas & Mack parking lots, dropping riders off near the Student Services Complex. It takes approximately four minutes to circle the lots.

Hours: Through Sept. 16, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays. Starting Sept. 19, 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fridays. Service is year-round, but on an abbreviated schedule during semester breaks.

Bus Details: The 21-passenger shuttles are air-conditioned and marked with university logos. All are equipped with wheelchair lifts.

Get more details and view a map of the shuttle route at parking.unlv.edu/shuttle.

Get Connected

And help welcome students to campus just as these folks did last year. Rebel Connection, the event designed to welcome and orient students to campus, continues through Aug. 31. On Aug. 29 you can listen to live music at the 11 a.m. Rebel Welcome at the Alumni Amphitheatre or attend the Comedy Lounge at 8 p.m. in the MSU ballroom. The final event will be the annual Premier UNLV celebration at 5 p.m. Aug. 31 on North Field. There will be fireworks and the traditional lighted formation of the name UNLV.
By Carol C. Harter
UNLV President
The start of a new academic year is always exciting as we welcome new and returning students to campus, engage in new programs and research projects, and celebrate our shared school spirit with a host of events. But this year finds us at a particularly interesting moment in the life of the university, with great transformation and opportunity on the horizon.

Following approval by the Board of Regents over the past year, a number of key degree programs will be offered this fall — including the Ph.D. in chemistry, doctor of physical therapy, master of public health, and master of science in aerospace engineering. The addition of these programs and others will help UNLV continue to grow, both in diversity of academic offerings and in research opportunities to address issues and in research opportunities to address issues and in research opportunities to address issues and in research opportunities to address issues and in research opportunities to address issues and in research opportunities to address issues and in research opportunities to address issues.

Transformational projects will take greater shape this year. For example, the Clark County public works department has begun a comprehensive study of traffic patterns surrounding the university as part of the Midtown UNLV initiative. This effort will be followed later in the year by a form of active traffic testing to assess the impact of potentially narrowing Maryland Parkway. Campus forums focusing on the Midtown UNLV initiative are also in the planning stages, with more information to come soon.

When we talk about transformation and progress at the university, we can usually all agree that the single greatest impediment to reaching our goals is money — having the resources to realize our plans. As we all can attest, our future at UNLV is limitless — and will doubtlessly be filled with amazing discovery, strong economic and social development, and the achievements of our students.

The campaign is an ambitious effort to expand private support at every level of the university — for scholarships and student-centered opportunities, for endowed professorships and faculty development, for special programs, new equipment, and even buildings. This support can help catapult UNLV to new levels of excellence, and strengthen our role as a community resource.

Your leadership as members of the UNLV community will be crucial in helping us bring this campaign to fruition, as it is to all of the transformative efforts occurring on campus. As university ambassadors in the community, all of us play a part in making the Midtown UNLV initiative a success. Please join us for the state of the university address on Sept. 15 as we celebrate our vibrant past and look toward an exciting future together.

From The President

New Year, New Challenges at UNLV

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

Add this to your back-to-school to-do’s: Verify the information listed for you in the Employee Query and Update System (EQUUS), also sometimes called the Employee Self Serve system.

This online database contains your personal contact information, including work and home addresses, pay rate, tax withholding information, and tenure status. If the contact information listed in EQUUS is wrong, it will be wrong in both the printed and online employee directories.

The deadline for changes to be made in time for this year’s printed directory is Sept. 9.

A common misnomer on campus is that individual contact information for the directory is automatically updated when, for example, an employee changes offices on campus. Employees must notify human resources of changes either through EQUUS or by filling out the personal data sheet available from the human resources office. “We hope that every employee will double-check their directory information as the semester gets under way,” said Matt Garland, salary administration manager, noting that many employees aren’t aware of EQUUS’ other features.

What Else EQUUS Can Do

New Direct Deposit Service. This fall pay-roll and benefit services is adding a new direct deposit screen. Employees can sign up or change their account information themselves. The program will also expand so that users can direct their pay to several accounts at once. Once you return from a leave of absence, you can just click “no” in the “Use alternate address” field and mail will be sent to your main address.

Lost Your Pay Stub? Print copies of past pay information (pay stubs) and W2 forms from EQUUS. This feature is frequently used around tax time and when employees are applying for mortgage loans.

What You Can’t Do

No, you can’t give yourself a raise. Areas on EQUUS that can’t be changed by users are indicated as “inquiry” services. This includes such items as hire date, tax withholdings, and job title. That last one is somewhat misleading and actually refers to your classification (i.e. “manager” or “director”) rather than your exact title.

You also can’t add or change your own degree information, which includes verification. Human resources will verify this information once you provide the appropriate college transcripts. If the information in an inquiry screen is incorrect, call human resources at ext. 5-3504.

The Inside Guide to Managing Your Employee Information

Update your campus directory information by Sept. 9

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

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By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Thirty years and still going strong. Back in 1976, UNLV’s Performing Arts Center, which celebrates its 30th season this academic year, was one of the few places in town where patrons could see something other than Strip-style entertainment.

But that year Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall opened its doors. It, along with Judy Bayley Theatre, which opened in 1972, was the nucleus of what would become the Performing Arts Center.

Over the years, the two facilities have been host to a variety of performances — some traditionally classical, some not — ranging from plays starring students to performances by violinist Itzhak Perlman, cellists Yo-Yo Ma, the amazing National Acrabats of Taiwan, and the comedic Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

30th Season

And, as the PAC begins its 30th season, titled “Our Greatest Performances,” things show no signs of slowing down.

Concerts by such diverse groups as the Russian National Orchestra and Rockapella will be complemented by performances by the Ailey II dance troupe and by Broadway (and Cheers) star Bebe Neuwirth.

On top of that, the College of Fine Arts will present plays ranging from the musical Camelot!; to the Scopes monkkey trial play, Inherit the Wind; and Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream in the Bayley.

As those who don’t include performances slated for the PAC’s Black Box Theatre or the College of Fine Arts’ Doc Rando Recital Hall or intimate Paul Harney Theatre.

Audiences can expect such diversity and volume of programming to continue as the PAC enters its fourth decade while still a high school student.

Henley agreed, asking, “What more will be the enticement for ticket sales?… Not the same night would be foolish.

Henley often travels to other cities and takes note of the arts offerings available there. Las Vegas and UNLV hold up well in comparison, he said. “This is such an exciting time to be here. The arts at UNLV are just on the brink of a potential that is vast,” said Henley, whose first connection to the PAC came when he was a UNLV undergraduate and performed in a production of The Three Penny Opera. “We are going to be an incredible artistic resource for Southern Nevada in the years to come, just as we have been for the past 30 years.”

The PAC’s development will continue to be fueled by growth in the College of Fine Arts, said dean Jeff Koep, who also oversees the PAC. “Our college has nearly tripled its enrollment in the last 10 years,” he said. “I believe it will continue to grow, which automatically means an increase in the arts at UNLV. I’m particularly excited about one facet of the arts that is relatively new to UNLV — entertainment engineering.”

Entertainment engineering is, as just it sounds, a melding of two distinctly different disciplines, Koep said. “We see entertainment engineering used all along the Strip, whether it’s in a Cirque du Soleil performance or the dancing waters at the Bellagio.”

UNLV, Koep said, is in a unique position to be a leader in this relatively new field. “Not too many universities have launched entertainment engineering programs,” he said. “And the Strip will provide our students the best technical laboratory in the world.”

Currently, UNLV, through both the College of Fine Arts and the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering, offers a minor in entertainment engineering. Koep predicted that a major in the field will be available by the end of this academic year.

New Competition?

Both Koep and Henley agree that plans for a new multimillion-dollar performing arts venue downtown will not hamper the PAC’s continued development. “I know that Southern Nevada is large enough to support more than one successful performing arts center, ” Koep said, adding that the other center’s mission may be somewhat different from that of the PAC. “For instance, if it brings in Broadway road shows for somewhat lengthy runs, that’s different from anything we’re doing.”

As more art — be it theater, dance, music, or visual art — is available in Southern Nevada, the appetite for such offerings will only grow, Henley predicted. “I think the patron is going to be the winner,” he said, adding that with multiple performing arts centers, fans will be able to indulge their tastes more often.

“It will be important for the two centers to coordinate their schedules somewhat,” Henley said, pointing out that for both centers to present a major symphony orchestra on the same night would be foolish.

Concert Hall Improvements

Continuing a successful arts program at UNLV, however, requires improving its performance venues. Lori James, director of finance and guest relations, has witnessed the PAC’s development since 1980 when she first worked there as an usher while still a high school student. “We’ve had a couple of major renovations to Ham Concert Hall, beginning with the redecoration of the lobby in 1999. That changed the entire atmosphere in the lobby and made it a much more inviting place.

“We’re expecting a similar positive reaction to our latest change in the concert hall; just last month we installed new, more comfortable seats in a lush Rebel red.”

Koep said he does not believe that UNLV’s emphasis on expanding its research programs bodies ill for its arts programs. “Some of the traditional research institutions such as UCLA and Michigan also have tremendous arts programs,” he said.

Henley agreed, adding, “What great research university doesn’t have great performing arts? Look at the websites of the great research universities and you’ll find the arts well represented there.

“Besides, without the arts, you don’t have well-rounded students — or a well-rounded community.”
**New Faces**

**Stories by Erin O'Donnell | Marketing & PR**

**BUSINESS**

**Wenli Wang**

Computers and fine arts sound like polar opposite fields of study, but not for Wenli Wang. In fact, there’s an interdisciplinary aspect to nearly every stream of research she pursues.

“One of my research interests is information technology and performing arts, and Las Vegas is definitely the top site for my field studies,” said Wang, an assistant visiting professor of management information systems. She comes to UNLV from Emory University in Atlanta, where she spent five years as an assistant professor in decision and information analysis at Goizueta Business School.

Wang doesn’t see using a computer as the antithesis of physical activity. Rather, she invests how people can use technology to understand their own bodies and their physical movements for mind-body fitness.

Economics is also central to Wang’s work. Her past research has focused on the design of online auctions such as eBay, particularly how introducing fixed prices can benefit both sellers and buyers in auctions.

Although Las Vegas’ rich scope of arts and entertainment played a part in her decision to come to UNLV, Wang said the MIS program itself was the biggest factor. “It is the warmth, care, and research quality of the faculty members that attracted me the most.”

**ECONOMICS**

**Manuela Dokie**

“After 30 years teaching acting and directing, I took a 15-year sabbatical in the movie industry,” said Benedetti, who was born and raised in Italy. He worked with major studios in Los Angeles, Britain, and France, and served as executive producer of Evers Boys, a 1999 acclaimed HBO movie. He’s also directed Street Blues, a 1984 television movie that starred James Earl Jones and earned him a nomination for an Emmy Award.

The Arts and Sciences Dean’s Challenge Fund was launched to meet the needs of the College of Fine Arts where Benedetti was dean for 13 years. “It is the warmth, care, and relationship with the Nevada community that made enough money to return to Italy to move around the United States and Europe,” Benedetti said. “After 30 years teaching acting and directing, I took a 15-year sabbatical in the movie industry,” said Benedetti, who was born and raised in Italy. He worked with major studios in Los Angeles, Britain, and France, and served as executive producer of Evers Boys, a 1999 acclaimed HBO movie. He’s also directed Street Blues, a 1984 television movie that starred James Earl Jones and earned him a nomination for an Emmy Award.

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momentum as a research institution. “I want to be part of the growth and cutting-edge environment that the UNLV research community and administrators have accomplished over the past few years,” Doeke said. “UNLV provided me the opportunity to join an excellent team of research administrators who share the same passion for the work we do.”

She joins a three-person team of senior research administrators. It’s their job to help faculty members submit proposals for externally funded projects, including those for research, education, and training.

After an award is made, they may also negotiate contracts and provide support by submitting modifications, extensions, and renewals through the life of a project.

HEALTH SCIENCES

Chad Cross

Chad Cross might be new to the UNLV faculty, but he’s no stranger to campus. Cross has been a statistician in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s office at UNLV since 1999. “My intention had always been to return to academia full time after working with the federal government for a few years,” said Cross, director of the epidemiology & biostatistics program. “When this faculty position in the School of Public Health became available, I became excited about the potential of the school and working with the faculty within it.”

His goals include beginning a rigorous public health research program to attract top graduate students and making the School of Public Health the state’s premier research program. Cross never truly left the classroom, however, whether as a student or a teacher. His long and varied resume includes teaching positions at four other universities, and he taught part-time in UNLV’s environmental studies department while at the EPA. He has five degrees spanning research interests from applied statistics to wildlife studies and even counseling.

“I decided to take a few classes in counseling to become a better teacher,” he said. “I discovered that I really enjoyed the program, and so I pursued and completed a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy. The training has opened up completely new areas of research interest for me, such as substance abuse and trauma.”

LIBRARIES

Amiey Johnson

As an employee of the Las Vegas Clark County Library District, Amy Johnson opened the world of books to young readers. Now she wants to show teachers how to spark a lifelong love of reading.

Johnson came to UNLV this year as a library technician in the curriculum and materials library. Her primary role is to hire, train, and supervise student workers. She’s also pursuing a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in children’s literature. She plans eventually to teach the subject at the college level.

“Libraries, especially the children’s department, are the perfect combination of working with kids and helping them love the literature,” Johnson said.

Although she earned a bachelor’s degree in education, Johnson didn’t go straight into teaching. She became a nanny for a while and even cared for singer Marie Osmond’s children. Johnson also worked in a few bookstores before landing in library work.

At the library district, Johnson started in school outreach, visiting campuses to share the library’s resources with children. (Her top three children’s book recommendations: Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems, Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes, and Strega Nona by Tomie dePaola.) She spent another couple of years at the Henderson District Public Libraries as a teen specialist before coming to UNLV.

In just the short time she’s been here, Johnson said, her experience of working on campus has been overwhelmingly positive. “It’s so refreshing when you’re working hard in your job and also working hard in your education, to have people understand that.”

HONORS

Maria Jerinic

From New York City to rural New Mexico, Maria Jerinic has always sought out the chance to work with honors students. “I like the intellectual climate,” said Jerinic, a visiting assistant professor in the Honors College. “I like to foster a love of learning for the sake of learning.”

Jerinic will teach three sections of English for honors students — a truly interdisciplinary bunch. She said she enjoys helping advanced students make connections outside of their academic or research niches because she knows it can be difficult for them to find each other at a large university.

It can also be a challenge to convince future scientists and researchers that they need good communication skills as much as the liberal arts majors do.

“I tell my students that they all need to learn to read well and communicate themselves,” Jerinic said. “It may seem like you’re just studying a short story, but you’re also developing critical thinking skills.”

Jerinic taught part time in the English department before receiving the full-time honors appointment this year. She came to Las Vegas a few years ago when her husband, Michael Pravica, joined UNLV as an assistant professor of physics. Both had previously taught at New Mexico Highlands University.

HOTEL

Tyra Hilliard

Meeting and event planning was Tyra Hilliard’s first career. Now, as an associate professor of tourism and convention administration at UNLV, she’s helping others learn about this booming business. But in between, she took a detour into law.

Hilliard started out planning meetings and working in convention and visitors bureaus. Law school came next, but then so did something unexpected.

While she was practicing law in Atlanta, she had an opportunity to teach a hospitality law class at Georgia State University, the school from which she had earned her law degree. “I realized then that I enjoyed teaching more than anything else I was doing, so I made the move into full-time academia.”

At Georgia State her department chair suggested she would have a lot in common with a previous chair — Patti Shock, now chair of UNLV’s department of tourism and convention administration.

Hilliard went on to other academic posts, most recently at George Washington University, where she was an assistant professor and director of the International Institute of Tourism Studies. But she stayed in touch with Shock, and when the opportunity to come to Las Vegas arose, she jumped at it.

“The idea of working with her and the other faculty in a program of this caliber was an opportunity I just couldn’t pass up,” Hilliard said.

“The meetings industry is a relatively young field. My goal at UNLV is to help the industry develop, grow, and mature through teaching, service, and research.”

The move to Las Vegas was a family affair. Hilliard’s husband, Phil, also is starting a new job as manager of prospect research for the UNLV Foundation.

LAW

Elaine Shoben

A pioneer in legal education, Shoben has joined the faculty of the Boyd School of Law. Elaine Shoben was the first woman to serve as editor-in-chief of the law review at Hastings College of the Law, and she was among the first significant wave of women to enter law teaching.

“She was practicing law in Atlanta, she had an opportunity to teach a hospitality law class at Georgia State University, the school from which she had earned her law degree. “I realized then that I enjoyed teaching more than anything else I was doing, so I made the move into full-time academia.”

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short a time,” she said. “I remember expressing skepticism that the small group who started the school got it up and running as quickly as they planned, but they did exactly that. Now, just a few years later, the school is attracting considerable attention for its success.”

**New Faces**

**PUBLIC SAFETY**
**Bruce Taylor**

While training at a California police academy for his job with the Riverside County sheriff’s department, Bruce Taylor was struck by the assignment of a fellow trainee. He worked not for a local government, but for the University of California, Riverside.

“That sounded interesting. I thought I would like it,” he said.

Taylor spent three years with the sheriff’s department, then he and his wife started thinking about training at a university. He joined UNLV in July.

“My wife and I were ready to live in a warmer place — guess we found it, huh?”

**SCIENCES**
**Daniel Proga**

In popular culture, “black hole” has become synonymous with oblivion. But a handful of researchers have learned that the intense energy created at the lip of a real black hole can actually push matter away.

Proga spent the last year as a researcher at Princeton University. UNLV’s physics program already has an excellent reputation, Proga said, and it’s helping them learn more about efficient forms of energy.

**Daniel Proga, a new assistant professor of physics at UNLV, helped develop the black hole wind theory in 2000 as a National Research Council fellow at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. The theory showed that gas gets extremely hot as it circles the dying of the black hole’s event horizon in an ever-tightening orbit, finally disappearing in a blast of energy called accretion of materials.**

“**The most energetic systems known to humans are things like quasars and centers of galaxies, and they’re all powered by accretion,**” Proga said. “**It’s the most efficient way to produce radiation.**”

**President Carol C. Harter**

*Invites the Campus Community to Attend the Annual State of the University Address*

Thursday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.
Cox Pavilion
Reception Immediately Following

**LIBERAL ARTS**
**Mark Ashcraft**

How do we do math — and why does it make so many of us break out in a sweat? That’s the problem Mark Ashcraft is trying to solve.

UNLV’s new chair of psychology specializes in the study of mathematical cognition: how people learn math, how they do it in their heads, and why so many have trouble with it.

“With schoolchildren in the U.S. showing very mediocre mastery of the math and science curriculum, I think it’s important for us to understand as much as possible about how people do math,” Ashcraft said. “It would also be tremendous if we could discover the kinds of unfortunate experiences that set the stage for math anxiety, since it can impact so many people.”

Ashcraft comes to UNLV after 30 years as a professor and department chair at Cleveland State University in Ohio. He’s looking forward to further developing his department’s two young Ph.D. programs in clinical and experimental psychology.

Las Vegas’ warm climate was alluring, too, after Cleveland endured its snowiest winter ever last year. But as temps here topped 110 for weeks in July, Ashcraft reflected on the trade he’d made:

“**I perked up my ears at orientation when I heard about that benefit.**”

**PURCHASING**
**Anthony Nicollera**

If you ask Anthony Nicollera, a college campus is somewhat like a military base. They both cater to young people, as students or recruits. They have their own missions of classrooms, dining commons, dorms, and sports fields.

- **Attitudes may be a little bit different, but over all there are more similarities than differences between the two,** said Nicollera, new contract administrator for UNLV’s purchasing and contracts department.

Nicollera recently retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel after 21 years in the U.S. Army. His last post was Fort Irwin, Calif., where he was acquisition commander for the National Training Center. He also served as the Army liaison officer to the C-17 program at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and contracting officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency in Huntsville, Ala.

At UNLV, he’s responsible for preparing complex bids and requests for proposals for goods, services, and construction projects. It’s also his job to make sure the university’s contracts comply with legal and insurance requirements and university policies, and to resolve any disputes with vendors.

Nicollera said his transition to civilian and university life has been a smooth one. But he will always cherish his two-plus decades in the Army.

“I met a lot of wonderful people and got a chance to travel all around the United States and Europe,” he said. “It was definitely a great experience for my family and me. It made me who I am today.”

**URBAN AFFAIRS**
**JoAnn Kittrell**

JoAnn Kittrell has a lot to be excited about.

First, said the new director of membership services and underwriting for the Las Vegas Market, Kittrell has a lot to be excited about.

“I want to continue to do research and I’m keen on starting teaching,” said Proga, a native of Poland. “I want to look forward to helping grow this invaluable community service that UNLV provides.”

**Algerian Hart**

“IT’s hard to imagine Algerian Hart ever runs out of enthusiasm. Part coach, part motivational speaker, and ever an educator, he peppers his language easily with words like “ecstatic” and “champion.”

“I want to help create an environment that fosters value in diversity, student success and empowerment, and discipline in scholarship,” Hart said about his new position as an assistant professor in University College.

Diversity is a focus for Hart, who comes from Seattle Pacific University. “I was attracted by the opportunity to better my career, and by the value and priority given to diversity at UNLV,” he said, adding that the climate was especially inviting after a decade in the Pacific Northwest.

In addition to teaching and coaching track and field, Hart was also active in community outreach programs in the Seattle area that promoted diversity and tolerance. He was executive director of Game Time, a nonprofit group founded by former pro football player Derek Sparks that helps young people overcome social problems to achieve their goals.

Coming to UNLV means overcoming a bit of lingering rivalry for this former college athlete. “I am very ecstatic to be a part of the Runnin’ Rebel family, although I was a staunch enemy as a student-athlete of Long Beach State during the good old Big West Conference days,” Hart said.
space available last fall, will be off-set by unused parking, primarily in the Thomas & Mack lots.

"The good news peak parking times last fall, we had more than 3,200 empty spots around campus," McDowell said. "The peak congestion period was from about 4-6 p.m., and more than 600 spaces will be empty at any given time this fall.

CSUN purchased the fleet of five new shuttle vans for $285,000. Former CSUN President Henry Schuck originated the plan for the new shuttle service, and the UNLV administration has since worked together on the operations plan. Annual operating costs of about $350,000 will be funded through institutional and general improvement fee funds as well as other nonstate funds.

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Summer on Campus

Summer at UNLV is anything but dull. In addition to the usual classes, there are a variety of special events. Two of those this summer were events for high school students, the Las Vegas Music Festival (above and right) and the Summer Advanced Gifted Education (SAGE) Academy (bottom photos). The music festival drew 120 students from around the world to the UNLV campus for two weeks in August. Professional musicians from the Julliard School, the Eastman School of Music, and the New York Philharmonic worked with the lucky teens. SAGE, sponsored by the Honors College and the Division of Educational Outreach, brought 31 of Clark County’s most gifted high school students to campus for three weeks. The students participated in three courses, creative writing, international relations, and Shakespeare’s stage.

Maggie Dwyer of Denton, Texas, puts in some practice time at the Las Vegas Music Festival.

Legislature

Continued from Page 3

state-of-the-art facility for the faculty and students who are part of the college, she said.

Student Services Addition

Another project that UNLV officials were thrilled to receive funding for was the addition to the Student Service Building, Turner said. That project, which had been on the capital improvement funding request list for nearly a decade, received $9 million. UNLV has committed to providing another $1 million toward the $10 million project, Bomotti said.

Funding in the amount of $15.8 million was allocated for additional construction costs associated with the Science, Engineering and Technology Building. Additionally, the Legislature agreed to consider awarding another $14 million to the project during the 2007 session to cover furniture, fixtures, and equipment, he said.

“Another legislative decision that is very positive for UNLV is one allowing us to use state funds for the lease-purchase of facilities — something that has not been possible in the past,” Bomotti said. “This may prove particularly useful to the university as it pursues the Midtown UNLV project.”

Other Successes

Other important successes at the Legislature, according to Turner and Bomotti, included:

> Employee raises — Employees received a 2 percent cost of living raise July 1 and will receive a 4 percent cost of living raise July 1, 2006. “I think this shows our legislators’ appreciation of state employees,” Turner said.
> Grant funding — Changes will allow UNLV to keep more of the indirect cost recovery funds associated with federal grants. Before the Legislature acted, UNLV was allowed to keep only 75 percent of those funds. Beginning in fiscal year 2006, universities will be allowed to keep about 94 percent. That number drops to 92 percent in fiscal year 2007. However, Bomotti said, the expectation is that it will increase to 100 percent in fiscal year 2008 and then remain at that level.
> Dental School — Lawmakers allocated more than $3.6 million, which, when combined with tuition and fee revenues, will fund the addition of the fourth year of students to the dental program, bringing it to its full enrollment of 300 students.
> Nursing programs — More than $175,200 will help fund the cost of summer classes for nursing students at UNLV. “This is tied into the state’s continuing efforts to ease the nursing shortage here in Nevada,” Turner said. The Legislature also allocated $771,497 to fund a Ph.D. nursing program. Currently, it is difficult to find enough qualified professors to teach nursing students, she said, explaining that this program is intended to help rectify that situation. Although the 2007 Legislature will not convene for another 17 months, Turner said it’s not too soon for her and other system lobbyists to begin preparing.

“I am really looking forward to continuing to work with our UNLV and NSHE legislative teams and with Nevada’s lawmakers between now and the next session,” she said. “And, as quickly as things move, February 2007 will be here in the blink of an eye.”