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Inside UNLV

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Inside UNLV

News & Information for UNLV Insiders **SEPTEMBER 2005**



Encore!
The PAC celebrates 30 years with performances by groups such as Black Watch. **Page 3**

TECH SAVVY

Canning Spam

New system proves reliable at blocking unwanted e-mail

By Mamie Peers | OIT

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 preferences 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 digest 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 a 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-minutes sessions is posted on the site above.



Charles Leetch is among the four full-time drivers for UNLV/CSUN's new parking shuttle service.

Get Taken for a Ride


Free shuttle connects campus and lots

By Cate 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 Tad McDowell, director of parking services. "Our growth is only going to accelerate the trend away from door-



'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.

front lots to a greater reliance on perimeter parking."

This summer, construction of the new student union, the new recreation center, and the Science, Engineering and Technology Building cut into some favorite lots

off Maryland Parkway and behind Beam Engineering. At the same time, a new lot was built off Naples Street near the Campus Services Building. The net loss of about 1,100 spaces, or just under 9 percent of the total

> See Ride, Page 7



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. 30 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.

New Year, New Challenges at 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 affecting our community and our state.

Several new units coming on line are also transformational, designed to deepen and strengthen our partnerships with community, as well as with other agencies. These include our School of Public Health; the Center for Health Disparities Research, started with a \$1.23 million grant from the National Institutes of Health; the Public Lands Institute, dedicated to protection, conservation, and management of natural and cultural resources; and the Center for Excellence in Women’s Health, started with a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

If you’ve been away from campus for any length of time this summer, you’ve probably also noticed that the physical signs of transformation are everywhere. The telltale construction fencing and earth-moving equipment, as well as omnipresent orange traffic cones (which some have joked ought to be our state symbol in Nevada), herald the development of some eagerly anticipated new facilities.

The new student union, student recreation center, and Science, Engineering and Technology Building currently under construction will not only physically transform campus, but will also help to enrich campus life and opportunities for learning, discovery, and community engagement. Progress never comes without some pain, however, so we hope that you will be patient and understanding of some interruptions to typical campus walking and parking routes.

Other 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 some 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 most accomplished, brightest students seeking out their world-class education right here on our campus. We are already well on the way to attaining this dream — but the vision to get there extends beyond what state support can provide.

On Sept. 15 at the annual state of the university address, we will formally announce the public launch of UNLV’s first-ever comprehensive campaign. Many of you have been involved in the preliminary planning and cornerstone gift phase of the campaign over the past four years, and we are deeply appreciative of your efforts.

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 a new level of excellence, and strengthen our role as a community resource.

Your leadership as members of the UNLV community will be critical to the success of this campaign, 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 the effort — but I hope you will take this occasion to find new ways to get involved. 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.



Classified Information

Barbara “Bobbie” Betts, an administrative assistant in the history department, listens to a presentation during the classified staff retreat that took place in the Tam Alumni Center during the summer.

FOR THE RECORD

The *Inside* Guide to Managing Your Employee Information

Update your campus directory information by Sept. 9

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 misconception 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 payroll services is adding a direct deposit screen so users can sign up or change their account information themselves. The program will also expand so that users can direct their pay to several accounts through EQUUS. “This service makes it very easy for employees to sign up for direct deposit from their home or office computers,” said Debbie Jones, associate controller.

Hate Your Given Name? If those on campus know you by a nickname, you can enter that on the personal information screen. Just note that the



Getting Into the EQUUS System

To log into the system, find the EQUUS “quicklink” at facultystaffinfo.unlv.edu. You’ll need two key pieces of information to access your information — your employee ID and PIN numbers. Your employee ID number is printed on your paycheck stub and available from your department’s administrative assistant. If you cannot remember your PIN, call human resources at ext. 5-3504 to have it reset.

nickname will replace the first name in the directory, so don’t enter the term of endearment your significant other calls you.

Add Your Cell Phone. The office information screen has a field for your cell phone. This will not be printed in the directory but will be available to your department’s administrative assistants should they need to track you down.

Going on Sabbatical? The alternate address screen is handy for faculty on sabbatical or who leave for the summer. Once you return from afar, 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 W-2 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 “inquiries” and include pay rate, 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 requires verification. Human resources will update 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.

Inside UNLV

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Inside UNLV welcomes comments and suggestions. Please e-mail inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu or drop a note to *Inside UNLV* at mail code 1024.

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Legislature Comes Through on Many UNLV Funding Priorities

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Substantial construction funding, raises for employees, and a provision allowing universities to hold on to more of their research dollars were among the items that made the 2005 legislative session a successful one for higher education in Nevada, according to the university's chief lobbyist.

Marcia Turner, UNLV's director of governmental relations, said several items stand out as important victories for UNLV and for the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE).

"Receiving legislative support for capital improvement funding has to be considered the

highlight of this session as far as UNLV is concerned," Turner said.

Record Funding

"With Chancellor (Jim) Rogers leading the charge and tremendous support from the governor and Nevada legislators, the NSHE was able to secure a record level of capital improvement funding for programs throughout the system," Turner said.

A total of \$91.8 million will be spent on capital improvement projects at UNLV this fiscal year and next, said Gerry Bomotti, vice president for finance and business. The Legislature allocated \$63.9 million, which includes repair and maintenance

funding, from state capital improvement funds. The remainder will come from funds generated by UNLV, Bomotti said, adding that much of the money is the direct result of President Carol C. Harter's successful fundraising efforts.

Among the UNLV projects to receive funding were Greenspun Hall, which will be home to the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. The Legislature supported this project with an allocation of just under \$34 million for the project, which will be combined with a generous donation of more than \$26 million from the Greenspun family, Turner said. This partnership will help ensure a

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THE REBEL LIFE

Bravo! Encore! Encore!

PAC celebrates 30th anniversary

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, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the amazing National Acrobats of Taiwan, and the comedic Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.



Ballet Flamenco Jose Porcel will perform Sept. 28 as part of the Performing Art Center's season of "Our Greatest Performances."

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 *Carnival!*; to the Scopes "monkey trial" play, *Inherit the Wind*; and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Bayley.

And those lists 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 Harris Theatre.

Audiences can expect such diversity and volume of programming to continue as the PAC enters its fourth decade, say those most closely associated with its operation.

Continued Growth

"As both our campus and our city continue to grow, you will also see continuing growth in the arts at UNLV," said Larry Henley, director of artistic programming and production. "Just think about the changes that are going on both on and off campus. The Las Vegas we see today is not the Las Vegas we will see in another 10 or 20 years. Our city is just starting to look like it will later this century."

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 Threepenny 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, just as 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 bodes 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, asking, "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."

Ticket Information: UNLV faculty/staff get ticket discounts. Call ext. 5-2787 or go to **unlvtickets.com**.

Editor’s Note:

Here, in place of the usual “Across Campus” section, we’re presenting “New Faces,” profiles of a random sampling of some of UNLV’s newest employees. As the new academic year begins, take a minute to learn about some of your new coworkers. “Across Campus” will return next month.



BUSINESS
Wenli Wang

Computers and fine arts sound like polar opposite fields of study, but not to 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 investigates 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.”

EDUCATION
Kathleen Krach

Kathleen Krach spent two years working as a school psychologist in the Atlanta area after completing her doctoral degree at Texas A&M in 2003. Now, she is embarking on her teaching career as an assistant professor of school psychology at UNLV. Among her major areas of interest and research are bilingual education and working with children from multicultural backgrounds.

“A school psychologist who works with bilingual or multicultural children needs to understand the impacts that diverse backgrounds and previous educational experiences from other countries have on academic and social behavior,” she said.



“This includes researching educational systems from other countries, understanding common traditions, and being aware of cultural attitudes toward psychology, education, and medicine.”

This year Krach will supervise school psychology students who work in both clinical and school-based settings conducting psycho-educational assessments.

She said she was attracted to UNLV for her first faculty position by the rapidly growing size and reputation of the educational psychology department. “All of the current faculty members in this department are excellent researchers and are working with me to develop a comprehensive research agenda,” she said. “Also, the College of Education has a strong relationship with the local school district, providing great research opportunities.”

ENGINEERING
Daniel Cook

Engineering has traditionally been the realm of those who build bridges and rockets. Today that list has grown to include roller coasters, sports venues, and increasingly complex Las Vegas attractions, and UNLV is positioning itself to be at the forefront of the new wave.

To that end, this year the College of Engineering has hired its first faculty member dedicated to the field of entertainment engineering and design. Assistant professor Dan Cook comes to UNLV from Virginia Commonwealth University where he taught joint classes in mechanical engineering and sculpture.

“Artists need to be more technical and engineers need to be more creative to be successful these days,” Cook said. “That’s what I want to teach my students.”

The university has been offering courses in entertainment engineering for a few years. It will be Cook’s job to further develop the program, an interdisciplinary effort between engineering and the College of Fine Arts that will focus on technologies aimed at the entertainment industry. Graduates could be responsible for the next breathtaking effects in Cirque du Soleil shows or the latest theme-park rides that combine elements such as motion simulators and animatronics.

Cook’s background is in metallurgical engineering and materials science and engineering. He has also held postdoctoral positions at the University



of Grenoble in France and the University of Greenwich in England. Before joining Virginia Commonwealth, he worked for Reynolds Metals Co. in Virginia.

FOUNDATION
Phil Hilliard

Development officers for the UNLV Foundation have a new resource in their quest to identify potential donors to the university.

Phil Hilliard joins the foundation this year as manager of prospect research. It’s his job to investigate the interests of corporations, foundations, and individuals and determine their potential for giving to UNLV. Since 1995, the UNLV Foundation has raised more than \$214 million for the university.

He comes to Las Vegas from Washington, D.C., where he worked for a nonprofit organization that did research for the Department of Homeland Security. “My focus was on researching vulnerabilities and threats to the nation’s critical infrastructures such as agriculture, transportation, and banking.”

That may sound like a long way from university fundraising. But with homeland security, his research specialty was telecommunications and information technology, giving him a firm grasp of electronic research methods that will be useful. And Hilliard said he’s well-versed in resources available to help the development staff target its fundraising efforts where they can be most productive.

“The energy and optimism of UNLV and the UNLV Foundation were very appealing,” Hilliard said.

Hilliard’s wife, Tyra, also starts a new position with UNLV this fall as associate professor of tourism and convention administration.



GRADUATE
Manuela Dokie

After living “all over the world” for 25 years, Manuela Dokie is ready to stay put for a while.

Originally from Germany, Dokie married a military man and also worked for the U.S. Army. Their last

stop was El Paso, where Dokie was a research coordinator at the University of Texas, El Paso, for eight years.

When her husband retired from the service and they decided put down some roots, Las Vegas looked like the place to be. Not only does she have family in nearby Barstow, Calif., but also Dokie said she was drawn by the university’s



FINE ARTS
Robert Benedetti

For more than four decades, Robert Benedetti has lived the double life of an academic and an actor/producer. Now he is eager to share his expertise with theater students at UNLV.

“After 30 years teaching acting and directing, I took a 15-year sabbatical in the movie industry,” Benedetti said. “I was fortunate enough to win several Emmys, a Peabody, and other prizes, and make enough money to return to teaching in my golden years.”

He has also directed theater productions across the United States and appeared in such stage roles as *King Lear* and *Falstaff*, while his TV acting career included roles on *Hill Street Blues*, *L.A. Law*, and *Cheers*.

As a producer, Benedetti won

television’s top prize for two acclaimed HBO movies — *Miss Evers Boys* (1997) and *A Lesson Before Dying* (1999). The latter starred Don Cheadle, his former student at the California Institute of the Arts where Benedetti was dean of the School of Theatre.

Benedetti said the faculty is what attracted him to UNLV first and foremost. He was also drawn to the program’s creative focus and relationship with the Nevada Conservatory Theatre, he said.

“I have a real emotional need to share what I have learned about the art of theater and film, and to experiment in order to learn more,” he said. “I hope to become a better teacher than I was the last time around by focusing more on individual students and their potential.”



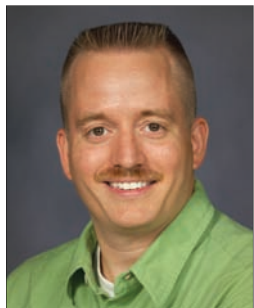
Professor Robert Benedetti, left, talks with actors Timothy Hutton and Elizabeth Pena on the set of *Aldrich Ames: Traitor Within*. He acted in the movie and served as executive producer.

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," Dokie 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."

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



LIBRARIES Amy 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."

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 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

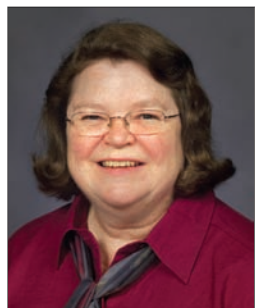
significant wave of women to enter law teaching. "There were many challenges when the great majority of the students and faculty were men who were unaccustomed to the changes brought by the dramatic growth of women in the profession," Shoben said. "I lived through many of the growing pains as the profession changed, but I am proud to have been a part of the transformation."

Her areas of research include employment law, remedies, and torts. Shoben said she has a special interest in experimenting with new forms of instruction and in examining the role of legal education in shaping the character of the profession.

Shoben, who is married to Ed Shoben, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, has been a professor at the University of Illinois for the past 30 years. At UNLV she is the Judge Jack and Lulu Lehman Professor of Law.

"It is truly remarkable what the law school and its dean, Dick Morgan, have accomplished in so

> See **New Faces**, Page 6



short a time,” she said. “I remember expressing skepticism that the small group who started the school could get 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.”



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

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 the environment, and it’s not as fast-paced,” he said.

Taylor spent three years with the sheriff’s department, then he and his wife started thinking about coming to Las Vegas. As luck would have it, he saw that UNLV was hiring officers. He joined the university police in July.

After just a few weeks on the job, Taylor said the campus setting suits him. “It’s a big difference. It’s more of a confined area, and that’s a little more comforting.”

Law enforcement has been a second career for Taylor. In 2002, he capped two decades of service in the Navy, retiring as a chief petty officer. He spent his last few years in the service working alongside the Marines at California’s Camp Pendleton, driving a hovercraft.

At UNLV, Taylor said he’s looking forward to taking advantage of the grant-in-aid program, which offers low tuition rates to employees. “School is

going to be a must once I get off training,” he said. “I perked up my ears at orientation when I heard about that benefit.”

PURCHASING
Anthony Nicolella

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



“Attitudes may be a little bit different, but overall there are more similarities than differences between the two,” said Nicolella, new contract administrator for UNLV’s purchasing and contracts department.

Nicolella 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.

Nicolella 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.”

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. 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 drain 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.”

Proga spent the last year as a researcher at Princeton University. UNLV’s physics program already has an excellent reputation, Proga said, and he hopes to continue building that, with the public as well as within academia. One of his goals is to start a

lecture series on popular topics in astrophysics. “I want to continue to do research and I’m keen on starting teaching,” said Proga, a native of Poland. “I want to be with a group that will move forward everything I’ve been doing so far.” With a foot each in the worlds of astronomy and physics, Proga said he’s eager to show physics students where the disciplines meet. “Astronomers tell stories and wave their hands,” he said. “To train a good astronomer, it takes more than training a good mathematician or physicist. You have to be a good storyteller.”



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
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.

URBAN AFFAIRS
JoAnn Kittrell

JoAnn Kittrell has a lot to be excited about.



First, said the new director of membership services and underwriting for KUNV 91.5 FM, she’s looking forward to the new format enhancements the radio station is planning. And, she said she also is enthusiastic about plans to develop original local programming.

Then, once Greenspun Hall is built, there will be the move into new state-of-the-art digs, which she said will be a wonderful move for KUNV, which now is housed off campus. In Greenspun Hall, “in addition to being more accessible to students, new digital technology will increase the station’s ability to provide more cultural and diverse resources to the UNLV and Las Vegas communities,” she said.

“KUNV is a dynamic, creative environment with enormous potential. I’m looking forward to helping grow this invaluable community service that UNLV provides.”

Kittrell comes to UNLV with an extensive background in broadcasting and fundraising. She was most recently a public information specialist with the Clark County School District where she was assigned to a nonprofit foundation that raised money for scholarships, teacher grants, and literacy and technology initiatives. And she has more than two decades of experience in corporate and broadcast communications.

Getting more students involved at KUNV is a big goal, Kittrell said, and it can have a domino effect on the membership and underwriting that is the station’s lifeline. “As involvement grows, so does listenership. As listenership grows, membership grows,” she said.

President Carol C. Harter
Invites the Campus Community to Attend the
Annual State of the University Address

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

> **Brent Mangus** (Kinesiology) had a manuscript, “Will Caffeine Work as an Ergogenic Aid? The Latest Research,” published in *Athletic Therapy Today* and another manuscript, “Heads Up for Soccer Injuries! What You Need to Know” published online at *Contemporary Pediatrics*.

> **Krista Muis**

(Educational Psychology) received the Dunlop Award for best dissertation in Canada this year. The dissertation was titled “Epistemic Styles and Mathematics Problem Solving: Examining Relations in the Context of Self-Regulated Learning.” She received the award from the Canadian Society for the Study of Education at its meeting in London, Ontario in May.



> **Jeffrey Wedding, Linda Blair, Susan Slaughter, and Diane Winslow** (Harry Reid Center) presented a paper, “A Mixed Bag: Prehistoric Research Results in Nevada and California Along the Kern River 2003 Expansion Pipeline Route,” at the 70th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Salt Lake City in April.

> **Andrew Nazarechuk** (Tourism & Convention Management) conducted a one-week executive management course in April for the Hotel Association on the island of Saipan, located in the northern Marianas Islands. More than 40 managers from many of Saipan’s major properties participated. The program was coordinated by Northern Marianas Community College, whose president, Tony Guerrero, is an alumnus of the UNLV Hotel College, and by Yoshimi Kodama, sales manager of Aqua Resort and also a UNLV alumnus.

> **Amy K. Klima-Comba, Joanne L. Henry, and Linda D. Stetzenbach,** (Harry Reid Center), along with Gary M. King (Darling Marine Center, University of Maine), presented a paper, “Sampling Methodologies for Monitoring Outdoor Culturable Airborne Fungi from Five Locations on Hawai’i,” at the 105th general meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Atlanta. In addition, Stetzenbach, Klima-Comba, and King presented “Analysis of Cultivable Airborne Bacteria from an Altitude Gradient on Kilauea and Mauna Loa Volcanoes (Hawai’i).”

> **James Cizdziel** (Harry Reid Center) wrote an article, “Caudal Fin Mercury as a Predictor of Fish Muscle-Mercury,” which appeared in *Environmental Chemistry* this summer. He also wrote “Sources and Concentrations of Hg and Se in Compartments within the Las Vegas Wash During a Period of Rapid Change,” which appeared in *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*. He collaborated with scientists from Northern Arizona University and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

> **Erika Engstrom** (Communication Studies) and **David Hassenzahl** (Environmental Studies) are co-authors with Danielle Jackson (M.A. Communication Studies, ‘05) of “Effects of Sex and Seating Arrangement on Selection of Leader,” which appeared in *Perceptual and Motor Skills*. The article is based on Jackson’s UNLV Undergraduate Research Award project.

> **Tom Pierce** (Education) in conjunction with the Clark County School District and Mandalay Bay Inc. received the Outstanding Collaboration Award from the National Institute for Urban School Improvement. The award presentation took place in Washington, D.C., in May.

> **Gillian Silver** (Alumni Relations) and graduate student Lars Johnson recently presented a program at the conference of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators in Atlanta. The program, “Continuum to Affinity: A Student Engagement Case Study,” emphasized strategic outreach programming to extend and bridge the student transition into the community.



> **Patrick Carlton** (Educational Leadership) moderated a panel, “The Power of Oral History as Educational Enhancement,” at a joint annual conference

of the Society for Applied Anthropology and the Southwest Oral History Association in April; he also presented a paper, “Utilization of Oral History in Graduate Level Instruction,” with **James R. Crawford** (Educational Leadership). Last semester Carlton completed a year as co-president of the Southwest Oral History Association and assumed the office of past-president for 2005-06.

> **Joshua Delvalle** (Public Safety) has been promoted to the rank of detective. He now is in charge of background investigations, crime-scene analysis, and follow-up investigations. He first joined the department as an officer in 1996 after a stint as a member of the department’s student security unit. He also has worked as a state trooper for the Nevada Highway Patrol and received formal police training from the Southern Nevada Law Enforcement Academy.

> **Venicia Considine** (University College) has been admitted to UNLV’s Boyd School of Law. She will attend evening classes while continuing to work full time as an academic adviser.

> **John Massengale** (Kinesiology) and **James Frey** (Emeritus, Sociology) will be featured in an upcoming television documentary, *The Sociology of American Sport*, which will be aired on national educational television channels.

> **Tom Sharpe** (Sports Education and Leadership) with doctoral students Daniel Balderson and Darian Parker presented two papers and conducted two workshops at the Applied Behavior Analysis International Convention. They were titled, respectively, “Toward a Behavior Systems Approach to Postsecondary Coaching Certification,” “Washoe County Public Schools Project SAVE: Development and Implementation of a Behavior Systems Approach to K-12 Student Services Assessment,” “Using Behavior Systems Technology in Teacher Education Programming,” and “Data Collection and Analysis Using Computer Technology.”



> **Lois Helmbold** (Women’s Studies) hosted the annual SIROW (Southwest Institute for Research on Women) meeting of women’s studies chairs and directors. She also

had an article, “Women’s Studies in Sin City: Reactionary Politics and Feminist Possibilities,” published in the *National Women’s Studies Association Journal* and contributed an article on the Depression of the 1930s to the second edition of an encyclopedia, *Black Women in America*.

> **Stuart Mann** (Hotel) received the inaugural Anthony G. Marshall Outstanding Education Leadership Award from the Educational Institute of the American Hotel & Lodging Association. The award, named for the renowned president of the educational institute and dean emeritus of Florida International University, recognizes a lasting, influential, and innovative contribution to educating and training in the hospitality industry. Mann received the award during the Stars of the Industry luncheon at the Las Vegas International Hotel & Restaurant Show in May.

> **H. Scott Page** and **Amanda Brandt** (Harry Reid Center) presented the results of a hydrologic investigation in a poster, “Rapid Ground Water Level Rise Near Yucca Mountain Following Storm Events: Localized Infiltration or Regional Runoff?” at the 2005 Devil’s Hole Workshop. The study investigated the origin of the largest recorded groundwater-level rise in Yucca Mountain shallow alluvial boreholes. The rise was preceded by unusually heavy precipitation during the 2004-05 winter. They collect measurements of precipitation and groundwater levels near Yucca Mountain.

> **John A. Mercer** (Kinesiology) published a manuscript, “Kinetic Consequences of Constraining Running Behavior,” in the *Journal of Sports Science and Medicine* along with Neil Bezodis, a visiting research student from the University of Bath; UNLV physical therapy student Mike Russell; USC physical therapy student Andy Purdy; and UNLV graduate kinesiology student David DeLion.

> **Anne Hein** (Advising), **Adam Sikula** (Urban Affairs), and **Stan Miloykov** (Honors) wrote and received a Planning Initiative Award for “Integrated College Advising Center Database System.” They were honored at a reception in May.

> **An-Pyng Sun** (Social Work) wrote a paper, “Program Factors Related to Women’s Substance Abuse Treatment Retention and Other Outcomes: A Review and Critique,” which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*. She also presented “Individual Factors Related to Female Substance Abuse Treatment Retention and Other Outcomes” at the Council on Social Work Education’s annual meeting in New York and “Relapse Prevention for Substance-Abusing Women” at the annual meeting of the Society for Prevention Research in Washington, D.C.

> **David M. Hassenzahl** (Environmental Studies) was invited by the Society of Toxicology to serve as a guest panelist on “Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA): Bridging Components Along the Exposure-Dose-Response Continuum” at its July conference in Washington, D.C. He is one of 24 experts invited to advise the society as it develops standards and practices for probabilistic risk assessment.

> **Patricia Cruz, Linda D. Stetzenbach, Amy K. Klima-Comba, and Vanessa L. Stevens** (Harry Reid Center), along with Victoria A. Castro and C. Mark Ott (EASI/Wyle Laboratories, microbiology laboratory, Johnson Space Center), and Duane L. Pierson (habitability and environmental factors office, NASA, Johnson Space Center) presented a paper, “Enhanced Detection of Fungi in the Spacecraft Environment,” at the 105th general meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Atlanta.



> **Darrell Pepper** (Mechanical Engineering) with co-author Xiuling Wang presented a paper on emergency response at the International Conference on Energy,

Water, and Environment Systems in Dubrovnik, Croatia. He also presented a paper (co-authored by Wang) on modeling indoor air dispersion at the Safety and Security Engineering Conference held at the University of Rome.

> **Xin Hu** (Engineering), and Kevin Houser and Dale Tiller (University of Nebraska) won the 2005/06 Taylor Technical Talent Award from the Illumination Engineering Society of North America for their paper, “Tuning the Fluorescent Spectrum for the Trichromatic Visual Response: A Pilot Study.” This award recognizes outstanding application papers published in *LEUKOS*, the journal of the Illuminating Engineering Society.

> Ride

Continued from Page 1

spaces available last fall, will be offset by unused parking, primarily in the Thomas & Mack lots.

“Even during peak usage times last fall, we had more than 3,200 empty stalls around campus,” McDowell said. Projections are that more than 600 spaces will be empty at any given time this fall.

CSUN purchased the fleet of five new buses at a cost of \$285,000. Former CSUN President Henry Schuck originated the plan for the bus purchase. CSUN leaders and the UNLV administration have 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.

Schedule Announced

The shuttle system is being developed both to accommodate the varying hours of the student body and to drop riders within a short walk of their offices or classes. Initially the 21-passenger shuttles will run 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays. Starting Sept. 19, the system will be extended Monday-Thursday until 10:30 p.m.

The system is being staffed by four full-time drivers, a full-time shuttle supervisor, and 12 student drivers. All drivers must obtain commercial licenses, a five-week process that includes a written exam and driving

test. They must also have a physical exam and pass a pre-employment drug and alcohol test.

The system will operate year-round, with abbreviated schedules during downtimes. “We expect ridership to fluctuate dramatically, especially in between classes,” notes McDowell, who previously oversaw a shuttle system at the University of Nebraska.

During peak times, three buses will run the entire campus route, while one bus will circle the Thomas & Mack lots, dropping passengers off near the Student Services Complex. The fifth bus will be kept in reserve for servicing. Main campus shuttles reach stops every 8-10 minutes, with the entire route taking 24 minutes. The shuttle’s clockwise route avoids speed bumps

and left-hand turns onto busy streets, McDowell noted.

“Because this is a new system, we expect to make some adjustments to our routes and timing in the next few months,” he said. “We will rely heavily on rider feedback to further develop the service.”

In the next few years, McDowell hopes to see more buses added. Once the route is established, parking services will evaluate the needs for infrastructure enhancements, such as shelters at the stops. “In developing our shuttle program to serve the campus, UNLV has been able to draw from the models used at other institutions,” he said. “We’re hopeful that the system will be as well used here as it is on so many other campuses.”



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

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.



(At left) George Stelutto, UNLV professor and director of the music festival, conducts during a rehearsal.

(Below) Zade Nahhas of Athens, Ohio, concentrates on his solo effort.



SAGE participants John Nardone and Catherine Crockett spend some time in the computer lab.



SAGE students Justin Galli, left, and Aruhn Venkat, right, consult with SAGE coordinator and UNLV professor Daniel Villanueva.

> 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."