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UNLV MAGAZINE

50 ways

... the university is making its mark in the community

SEEING RED
With state revenues dropping and enrollment leveling off, UNLV foresees the budget battles on the horizon

GUTSY WOMAN
English professor Felicia Campbell’s long tenure is marked with unconventional choices
Soaring to new heights

Come back to campus this spring to celebrate UNLV's 50th anniversary. Check out our events information, Page 5. Plus, UNLV's longest-serving faculty members share their memories, Page 26. [Photo by Aaron Mayes]
Battle of the Budget

UNLV handled the hits when state funding came up short this year, but administrators worry the coming struggle will leave lasting damage.

Family Grows, Hormone Slows

That men’s testosterone levels drop after kids isn’t a shocker to most dads, but the reasons may buck conventional wisdom.

Guts is the Word

Pushing the envelope in pop culture. Butting heads with higher-ups. Championing the unconventional. Felicia Campbell has been a rebel for 46 years.

Dream Work

Less than a year after graduating, Zonya Love landed the lead role in The Color Purple on Broadway.
UNLV is celebrating 50 years. As we’ve grown, so has our impact on the community. Our School of Nursing offers graduate and doctoral degrees for nurses – effectively educating instructors for the next generation of nursing professionals. And with our innovative trimester system, we’re now addressing the state’s nursing shortage by graduating highly skilled nurses in just 16 months. In the process, that puts Nevada on the fast track to better health care, too.

Visit [http://celebrating50.unlv.edu](http://celebrating50.unlv.edu) for more information on anniversary events.
A university at the heart of its community

When the Maryland Parkway campus was built 50 years ago, it was at the end of a long dirt road that seemed so far from the city center. Today, it sits at one of the busiest intersections in the nation — Tropicana and Swenson — and is just blocks from our economic heart, the Las Vegas Strip. Our location is indicative of our role in the community.

As the only major public university in Southern Nevada, UNLV is a tremendous resource to our community. Our rise as a research institution will only elevate the impact we have on the people living in the valley. Our faculty and staff unfailingly embrace their roles as educators of Las Vegas’s future leaders, but they also are members of this vibrant community. As such, they strive to use their expertise to solve Southern Nevada’s most pressing issues.

Take, for example, the work of the Urban Sustainability Initiative (USI), a collective of researchers. With the metro area now topping 2 million, Southern Nevada has become a very urban community, one that faces many challenges — from diversifying the economy and managing our water resources to alleviating traffic congestion and filling the gaps in our health care infrastructure. The USI emerged as a grassroots effort of faculty and staff to partner with colleagues and local groups to create a more sustainable Nevada. They are taking a holistic, cross-disciplinary approach and, quite simply, putting into practice what they research and teach at UNLV.

And students, too, are involved. When I wrote this column during spring break in March, the UNLV campus was largely devoid of students. One group of Rebels eschewed the stereotypical spring break roadtrip to drive to two remote and impoverished towns on the Navajo Nation Reservation. There they tutored middle school children and, no doubt, learned a lesson in becoming future leaders in their own communities.

Such examples do go on. Beginning on the next page and crawling along the bottom of this issue’s pages is an “article” about the many ways your university is reaching into its community. We selected 50 examples in a nod to UNLV’s current anniversary year, but the list could go on for many more pages. I think you will be proud, just as I am, of the tremendous impact these efforts have on lives in Southern Nevada.
Recently resurrected debate team already nationally ranked

BY AFSHA BAWANY

When the nine-minute countdown begins, the words tumble out fast and furious from the mouths of the members of the Sanford I. Berman Debate Forum. To cram in as many points as they can and stump the opposing team, they make their case at 350 to 400 words a minute. Most of us carry on our conversations at about 150 words per minute.

Those minutes are intense, even at a practice session. Papers fly everywhere — across the table, from the debater's podium and back — as debaters and partners take notes for their three-minute cross examination or six-minute rebuttal. The debater continually glances at a handheld stopwatch — two minutes, one minute, just 30 seconds to convince judges that the United States should be more aggressive toward Iran.

The adrenaline is pumping, the debaters forget to breathe, and beads of sweat are trickling down their foreheads.

For the average Joe, the high-speed banter can be hard to follow, but that rush of intellectual repartee isn’t nerve-wracking to Michael Eisenstadt. “The adrenaline that I get when I debate is a lot more positive,” says the freshman majoring in political science. “Doing debate changes your attitude toward things a lot. It changes your confidence level. Your personality changes, you feel more empowered when you’re speaking.”
1. Turns out what’s good for students is good for business, too. The Entrepreneurship Center at UNL V’s College of Business provides education, research and community resources for where thinkers from around the world can challenge entrenched perspectives. At institute events, international writers such as Toni Morrison, Derek Walcott, and John Dean have discussed the Iraq War, the complex challenges facing Africa, and American politics.

9. Primetime science. The College of Sciences and UNLV-TV broadcast Desert Survivors for elementary school children in Southern Nevada. "An introductory philosophy class should be like taking the red pill from The Matrix. It should rock your world in that way.”

William Ramsey, Philosophy professor

iers for college debate.

Students spend at least 20 hours a week researching and preparing evidence to defend both affirmative and negative sides of the policy. They also practice speaking with daily reading exercises and drills under the guidance of “disciple of debate” Jacob Thompson, director of the debate forum.

His strategy is “baptism by fire.” UNLV is unique because it offers the opportunity to all students interested in debate. Experienced or not, the sooner students plunge into the world of critical thinking, fast talking, and public speaking, the better debaters they become, Thompson says.

“You only debate as your well as your competition,” says Thompson, who previously directed the University of Northern Iowa debate team.

A debate team “heightens academic prestige” and helps attract top students to UNLV, Thompson says. Cory Anderlohr, a freshman communications major with high school debate experience, says that he would have chosen another college had UNLV not resurrected the debate team. “There’s a lot of opportunity for me to grow and for the team to grow,” says Anderlohr, who plans to become an attorney. “There’s a lot of cross application with debate. You can use it in any field.”

Before the fall semester began, the team spent 12 hours a day for two weeks researching and practicing. “We worked as a team, getting to know each other and working from the ground up,” Anderlohr says. “I learned more in those two weeks than the three years in high school debate. It was a lot of work, and it really paid off.”

Thompson also encourage the UNLV team to get involved local high school and community debate programs. Two graduate students in the communication department are assistant coaches to the team. The team is establishing an urban debate league for students at underprivileged high schools in Southern Nevada. Team members also volunteer to judge high school tournaments and assist students in preparing for debates.

The UNLV students say they are pleased to have a venue that enhances their ability to break down complex issues, encourages open dialogue, and gives them the opportunity to meet people from diverse backgrounds. “We all understand each other through debate,” Anderlohr says. “The debate community is very open and unique. It has its own style.”

The experience prepares students to become “critical consumers of information,” Thompson says. “They become informed citizens and public advocates.”

Don’t miss this

UNLV is wrapping up its 50th anniversary year with some big celebrations. Mark your calendars:

Mark Twain Tonight, May 3 — Hal Holbrook reprises his Tony Award-winning performance as the American humorist and author.

Picnic Pops Concert, June 7 — UNLV invites the community to join us for an outdoor concert on campus featuring Broadway and recording star Linda Eder and the Las Vegas Philharmonic. Lawn seating is free on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserved and champagne seating is available for a fee.

More info: Visit celebrating50.unlv.edu.
Top honors

- English and political science student Emily Powers was named a 2008 Truman Scholar and will receive up to $30,000 for graduate study. Powers was selected from among 595 candidates after an intensive interview process. She is the first UNLV student to win the award since 1987. Her accomplishments include creating an art therapy program at a domestic violence shelter, working as a field organizer for the Every Child Matters campaign, and founding UNLV's first National Organization for Women chapter.

- Life Sciences undergraduate Karen Levy received a 2008-09 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, the premier award for undergraduate researchers. Levy was selected in part for her research in life sciences professor Helen Wing's bacterial infectious disease laboratory. Under Wing's direction, Levy focuses on how a pathogen called Shigella modifies its gene expression when it enters the human body and on which environmental signals trigger changes in its virulence gene expression. Levy plans to study child welfare law and run for political office.

Scholarship helps older students return to college

If it weren't for the Osher Reentry Scholarship, UNLV students like Jennifer Henderson might not be completing their college educations. Available to qualified students who have a gap of five or more years in their college careers, the scholarship was endowed in December thanks to $1 million from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

The number of students returning to college after a break of several years is increasing nationwide. At UNLV, more than 10,000 students are over age 24.

The scholarship is tailored for students just like Henderson. She began her college education straight from high school in 1992. She married shortly thereafter and needed to work to support her family. College studies had to be put on hold.

But in 2005, Henderson's daughter entered kindergarten. “This was the perfect opportunity for me to go back to school, too,” she said.

Since receiving the Osher Reentry Scholarship last year, Henderson has only needed to work one job, as a student assistant at the Boyd School of Law. Working on campus allows her the flexibility she needs for her studies and for raising her daughter.

“None of what I’m doing would be possible without this scholarship. Receiving the Osher scholarship immediately reduced the need to work.”

She hopes her double major in clinical lab sciences and anthropology will prepare her for a promising career. Clinical lab sciences has a 100 percent job placement rate for graduates. “With this degree, I’ll be able to choose a position in a location that really fits my needs,” Henderson said. “This will be more than a job. It will be a career.

“As I was growing up, it was instilled in me that education is essential to be successful in life,” she said. “Now I think it’s important to show my daughter that education is important, especially for women.” — Michelle Mouton
Six Degrees and Grateful

I am sending this e-mail to share with UNLV Magazine how much UNLV means to my husband, Jeff, and myself. We both graduated with our undergraduate, master’s, and, very soon, our doctoral degrees. Jeff completed his Ed.D in fall 2007, and I defended my Ph.D in biology April 2. Jeff opted to attend the spring 2008 ceremony so that we may share one of the most fantastic moments of live together. Our journey has been shared with our four children and our careers: Jeff with the Clark County School District and me with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. UNLV has enabled us to fulfill a dream that we started on together in 1986.

— Nita Tallent-Halsell  
‘89 BS Biology, ‘98 MS Biology

Correction

Due to an error in the records, the wrong photo ran in the Fall 2007 issue related to the first recipient of the Centennial Medallion. Dominic Daileda, ‘64 BS Accounting, picked up that honor, which is presented each year by the Rotary Club of Las Vegas to the graduate with the highest GPA. Daileda owned his own accounting firm in Las Vegas before retiring to Washington’s San Juan Island.

Anyone? Anyone?

Since I read your article “Basketball Fever Hits Thomas & Mack” (Spring 2006), I’ve been dying to find the song “Walk Like a Tarkanian.” Pretty soon I’ll start losing sleep if I don’t find this song. Please help!

— Laura Brady

Editor: We know that song, a spoof of the Bangles’ “Walk Like an Egyptian,” was played on local radio stations when the Runnin’ Rebels won the national championship in 1990. Unfortunately, we had no luck digging up a copy in the university archives. If you have the lyrics or a recording, please contact us.

Tarnished Timeline

As a class of 1987 alumnus, I was highly insulted by your omission of my class year in your feature “A Half Century Of Rebels: UNLV Through The Years” (Fall 2007). As you claim in the article, “Assembling a timeline in just 10 pages is a tall task.” That may be true, but making a mistake like that is inexcusable. I think that errors like yours are representative of the sleepwalking that is flourishing in this society, often with dire results, such as a person going to the hospital for a tonsilectomy and having a limb amputated instead. I submit that my analogy is an extreme one and its use more a reflection of my temporary irritation than anything else. I have enjoyed your magazine through the years and look forward to reading future issues.

— Andre Helm
‘87 BA Communication Studies

Editor: We must admit that in abbreviating our timeline for print we left out the highlights for a couple of years. A much more extensive version is posted on the 50th anniversary website at celebrating50.unlv.edu. For the record, the UNLV Athletic Hall of Fame debuted in 1987. The university also completed a campus beautification effort, planting grass and trees around the campus perimeter, particularly at the intersection of Tropicana and Swenson avenues to impress visitors arriving from the airport.

Society of Microbiology and an International Meeting on Prokaryotic Biology.

Levy is the only student in Nevada to be honored this year and one of only 321 recipients nationwide. Levy has also received two consecutive National Science Foundation grants, a scholarship from the Amgen Corp, and a National Institutes of Health award.

Send us your comments

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

任何人？任何人？

自阅读贵文《篮球热在托马斯和麦肯》（2006年春季）以来，我一直渴望找到歌曲《Walk Like a Tarkanian》。很快，我将开始失眠找这首歌。请帮助！

——劳拉·布雷迪

编辑：我们知道这首歌，对巴恩斯乐队的“Walk Like an Egyptian”进行的讽刺，在当地电台播放时，里诺野猫队赢得了1990年的全国冠军。很遗憾，我们没有在大学档案馆找到这首歌的副本。如果你有歌词或录音，请联系我们。

发黄的时线

作为1987年校友，我非常愤怒于你遗漏了我的学年在你的文章中，你声称，“组装一个10页的时线是一个艰巨的任务。”这可能是真的，但是犯这样的错误是不可原谅的。我认为像你们这样的错误是睡眠走失在社会中的例子，经常导致严重的后果，比如有人去医院做扁桃体切除手术，结果失去了一个肢体。我建议我的类比是极端的，并且其使用更多的是对我的一时的烦恼的反映，而不是别的。

——安德烈·赫尔姆

‘87 BA Communication Studies

编辑：我们必须承认，在为印刷版剪裁我们的时间线时，我们省略了几年的亮点。一个更详细版的版图被上传到50周年纪念网站上，网站地址为celebrating50.unlv.edu。事实，UNLV体育名人堂在1987年首次亮相。该大学还完成了校园美化计划，在校园周围种植了草和树，特别是在特罗皮卡纳大道和斯温森大道的交叉口，以欢迎从机场抵达的游客。

微生物学会和一个国际会议

利维是内华达州唯一一位今年获得这一荣誉的学生，也是全国仅有的321名受惠者之一。利维还获得了两个连续的国家科学基金会的奖学金、阿姆根奖学金和国家健康研究院奖学金。

发送你的评论

我们知道你是一个多元化的意见团。来吧。我们欢迎给编辑的信。请包括你的名字和一个白天的电话号码。我们的完整政策在我们的网站magazine.unlv.edu上张贴。
Tools of the Trade

The Tools:
A student’s jerry-rigged Xacto knife, a broken paintbrush handle, a wooden knife, and Grandma Burns’ Bakelite spoon

The User:
Mark Burns, art professor and ceramicist

Burns’ students tease him about the way he washes his knives and wire cutters, his picks and broken sticks. Like a surgeon, he lays each out on a towel, blades all facing the same direction, and cleans them one by one. “It’s one of the few places I can introduce order into the ceramics process,” he says. Clay is obstinate. Glazes are erratic. And why a vase exploded in the fire sometimes only the “kiln gods” know. “I tell students, ‘Clay is a great equalizer. People in Third World countries have been using these same tools for hundreds of years.’ It’s often humbling for them to realize that this is one area that technology won’t make them better.” The hundreds of tools in Burns’ drafty Grant Hall studio have a way of floating in and out — students permanently borrow his while abandoning their own. Though he won’t throw any away, none are so precious they can’t be lost.

NEWSMAKERS

Nursing a sore back: In a profession where 100 pounds is considered light lifting, back injuries are fuelling high turnover and exacerbating the shortage of professionals. Nursing professor Nancy Menzel and colleagues developed a training program, now in place at 26 universities, to teach students proper patient-lifting techniques. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently recognized the group’s work with the Award of Excellence in Public Health Training. Menzel’s research has shown that introducing safe lifting principles to nursing students positively affects the likelihood of care facilities adopting similar programs.

Growing a diverse economy: The College of Sciences was awarded the inaugural Nevada Biotechnology Award from the Nevada Biotechnology and Bioscience Consortium. Growing the biotech

Spreading the word

If Nevada was the media darling of presidential politics, then UNLV political science professors Dave Damore and Ken Fernandez were its publicists. In the two months between the CNN debate held on the UNLV campus and the Nevada caucus, Damore and Fernandez offered their insights through more than 160 interviews to such media outlets as USA Today, New York Times, the Boston Globe, and National Public Radio. The two professors filled reporters’ requests to explain Nevada politics and its unique electoral influencers without relying on hackneyed gaming metaphors. “What quickly becomes apparent when dealing with the national and international media is that they know next to nothing about Nevada and its politics,” Damore says. “Many were amazed to find that there are Mormons in Nevada and that the LDS community is quite politically powerful. Others were struck by John Edwards’ inability to gain traction in the state — failing to realize that given Nevada’s limited to nonexistent social services, the state was a poor fit for a populist candidate championing increased government support for the impoverished.”

Comprehensive picture of crime can be a challenge. The Center for the Analysis of Crime Statistics is the state’s central repository for justice system data. In addition to a searchable database, the center’s website features reports on public policy research. Making the grade. The Child School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic treats young people who refuse schooling and experience other
Turns out what’s good for students is good for business, too. The Entrepreneurship Center at UNL’s College of Business provides education, research and community resources for those anxiety problems. Its therapists help get kids back on track so they can get back in school.

Getting the lead out.
The School of Public Health is now home to the state Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Its researchers teamed with the Southern Nevada Health District to conduct free paint inspections in valley homes. And the work of professors and students prompted the removal of lead.

Say Again?
Understanding the titles of academic research papers can be a challenge. We asked some recently published professors to help us translate.

Makes my blood run cold
“Reduction of freeze-thaw-induced hemolysis of red blood cells by an algal ice-binding protein”
— James Raymond of the School of Life Sciences is investigating whether or not a protein found in Antarctic ice can help preserve human blood for transfusions.

Would you give up your daily latte to save an owl?
“Using Simulated Maximum Likelihood to Estimate Censored Regressions with Applications to Double-Bounded Contingent Valuation Survey Data”
— A survey can calculate how far you’ll go to save the spotted owl, according to economics professor Mary Riddel.

One word: “plastics”
“Isothermal titration calorimetry and transmission electron microscopy of main-chain viologen polymer containing bromide as counter ions”
— Health physics professor Marcos Cheney works with plastics that form really tiny materials all on their own. The research may help scientists construct materials that mimic natural biological systems.

sector has long been critical to economic diversification efforts of city officials and the Nevada Development Authority. The consortium commended the college’s development of research resources, increased peer-reviewed funding and faculty scholarship, and its commitment to community outreach.

A hat trick: UNLV’s addictions counseling programs have scored the top three awards from the Association for Addiction Professionals, the country’s leading organization for counselors and addictions educators. The university’s Student Organization of Addictions Professionals won the 2008 Emerging Advocates of the Year Award. In 2005, UNLV was the first university to win the group’s Organization Achievement Award. In 2007, professor Larry Ashley won the Mel Schulstad Award, which recognizes the top individual in the profession.

Larry Ashley
**Digging up records**

**Backcourt specialist leads women’s volleyball to first NCAA berth**

**BY SHANE BEVELL**

Grandma Alice knew Jada Walker would play volleyball at UNLV, even before Walker herself knew it.

At a high school tournament, Grandma Alice spied the UNLV logo on Allison Keeley’s shirt and struck up a conversation with the new women’s coach. “She told me her granddaughter was going to play for me,” Keeley says. But Keeley wasn’t so optimistic; she didn’t have a scholarship to offer the defensive specialist.

Walker became a walk-on and played in all 27 of the team’s matches her freshman year in 2004. Grandma Alice cried when she saw her granddaughter play as a Rebel for the first time. She passed away just a few months later, but would have been proud of Walker’s accomplishments. Walker was named to the Mountain West Conference (MWC) all-tournament team as a freshman and continued to rack up honors. She now holds the MWC record for career digs at 2,055, as well as school records for most digs in a match, season, and career.

**SKINNY KID**

In the eighth grade, Walker attended her first collegiate match. “I remember thinking that this is what I want to do: play volleyball at the Division I level,” she says. And she saw something else she wanted. “I was a skinny kid, and I remember these big UCLA players with these nice, toned legs, and I wanted that.”

As a high school senior, Walker realized that to play at the Division I level, she needed to change positions. She had always been a setter, but at only 5 feet 4 inches tall, she would have difficulty playing at the net in college. She switched to libero (LEE-bah-ro), a designated back-row player and ball-control specialist who cannot block or attack the ball above the net.

**NETTING MORE HONORS**

- **Allison Keeley:** American Volleyball Coaches Association coach of the year (West region); MWC co-coach of the year
- **Lauren Miramontes:** All-America honorable mention; first team all-West; all-MWC team
- **Maria Aladjova:** All-MWC team
- **Melody Nua:** All-MWC team
- **Team:** MWC title, top-25 ranking, and eight players named academic all-MWC

**YOUNG FOUNDATION**

In 2004, Keeley took over a program with only one winning record since the sport was re-established at UNLV in 1996. The coach built a foundation with four freshmen: Maria Aladjova, Lauren Miramontes, Brittani Lumsden, and Walker. After going 15-12 in 2004 and 15-15 in 2005, the team broke through with a 20-10 record in 2006, but was not invited to the NCAA tournament. Instead of parting ways for that summer’s break, the players stayed in town to play in leagues. By NCAA rules, Keeley cannot be involved in summer workouts, so Walker took the responsibility for the preseason preparations.

UNLV started the 2007 season winning 10 of its first 11 matches, which led to a season of firsts: a top-25 ranking, the MWC tournament title, and an NCAA tournament berth. “We achieved all our goals,” Walker says. “It was truly a magical season. I can’t help but smile when talking about it.”

**ALL IN THE FAMILY**

One of nine kids, Walker says her large family brought out her competitive spirit. Her father played basketball; her stepfather played baseball; her brother, Delwyn Young, plays in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization; a sister is a promising softball player; a younger brother plays football.

“My brothers and sisters made me tough — both physically and mentally,” she says, “because we would talk a lot of crap to each other.”

In a large family, there are a lot of different personalities, Walker says. “I had to speak to and approach each sibling in a different way. It was the same with my teammates.”

Walker also relishes the accomplishments of others; she won the MWC sportsmanship award her freshman year. “I am a fan of good volleyball,” she says. “I congratulate my opponent after a good play and after the match.”

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**Rebel Girls first in spirit**

The Rebel Girls dance team finished first at the 2008 United Spirit Association’s College Nationals in the Hip Hop 4-Year College division, while the UNLV cheer squad placed first in the Group Stunt College division. The dance team also took third place in the IA Hip Hop category at the 2008 College Cheerleading & Dance Team National Championship.

**Freshman honors**

Offensive lineman Matt Murphy was named to the Football Writers Association of America and AON Insurance seventh annual freshman all-America team. He was one of only 12 true freshmen on the squad. Murphy played in all 12 games in 2007 and started at left tackle the last nine, allowing three sacks.

At left tackle the last nine, Murphy played in all 12 games in 2007 and started at left tackle the last nine, allowing three sacks.
Soccer’s standouts

Senior forward Katie Carney was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) scholar all-America third team. Carney racked up other postseason honors, including all-region by both NSCAA and Soccer Buzz, 2007 Mountain West Conference (MWC) co-offensive player of the year, and all-MWC first team.

On the men’s team, forward Daniel Cruz (above) was named to the College Soccer News 2007 all-freshman second team. An all-Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) first team selection and 2007 MPSF Newcomer of the Year, Cruz is the first Rebel to earn national freshman honors.

BRIEFLY

Jada Walker holds the MWC record for career digs with 2,055. She also holds school records for digs in a match, season, and career. She will graduate in May with a degree in education.

BRIEFLY

1. Turns out what’s good for students is good for business, too. The Entrepreneurship Center at UNL V’s College of Business provides education, research and community resources for those College, the Summer Advanced Gifted Education (or SAGE) program challenges the minds of Clark County’s most gifted high school students.

17. A healthy dose of research. The Center for Health Disparities is conducting an unprecedented study on how the working poor in Southern Nevada access health care. Its researchers are identifying the diverse social, cultural, economic, environmental, and
Two new Rothman books extend the life works of the late professor

BY BARBARA CLOUD

IN LIFE, HISTORIAN HAL ROTHMAN was one of UNLV’s most prolific scholars. In death, his legacy in print continues.

Two new books, Blazing Heritage and Playing the Odds, have been published since his February 2007 death from Lou Gehrig’s disease. The new works bring the Rothman-authored library to 13 books plus numerous edited volumes. His contributions to our understanding of history did not stop with books. His ability to put complex issues into succinct, everyday language made him a media darling. He wrote for or was quoted by major print and broadcast news organizations across the country and abroad.

A Google search of his name brings more than 10,000 hits with his perceptive comments about Las Vegas, tourism, and the American West, as well as moving accounts of the last months of his life, when he and his family and friends were coping with the disease that took his life at the early age of 48.

In Blazing Heritage, on which Rothman was working when he died, the historian returned to the national parks, a topic he explored before he came to UNLV in 1992. The book begins in 1886 in the 14-year-old Yellowstone National Park when a 50-man cavalry troop attempted to extinguish fires scattered all over the 2 million-acre park.
History professor Hal Rothman, who died last year from Lou Gehrig’s disease, was a high-profile commentator on all things Las Vegas, from the Strip to the recreational activities he loved.

“A pattern began at that very instant,” he writes. “The soldiers and the resources available to them were simply not sufficient to extinguish a fire of this size.” He proceeds to chronicle more than a century of fire in the national parks — especially parks in the Western U.S. — noting the evolution of strategies to suppress fires and the ongoing inadequacy of fire-fighting resources, as well as the use of fire as a tool.

Rothman describes how the National Park Service became a leader in fire management practices, especially after the lessons of the 1988 Yellowstone fire. He predicted, however, that drought and failure of communities to clear underbrush — especially in the “wilderburbs,” the suburban sprawl that now encroaches on rural and wild land — will force the Park Service “to redefine the boundaries of its strategy.”

Blazing Heritage closes with a typical Rothman application of history to current events. In a final chapter titled “The Hazard of New Fortunes: Yosemite, Cerro Grande, and the Twenty-First Century,” Rothman references California historian and frequent collaborator Mike Davis, who questions whether, as Rothman puts it, “communities that built in hazardous fire regions merited the response of public services,” an issue that arose during the 2007 fires in Southern California. Had he been available when the fires ravaged, publication of the book would surely have had reporters calling for comments.

Environmental historian Lincoln Bramwell, who coined the “wilderburbs” term, edited Playing the Odds, a collection of 66 columns Rothman wrote for the Las Vegas Sun and other publications. It explores Las Vegas’s place as the “First City of the Twenty-First Century” and then looks beyond to the Western environment and issues facing the region and the nation. High-rise developments, eminent domain, water wars, the division between the haves and have-nots — they’re all in the collection, giving readers a last chance to benefit from the articulate and accessible insights of the professor who embraced his adopted hometown, wars and all.

Bramwell is now at UNLV drafting the manuscript for yet another Rothman book, this one on Yosemite National Park. It was a partnership between Rothman, history professor Andrew Kirk, who directs UNLV’s public history program, and the Park Service. Graduate students taught by Rothman and Kirk completed much of the research for the book, which is slated for publication in 2009.

Bramwell, a recent Ph.D. graduate from the University of New Mexico, says he first met Rothman at a history conference and was impressed by the interest the professor took in a student’s work. “I went up to him to ask some questions,” Bramwell remembers, “and the next thing I knew he was sending me drafts of chapters of his project at that time and hiring me to do field research for him. I had a wonderful experience working with him. He was one of the most generous scholars I’ve met.”

Rather than feeling uneasy about following in Rothman’s footsteps, Bramwell sees completing the Yosemite project as an opportunity to reinforce the late historian’s legacy, much as editing Playing the Odds was his “tribute” to the senior scholar.

More: The history department website (history.unlv.edu) includes a Rothman memorial page with information on the Hal Rothman Fund for UNLV Students.
Research on testosterone in dads looks beyond the easy explanations

BY MATT JACOB

Last year, anthropology professor Peter Gray published a pair of studies concluding that testosterone levels in men drop significantly after marriage and fatherhood. I must admit my first reaction was to scoff.

Gee, what's next, a study that confirms the sky is blue? That water is wet? That wives are prone to nag and husbands have a tendency to be lazy?

Gray, a 34-year-old married father of two young girls, understands such mockery. “Well, duh!” he says some might react. “This is so patently obvious. Obviously, something is happening within a man's body.”

Of course accepting “Duh!” and moving on wasn't good enough for Gray, who has been teaching at UNLV since fall 2005. It's in his anthropologist's DNA to look beyond the obvious, to explore the science in an effort to explain the reality and expand our understanding of it. “Ask anyone who’s been married recently or who has become a parent recently if they feel like their life is organized any differently,” Gray says. “Often you'll get an answer of 'Yes! I sleep less, my emotional relationships with my partner are changed,' etc. But what's happening in our bodies that's reflective of those changes? One of the first physiological actions to look at is that related to testosterone levels.”

Because his is a field that studies cross-cultural similarities and differences, it was a no-brainer for Gray to travel abroad with colleagues to measure the physiological impact of marriage and fatherhood in two nontraditional societies.

The first study, conducted in summer 2004 in northern Kenya, involved surveying and collecting saliva samples from 203 single and married males of the Ariaal tribe. The results were by and large predictable: Those who were single and childless had higher levels of testosterone than those who were monogamously married with offspring. But, unlike in our society, Ariaal fathers have almost no involvement in childrearing. Their main task is to accumulate and maintain wealth — two masculine pursuits that do not correlate with lower testosterone levels.

Another of Gray's findings bucked conventional wisdom: Those who had multiple wives — a common practice among the Ariaal tribe — had even lower testosterone levels than their monogamous counterparts. “We thought that [having multiple wives] would be associated with higher testosterone levels from the standpoint that you might still be looking [for an additional wife] or you might have to guard them to some degree. That was not the case.”

Two years after the study in Kenya, Gray and his colleagues went to Jamaica and surveyed 43 men who submitted saliva, urine, and fingerprick blood-spot samples to measure fluctuations in multiple
Poison in unlikely places
Public health professor Shawn Gerstenberger is finding curious sources of lead poisoning. The latest targets: traditional cookware and folk medicines. Gerstenberger and history professor Maria Casas are finding that immigrants in particular are using lead-tainted products imported from overseas and nearby Mexico. With more information on the sources of lead exposure in the region’s growing Hispanic population, the researchers will help health officials develop culturally appropriate prevention strategies.

Dose of intervention
While most nurses feel an obligation to provide health education, few note the consequences of obesity when talking to patients. Nursing professors Patricia Alpert and Sally Miller surveyed nearly 1,000 nurses in six states. They found that more than 90 percent believe obesity requires intervention from professionals, yet less than a quarter actually step in.

Nearly all respondents coupled cardiovascular disease with obesity, but fewer identified diabetes and high cholesterol as consequenc-es, prompting the UNLV team to call for an evaluation of obesity education in nursing programs.
When Maria Luisa Parra-Sandoval, a senior in political science, graduates in May, she’ll look back on her years at UNLV as some of the most eventful and challenging of her life. The honors student served as a Capitol Hill intern, gained her U.S. citizenship, and launched a service program at UNLV. As she prepares to move on to law school and a career in public policy, Parra-Sandoval reflects on what she has achieved along the way to becoming the first college graduate in her family.

**American Dream**

Maria Luisa Parra-Sandoval, political science major

**Child immigrant:** I crossed the border from Mexico when I was 6. When my parents applied for residency, I learned all about immigration policy. I was the one who compiled all the records. I was the translator for my parents and family. I love public service and being able to help people, and it all started with being able to help my family.

**College track:** In middle school I was admitted into UNLV’s Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach’s educational talent search program. They go to low-income schools to find good students who are college material. I always knew I wanted to go to college, but I didn’t have the guidance, and they provided that. If your parents haven’t gone through the process, it’s hard to understand it. I didn’t have my residency until I was a sophomore in high school, and that’s a deterrent to higher education.

**Capitol experience:** In the spring of 2006 I was a press office intern for Nevada Sen. Harry Reid in Washington, D.C. I had the opportunity to see how many things function behind the scenes.

**Everyday people:** I was impressed by the work of these diligent public servants. Our office was very close to the Senate gallery and floor, so I got to see a lot of senators just walking and riding the subways. It was different to see politicians as human beings, not just political icons on TV. These people believe in what they do; that’s what hit me.

**A dream come true:** I was a finalist for a Truman scholarship [it provides $30,000 for graduate studies in public policy]. The last interview was in Colorado on St. Patrick’s Day 2006. That same day, I was going to make one of my dreams come true that day.

**Ivy League honors:** In 2005, I applied for the Public Policy and Leadership Conference at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. In the summer of 2006 I went to Princeton University as a public policy and international affairs fellow with the Woodrow Wilson School of Government.

**Future plans:** I’m in the McNair Scholars program, which is aimed at helping minority students pursue their doctorates. After graduation in May I’m planning on law school. I want to get my J.D. and master’s in public policy in a joint-degree program.

**UNLV legacy:** I helped charter a community service-based sorority, Kappa Delta Chi, the first Latina sorority in Nevada. Eight of the nine charter members met at the annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference at UNLV when I was in high school. We stayed friends, and we wanted to create a club that would be long-lasting.

**First election as an American:** I made sure I was informed before I attended the Nevada caucus. I read a lot of newspaper coverage, and I watch TV — but I don’t like to rely on it so much. There are always the websites for candidates, so that you can look at their stands on everything.

**My issues:** I’ve read about Iraq, the health-care crisis, the budget deficit, the possibility of recession, gas at $100 a barrel. I’m concerned about the future of Nevada and Yucca Mountain, immigration — especially immigrants who are already here — and diplomatic relations with Mexico. Those topics are on my agenda.

**Would you run for office?** I always respond that maybe — rather than the serious one she had prepared on Yucca Mountain.

**Priorities:** I didn’t know CNN had planned to end the debate on that note. This happened on a Thursday, and I had an exam on Monday for an honors literature class on Western civilization. I had all these calls from the media (wanting to turn the moment into a story). I decided I wasn’t going to ruin my GPA for that. I turned my phone off, and I got an A.
“It was different to see politicians as human beings, not just political icons on TV.”

with disabilities. 25. Getting your (educational) groove back. The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center serves as a gateway to higher education, with an emphasis on addressing women’s issues. It also helps nontraditional students navigate the admissions and financial aid systems and find other campus services. 26. Small business is big for the economy. The Nevada Small Business Development
MFA Student Brian Porray couldn’t resist the blank canvas offered by Archie C. Grant Hall. The nondescript, white-bricked building didn’t reflect on the outside the vibrant works that art students create within its studios. Porray used his own supplies and enlisted the help of friends Chance Gomez and Joe Guadamuz to spraypaint a breezeway. Though the mural draws from graffiti art, Porray wanted the work to be optimistic and filled it with fanciful garden characters. The Las Vegas native admits his work grew from some youthful misadventures spreading graffiti around the valley. “Murals give me a positive way to expend that energy without the possible illegal action,” he says. [Photo by Aaron Mayes]
Back-to-Back

In the first round of the NCAA tournament, the Runnin' Rebels held Kent State to 10 first-half points, tying a tournament record for fewest points scored in a half, en route to a 71-58 victory. Senior guard Curtis Terry, pictured, led both teams in assists with eight. The Rebels succumbed to No. 1 seed Kansas in the second round. This was the first time since 1990-91 that the team made back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances. Led by MWC coach of the year Lon Kruger and all-MWC first teamer Wink Adams, UNLV also won the conference championship. [Photo by Geri Kodey]
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UNLV handled the hits when state funding came up short this year, but administrators worry the struggle on the horizon will leave lasting damage.

BY CATE WEEKS

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, the top story in Nevada higher education has been a battle over how much money would be cut from current budgets to make up for slumping state revenues. The governor’s office and higher education officials parried back and forth over the final numbers and the potential impacts.

In January, UNLV developed a plan to give back $18.1 million (on top of a $14 million cut it took when the budget was established for this biennium). The university tabled much-needed new programs to improve student retention, delayed employee merit raises by six months, postponed classroom technology upgrades, and now plans to open new buildings this fall with scaled-back furnishings.

Still, “that budget battle was a skirmish compared to the coming war we face,” says Gerry Bomotti, senior vice president for finance and business.

At pretime, new projections showed that further cuts may be on the horizon for 2008-09. And then there’s what looms for UNLV in the 2010-2011 fiscal years. Administrators believe the university’s state funding will drop another $44 million if the way allocations are made does not change somehow. What’s more, after the latest cuts, there’s little left to trim without disrupting the ability of students to graduate in a timely manner.

“All universities face the ups and downs of a state’s economy — that sort of thing an institution can weather,” says UNLV President David Ashley. “What I am worried about is the cumulative impact of the past cuts and the extraordinary challenge we see coming.”

So how did UNLV get in such a precarious position?

ENROLLMENT DROPPED, BUT THAT’S A GOOD THING

Just a few years ago, legislators must have felt that UNLV was like an adolescent who outgrew his jeans as soon as he got them. With enrollments jumping year after year, the university couldn’t add class sections, hire faculty, or build lecture halls fast enough. Between 1996 and 2005, UNLV’s student body grew 43 percent, or more than 8,300 students.

Community leaders wanted UNLV to grow, but in a less literal sense. They envisioned a transformation from a solid teaching university into an advanced research university — the same kind of institution that the best high school students left the state to attend. They also recognized that a valuable community resource was missing from Southern Nevada. As a research institution, UNLV could play a greater role in solving the region’s social and scientific challenges. UNLV could fulfill demand for a highly qualified professional workforce. And it could help diversify the economy.

Higher education officials and legislators realized UNLV’s growth had to be slowed, and it needed to become a more selective institution. They put in place a few policies intended to do both:

>> Nevada State College — This four-year teaching college opened in 2002 and now serves 2,200 students. Its opening created a three-tiered higher education system with the community colleges, the state college, and Nevada’s two research universities. With this greater capacity to serve all types of students, UNLV and UNR would be able to elevate their research and graduate programs. But NSC clearly has a much greater impact on UNLV’s enrollment than on UNR’s, Bomotti notes.
1. Turns out what’s good for students is good for business, too. The Entrepreneurship Center at UNL V’s College of Business provides education, research and community resources for those of transplants find their matches.  

28. Unlocking a world. The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders offers workshops and training to help parents cope with challenging behaviors and work as a team with professional service providers.  

29. Capturing memories. The observations of the people of Nevada are captured through the Oral History Research Center. Its projects include the accounts of transplants find their matches.
UNLV gets funding from a variety of sources, but the single biggest contributor is the state general fund. Slumping tax revenues have caused the general fund to come up short this year.

**Remedial courses** — In fiscal year 2007, the Legislature eliminated funding at UNLV and UNR for remedial courses. Providing the courses at a community college was more appropriate to the community college mission and more cost effective for the system, but reduced the enrollments at both universities.

**Elevated admissions standards** — Studies show that students with lower GPAs achieve greater success in higher education by starting at a community or state college. The high school grade point average for incoming UNLV and UNR freshman has increased from an unweighted 2.5 in 2005, to 2.75 in 2006. This fall’s incoming class has to meet a 3.0 GPA that is weighted in a core curriculum and correlates to about a 3.25 overall.

These three changes were intended to allow UNLV and UNR to raise academic standards and provide a more challenging experience to students ready for university-level work. “These policies did exactly what they were supposed to do,” Ashley says. “UNLV stopped growing for growth’s sake, and we are getting a better-prepared student body. Now we are elevating the expectations for our undergraduates and rising as a research institution.”

**THE PROBLEM WITH SUCCESS**

The state’s funding formula for higher education is based primarily on enrollment. Flat out: fewer students, fewer dollars. When the admissions requirements changed and Nevada State opened, no one adjusted the way the universities get state dollars.

Compounding the problem is the shifting composition of the student body. UNLV’s undergraduate enrollment grew just 1.4 percent between 2003 and 2007, but graduate enrollments increased 46.2 percent. Graduate education is both more labor- and cost-intensive.

Although the state’s formula does account for the differences between classes at universities and community colleges, the rates are still well off of national benchmarks. Texas has become a model for several other state funding formulas. There, the more cost-intensive doctoral programs receive 22.7 times the amount of funding than the lowest cost four-year undergraduate class does. In the Nevada system, which includes community colleges, the multiplier is just 3.6.

The short of it is that UNLV and UNR must try to achieve research-based instruction on a budget more appropriate to a teaching institution. “I don’t believe anyone intended to create a situation in which UNLV would accept the most well-prepared students and promise them the more intensive educational experience that a research university offers, and then provide them with substantially less support to ensure their success. But that is exactly what is happening.” — David Ashley, UNLV president
cept the most well-prepared students and promise them the more intensive educational experience that a research university offers, and then provide them with substantially less support to ensure their success,” Ashley says. “But that is exactly what is happening.”

WHAT TO DO

With state revenues down, UNLV obviously isn’t going to get the boost to its budget that past studies have recommended (a 2005 legislative report called for a base budget increase of at least $25 million to make up for the disparity between UNL V’s funding and its mission). In the short term, officials simply hope to maintain current student services. To accomplish that, it will do more than go hat-in-hand to legislators.

>> Shift money to the priorities — Even before the last round of cuts, the administration took steps to reallocate funds. “In times of explosive growth, institutions typically spread out as they find their general direction,” says Neal Smatresk, the top administrator over academics. “In time, that leaves all the new programs with not quite enough money to excel.”

This spring UNLV is finalizing a new strategic plan, called Focus: 50 to 100, which will more narrowly define the university’s priorities. Funding, Smatresk says, will be preferentially directed to those priorities. Administrators also adopted an informal policy to not launch any new degree programs without cutting a low-demand one.

>> Improve retention — UNLV is near the bottom among its peers in degree completion. “From a practical standpoint, it costs less to have a student continue toward graduation than it does to bring in a new one,” Ashley says. “But more to the point, I believe it is our responsibility to ensure that, once students are here, we do everything we can to ensure they successfully obtain that degree. That will pay off for UNLV both literally and figuratively.”

The stricter admissions standards are a first step in improving retention. Now, administrators are developing ways to encourage full-time attendance, which is tied to higher graduation rates. And they hope to create a center for first-year students. “We believe this will lead to higher graduation rates, which will contribute to a sustainable enrollment growth of about 2 percent,” Smatresk says.

>> Keep more of what the students pay — UNLV has always been a relative bargain for students. Tuition and most fees, however, go into the state’s general fund and come back to UNLV via the funding formula. So, although increasing the amount that students pay can alleviate the burden on the general fund, it does not necessarily increase UNLV’s funding. Indeed, registration fees are increasing 23 percent for undergraduates and a whopping 32 percent for graduate students this biennium over the last biennium, but UNLV’s state budget is still dropping. The result is that students are paying a much higher rate but receiving fewer services.

Administrators are proposing that the current amount (plus inflationary increases) generated by student fees go to the general fund under the same formula as in the past, but any increases above inflation be fully invested in programs and services benefitting students. These funds would be specifically for student-support programs and financial aid.

“We must recognize that many of our students are price-sensitive,” Ashley says. “Increasing costs, without providing more support, may price them out of higher education. Moreover, while we recognize that the amount students contribute toward their education must increase, I do not think it is unreasonable for them to expect better services from us as well.”

AND THE PROBLEM WITH NOT SUCCEDING

If UNLV does have to take further hits in its next budget, the options of where to cut are limited. More than three-quarters of state dollars go toward employee salaries and benefits with an additional 9 percent for such fixed costs as utilities and insurance.

The scenarios are not pretty. Cutting all part-time faculty (more than 800 instructors) and 12 percent of its full-time faculty (115 positions) would do the trick, but that would also eliminate more than 86,000 class seats each year. “We’re not going to make it up by doing a little belt-tightening here and there. It would require a wholesale restructuring,” Bomotti says.

That takes us back to the critical strategic planning UNLV is finalizing this spring. Ashley concludes, “In these difficult budget scenarios, advancing our goals as a major research university will require a combination of significant restructuring, extraordinary efficiencies, and investment in our priorities. Our Focus: 50 to 100 strategic planning is essential for us to succeed.”

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT BIG FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN?

UNLV’s Invent the Future campaign hopes to raise more than $500 million for the university, but it won’t solve the budget blues. “We can’t use private donations to backfill the operating budget,” says UNLV President David Ashley.

The effort is the biggest fundraising campaign in Nevada history and will bring in much-needed resources. The vast majority of donations, however, are earmarked by donors for specific uses — say, to build Greenspun Hall, to fund a research center on urban water use, or to award scholarships to nursing majors.

“When donors give us their support, they want to see that it goes toward nurturing excellence, not turning on the lights,” Ashley says.

State dollars, which make up about 37 percent of UNLV’s total budget, are intended to cover the basics to open the doors — most faculty and staff salaries, utilities, student advising services, and the like.

Research projects, community outreach activities, and athletic programs primarily fund themselves through outside grants and contracts and the sales of tickets and television contracts.

MORE INFO + Learn about the programs for which your college is raising funds at campaign.unlv.edu.
The Cultural Site Stewardship Program at the Public Lands Institute organizes volunteers to preserve sensitive sites being damaged by vandals.

Bringing order to the courts. The Thomas & Mack Legal Clinics serve the neediest people in the community. UNLV’s unique program teams law students with social work and education students to tackle their clients’ issues from all angles.
Being a writer herself, Felicia Campbell can appreciate the irony of this. I’ve been assigned to profile UNLV’s longest-serving, full-time faculty member, but I’m struggling to settle on an adjective that captures this accomplished woman.

Oh, sure, there are the obvious terms that befit just about any dedicated academic: intellectual, thought-provoking, challenging, energetic, curious, helpful. Certainly all apply. But there’s so much more to this decorated veteran of higher learning.


At a loss, I turn to Michael Green, a noted Nevada historian, longtime history professor at the College of Southern Nevada, former UNLV student, and friend of Campbell’s for the past quarter century. “I think ‘guts’ is an operative word here,” Green tells me. “The guts to pursue a lawsuit that did not endear her to her university. The guts to offer courses that traditional academics eschewed. The guts in taking a position on a subject that a lot of people found distasteful.

“Heck, the guts to come out here in the first place.”

Gutsy. Perfect.

§

It’s a rainy, muggy morning as we sit in Campbell’s cluttered office on the sixth floor of UNLV’s architecturally outdated Dungan Humanities Building — “I remember we had to fight to get windows in this place; now I suppose it may meet the wrecking ball,” she quips. We’d be standing in a pile of mud if this conversation was taking place back in 1962.

That was the year the doctoral student from the University of Wisconsin-Madison packed her bags and headed west for an unknown school, then called the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada. “I wanted to do something different for a year,” Campbell says, explaining how she got here. “I applied for two jobs: One was here, the other was the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. But they turned that (Ibadan) job over to the Peace Corps, and I didn’t really want to live in a hut in Nigeria. So I came out here.”

Sight unseen. The woman who would go on to teach about faraway societies experienced a jolt of culture shock at the Long Acres Park Apartments, a complex behind the university where Campbell and fellow newcomer Ann Fowler first resided. With just five buildings on the campus and wide-open space between Harmon and East Sahara avenues, the two were underwhelmed, Campbell recalls.

“Ann looked at the campus and said, ‘My god, it’s a gas station.’”

As for the admission standards, well, let’s just say students were far less prepared than those Campbell encountered at the University of Wisconsin. “In those early days,” she says, “we flunked two-thirds of every class.”

The odds on Campbell sticking around past her one-year commitment would’ve been about a million-to-one. But, for one of the few times in her life, she elected to travel the conservative road. She married and began having children, which made a full-time job and a steady salary suddenly enticing.

So, too, was the opportunity to put her stamp on a growing university. Campbell has taught conventional classes such as freshman composition and creative writing, and introduced students to an array of innovative, nontraditional courses, including Asian literature, chaos theory, science-fiction writing, and popular culture. “There are people who specialize in one particular area and they never get tired of it — and god love ’em,” she says. “But I would lose my mind.”

“She is remarkably offbeat,” says emeritus English professor Charles Adams, who arrived on campus two years before Campbell. “She’s not a typical academic. She has her own ideas about things, and she acts on them. She is so unconservative she functions very

compute. The National Supercomputing Center for Energy and the Environment is building a national research database for Parkinson’s disease, predicting the weather in four states for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and providing a way to reach rural communities through telemedicine. 36. Everybody knows the heart of the gaming industry is Las Vegas, but its brain is at UNLV. The
much like an open window. In many ways, she permitted fresh air to flow through the university.”

Over the past four-plus decades, count-less students have gratefully chosen to inhale that air, as the majority of Campbell’s classes are elective. And difficult. “She demands a lot of thinking on the part of her students, and as a result, she elicits all kinds of responses,” says Pat Gueder, a full-time English professor from 1966-1989 who still teaches part-time.

“She is the kind of professor whom students [remember],” Gueder says. “They have not seen her or have not been in her presence for maybe 30 years, but she is the one they will ask me about — ‘Is she still there? How is she?’ And then they’ll tell me a favorite story. She just makes her mark with people in one way or another.”

Campbell has never had trouble filling her classroom, often with a high number of repeat students. “That’s one of the nicest compliments you can get [as a professor],” Adams says. “It’s a marvellous feeling, and that’s happened to her over and over and over.”

Mary Aiken took Campbell’s creative writing class back in 1976, and by the time she completed her degree — in political science — she had taken seven classes under the professor.

“She was not an easy professor; her standards were very high,” Aiken recalls. “You read much more in terms of pages with Felicia Campbell than you would with other professors. She was not going to make it easy for you. But I always felt I got my money’s worth out of her classes. I grew academically, and I learned a respect of knowledge for knowledge’s sake, which is what we’re supposed to be doing in academia.”

Today, at age 51 and involved in local real estate, Aiken is still learning from Campbell. The two are co-writing a play for a local theater company. “She’s had a dramatic impact on my life,” Aiken says. “And I still find her company as stimulating, as challenging, as interesting as I did 31 years ago.”

Her legal case lasted seven years and its settlement still elicits her rancor. She believes to this day that she had a rock-solid case: “It would’ve been one of the major discrimination lawsuits across the country,” she claims.

Still, says Green, “She was a pioneer in women standing up for their rights. She wasn’t the only one — she’ll tell you that. But she went out front. She took the hit. And those who lead such things often pick up a lot of shrapnel along the way. But she did it. She had the guts to do it.”

Which leads us to Campbell’s sense of adventure. After receiving her settlement in the early 1980s, she took a chunk of the money and embarked on a two-month soul-searching hike 300 miles roundtrip to the base of K2 on the northwest frontier of Pakistan. “Now, understand, I had never been off the sidewalk before. So it never crossed my mind to do something like this. But by the time I trekked across three glaciers to get to the base camp of K2 in Pakistan, I was a different person.”

Her office remains a testament to the lasting impact that excurs-ion had on her, as poster-size photographs cover her walls, including one taken from inside her tent that looks out onto the Baltoro Glacier. “That [trip] made all of the horrendous stuff that went before that worthwhile.”

The discrimination lawsuit was just one instance where Camp-bell has butted heads with administrators. Through the years, some questioned the validity of her nontraditional courses and her insistence that popular culture is very much a viable field of study (she’s a leader in the field, be it as the longtime editor of the annual Pop Culture Review or as executive director for the American Culture and the Far West Popular Culture associations).

And then there’s the whole “gambling thing.” Back in the 1980s, while commuting from Las Vegas to San Diego to finally finish her Ph.D., Campbell chose to study the impact of gambling on society, at the time an understudied field. She wrote her dissertation on the positive influences of gambling, theorizing in essence that gambling is simply another form of risk-taking, no different than skydiving or sending astronauts to the moon or trekking to K2.

Her conclusions weren’t exactly popular. Even among campus colleagues, few recognized that one of its own was blazing a trail on a topic that shaped the core of the city. Over time, Campbell received national recognition as a pioneer, and today says that work “has been one of the more rewarding things I’ve ever done.”

Says Green, “She studied gambling long before it was chic. And now it’s everywhere.”

Then again, that pretty much sums up Felicia Campbell: always one step ahead of the curve.
“Felicia has always been way ahead of her time,” says Aiken, her former student. “The importance of women in literature, the importance of the environment, the importance of Asian art — these are the kinds of things that were always important to Felicia decades before they became fashionable. She’s always had almost a sixth sense about what would be important to us, what issues would drive us, 10 or 15 years down the road.”

So now here she is, some 46 years into her one-year stay in the desert. This gambling town has blossomed into a full-blown metropolis. And, of course, the institution of higher learning where she teaches has grown up as well, from a nondegree-granting extension of a college 500 miles to the north to the state’s largest university with an enrollment of 28,000.

This semester, she’s teaching Film and Literature: East/West as well as Sleuths, Spies and Spacemen. That, of course, is only a sliver of her agenda. She’s editing a two-volume encyclopedia on Asian-American popular culture (due next summer). She’s collaborating with Aiken on a play. She’s organizing the Far West Popular Culture Association’s annual Las Vegas meeting. And so on.

All of which begs the question: Does Campbell ever see herself slowing down, or at least exiting UNLV and allowing the next in line to assume the title of longest-serving full-time professor? “Nah, I’ll probably just drop dead here in the office at some point,” Campbell deadpans. “They can just roll me in the rug and take me out. Seriously, when will I quit? If my mind goes or if my teaching evaluations fall. But I think I’m still able to challenge people.”

Campbell’s last day at UNLV doesn’t figure to come anytime soon. Nor should it, if you believe those close to her. “Felicia Campbell is a very rare breed in academia today where people are playing it safe,” Aiken says. “She comes from that old tradition that was big in the ‘60s and ‘70s where you questioned everything, you were open to everything. She was not bound by rigidity or even the methodology that everything has its purpose. She represents academia in its purest form.”

Green takes it a step further. “This is a profession with a lot of people who talk, and we talk very well. Some of us talk a lot about doing things and don’t do them. Felicia’s done them. She didn’t just talk about filing a lawsuit because she felt she’d been wronged. She did it. She didn’t just talk about climbing mountains. She did it.”

In other words, she’s gutsy. §
**1970s**

Jim Yarnevich, ’71 BA Psychology, retired after a career as a human resources executive with General Electric. As the photo shows, he’s cultivating the Hey Reb! look in retirement. He and his wife of 40 years, Joanne, split their time between Clifton, N.Y., and Tucson, Ariz. They have three grown children, Jared, Christopher, and Amy.

**1980s**

Ann Druen Pashak, ’85 BA Communication Studies, won a Nevada Arts Council Jackpot Grant, which allowed her to attend the Big Sur Children’s Writing Workshop in California in November. She met with 80 other authors of children’s books, participated in critique sessions, and returned home fired up to keep working on a screenplay and a young-adult novel. She is married and has a 7-year-old son.

Terri Brady, ’86 BA Communication Studies, has worked in the gaming industry as a sales director for 14 years.

Ron Alfera, ’88 BS Hotel Administration, is regional senior director of market strategy for Marriott International’s Canada region. He oversees revenue management of nearly 60 hotels. He lives with his wife and four children in Canton, Mich. When asked about hobbies, he wrote, “Are you kidding? I’m in the hospitality industry with four kids.”

Dawn Nicholson, ’88 BS Hotel Administration, is the managing partner of DNA Consulting in Tualatin, Ore. The company provides consulting services in human resources, management, and training. She says she is having a blast running her two companies and raising her two sons, Jon, 16, and Nathan, 8. The family loves spending time outdoors, camping, and fishing. They live in Salem.
Zonya Love

'07 MFA Theatre

As a grad student at UNLV, Zonya Love predicted she would someday play the lead role of Celie in The Color Purple.

That someday came quick.

In January, less than a year after she earned her MFA and moved to New York, Love made her Broadway debut in her dream role. “Ciele has such an amazing journey, and I felt that I related to her in such an honest way,” Love said. “I felt in the pit of my stomach that I was the best choice — that this is a role I am ordained to play.”

Love, 27, appeared in the final six weeks of the Oprah Winfrey-produced musical. Based on Alice Walker’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, it’s the saga of a rural Southern woman overcoming abuse and adversity to find her own voice and self-worth. Love said she bonded with the character at an early age.

“I think The Color Purple was the second movie I ever saw,” said Love (who went by Zonya Love Johnson at UNLV). “My father didn’t allow us to watch movies, and he was against anything that didn’t focus on education. But somehow The Color Purple was OK.

“By dissecting the script, I realized how extremely strong the character is. I discovered how important she is to all the people who come in contact with her. She is the center.”

A friend recommended Love to the show’s casting agency. After weeks of multiple auditions, she learned on Nov. 9 that she got the part — two months to the day after she’d arrived in New York. “I kept my composure as best as I could when they told me,” she said. “When I walked out of the room I held it, and held it — then I let go. There was a praise fest in the bathroom filled with ‘Thank you, Jesus!’ es and tears.”

It’s a demanding role. Love is on stage for most of the 2.5-hour running time, belting out period blues, R&B, and ragtime pieces.

Her natural singing style is more lyrical, said Nate Bynum, professor of theater at UNLV. Bynum, who attended Love’s Broadway debut, recruited her from North Carolina A&T State University. “The first time I saw her, the voice was simply unique. It was the essence of who she is,” Bynum said. “The thing we call The Color Purple was OK.

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Love, who was raised in North Carolina, is a singer at heart. But she opted to major in theatre because she couldn’t read music. “Confidence is really important to have. A lack of it can change the entire course of your life. In my case, that was a good thing.

“I feel that God lined everything up the way he wanted it, and all I had to do was show up prepared.”

With UNLV’s Nevada Conservatory Theatre, Love enjoyed playing bossy Lucy in You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown — but her favorite role was the prostitute Mayme in Intimate Apparel. “Those two shows really allowed me to step out of myself. They are extensions of me but different from my everyday self.”

As The Color Purple comes to a close, Love is preparing to head back onto the audition circuit. “I am actually OK with the way things played out,” she said. “I have not just a Broadway credit but a lead credit on my resumé, so that is a lot to be thankful for.”

She shouldn’t have to wait long for her next someday.

— Erin O’Donnell

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1990s

Randy Boesch, ’90 BS Management, recently was promoted to president/CEO of Red Rock Community Bank. With nearly 35 years of experience, Boesch has been the bank’s president since October 2006. He is a member of the Las Vegas Rotary Club; a past president of the American Institute of Banking, Las Vegas chapter; and a graduate of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Las Vegas program.

Peter Savage, ’91 BS Accounting and ’95 MBA, is president and general manager of American Racing and Entertainment, which operates Tioga Downs and Vernon Downs racetrack/casinos in New York. Previously he was general manager of Riviera Black Hawk Casino in Colorado, and held management positions at several Las Vegas properties.

Kimberly Stein, ’92 BS Business Administration and ’95 MBA, is general counsel for Sona Mobile Holdings Corp., a software company for the gaming and entertainment industries. She earned her law degree from Boston University and previously worked for Mikohn Gaming, Sun International Resorts, Casino Data Systems, and Alliance Bally Gaming.

Matt Farra, ’93 BS Hotel Administration, managed hotels for five years before leaving the industry to deliver bottled water. The manager in him just couldn’t stay hidden, so today he is route operations manager over the Milwaukee branch office of Hinckley Springs Bottled Water. He is a member of the Badgerland Water Ski Snow Team. He and his wife, Debbie, have been married 14 years and have two sons, Zane, 4, and Dawson, 1. They live in Pewaukee, Wis.

Linda Gray Nencrocs, ’94 BA Political Science and ’04 JD, joined the Las Vegas office of the Holland & Hart law firm in December. Her practice focuses on protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights. She assists clients in nearly all facets of trademark prosecution and enforcement, administrative proceedings, and transactional matters.

Roy Burson, ’95 BS Architecture, earned a master’s degree in architecture from the University of New Mexico before joining JVC Architects in 1994. He became a principal with the firm in 2002. He leads
the team at the firm that specializes in commercial, religious, institutional, and public works architecture. In addition to researching, planning, designing, and administering building projects, he manages the staff, develops new business, and maintains client relations. He serves on the board of directors for the American Institute of Architects and as secretary for the board of the Council of Education Facility Planners, International. He participates in Canstruction, an annual design/build competition benefiting the Community Food Bank. His hobbies include traveling, sketching, and community involvement. He and his wife, Paula, are the parents of nearly 3-year-old twin boys, Zion and Zolin.

DJ Wendling, ’97 BS Hotel Administration, recently was assigned as the chief of protocol for headquarters, United States Forces, Japan and headquarters, Fifth Air Force at Yokota Air Base in Japan, about one hour outside Tokyo. He married his wife, Liz, in 2005. Last year, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Terence Lino, ’98 BA Environmental Studies, is the integrated solid waste and recycling coordinator for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the NAS Brunswick in Maine. He previously worked as a civilian employee at the Naval Air Station Pensacola in his Florida hometown. He worked there as a recreation aid, recreation coordinator, and regional recycling program manager. He has continued his education through Southern Illinois University, the Navy CEOs, and the Solid Waste Association of North America. He married his college sweetheart, Michelle Loudin, ’99 BS Kinesiology. They have two children, Farah and Kai, and a black lab named Thunder. They live in Berwick.

Melissa Roth-Lemoine, ’99 BS Education, has been teaching in Southern Nevada for nine years. She and her husband, Todd, recently opened an Edible Arrangements store in Las Vegas. She received a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from Lesley University in 2001. Her hobbies include swimming and reading.

Charles Chang, ’99 BA Accounting and ’04 Executive MBA, is chief financial officer at the Tuscany Resort. In January, he beat out graduates of such top business schools as Harvard, Wharton, and Northwestern to win the MBA Poker
Brandi Dupont

'07 Doctor of Dental Medicine

Most of Brandi Dupont’s patients have long been absent from the dentist’s chair by the time she sees them at Health Access Washoe County, a community health center in Reno. Every day, they come with problems that private-practice dentists only see in textbooks: 18-year-olds who need full dentures after meth has destroyed their mouths; bone death in the jaw of a cancer patient.

She measures success by moments, like convincing a mother to stop putting her baby to bed with a bottle that will rot her teeth.

“Our teachers in pathology would bring up a slide and say, ’You’ll probably never see this, but just in case…’” says Dupont, who graduated first in her class from UNLV’s School of Dental Medicine in 2007. “Every day at this clinic, I’m thinking, This is something I was never supposed to see.”

The clinic — HAWC for short — is one of the few U.S. community health centers offering both medical and dental care. Its three branches had 60,000 patient visits in 2005. Southern Nevada does not have a similar facility.

Dental care was added to its services in 1998 — about the same time Dupont went to work there as a grant writer. She had earned a bachelor’s degree from UNR in 1995 and was prepping for medical school. But then one of the clinic’s dentists planted a suggestion: What about dentistry?

“I’d never thought about it,” Dupont says. “But I watched her do a lot of procedures and I thought, this is what I’d rather be doing. They work on a lot of kids, and I remember thinking I would find that very enjoyable.”

Her choice meant moving away from her own school-age child and her husband, Mike, to attend school. For four years, the family made monthly flights between Reno and Las Vegas. “That was very difficult, and I feel like I missed out on some really key years,” says Dupont, whose son is now 15. “But I knew that it would be a good thing in the long run.”

Dr. Bernard Hurlbut, a UNLV professor, notes that it’s uncommon for a student who graduates at the top of her class, like Dupont did, to choose a community practice rather than pursue additional studies in the more lucrative oral surgery and orthodontic programs. “She worked hard to graduate first in her class with the sole motivation of being the best possible dentist purely out of service to others,” he says.

Dupont’s dream is to go literally farther with service, reaching out to parts of rural Nevada where dental care is scarce. She also hopes to promote the integrated model of health care that is the cornerstone of UNLV’s School of Dental Medicine. Dentistry is gaining respect in the larger medical community, she says, now that dental problems are recognized as red flags for other conditions such as heart disease or diabetes.

Dupont, who once considered joining the Peace Corps, shrugs off burnout warnings from her private-practice classmates. “I don’t see that happening. I love the population I’m working with now. I feel very blessed and fortunate to work where I work.”

— Erin O’Donnell
content to basic cable networks; and the nonprofit Mendez Scholarships, which awards business, engineering, and pharmacology merit and need-based scholarships. He is a contributing writer for Backpacker Magazine. He surfs off the Hawaiian island of Maui each year. He lives in Los Angeles.

Sondra Cosgrove, ’04 Ph.D. History, was hired full-time at the College of Southern Nevada in 2003 while completing her doctoral dissertation. A history professor, she was awarded tenure in spring 2007 and serves as chair-elect of the college’s Faculty Senate.

Asun Pareja, ’04 BS Hotel Administration, manages Hotel SOHO, a 51-room boutique hotel in her hometown of Barcelona, Spain. She also teaches undergraduate and graduate tourism-related classes at the European University and CETT Tourism and Hotel Administration University, both in Barcelona. Previously, she managed the 103-room Hotel Capitol in Barcelona and worked in a variety of capacities at the MGM Grand.

Misty Spencer, ’04 Sports Management, is director of corporate centers for Ideal Image Development Corp. The company is involved with laser hair removal. She oversees corporate-owned centers in Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. An Ideal Image employee since 2005, she previously was regional director for the franchise markets in Las Vegas; Reno; Salt Lake City; Boise, Idaho; and Colorado Springs, Colo. She lives in Tampa, Fla.

Tracy Boettcher, ’05 BS Biochemistry, received a master of science degree in water resource management from UNLV in December.

Jami Judge, ’05 BA English, is finishing her master of science degree in library and information science from the University of North Texas. She recently completed an internship at CNN’s Washington, D.C., bureau library. She lives in Las Vegas.

Surya Kiran Parimi, ’05 MS Mechanical Engineering, is a machine performance engineer with Caterpillar Inc. He enjoyed his time at UNLV and is looking forward to another visit to campus. His hobbies include watching thriller movies and surfing the Web. He lives in Peoria, Ill.
William Carpi

‘70 Pre-Medicine

Day job: Optometrist

Standing gig: Saxophonist and sometime-conductor for the UNLV pep band

A musician at heart: William Carpi studied both music and pre-medicine at UNLV from 1967 to 1970, and he was a charter member of the first pep band. After earning his optometry degree in California, he returned to Las Vegas in 1976 and joined his father’s optometry practice. “My dad put me in the office as an apprentice optician when I was 14. Music was my first love, but it was a tough way to make a living. UNLV has been very good at allowing me to keep music as the second part of my life.”

Seat filler: It was Christmas break 1977 and the band was short of players, so the director of bands, an acquaintance of Carpi’s, asked the doctor to sit in. He made it a holiday tradition for the next three years — as season ticket holders, he and his family were at most games already. In 1992, he started playing at every game. “We’ve now got about 12 to 14 alumni who play basically full time. They saw how much fun I was having and decided to stick around. People in the crowd will say, ‘Man, I’ve seen you here for years. What’s your story?’ A lot of people probably think I’m one of the instructors.”

The family that plays together: Carpi’s children have followed him into the stands. In the early 1990s, a grad assistant for the band asked Carpi to play a Lady Rebels game for the first time. “He said, ‘We’re short of players. Right now it’s you, me, and a drummer.’” So Carpi brought two of his kids. His eldest, Melissa, brought her clarinet, and son, Lee, played trombone. They were 12 and 14. “It became a really good parenting tool. It was an activity my teenagers wanted to do with Dad.”

Ready for the big time: By the time they were 8th and 10th graders, Melissa and Lee were playing at every men’s game. As high schoolers in 1998, they got their first taste of March Madness. “We had scheduled a wind orchestra concert for the first week of the NCAA tournament. Then we won the WAC championship, and the band didn’t have enough bodies to put on the road. So we had about eight alumni, my kids, and a few others making the road trip to Connecticut for the tournament.”

Catching the bug: One night, youngest daughter Deborah sat in the band with Dad. A grad assistant teased her, “If you’re not playing, you can’t sit here,” and handed her a tambourine. She came home that night and said, “Dad … I want to be a drummer.”

Dad’s footsteps: All three kids came to UNLV. Melissa got her degree in hotel management and is now a concierge at the Bellagio. Her husband, Larry Ransom, also plays trumpet. Lee is about to complete his bachelor’s degree in hotel administration. Both still play with the pep band. And Deborah — now the band’s lead drummer — is a percussion major and wants to be a music therapist.

Don’t stop the music: Carpi also plays in the UNLV Community Band, which is open to any adult with band experience. “There are not a lot of places for you to play when you get out of school,” Carpi said. “One of the band members recruited me to fill out the instrumentation for the first concert, and it got me playing again.” The band will celebrate its 20th anniversary in April with a concert featuring a piece of music commissioned especially for the band.

— Erin O’Donnell

“People in the crowd will say, ‘Man, I’ve seen you here for years. What’s your story?’ A lot of people probably think I’m one of the instructors.”

OBITUARY

Yaffa Dahan, ’97 BS Nursing, died on July 26, 2007. She was born Dec. 29, 1954, in Israel, moving to Las Vegas after marrying David Dahan. In addition to her UNLV degree, she earned degrees in business management and health care administration. Her last job was serving as CEO of the Mt. Charleston Hotel. She was a member of UNLV’s Honor Society in Nursing and recently was chosen as an outstanding alumna of the School of Nursing. She served on UNLV’s Division of Health Sciences Advisory Board. A nursing scholarship has been created in her memory through the UNLV Foundation. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughter, Shana Dahan, ’02 BA Communication Studies, and Michelle Dahan, ’06 BA Psychology.

Submit Your News

Got a new job? Expanded the family? Submit your accomplishments to the Class Notes section of UNLV Magazine. Fill out the online form at myupdate.unlv.edu
Bird’s-Eye View

With an ample supply of pigeons, the top of the Flora Dungan Humanities Building became a perfect hangout for a peregrine falcon. Nesting on top of urban buildings is not unusual winter behavior for falcons, according to John Klicka, curator of ornithology at the Marjorie Barrick Museum. Once nearing extinction, the birds have made a successful comeback thanks to massive reintroduction efforts. UNLV’s falcon appears to be a large female, says Klicka. Members of the campus roofing crew report that a bird just like this one has wintered at UNLV for the past three years. The feathery remnants of her lunch often can be spotted in the grass at the base of FDH.
1961
First science labs spark discoveries

1989
Supercomputer expands brainpower

2008
New building brings great minds together

UNLV is celebrating 50 years. Our research efforts began in a few modest labs in the Lilly Fong Geoscience Building. As our faculty's pursuit of knowledge expanded, so did our facilities – notably with the National Supercomputing Center for Energy and the Environment, which addresses a wide range of national scientific challenges. Today, our evolution continues with the new Science and Engineering Building, a facility that will bring together diverse disciplines, from fine arts to engineering, and more. Because in today's interconnected world, bringing great minds together is how you move science forward.

Visit http://celebrating50.unlv.edu for more information on anniversary events.
Celebrate the Finale of UNLV’s 50th

“Mark Twain Tonight”
2007 Oscar® nominee Hal Holbrook performs his award-winning portrayal of Mark Twain.
Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall – 8 p.m.
Saturday, May 3, 2008
For tickets, call 702-895-2787 or visit pac.unlv.edu
This event is partially underwritten by Wynn Resorts.

Picnic Pops Concert
Bring your blanket for a concert under the stars featuring Broadway and recording star Linda Eder and the Las Vegas Philharmonic.
UNLV Campus – pre-show festivities at 6 p.m., concert at 8 p.m.
Saturday, June 7, 2008
For more information, visit celebrating50.unlv.edu

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