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UNLV Magazine

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UNLV

SPRING 2008

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]



**ON THE
COVER:**
.....

Community outreach is a natural extension of UNLV's research and teaching activities. Learn more, Page 3.

Battle of the Budget

22 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

14 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

26 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

30 Less than a year after graduating, Zonya Love landed the lead role in *The Color Purple* on Broadway.

3 FROM THE PRESIDENT • **4** THE FLASHLIGHT

10 SPORTS • **12** BOOKS • **14** RESEARCH

16 MY THOUGHTS • **18** PIXELS • **30** CLASS NOTES

1 9 6 6

Nursing Department is born

2 0 0 4

School matures with doctoral degrees

2 0 0 8

Next generation of nursing begins

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>*
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.

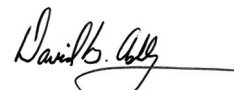
As the only major public university in Southern Nevada, UNLV is a tremendous resource to our community. Our rise as a research institution will only elevate the impact we have on the people living in the valley. Our faculty and staff unfailingly embrace their roles as educators of Las Vegas's future 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.




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THE Flashlight

50 WAYS

UNLV IS MAKING ITS MARK IN THE COMMUNITY

1. Good thing innovation is a renewable resource. Refrigeration systems that don't use hazardous coolants, cars that don't use gas, houses that don't consume electricity — the Center for Energy Research brings together researchers, businesses, and government partners to solve energy issues. **2. UNLV has community involvement down to a science.** The Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering organizes the Las Vegas Regional FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition for more than 1,300 high school students each spring. **3. Not your average college road trip.** Through the Crackdown on Cancer program, dental medicine students travel to high schools throughout Nevada to teach tobacco prevention and provide free oral screenings. The program has caught more than 1,500 tissue abnormalities in the 60,000 young people it has screened. **4. Turns out what's good for students is good for business, too.** The Business College's Entrepreneurship Center provides education, research, and community resources for those hoping to start their own businesses. **5. Seasoned forecasters help predict Nevada's economic weather.** Development officials turn to the Center for Business and Economic Research, which tracks key stats and puts the impact of policies into perspective for business owners and the media. Much of its research is available to you online. **6. Help for the hurting.** While such reality TV shows as *Intervention* edit the lives of families coping with substance abuse down to a few dramatic moments, the Achievement Center both trains practicing therapists to use a series of scientifically proven techniques and provides services to the community. **7. Getting ready to rumble.** California gets all the buzz when it comes to earthquakes, but UNLV scientists know the hazards that Southern Nevada holds. The Applied Geophysics Center is raising awareness of the risks here to diminish the human and economic toll that a future seismic event might take. **8. Because the pen really is mightier.** Through public programs, fellowships, and publishing, the Black Mountain Institute fosters an environment

Fast and Furious

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."

BY THE NUMBERS: [STUDENT HEALTH CENTER]



22.5

percent increase in patients served since the Student Health Center moved to the new Student Recreation and Wellness Center

450

students seen during the height of the flu/cold season in the first week of February (a 44 percent increase over the previous year)

7,000

free throat lozenges handed out by the pharmacy since September

10,954

prescriptions filled in 2007

After a 10-year absence, UNLV's program returned last fall thanks to a donation from the team's namesake. The 14-member team has traveled to universities across the country engaging and winning in competitive policy debate — a structured format that focuses on one yearlong topic.

The team already is ranked 34th in the nation, ahead of Arizona State, Michigan, and Stanford universities, by the National Debate Tournament, one of the two major governing bodies 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."

"You only debate as your well as your competition."

* **Jacob Thompson**
debate forum director

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."

BRIEFLY
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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.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE
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"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



BRIEFLY
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Top honors

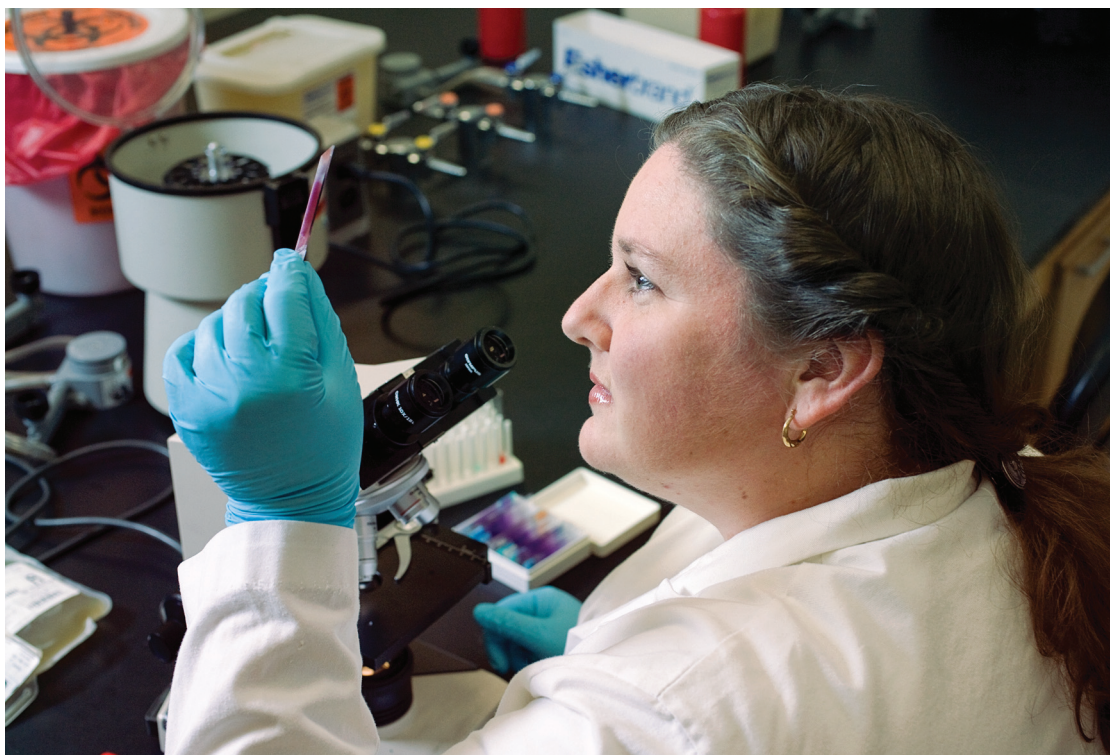
► English and political science student **Emily Powers** was named a 2008 Truman Scholar and will receive up to \$30,000 for graduate study.

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.

She plans to study child welfare law and run for political office.

► 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 will present her research at a meeting of the American



Jennifer Henderson is one of more than 10,000 nontraditional students at UNLV. She balances work, family, and school with the help of a scholarship.

Back on Track

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*

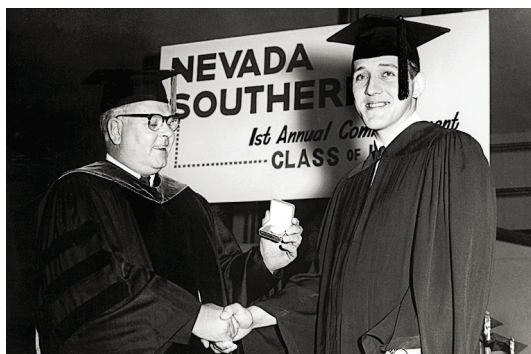
More info: Contact the Jean Nidetch Women's Center for more information on the Osher Reentry programs at womenscenter.unlv.edu

MESSAGE BOARD

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 most fantastic moments of lives 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



William Carlson, chief administrator of what was then called Nevada Southern University, presents the first Centennial Medallion to Dominic Daileida.

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 Daileida, '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. Daileida owned his own accounting firm in Las Vegas before retiring to Washington's San Juan Island.

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.

Write: UNLV Magazine, 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1024. E-mail: magazine@unlv.edu

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.

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.

BRIEFLY

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.



► Mechanical engineering graduate student **Saul Opie** (pictured, on right, with professor **Woosoon Yim**) will spend the summer in Korea developing technology for biologically inspired robots, courtesy of the National Science Foundation. Opie and researchers at the Pohang University of Science and Technology will design and build new robotic electrical motors that can be used to mimic the motion of human hands or legs. This work could lead to the development of more robust grasping and walking systems in robots.

BRIEFLY
.....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."

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
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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
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► **Nursing a sore back:** In a profession where 100 pounds is considered light lifting, back injuries are fueling 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



Nancy Menzel

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



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



Larry Ashley

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.

BRIEFLY

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.

BRIEFLY
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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.

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.

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; and 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."

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



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

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.



Legacy in Words

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.



**Blazing Heritage:
Wildland Fire in the
National Park System**

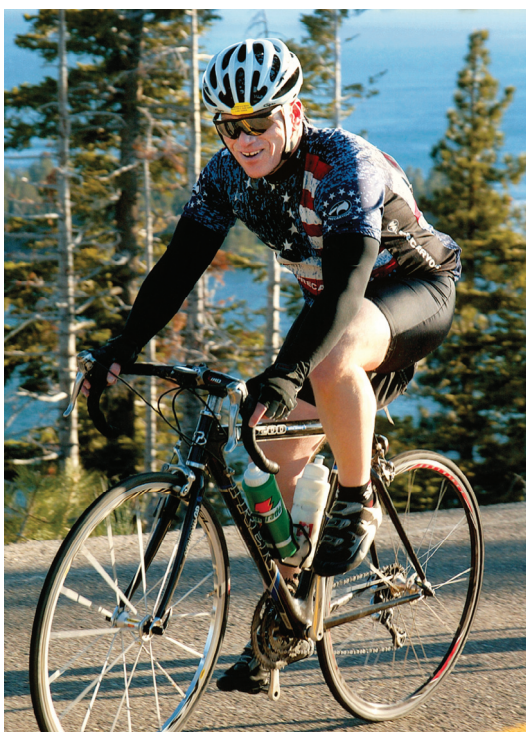
by HAL ROTHMAN, history professor
Oxford University Press, 2007

**Playing the Odds:
Las Vegas and the
Modern West**

by HAL ROTHMAN
(edited by LINCOLN BRAMWELL)
University of New Mexico Press,
2007

**50
WAYS**

systemic obstacles to obtaining needed care. **18. Good counsel.** Valley residents can access low-cost, quality counseling at the Center for Individual, Couple and Family Counseling at UNLV. Students working toward advanced degrees provide insight and therapy under faculty supervision. **19. Working overtime.** How do you create a stronger economy through a more highly skilled workforce? How does



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: Outlet, 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, warts 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.

SHORT STORIES

Minimal Damage: Stories of Veterans

by H. LEE BARNES,
'89 BA English
University of Nevada Press, 2007



In his most recent work, the former Green Beret leaves the Las Vegas of his *The Lucky and Dummy Up and Deal* to return to war zones. *Minimal Damage* contains seven

short stories and a novella to tell of returned veterans attempting to live with the trauma they experienced in Vietnam, Korea, Somalia, Iraq, and elsewhere. Barnes, who teaches English and creative writing at the College of Southern Nevada, has received several awards for his short fiction.

Summer Dreams, Winter Wishes

by ANN McDONOUGH, director of gerontology and senior adult theatre, and DOUGLAS HILL, theatre professor
Armita, 2006

Summer Dreams is the second anthology of theater materials for senior adult productions edited by Hill and McDonough, who is now interim dean of University College. Their focus is on scripts that reflect "modern maturity in the new millennium," with its many possibilities for older adults, rather than those that are based on dying or the "disease of the week."

They contacted playwrights, some of whom had written specifically for UNLV senior adult theatre, or had done scripts that supported the mission. Included are works of the UNLV graduate playwriting program alumni. The senior adult theatre program has produced most of the plays in the anthology.

BRIEFLY
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Fanning the flames

Red Brome, a grass that is a scourge on Mojave Desert lands, is getting a boost from global warming, according to a major new study.

"Our research suggests that increased levels of carbon dioxide promote the growth of Red Brome, a non-native grass that allows fire to travel more easily among plants in the desert," said Stan Smith, UNLV life sciences professor. "Any increase in the fire cycle could fundamentally change Mojave Desert ecosystems forever."

This finding is one of many from a 10-year study by scientists at UNLV, UNR, and the Desert Research Institute. It offers the first global estimate of how an arid ecosystem will respond to increased greenhouse gasses and associated global climate change.

Family grows, hormone slows

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.

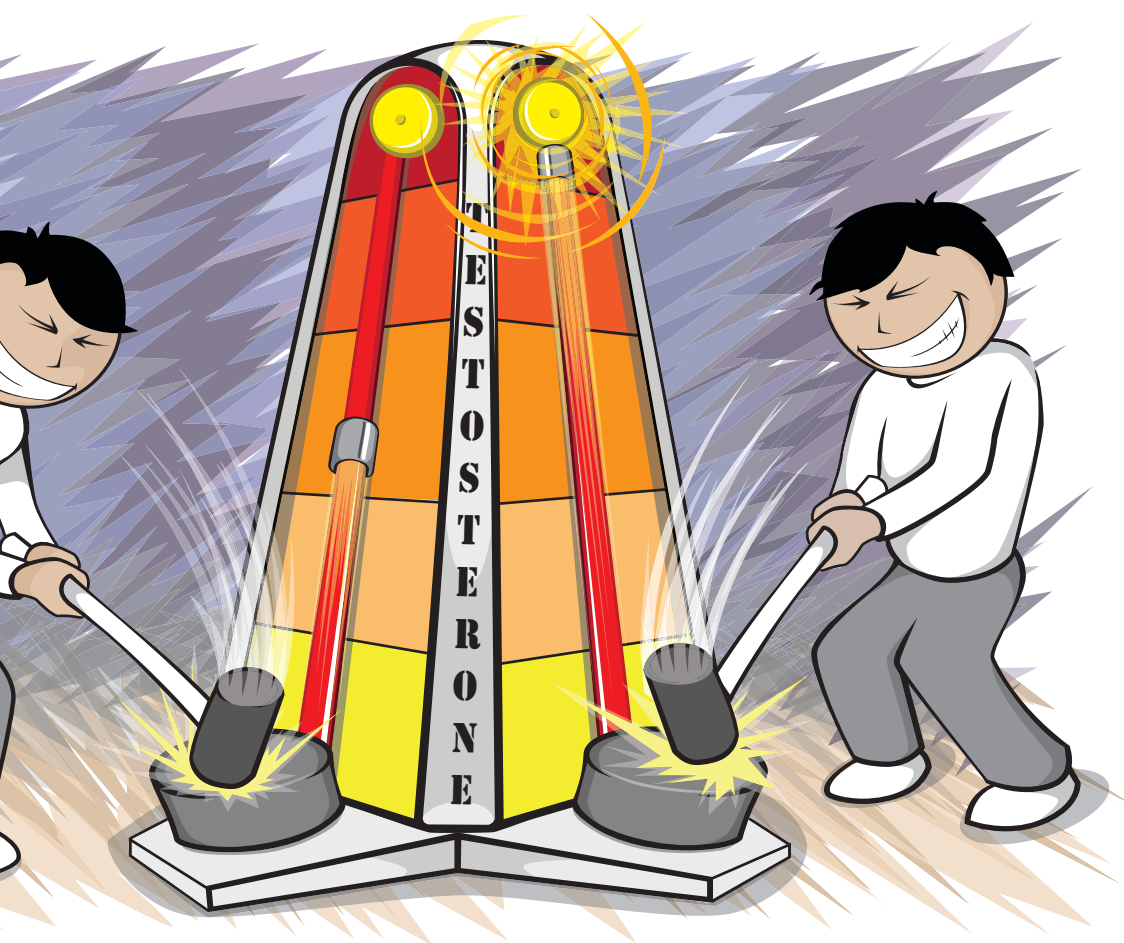
The first study, conducted in summer 2004 in northern Kenya, involved surveying and collecting saliva samples from 203 single and married males of the Ariaal tribe. The results were by and large

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





hormones, including testosterone. Once again, the findings between single and married men were expected: those who were single had higher levels of key male hormones than those in committed relationships. But the one oddity in this study stemmed from a comparison between dads who were actively living with their families and absentee fathers who only visited. Surprisingly, the latter group had lower testosterone levels, even though they weren't as involved in the daily upbringing of their children.

Although nothing in his research explained this particular quirk, Gray theorizes it has to do with the fact visiting fathers aren't prone to the same stress-inducing — and hence testosterone-increasing — issues that at-home dads deal with.

As for the overall impact of his recent work, Gray says there are several inferences that can be drawn

Those who had multiple wives ... had even lower testosterone levels than their monogamous counterparts.

and long-held theories confirmed — notably, that having a wife improves a man's overall health. Past research shows that married men around the world live longer and experience fewer illnesses. "Well, why

is that?" Gray wants to know. "Is it just that you eat better? Or is there something happening in the physiology of married men that's helping to account for that, such as lower testosterone levels associated with long-term relationships like marriage? So this research may start to account for the health-

related benefits of social relationships that people like epidemiologists have long noted but haven't necessarily connected to physiological shifts."

In other words, it would be wise for those of us married-with-children types to think twice before blurting out the cliché "My wife and kids are killing me."

BRIEFLY

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 consequences, 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 had to be in Vegas to become a U.S. citizen. I had to choose. I decided that I had been waiting so long to be a citizen that 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 I will — when I'm older and wiser. My ideal job is to be a Supreme Court justice.

Parra-Sandoval was invited to ask a question at the CNN presidential debate held on campus but was surprised and disappointed when her moment on camera was limited to a throwaway question — to Sen. Hillary Clinton: "Do you prefer diamonds or pearls?" — 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.

INTERVIEW BY ERIN O'DONNELL | PHOTOGRAPH BY AARON MAYES



"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

[PIXELS]





Blank to Bold

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]

[PIXELS]



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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Battle of the Budget

>> 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

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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 presstime, 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.

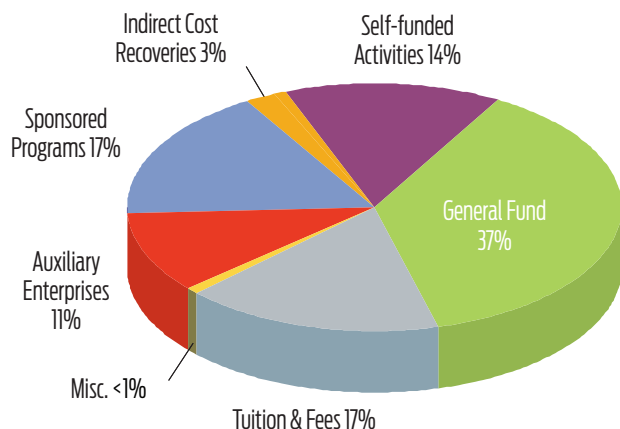
Higher education officials and legislators realized UNLV's growth had to be slowed, and it needed to become a more selective institution. They put in place a few policies intended to do both:

>> **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 studies programs. But NSC clearly has a much greater impact on UNLV's enrollment than on UNR's, Bomotti notes.



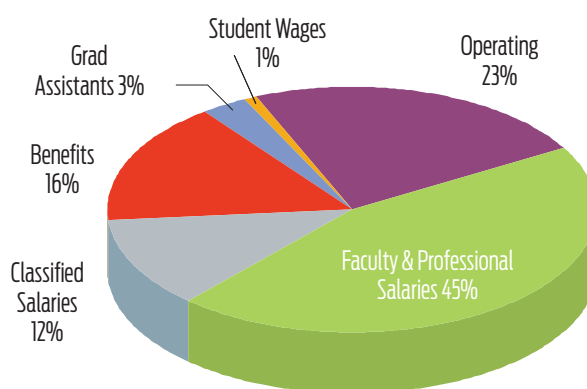
of transplants find their matches. **28. Unlocking a world.** The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders offers workshops and training to help parents cope with challenging behaviors and work as a team with professional service providers. **29. Capturing memories.** The observations of the people of Nevada are captured through the Oral History Research Center. Its projects include the accounts

ALL SOURCES FOR UNLV FUNDING



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.

HOW UNLV SPENDS STATE MONEY



Seventy-seven percent of the state dollars UNLV collects go toward salaries and benefits, leaving few ways for the university to cut state-funded expenses.

>> 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

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.”

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

“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

GPA’s 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

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

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 ac-

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 UNLV'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

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.

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 SUCCEEDING

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.” +



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The Cultural Site Stewardship Program at the Public Lands Institute organizes volunteers to preserve sensitive sites being damaged by vandals. **34. 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. **35. It does**

Guts is the word

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

STORY BY MATT JACOB • PHOTO BY R. MARSH STARKS

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.

Innovative and pioneering? Without question. Adventurous, prolific, ahead of her time? Check, check, and check.

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.

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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 far-away 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

much like an open window. In many ways, she permitted fresh air to flow through the university."

Over the past four-plus decades, countless 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 marvelous 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."

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You don't survive and thrive for 46 years on one campus without getting caught up in a brouhaha or two. Campbell helped spearhead a discrimination lawsuit in the 1970s against the university that centered on equal pay for tenured female professors. The original suit involved dozens of professors, but shortly after it was filed, her fellow employees settled with the university. "And so, being young and naïve and it being the '70s, I said, 'Go ahead, I've got my own lawsuit.' So I went off on my merry, deranged way and went head-to-head [with the state]."



Felicia Campbell's classes are demanding, but students keep coming back. Photo in her office, 1964.

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 excursion 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 Campbell 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. §

During his first year teaching, engineering professor Herb Wells had students design and build the concrete-and-steel "E" that now sits outside the engineering complex. With the original looking a little worse for the wear, this spring he challenged another class to build a replacement. The new one is light enough to travel with students to engineering competitions.



A well that never runs dry

Teaching a surveying course to a handful of college students wouldn't take much time, Herb Wells figured. He'd fit the temporary gig in easily enough around his full-time job at Timet.

That was 1957.

This spring, he is still at it. "Retire? I am retired. I'm only teaching three classes," says Wells, who joined the faculty full time in 1961.

What keeps him coming back each semester? "The students," he says. "I am especially proud when I see the students who had to work a little harder or who took a little longer because they needed to hold down jobs to pay for their schooling."

He's always ready to play a joke on them or be the brunt of theirs. "I like to get along with the students rather than being a strict disciplinarian." In 1988, for instance, he inspired a student group (which included his daughter) to spread some engineering-inspired graffiti. He had told them how the steps of Bucknell University's engineering building were painted in honor of St. Patrick, the patron saint of engineers. With supplies from Wells, the student engineering society painted a trail of green footprints leading to the newly opened Thomas T. Beam Engineering Building. The remnants of the original footsteps still exist north of the building. This past fall, students revived the tradition with a fresh trail to mark UNLV's 50th anniversary while honoring Wells for his years of teaching.

Over the years, involvement with UNLV has become a family tradition. His wife, Melissa Hody Wells; daughters Elysia and Mary; and a son, Jon, all have earned degrees here. Two more sons are expected to receive their degrees in the future. — *Diane Russell*

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1970s



▲ **Jim Yarsevich**, '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's big voice led to her dream role as Celie in *The Color Purple* on Broadway.

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. "Celie 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 'it' factor — she had that."

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 Norcross, '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

From world beat to bluegrass, KUNV 91.5 FM keeps the sounds of diversity broadcasting loud and clear. **43. Encouraging more trash talk.** UNLV's Public Lands Institute organizes clean-up events, promotes anti-littering laws, and develops plans to help local agencies strategically tackle the dumping problem. **44. Something worth applauding.** Nevada Conservatory Theatre provides the rare opportunity

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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, the top dental school graduate of 2007, chose a low-income clinic over private practice.

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

"Our teachers in pathology would bring up a slide and say, 'You'll probably never see this, but just in case...' Every day at this clinic, I'm thinking, *This is something I was never supposed to see.*"

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Championship at Caesars Palace. An immigrant from Taiwan, Chang previously worked as a chief financial officer for a company in Washington and as a casino auditor for MGM Mirage.

2000s

Cathy Santoro, '00 MBA and '06 MA Economics, was appointed by Gov. Jim Gibbons to the Nevada Economic Forum, the commission responsible for forecasting state general fund revenues for each budget cycle. She is senior vice president and treasurer at the MGM Mirage. She manages the company's treasury operations and is involved in all capital market processes and related financing activities. Previously, she was a vice president for Wells Fargo Bank in the gaming division. She lives in Las Vegas.

Nicole Laundrie Schmitt, '01 BS Biological Sciences, is in her second year of residency in the otolaryngology/head and neck surgery program at the University of Washington in Seattle. She earned her medical degree at Washington University in St. Louis in 2006. After completing her residency, she would like to pursue more research and clinical training in otology/neurotology, surgery of the ear and skull base. Eventually, she would like to obtain an academic position in the otolaryngology department of a medical school. When she can find the time, she enjoys cooking, painting, drawing, gardening, snowboarding, and traveling — especially to France, the native country of her husband, Renaud. They live in Seattle with their two cats, Louie and Chloe.

Juliet Kho Douglas, '02 BS Hotel Administration, recently launched an event planning business, Green Orchid Events. She lives in Henderson.

Brett Hughett, '03 BS Hotel Administration, recently was promoted to property manager at Oakwood San Jose, a 789-unit property combining conventional apartments and corporate housing. He is engaged to be married this year. He lives in San Jose, Calif.

John L. Mendez, '03 BS Business Administration, is CEO of three companies — Arawak Consulting, which focuses on strategy management for the small- to medium-sized enterprise sector and business plan writing; Hatuey Cinema, provider of entertainment

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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 Capital 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.



Clockwise from top: Lee Carpi, William Carpi, son-in-law Larry Ransom, Melissa Carpi, and Deborah Carpi

Rebel basketball games turn into family reunions for the Carpi family.

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

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Elizabeth Perryman, '06 BA Journalism and Media Studies, is a community relations specialist at Peyron & Associates, a public relations firm in Boise, Idaho. Previously, she was executive assistant to Gordie Brown, a headliner at the Venetian Resort Hotel & Casino, and was a community relations specialist in UNLV's Division of Student Life. She also volunteers at the Boise Family YMCA.

Sally Claire Braybrooks, '07 Bachelor of Music, was awarded the Nevada Centennial Medallion as the top UNLV graduate of 2007. A trombonist, she has given solo recitals in both the United States and in Australia. Last year, she was a guest soloist with the UNLV Wind Orchestra. In 2004, she won the James K. Hunzinger Concerto competition at UNLV as well as the music department's Theodor Presser Award for a perfect grade point average. She is the only undergraduate to have conducted the UNLV Wind Orchestra in concert. After graduation, the Australia native took some time off from school. She plans to begin her master's degree this fall.

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 daughters, **Shana Dahan,** '02 BA Communication Studies, and **Michelle Dahan,** '06 BA Psychology.

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Family Project, a joint effort between the county's Family and Youth Services and UNLV. The project is a national model for integrated family counseling services. **50. Bright smiles, brighter futures.** The School of Dental Medicine provides free treatment to residents of Shade Tree, a battered women's shelter. The Smiles for Success program helps individuals restart their careers with confidence.

[THE BACK STORY]

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.

50 UNLV
CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS

Celebrate the Finale of UNLV's 50th

"Mark Twain Tonight"

2007 Oscar® nominee Hal Hollbrook 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

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