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Inside UNLV

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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40 Years of Lifelong Learning

Ed Outreach Classes Available to Employees at Bargain Prices

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Want to conquer that fear of pub-
lic speaking or dance the tango? Do
you have an interest in fine Italian
cooking or floating through the
Grand Canyon?

The UNLV Division of
Educational Outreach, which cel-
brates its 40th anniversary this
year, offers these and hundreds of
other courses, often at a discount
for UNLV employees and their
spouses.

“UNLV is committed to plan-
ning and providing a diverse array
of programs designed to meet the
diverse needs of lifelong learn-
ers,” said Richard Lee, vice provost
of Educational Outreach. “We are
truly here to improve lives through
outreach education.”

The division traces its roots
to 1966 when Dwight Marshall
became the first dean of continu-
ing education. The first class was
a building inspection course taught
by Bill Adams, then Las Vegas city
manager.

Today, the division offers approx-
imately 1,200 classes a year to more
than 50,000 participants, and serves
as the university’s main point of
access for nontraditional students,
particularly adult and part-time
learners. Some come for profes-
sional development — the para-
legal certificate program has been
particularly popular — and oth-
ers want to explore interests out-
side work. The natural sciences
and travel programs are perennial
favorites. In recent years groups
have visited the Grand Canyon,
California wine country, Kenya,
China, and Great Britain.

Community Engagement

Through services that cross the usual boundaries of time, place, and
academic disciplines, Lee said,
Educational Outreach extends
UNLV’s resources to the growing
Southern Nevada community to
assist in such community needs as
economic diversification.

Kristene Fisher, executive assis-
tant to the vice provost of academic
affairs, has been taking both fun and
profitable continuing education trips
for UNLV employees and their
spouses.

40-Year Anniversary Celebration

An open house reception cel-
brating the 40th anniversary of
Educational Outreach is set for
4:30-7 p.m. March 23 at the Tam
Alumni Center.

The UNLV Community Concert
Band and the Southern Nevada
Musical Arts Society will perform.

Professor Finds Connection to Community

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Though his courses take him as far afield as Mexico
and Kenya, geosciences professor Steve Rowland has
found a greater connection to the community by teach-
ing the non-traditional students in
Educational Outreach.

Rowland has taught natural sci-
cence and travel courses for Educational
Outreach since 1979. The courses
have taken him throughout Southern
Nevada, to the Grand Canyon by raft,
and abroad to Kenya and Kenya.

The natural history and exploring trips
are so popular because many Southern
Nevada residents have come from other
countries, according to Rowland. The trips provide a great way for
them to learn about their new environments while meeting
people with similar interests.

Rowland said he thinks it’s important for UNLV to
connect with the wider Las Vegas community and that
Educational Outreach is an effective way to do that.

“When I lead a continuing education trip, I
interact with people from the community with whom I would not
otherwise interact,” he said.

“Educational Outreach is a mechanism for me to not
only teach people about geology, it is a way for me
to enrich the lives of my neighbors, and vice versa.

Professor are too often perceived as being aloof
and not engaged with the community. Teaching Educational
Outreach courses is one way I become more engaged.”

Here in Southern Nevada, geologic history is so inter-
esting and so well exposed that it is easy to
one up the people of these how the region
evolved, he said. “We try to help our par-
ticipants learn as much as they are will-
ing to absorb about the geology, desert
flowers, and other natural history, without
being excessively pedantic,” Rowland said.

“There’s no quiz at the end of the day.”

And an added bonus of his educational outreach
courses is a captive audience of
sorts. “The participants in these classes
actively want to be there,” said Rowland, who has taken
those enrolled in his classes to places as diverse as Death
Valley and the former Soviet Union. “In a traditional
credit-class situation, there are always some students who
would rather be somewhere else.”

One of his more memorable courses took him to Kenya.
“Our group was in a beautiful game park overlooking
the Serengeti Plains,” he said. “There was a huge Acacia
tree in front of the lodge, and I gave a talk to our group about
the ecology of the Serengeti Plains as they sat under that
Acacia tree, with the African savanna as my backdrop.
It doesn’t get any better than that.”
Across Campus

**Business**

Wells Fargo CEO to Speak

Dick Kovacevich, chairman and chief executive officer of Wells Fargo & Co., will speak about business ethics as part of the Wells Fargo Distinguished Speaker Series at 10 a.m. Feb. 2 in the auditorium of the Beam Music Center. The free event is open to all faculty, staff, and students. Kovacevich became president and CEO in 1998. In 2001 he was elevated to chairman. He serves on the board of directors for Target Corporation and Cisco Systems and is a member of the Federal Reserve’s Federal Advisory Council.

The speaker series provides a forum for dynamic national business leaders to address students and faculty. The presentations are intended to help students bridge the gap between the classroom and the business world. Through the program, both students and faculty will be better equipped to integrate practical experience into their base of business knowledge.

**Education**

Psychology Education Group Meets at UNLV

Hosted by the department of educational psychology, the conference centered on the theme “Student Beliefs: Motivation, Cognition, and Epistemology.” Participants, including faculty and graduate students from across the nation and from abroad, were encouraged to present research currently in progress or to address areas of difficulty that researchers face. The conference provided new graduate students and graduate students with opportunities for legitimate participation in conversations about difficult, cutting-edge research problems.

Researchers from universities in the Southwest, including UNLV, Arizona State University, the University of New Mexico, and the University of Oklahoma, formed the consortium. The goals are to establish and support research partnerships among area universities and to focus students’ attention on innovative theory, research, and practice related to teaching and learning issues of particular relevance to people living in the Southwest. The consortium is especially interested in providing support for graduate student research by providing a venue to them to work with national and international scholars.

**Engineering**

ASCE Hosts Fourth Annual Career Fair

UNLV’s chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers hosted the fourth annual Engineering Career Fair in November. More than 35 engineering firms, private consulting firms, and public agencies participated. Civil engineering students and ASCE officers John McAvoy and Camille Calimlim organized the event.

Club adviser and civil and environmental engineering professor Tom Pichota said the fair “was a benefit for all participants. It gave students a chance to informally talk with employers. It afforded faculty the chance to discuss hiring needs with each of the agencies represented. And it was an opportunity for alumni to visit the university.”

**Student Ingenuity Exhibited at Senior Design Competition**

An automatic plant watering system took top honors at the fall 2005 senior design competition hosted by the College of Engineering. The WATS (Water According to Soil) system was the invention of seniors Houston Osemwengie and O'Dealya Price, both of the electrical engineering department. They received $2,500 for their project. Engineering professor Robert Schill served as faculty adviser on the project, while engineering professor Bill O'Donnell was the faculty instructor.

Other projects included a home security robot, an auto accident avoidance system, and a solar water distiller. Students prepare all year for the competition, which takes place both in December and in May. The competition strives to stimulate the students’ engineering innovation and provide an avenue for them to hone their entrepreneurial skills through the practical application of their classroom experience. The awards are made possible by donations from Harriet and Fred Cox.

**Fine Arts**

Fine Arts Presents Variety of Events

The Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery presents “Midas Drowned: A Comedy of Riches and Excess” by Stephen Hendee from Jan. 17 through Feb. 18. This one-person, site-specific installation investigates the culturally coded landscape of Las Vegas with experimental light sculptures.

The Performing Arts Center, currently celebrating its 25th anniversary season, welcomes the Budapest Festival Orchestra with violinist Renaud Capucon on Jan. 11 as part of the Charles Vanda Master Series. Called “one of the world’s greatest” by London’s The Guardian, the Budapest Festival Orchestra conducted by Maestro Fischer performs classic works by Wagner, Mendelssohn, and Mahler. The series continues with P.D.Q. Bach: The Vegas Years on Jan. 29. Composer and professor Peter Shickele presents an evening of classic funk certain to incite hilarious works like “A Little Nightmare Music” and the “Unbegun Symphony.”

For more information, call ext. 2-756.

**Graduate**

Graduate Assistantships and Funding Increase

The number of graduate assistantships offered at UNLV has grown significantly in the last several years, as has the amount of funding for the positions. UNLV offered 935 graduate assistantships this year, representing a 77 percent increase over 1999-00. Of these, 529 were state-funded assistantships, reflecting an increase of 27 percent for the same period.

Growth in the number of grant-funded assistantships is particularly noteworthy, according to Paul Ferguson, vice president for research and graduate studies. Currently, 175 assistantships are funded through nearly $1.5 million in grant funding. These assistantships, which are funded by faculty research grants, offer graduate students the opportunity to conduct research with faculty mentors.

In 2000, only 68 grant-funded assistantships were available through approximately $659,000 in funding. “GAs play an indispensable role on campus, serving as research team members and augmenting classroom learning,” Ferguson said. “Additionally, graduate assistants themselves benefit tremendously from this experience, which provides excellent professional development opportunities.”

“Because graduate students value this experience, UNLV’s ability to offer financially competitive assistantships is important to the recruitment of the best and the brightest prospective graduate students,” Ferguson said. Assistantships support graduate students to advance their education and increase the university’s research agenda, both of which enhance institutional reputation in the higher education community.

Funding for graduate assistantships and fellowships are also among the college’s fundraising priorities for the Invent the Future campaign.

**Health Sciences**

Faculty Provides Expertise to Marathoners

Health Sciences faculty worked with the Las Vegas Track Club to provide informational seminars to runners preparing for the Las Vegas Marathon. Laura Kruskall (Nutrition) and Brent Mangus and John Mercer (Kinesiology) held sessions on such topics as the nutritional aspects of endurance performance as well as mechanisms, prevention, and rehabilitation of running injuries. Mangus, along with certified athletic training students, assisted with the marathon medical team on race day.

**Dietetic Internship Launched**

The new dietetic internship program in the department of nutrition science, which recently has been granted developmental accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE), recently celebrated its first year.

The dietetic internship is a post-baccalaureate, supervised practice program. Students who successfully complete the program are eligible to sit for the National Registration Examination for Dietetic Practice.

**DPT Program Going Strong**

The 21 students who comprise UNLV’s first class in the doctor of physical therapy (DPT) program are now more than half way through the first year of the rigorous three-year program. They began their studies in June.

The DPT program is the only post-clinical doctorate at UNLV. Specialized areas of study include orthopedics, sports medicine, rural health, pediatrics, geriatrics, women’s health, neurological rehabilitation, and amputee therapy. Students will be required to complete 111 credit hours, including clinical education.

**Hotel**

Gourmet Event Funds Faculty Scholarship Program

Gourmet cuisine, spirits, and scholarships — in November, they were all rolled into one grand affair called the World Gourmet Summit. The Harrah Hotel College was among the many organizations to benefit from the second annual event. Ten scholarships were awarded to food and beverage management faculty — with special honors for students highlighting the five-day food and wine extravaganza. This funding will assist faculty in improving their teaching endeavors and create a better academic environment for students through research materials and new programs.

“The $40,000 in faculty scholarships provided by the World Gourmet Summit will allow our faculty to pursue endeavors such as whisky distillation research, acquire research materials focusing on cultural differences, and assess the feasibility of an applied sensor science and consumer testing certificate program,” said Andrew Feinstein, chairman of the food and beverage management department.

**Class of 2008**

Thomas & Mack Court Named for Tark

Former Runnin’ Rebel basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian is joined by UNLV President Carol C. Harper during the Nov. 26 ceremony at which the university’s home court was named in honor of the legendary coach.
World AIDS Day

An AIDS ribbon on North Field formed from red and white flags helped commemorate World AIDS Day at UNLV. Passing students read profiles of individuals with AIDS that were posted near the ribbon.

The World Gourmet Summit is an event of the World Gourmet Club and the International Food and Beverage Forum in association with the St. Moritz Gourmet Festival, the Masters of Stratospheric Food and Wine, and the Grand Gourmet Festival Dubai.

Law

Teams Fare Well At Moot Court Competition

The two teams the Boyd School of Law sent to the regional division of the National Moot Court competition both came home winners in match-ups that pitted them against 12 other teams.

The team of students Michael Giles, Christian Hale and Tom Mulkey, coached by professor Peter Bauer, won second place in the competition and will advance to the final competition in New York City, along with a team from the University of Utah. Additionally, this team won the award for the second best brief in the region. Giles was recognized as the second-best oralist in the region, while Hale was awarded fourth-best oralist.

The team of students Peg Samples, Jackie Gilbert, and Brandon Kemple won in the preliminary rounds and missed advancing to the semi-finals by the smallest of margins. It also won the award for the third-best brief in the competition. This team was coached by Terril Pollman, the Ralph Denton Professor of Law.

The National Moot Court is sponsored by the Bar Association of the City of New York and the American College of Trial Lawyers, and is the oldest and arguably the most prestigious of law school moot court competitions. The competition this year required students to write legal briefs and present oral arguments concerning a dispute about roller coaster regulations. The students earned this opportunity by having been selected to membership in the law school’s Society of Advocates.

Sociology

Morales Studies Social Issues

Cristina Morales is making her mark at UNLV, quickly establishing working relationships with faculty throughout the university, said Ron Smith, chair of the social work department. She is conducting several joint research projects. One is the Planning for Immigrant Growth Project that she is conducting along with Sylvia Lazos, the Justice Myron Leavitt Professor of Law. A second project involves investigating immigrant labor in the local construction industry with law professor Leticia Saucedo.

Her efforts extend beyond UNLV and include assisting U.S. Sen. Harry Reid on immigration reform policies, participating in the Nevada Hispanic Summit, and speaking on immigrant issues for documentary films and radio shows. She frequently serves as speaker and panelist at professional conferences, including Sociologists Without Borders, Global Women’s and Human Rights Conference, Southwest Sociological Association, and American Sociological Association.

Her teaching reflects her interests and involves courses on immigration and diversity, social inequality, and statistics. She received a mentorship award from the Honors College and recently chaperoned a group of students to the Global Women’s and Human Rights Conference so they could learn about globalization research and meet many of today’s civil rights leaders.

Libraries

Excellence in Undergraduate Research Reaps Reward

Faculty and staff members can help undergraduates who excel at research by recommending they apply for the new Libraries’ Award for Undergraduate Research. The award, co-sponsored by the office of research and graduate studies, is designed to support students’ research and meet many of today’s civil rights leaders.

The award is intended for current undergraduates who will have completed a research project for a credit course at UNLV during summer 2005, fall 2005, or spring 2006. Submitted projects will be exhibited at the library. Applicants must have a course instructor or project adviser support their application.

A panel of faculty, librarians, students, and staff will judge entries. Expectations for achievement will depend on the applicant’s class year and the requirements of the discipline. For more information on the award, visit www.library.unlv.edu/award or contact the chair of the award committee, Diane VanderPol, at diane.vanderpol@unlv.nevada.

Science

Astronomy/Astrophysics Program Makes Strides

Prominent scientists involved with high-profile NASA missions such as the Chandra X-ray Observatory will gather at UNLV next month for the NASA Workshop on Laboratory Astrophysics.

Hosted by physics professor Victor Kwon, a member of the scientific organizing committee, the workshop will focus on a variety of NASA projects, including the Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer, the Cassini/Huygens mission to Saturn’s moon, the Spitzer space telescope, and the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA).

The presence of the NASA conference at UNLV is just one indication of strides being made by the university’s astronomy/astrophysics program, said College of Sciences dean Ron Yasin, pointing to the addition of two new astrophysicists, Bing Zhang and Daniel Proga, as further proof that a the program has achieved world-class status.

He also noted that professor George Rhee hosted an international meeting attended by 70 distinguished scientists in March. “Barons and Dark Matter Haloes” was the topic. Currently, UNLV researchers are exploring a number of hot topics such as black holes, neutron stars, and gamma-ray bursters.

Professor Stephen Lepp has filed an application on behalf of the department seeking a master of science and a doctoral degree program in astronomy and astrophysics.

University College

Recipe for Success

The ninth annual Major Exploration Fair, which took place in November, saw a 20 percent increase in attendance compared with last year. More than 500 students participated in the fair, which focused on “Your Passport to Success … A World of Choices.” A full 89 percent of students who attended said they felt they had gained valuable information about majors and careers.

An increase in faculty and staff support of the event also was noted, with more than 100 faculty and staff from a diversity of departments participating.

The amazing brain teasers, geographical trivia, prizes, and treats fostered an inclusive, supportive environment that led to the Hotel College for winning the gift basket for its beach motif theme.

CSUN deserves thanks for its support. Credit for the program’s success also goes out to event organizers and college staff members Paula Castillo, Veronica Considne, Tara Dorf, Anne Hein, Rimi Walsh, Monica McNeely, and Cheryl Tillotson.

Urban Affairs

KUNV-FM Increases Listener Membership

KUNV-FM 91.5 raised more than $63,000 in pledges during its fall membership campaign. Membership climbed to 1,177, an increase of 16 percent.

New members included listeners from southern Nevada and even those visiting Las Vegas from other countries, such as Canada. The station began a new program called “Buy-A-Watt.” All the people who pledged were sent a certificate of wattage to indicate their “ownership” of the station.

KUNV-FM 91.5 raised more than $63,000 in pledges during its fall membership campaign. Membership climbed to 1,177, an increase of 16 percent.

New Faculty Join College

The college welcomed five new assistant professors in 2005:

• Katherine Herleine (marriage, family and community counseling) has a doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from Virginia Tech. Her specialties include infidelity, sex therapy, therapeutic writing, and child therapy.

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Swinging in the Season

(Above) UNLV President Carol C. Harter and her husband, Mike, welcome faculty and staff at the annual holiday reception. (Right) Dancing to the UNLV Jazz Ensemble are Damon Lasiter and Lael “Spider” Vetter.

(Above) Jill Theroux, Kathy Eggoian, and Jo-Anne Lancellotti of the human resources department celebrate the holidays. (Above, right) Student workers Francisco Gonzalez of the Urban Affairs Advising Center, Henry Jimenez of the office of international students and scholars, and Andres Moses of the libraries’ special collections department enjoy the party.

> Educational Outreach

Continued from Page 1

professional development classes for 10 years. She said they offer her an opportunity to expand her knowledge and to network with other professionals. “I believe in lifelong learning, and many times learning in a less formal setting is the most rewarding because I am motivated by the topic and not the grade,” she said.

Fisher earned a certificate in business management, which she said helps her manage her office and employees more effectively. She also takes a yoga class because it helps her better manage her hectic life. “I really enjoyed the business management courses because of the diverse group of students and the fact that many of the instructors worked in the business field. I had the benefit of learning from their experience,” Fisher said.

Educational Outreach assists individuals, businesses and industries, professional organizations, and government agencies in meeting their learning objectives and needs though conferences, non-credit and credit seminars, and courses and workshops, as well as via distance-learning modes.

“The division has an increasingly important role on behalf of a university that envisions itself as an engaged university,” Lee said. “We offer a broad range of services and launch programs that are responsive to the needs of the community.”

Expanding Programs

Two years ago, the division moved to its own facility at the Paradise Campus, which includes 12 classrooms and three computer labs. Lee said having the stand-alone facility makes it easier to schedule classes that are convenient for their students.

As the division continues to expand, plans call for offering international programs as well as more programs via distance education. Expanding programs offered to businesses and organizations and offering courses at more locations also are in the plans.

“There will be an even greater demand for education in the future,” Lee said. “Education pervades all aspects of life. You can’t be successful in any profession without some sort of continuing education.”

How to Register for an Educational Outreach Course

• All full-time academic faculty and professional staff members and their spouses are entitled to a 50 percent discount on most of the non-credit educational outreach courses. They must present their RebelCard when paying for the course.

• All full-time classified employees are entitled to a 50 percent discount on most of the non-credit educational outreach courses. An application must be completed for each non-credit continuing education course, and a representative from human resources must sign the form. Forms may be downloaded at http://hr.unlv.edu/forms or obtained from the human resources office.

• To receive the 50 percent discount, all faculty/staff members must apply in person at the Educational Outreach offices on the Paradise Campus.

• Registrations are not processed without payment.

More info:
Visit edoutreach.unlv.edu

Got An Idea?

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

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