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Inside UNLV

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Classified Information

Either a buyer or a seller be. Check out UNLV's easy-to-use online classified ads.

Page 2

Wanted: One President

Colleagues weigh in with opinions on what traits UNLV's next president should possess.

Page 7

Inside UNLV

News & Information for UNLV Insiders

APRIL 2006



His Own Beat
Custodian by day, musician by night.
Page 3



Thomas LaBar, left, of the office of information technology and student worker Adam Jackson install computers in the chemistry building.

Academic Computer Replacement Begins

By **Shane Bevell** | Marketing & PR

At last, a systematic computer replacement program.

For many years, those people responsible for campus technology have wanted to have a plan in place to replace faculty and staff computers in a systematic fashion every three or four years.

The Academic Computer Replacement Program is allowing that to happen in the academic units on campus.

Funded by the provost's office with newly allocated state funds, the program will provide \$500,000 a year to replace old and outdated computers. Lori Temple, vice provost of information technology (OIT), worked with faculty and staff in the academic areas to determine a fair and consistent process to implement the program.

At the program's inception there were approximately 1,400 full-time

faculty and staff within academic affairs eligible for the program.

The departments and colleges submit an inventory list to OIT, with all the computers ranked in priority order by the deans and school directors. OIT then compiles a master list of computers that meet or fall below the minimum computer standards and ranks them in priority replacement order.

Minimum computer standards include ease of use connecting to UNLV campus network, ability to adequately run standard installations and software applications, availability of replacement parts from trusted vendors, and two-to three-year functionality and expected period of usefulness.

More info: For more information about the Academic Computer Replacement Program visit <http://ccs.unlv.edu/compreplacement/main.asp>.

'Hire' Ed: Student Life Gears Up for Fall

Dozens of New Hires Expected by July 1

By **Diane Russell** | Marketing & PR

Vice President Rebecca Mills and her staff love a challenge — or they're crazy — or maybe a little of both.

They're busy hiring — hiring 122 new employees for the Division of Student Life, most of whom they hope to have on board by July 1.

About half the hiring is related to the August opening of the new, 135,000-square-foot, \$48.2 million student union, which will offer students additional programs and services as well as more space.

The 122 figure includes 70 vacancies — 20 in the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, which recently received a new federal grant. The other vacancies are the result of natural attrition in the form of resignations and retirements.

The total also includes 52 new positions — 24 professional and 28 classified — most of which will be funded by student fees.

Years of Planning

Planning is what will enable the division to hire so many top-notch candidates in so short a time, Mills said.

The planning process began a number of years ago when the new student union first was being discussed, she said. Students were polled about what features they would want in a new union and during what hours they would expect access, she said. That allowed Student Life staff to develop a basic staffing plan and determine what level of student fees would be necessary to support it. Once an operating budget was set, the plans were refined.

Always, the focus of the project was student-centered, Mills said.

"My goal has been always to plan the work that we do from the perspective of the students, not the perspective of the employees," she said. "It's imperative that we hire people who understand that the university has a goal for student-centered decision making and priority setting.

"We spend a lot of time talking about the fact that being an educator is a part of the job of all Student Life employees," Mills said. "Folks who want to sit in their offices and have students come to them for eight hours a day will find that UNLV probably isn't the place for them.

"Our employees reach out to the students. We don't wait for the students to reach out to us," she said. "To ensure we get employees who

Mission Possible: Filling Your Vacant Position

Your task, if you choose to accept it, is to fill your professional or academic faculty vacant position as quickly and effectively as possible with the best-qualified candidate. Depending on the last time you were involved as the chair or as a member of a search committee, you may find that the process of conducting a search at UNLV has changed or for those new to the campus the task may be one of unknown excitement. If you find yourself wondering who to turn to or how to proceed, the following five tips from HR's Bob Sitts and Jen Feldmann are for you:

- 1 Contact Jen Feldmann at ext. 5-3886 and she will guide you through the appropriate steps to fill your professional or faculty vacancy.
- 2 Advertise, advertise, advertise in publications and venues that will tap into diverse applicant markets within your academic or professional discipline.
- 3 Establish a shared and clear understanding of what the job requires and measure candidates' qualifications against the requirements of the job. Create an interview process that will be consistently used during all interactions with all candidates.
- 4 Obtain a signed pre-employment certification form and check references of all on-campus interview candidates.
- 5 After interviews are completed, the search chair or hiring official should forward summary evaluations for interviewed candidates along with the recommendation for hire to the search reviewer with a copy to the human resources office.

are a good fit with our student-centered philosophy, we conduct a rigorous hiring process."

Campus Life

For a clearer picture of that rigorous hiring process, let's look at the campus life unit where Associate Vice President Karen Strong and her staff have begun a marathon hiring process.

They are selecting employees to staff such diverse offices as student conduct, student involvement and

> See **Hiring**, Page 3

Black Mountain Expands UNLV Horizons

In the announce-ment to campus of my intention to step down from the presi-dency, I referenced the fact that although I will be leaving my current office, I will absolutely not be retiring from UNLV.



In fact, plans are rapidly evolving for an excit-ing new project I will be privileged to lead — one that holds great promise for both our uni-versity and for the entire community.

The Black Mountain Institute, formally approved by the Board of Regents during their March meeting in Reno, will be a “think tank” and unique seat of discussion for major global issues — but in a way distinguished from such familiar institutes as Hoover, Brookings, and Shorenstein, which base their work on clear political affiliations, and largely upon the opinions of journalists and politi-cians. The Black Mountain Institute will bring together artists and scholars of varying cul-tural points of view for public forums, article writing, and other pursuits.

Black Mountain Legacy

The idea for the Black Mountain Institute evolved from the spirit of the legendary Black Mountain College in North Carolina. Established in 1933, Black Mountain College was fundamentally different from other col-leges and universities of the time. It was owned and operated by the faculty and was committed to democratic governance and to the idea that the arts are central to the

experience of learning. During its short exis-tence, the college brought together a host of creative people from many different fields in the pursuit of progressive education. Though the college closed its doors 50 years ago, its legacy has been the subject of a great deal of scholarly work.

Glenn Schaeffer, one of UNLV’s wonder-ful community patrons, was inspired by this legacy (and its synergy with Las Vegas’ own Black Mountain) to establish a center of excellence in modern letters on our campus. Schaeffer created the Elias Ghanem Chair in Creative Writing and brought Wole Soyinka, our first Nobel Laureate, to campus.

Over the course of several years, with a broadening circle of scholars and cross-disciplinary interests, the idea for the Black Mountain Institute at UNLV was born. Such central figures as Soyinka and Richard Wiley, director of the Center for Creative Writing and Public Discourse, have been integral to the development of this concept — aiming to cre-ate the structure to build a small faculty com-prised of visiting scholars, writers, and art-ists with an interest in the discussion — and deconstruction — of modern global issues from various points of view.

This work, which could result in multi-disciplinary scholarly writing and publication as well as public discussion, will be devel-oped at BMI under the umbrella of the Forum on Contemporary Cultures. Issue “themes” for such work could range from exploration of the divide between western European and eastern Islamic cultures, to the cultural and sociological (as well as scientific) implications of space exploration, for example.

The North American Network of Cities of Asylum (NANCA), dedicated to providing refuge and opportunities for persecuted and dissident writers, will also be an integrated part of the BMI.

Support from Scholars

A distinguished group of scholars has already emerged in support of this important work, including Harriet Fulbright, former exec-utive director of the President’s Committee on Arts and Humanities, as well as celebrated authors Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Russell Banks, who also currently serves as president of NANCA. It is fitting — and very excit-ing — that the first public offering from the Black Mountain Institute will be a lecture by Toni Morrison, America’s only living Nobel Laureate in Literature. Her April 6 appearance at Ham Hall is an extraordinary, rare oppor-tunity to hear from one of our greatest living authors.

A host of unique opportunities for students, faculty, and members of the community will doubtlessly emerge through the work of the Black Mountain Institute. These may one day take the form of a formal curriculum, a special certificate, or degree programs.

Although specific programming is still in the early development stages, one thing is certain — the institute will have tremendous potential to further position UNLV on the national and international stage, and to help center creative intellectuals in our community. I have no doubt that the Las Vegas Valley, world renowned for architecture, entertainment, and increasing cul-tural significance, will provide a perfect venue to dissect the history and meaning of many modern global issues.

Classified Information

Online Ads Provide Buyer and Seller Forum

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Have a used car or old weight bench to get rid of?

Looking to buy a rocking chair?

Use the UNLV classified ads website.

The free service allows UNLV employees to post classified ads and to view classified ads posted by other employees. Ads from busi-nesses, students, and members of the general public are not accepted. Marketing and public relations staff members approve the ads before they are posted.

Sarah Hrusecky of campus com-puting services purchased a freezer for her garage as well as a crib for her daughter using the UNLV clas-sified ads. She also got a free pool table from an employee who no longer had use for it.

The purchasing process is simple, Hrusecky said. She called the person

who was selling the crib, discussed the price, and finalized the deal.

Hrusecky, who checks the ads weekly, said she likes buying from the UNLV classified ads because more than likely she will know or know of the person who posts the ad. “I feel comfortable shopping the ads because these days there is always a privacy concern.”

Doris Hartigan, who recently retired from student enrollment and financial services, had posted ads for a cabin for rent at Big Bear. She echoes Hrusecky’s comments, say-ing, “I have used other classified ads and the concern is that if you have someone come to your house to look at an item, you are letting a complete stranger into your environment.”

Do note, however, that the ads are posted on a public website, so responses could potentially come from someone not affiliated with UNLV.

The UNLV classified ads are easy to use and can be searched like most other websites.

Employee Benefits

Equipment Discounts Available

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

Planning a big get-together or a weekend getaway this summer? Take advantage of UNLV Outdoor Adventures.

“A lot of people think we’re just for students, but faculty and staff receive the same discounts that stu-dents do,” said Heidi Erpelding-Welch, coordinator of Outdoor Adventures and club sports.

Equipment Rental

Employees can rent everything from tents and canoes for camping to volleyball sets and extra coolers for backyard barbecues. Rates are significantly cheaper than commer-cial shops and can be found on the Outdoor Adventures website.

Rentals are first-come, first-served, however, so reserve your equipment early during busy times of the year, such as long weekends.

“Our staff is here to help peo-ple select the right equipment and learn how to use it,” Erpelding-Welch said. “We also can recom-mend trip locations and provide maps.”

Trips

Outdoor Adventures sponsors daytrips and overnight excur-sions throughout the year. Trips are planned for all levels — from beginning hikers to backcoun-try pros. Perennial favorites are the Black Canyon canoe trip and Arizona Hot Springs day hike.

A new program this summer will allow participants to bring children



Heidi Erpelding-Welch folds tents that were drying in the Outdoor Adventure office in MPE.

for the first time. “We’re planning the excursion to include family-friendly hikes as well as activities to keep the kids busy,” Erpelding-Welch said.

More info: Contact Outdoor Adventures in person at the McDermott Physical Education building, Room 318; online at www.unlv.edu/studentlife/recreation; or call ext. 5-3582. The rental shop is generally open to 6 p.m. weekdays or by appointment.

Accessing the UNLV Classifieds

The UNLV classified ads are on the faculty/staff page under the “Benefits & HR” section. There is also a graphic in the right column that will take you directly to the ads.

To place an ad, you have to register for an account. When registering, you will be required to select a username and password and to provide your name and e-mail address. A username or password is not required to search the ads.

Ads are posted for a set period of time. Before the ad expires, you will receive an e-mail asking if you want to renew the ad. If you want to renew the ad, it is important to click on the link that is provided.

Marching to the Beat of His Own Drum(s)

UNLV Custodian Moonlights as Jazz Drummer

By **Shane Bevell** | Marketing & PR

If you see a man riding around campus on his cart smiling, waving, and slapping the steering wheel as if it were a drum, it’s almost bound to be custodian Earl “Sonny” Thompson.

Though Thompson enjoys his job, doing custodial work definitely is his “day” job. His real passion — one he has pursued for 50 years — is music.

One of the highlights was playing with The Four Tops, whose hits include “I Can’t Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)” and “(Reach Out) I’ll Be There.”

Working with the The Four Tops, he said, helped teach him one of life’s most important lessons — the value of discipline. “If your shoes weren’t shined or if your bow tie was crooked, you were docked \$250,” Thompson said. “Being disciplined will either make or break you (in the business).”

If his designation as employee of the month back in November 2004 is any indication, he brought that discipline with him when he joined UNLV in 2001. Thompson said he loves his job because he gets to interact with people from all walks of life, but after hours, it’s back to his first love.

“Next to God, music is the most important thing in my life,” he said.

He can often be found jamming with his own band — The Chosen Few Band & Show, which plays soul, rock-n-roll, blues, and other genres. He tries to infuse that band with discipline, too. “I expect my band to be on time and to be sharply dressed, although there are no fines,” he said laughing.

Start 'Em Young

Thompson came by his musical talent naturally: his grandfather was a drummer for 60 years.

“I loved the sound of the drums and watching my grandfather play them,” he said. “I loved that I could beat on things without getting in trouble.”

In addition to his grandfather, Thompson had another stabilizing influence during his formative



Earl Thompson brings discipline to his job and to his music career.

years. Bruno Locko was his school band teacher for 10 years. “Bruno taught me how to read music and to be a better musician, but he also taught me about life and how to be a better person.”

At 13, Thompson started Sonny & The Seven Souls — his first band.

“That was my first job,” he said. “We were paid \$50 to play at the school hop.” It was such an exhilarating experience that his band began playing at local lawn parties.

A couple years later, Thompson started playing professionally with Little Gus & The Soul Survivors. He played weekend shows from New York to Chicago with the band for 12 years.

Chance Encounter

While working as a custodian on Capitol Hill

for the U.S. Senate, a weekend trip in 1982 led to a chance encounter. Thompson was talking to a woman at the Bally’s ticket booth in Atlantic City when a member of The Four Tops overheard the conversation. “The group happened to be looking for a drummer,” he said.

A jam session led to Thompson filling in for that weekend’s show and then an invitation to play at Bally’s in Las Vegas the following weekend. Thompson toured with the band for a year, playing throughout California, at Lake Tahoe, and in Las Vegas.

In 1988 he settled in Southern Nevada. He’s been with The Chosen Few for 15 years and has no plans to stop playing — a promise he made to his dying grandfather. “I came into this world drumming and I’m going to leave this world drumming.”

> Hiring

Continued from Page 1

activities, university programs, and campus recreation, as well as the student union.

In all, they need to hire 58 people — 30 for professional positions, 28 for classified spots. When you consider that Strong’s unit currently has 29 professional and 39 classified employees, you realize what a challenge this presents.

But Strong said she is confident that her staff has laid the groundwork for a smooth and fruitful hiring process.

Organization is the key to making so many good hires in so short a time, said Strong, who expects to have at least two to three candidates on campus each day for interviews this month and next.

Search Process

Strong said every one of her professional employees is heading at least one search committee. Back in June they hammered out the details of the search process for professional employees.

That process entails:

- Advertising the positions in a variety of places to ensure a breadth of good candidates that represents the campus’ diversity — and advertising in a way that makes it clear the unusual number of job openings is the result of exciting new projects rather than the fallout of a mass exodus of employees.
- Screening all resumes for minimum qualifications.
- Conducting a comprehensive resume screening for those candidates

who pass the minimum-qualification stage.

- The associate vice president reviewing recommendations from the search chairs and determining which candidates should move forward.

- Scheduling candidates for 30-, 45-, or 90-minute phone interviews. Following the interviews, the candidate list is trimmed.

- Scheduling remaining candidates for another phone interview, an on-campus interview, or an interview at a national student affairs conference. But before the candidates are invited to campus, three reference checks must be completed, the search must be certified with the human resources department, and the candidate must complete a pre-employment document.

- Conducting on-campus interviews with the finalists, ranging in length from a day to a day and a half, depending on the level of the position the candidate is seeking. All candidates meet with students in addition to meeting with student life employees.

- And, finally, making offers to successful candidates who will fill positions from the director’s level on down.

“Conducting this kind of rigorous search will pay off in the long term,” said Mills, “because we will get the kind of enthusiastic, student-focused employees we need to make our programs successful.”

And, Strong pointed out, going through the process this year will come in handy next year when hiring for the new student recreation center begins.

Donations Can Honor Colleagues

By **Regina Vaccari** | UNLV Foundation

UNLV employees can pay tribute to their colleagues while helping students fulfill their dreams of a college education.

When Maureen Matteson-Kane retired from the School of Nursing in 2004, fellow faculty commemorated her commitment to the profession and to teaching by donating in her honor to nursing programs.

“I respected how Maureen always shared her expertise and was willing to help other faculty,” said Kevin Gulliver, one of the donors.

A UNLV alumnus (’84 AA, ’87 BS, and ’97 MS Nursing) who now lectures in the School of Nursing, Gulliver said that having known Matteson-Kane as both a student and as a colleague increased his appreciation of her contributions to the school. “I know her as being one of the most supportive and inspiring people in both ways,” he said.

In 2002, when Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies Jim Deacon announced his retirement, his friends both on and off campus honored his more than 40 years of commitment to UNLV by setting up the James E. Deacon Scholarship Fund.

“Honoring outstanding colleagues such as professor Deacon

by establishing a scholarship in their name is a great way to begin recognizing the accomplishments of retiring faculty and staff,” said environmental studies chair Helen Neill, who headed the committee to honor Deacon.

“I am thrilled that we were able to raise more than \$25,000 from faculty, staff, former students, family, and friends to establish a scholarship endowment in Jim’s name,” Neill said. “I would encourage others on campus to consider doing this as well to honor retiring faculty and staff while at the same time raising much-needed funds for UNLV students.”

Tribute and memorial contributions can be made through outright gifts, estate plans, or endowments. The funds can be used for scholarships, fellowships, professorships, research, and special programs in perpetuity. The gifts also will help UNLV succeed with its \$500 million Invent the Future campaign.

More info: To learn about tribute and memorial giving, including how to make a gift through payroll deduction, contact Deborah Young, director of scholarship and tribute giving, at ext. 5-2818 or at Deborah.Young@unlv.edu.



Project Clothesline

Faculty, staff, and students participated in Project Clothesline last month as a way of honoring and remembering people who have been victims of domestic violence or breast cancer. Participants decorated shirts that then were hung on a clothesline near Pida Plaza. The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center sponsored the event, which was funded in part by a grant from the Las Vegas affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Business

Governor’s Cup Cash Prizes Go to Student Entrepreneurs

Boasting one of the largest cash pools for such an award in America, the Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition encourages students of Nevada colleges to act upon their ideas and talents to build tomorrow’s businesses. The competition finals and awards gala will take place April 26 at Green Valley Ranch.

Student teams and their faculty advisers compete in undergraduate and graduate divisions for prizes valued in excess of \$100,000 with \$20,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 going to the first-, second-, and third-place winners respectively. In addition, cash awards are offered to the semi-finalist and finalist teams and their faculty advisers.

Participants gain access to networks of successful entrepreneurs, lenders, and investors; learn team-building and business planning skills; and benefit from media exposure.

The competition encourages the development and commercialization of ideas and technologies being discovered in universities. To bridge the gap between technology and the marketplace, the competition encourages multi-disciplinary teams with members from both technical and business disciplines.

With a vision for promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and with underwriting support from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, Nevada academic, business, government, and technology leaders in collaboration with their counterparts in Arkansas and Oklahoma conceived the Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup. These leaders envisioned that first-class competitions in each state would communicate a message to students that innovations leading to thriving home-grown businesses are valued and will be recognized.

Education

Nationally Recognized Scholar Lectures

School-based health intervention was the topic when Thom McKenzie, a leading expert, recently spoke at UNLV about environmental barriers to physical activity.

McKenzie, a professor of exercise and nutritional sciences at San Diego State University and an adjunct professor of pediatrics at the University of California, San Diego, has authored more than 100 scientific papers and seen his research funded by the National Institutes of Health for the past 15 years.

The College of Education and the department of sports education leadership sponsored his campus presentation. He also presented a community lecture sponsored by the college, the department, the American Heart Association, the Clark County Health District, Partners for a Healthy Nevada, and Nevada Action for Healthy Kids.

Fine Arts

April Events Announced

The UNLV Performing Arts Center presents “Vamps: An Evening with Bebe Neuwirth” April 22. Neuwirth, star of stage and screen, Tony Award-winner for *Chicago* and Emmy Award-winner as Lilith on *Cheers*, debuts in Las Vegas with a unique program of songs by Kurt Weill (composer of *The Threepenny Opera*) and John Kander and Fred Ebb (composer and lyricist of *Cabaret*, *Kiss Of The Spider Woman*, and *Chicago*).

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre main season presents the Broadway and Hollywood hit *Wait Until Dark* by Frederick Knott April 28 - May 7. This thriller tells the story of a deadly cat-and-mouse game between a murderous con man and an innocent blind woman.

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre

also presents three original plays as part of the Playwrights Festival: Jayme McGhan’s *Ragtown*, April 6-9; Stan Waring’s *Pluck the Rose*, April 13-16; and Ross Howard’s dark comedy *The Loggerheads of Lambhuna Drive*, April 20-23.

For more information, call ext. 5-2787.

Graduate

Nevada Stars Doctoral Recruiting Program Developed

The Nevada Stars Graduate Assistantship Program (NVStarsGA), a new program to advance recruitment of top doctoral students, is being established by the Division of Research and Graduate Studies.

The program, which will address NSHE strategic directions identified by Chancellor James E. Rogers, will provide up to 10 NVStarsGA assistantships, each offering an enhanced stipend and benefits package to doctoral students enrolling for the first time this fall.

The graduate assistants will serve as research team members and will assist faculty in nationally competitive research programs in disciplines deemed of high priority to Nevada, such as biomedical and health sciences, engineering, radiochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry / biochemistry, education, and environmental sciences.

“As UNLV seeks to expand economic development opportunities in fields of importance to the state of Nevada, it is critically important that the university continue to support research in those areas,” said Paul Ferguson, vice president for research and graduate studies. “The Nevada Stars program seeks to provide that support by enhancing recruitment of the most academically talented doctoral students to serve as graduate assistants. We are providing strong stipend and benefit incentives necessary to make UNLV more competitive

in attracting these students.”

The NVStarsGAs will receive tuition, fee waivers, and an enhanced stipend and benefits package valued at \$24,000 for the academic year, renewable for a second year with demonstration of excellent academic progress.

Expansion of the program, including increasing the number of assistantships offered, will be explored in requests for funding in the next biennium.

Honors

Thesis Projects Presented

Students in the Honors College shared information about their Honors thesis projects at the college’s spring 2006 poster session in March. Overseen by faculty from foreign languages, mechanical engineering, management, English, biology, and journalism & media studies, the projects included:

- A translation of some works of contemporary Spanish author Fernando Macias Garcia
- A study of the effects of unsteady flow on performance of an offset strip fin high temperature heat exchanger
- An examination of performance appraisals
- Latin literary identity and the American hegemony
- Gender-specific effects of slow drying in the desert moss *Syntrichia caninervis*
- Sustainable fashion: alternatives to waste, sweatshops, and pollution in the fashion industry.

SAGE Academy to Bring High School Students to Campus

The Summer Advanced Gifted Education (SAGE) Academy, co-sponsored by the Honors College, Las Vegas World Affairs Council, and the Division of Educational Outreach, will take place July 24 through Aug. 11.

The program reaches out to gifted

students attending any public or private high school in Clark County. SAGE will offer nine seminars ranging from biotechnology to Shakespeare to world politics, each worth three credits that are fully transferable as UNLV Honors seminar credits. SAGE is directed by Daniel Villanueva on behalf of the Honors College.

Hotel
Dinner of Distinction
Set for April 27

The College of Hotel Administration will recognize industry executives for their exceptional contributions to hospitality education at its annual Vallen Dinner of Distinction on April 27 at the Mirage Hotel Casino. This year’s honorees are Richard Mirman, senior vice president of development at Harrah’s Hotel Casino; Susan Schwartz, president of ConvExx; and William Allen, chief executive officer of Outback Steakhouse/OSI Incorporated. The college has chosen Bill Paulos as Alumnus of the Year. Paulos serves as principal of the Millennium Management Group. This year’s master of ceremonies is Don Snyder, retired president of Boyd Gaming. The event will feature special guest Jerome Vallen, founding dean of the college, and his wife, Flossie. Vallen created a hospitality education program that would become one of the best in the world. Under his tenure, the college graduated more than 2,400 students. The college is establishing an endowed professorship in Vallen’s name. The professorship will make funds available to bring distinguished industry or educational leaders with significant achievements in the industry to the Hotel College. Tickets to the event are still available for \$75 for members of the Hotel College Alumni Association, \$85 for non-members and guests, and tables of eight are \$650. For tickets, contact Judy Nagai at ext. 5-2934.

Liberal Arts
Anthropology Expands
Research Programs

The department of anthropology and ethnic studies continues to expand its research programs. In particular, the archaeology component is engaged in active fieldwork in Alaska, New Mexico, Nevada, and the Near East.

Much of their work emphasizes human adaptations to arid environments, a UNLV macrotheme. Department chair Alan Simmons, for example, continues his research in Jordan and Cyprus. He has long been interested in the origins of agriculture and sedentary villages, which first occurred in this region around 10,000 years ago (the “Neolithic Revolution”). A current project focuses on Ais Yiorakis in Cyprus, one of a handful of sites representing the island’s earliest permanent settlements. Domesticated cereals and cattle found at the site are amongst the earliest in the Near East and show that Cyprus interacted with the mainland through trade and population movement. In Jordan, Simmons received a Fulbright-Hayes Ambassador’s grant in 2005 for continued investigations at the spectacularly preserved Neolithic village of Ghwair I in the hyper-arid Wadi Feinan. He and his Jordanian colleague Mohammad Najjar had previously excavated at Ghwair I, showing it to be a wealthy community despite its marginal environment. The current project’s goals are to develop an archaeological park and eco-tourism programs in this remote area. Primary support has come from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. Additional sponsors include private foundations, and both projects also have benefited from UNLV “seed” funds. The results of this research have been presented in numerous journals, and a book providing an overview of the Neolithic in the Near East will be published by the University of Arizona Press.

Libraries
Patrons Asked to Weigh In
on Future Improvements

The Libraries want to know what you think — look for the LibQUAL+ survey this month and speak up about how the Libraries can better serve you. During April, the UNLV Libraries will once again survey the opinions of students, faculty, and staff. This web-based survey helps libraries better understand user perceptions of library service quality and enables information to be collected and interpreted systematically over time. More than 500 academic libraries, including University of Arizona, BYU, Columbia University,

Health Sciences
Study: Dance Improves Balance in Older Adults

A research study conducted as a joint venture among the School of Nursing, physical therapy department, and the dance department has found that jazz dance can improve balance in aging adults. The ultimate goal of the study is to address balance problems that result in falls, a major cause of morbidity and death in older adults. This study measured balance, cognition, and levels of depression in individuals participating in a jazz dance course offered through the university. Many of the participants, who ranged in age from 52 to 88, had once been dancers on the Strip. They attended jazz dance classes during the fall of 2005 and had balance, cognition, and depression measured three times during the 15-week period. All participants showed improvement in balance by the seventh week and showed even greater improvements by the end of the study. There were no significant improvements in cognition and depression. Anecdotal, however, the participants indicated that the experience was more than just a dance class, it was a support group. This study was supported by a \$20,000 grant from the Center for Excellence in Women’s Health, a research center for women’s health in the School of Nursing. Based on these findings, the principal investigator, Patricia Alpert, submitted a National Institute of Health grant application to conduct an 18-month study looking at balance, risk for falls, and effects on the neurocognitive abilities of older adults living in Las Vegas.



Georgetown University, USC, and University of Utah have used LibQUAL+. UNLV previously conducted the survey in 2002 and 2004. Survey results led to the reorganization of subject librarians to align with UNLV colleges and to improvements to the collections, particularly serials. They also helped the libraries understand the need for an audience-based communications plan. Throughout April, the web-based survey will be available to users selected at random in proportion to the user group they represent. People who are selected are strongly encouraged to participate.

Sciences
Postdoctoral Scholar Receives
NIH Research Grant

Postdoctoral scholar Brent Sinclair, received a \$410,000 NIH Exploratory / Developmental Research Grant Award (R21) from the National Institute of Health (NIH). The grant will fund research that aims to understand cold injury and engineer cryotolerance traits into the fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*). Sinclair will serve as co-principal investigator with biological sciences professors Stephen Roberts and Allen Gibbs, as well as Vlad Kostal of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The purpose of the R21 funding is to collect data that will test the feasibility of larval cryopreservation of the fruit fly. The research specifically focuses on two critical goals: the need to mitigate chilling injury during cooling and the manipulation of the site of ice formation. The fruit fly is one of the most important animal models for the investigation of genetics, molecular biology, neurobiology, and development, and is an important model for the ongoing investigation of more than 75 human diseases. The fruit fly genome shows a similarity in DNA and protein sequences to more than 75 percent of identified human disease genes. Successful cryopreservation will significantly increase the usefulness of the

Drosophila model, and reduce maintenance costs of resource-intensive, live specimen centers. The core of all fruit fly research is the identification and exploration of mutants, which serve as a living resource for a large number of investigators. At the conclusion of these studies, important mutants and lines must be maintained for the same reasons that data are archived and taxonomic type specimens are stored to allow future corroboration and extension of findings.

Urban Affairs
Faculty Participate in
‘Culture’ Conference

Faculty members from the departments of communication studies and public administration, the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies, and the School of Social Work participated in the 18th annual meeting of the Far West Popular and American Culture associations held recently in Las Vegas. Christopher Stream and William Thompson of public administration gave the conference luncheon presentation, “Gambling Goes to the Dogs: The Art of Cassius Marcellus Coolidge,” a historical account of the well-known paintings of dogs playing poker. Stream and Thompson described how “A Friend in Need,” the formal title of the painting, serves as the inspiration for numerous products and artifacts in contemporary popular culture. Journalism and media studies faculty members Greg Borchard, Tony Ferri, Cathy Hanson, Julian Kilker, Gary Larson, and Larry Mullen served as panelists for a session titled, “Becoming Las Vegas: How Las Vegas Became ‘Vegas.’” Satish Sharma of the School of Social Work presented his paper “Gandhi’s Contributions to Popular Indian Culture.” Communication studies faculty member Donovan Conley presented his paper “Gastroporn Gadgetry and the Shrinking of Production,” and Erika Engstrom presented “Use of Lesbian Chic in Casino Advertising,” which was featured in a *Las Vegas Sun* article prior to the conference.

Engineering
Researcher Works to Improve
Breast Cancer Detection

Emma Regentova, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, received funding to help improve detection of the most common form of cancer registered among women in the United States. Today’s computer tools and imaging systems process great volumes of mammography images while guaranteeing the detection of the micro calcification — a tiny abnormal deposit of calcium salts most commonly found in the female breasts. The deposits often indicate when cancer is present. Regentova will conduct research to automate the detection of micro calcifications in digital mammograms. Previous studies identified the deposits 90 to 93 percent of the time. Regentova is striving for at least a 98 percent accuracy rate so that she can recommend the protocol for upgrading today’s computer-aided diagnostic prompting systems. The research is being funded through the American Cancer Society via collaboration with the Nevada Cancer Institute.



> **Erika Engstrom** (Communication Studies) wrote the article “‘Women’s Voices’ Provides Musical Refuge in FM Landscape” for the latest issue of *Women’s Words*, the newsletter of the Commission on the Status of Women of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. *Women’s Voices* is one of the few women’s music programs in the nation and airs on KUNV-FM.

> **Bob Aalberts** and **Percy Poon** (Finance) have had their article, “Derivatives and the Model Prudent Investor Rule: Too Risky or Too Necessary?” accepted for publication in the spring issue of the *Ohio State Law Journal* (Moritz School of Law).



> **Gay Sessums** (Women’s Studies) was selected as a classified employee of the month for February in the administrative category. An administrative assistant II, she handles a variety of tasks for the women’s studies department. A 10-year UNLV employee, she worked for the athletics

department for eight years. She earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from UNLV in 2004.

> **James Cesaria** (Public Safety) has been hired as a police officer. He previously served 20 years with the New York City Police Department.

> **Kat Hertlein** (Marriage, Family, and Community Counseling) recently wrote her second book. *The Handbook for the Clinical Treatment of Infidelity* was published by Haworth Press. Co-editors are Fred P. Piercy from Virginia Tech and Joseph L. Wetchler from Purdue University Calumet.

> **Jennifer Bevan** (Communication Studies) presented the paper “Understanding Romantic Jealousy Experience, Expression, and Commitment through the Lens of the Investment Model,” a top-four paper in the interpersonal communication division at the Western States Communication annual convention in Palm Springs, Calif., in February.

> **Clifford Devoge** (Facilities) was named classified employee of the month for February in the custodial division.

A custodial worker I, he has worked at UNLV for more than a year.

> **Joan Mann** (History) had her paper “Two Taoist Temples: Bok Kai Temple in Marysville, California and Baiyunguan in Shanghai, China” accepted for publication in a special issue of *Chinese America*. Edited by Madeline Hsu, the issue is expected to be published by 2007.

> **Dustin Olson** (Public Safety) has been invited to attend the FBI National Academy for law enforcement officers. He will spend 10 weeks this summer in Quantico, Va., training in the areas of law, behavioral science, forensic science, leadership development, communication, and health and fitness. The academy is considered one of the most prestigious law enforcement training programs in the nation. Participation is by invitation only. Participants are drawn from every state, from U.S. territories, and from more than 150 foreign countries.

> **Jeremy Hall** (Lockshop) was named classified employee of the month for February in the technical division. A UNLV employee for more than a year, he performs all the locksmith work at the Shadow

Lane campus and also works on the main campus and other UNLV locations.



> **Patricia Markos** (Marriage, Family and Community Counseling) presented “Preparing for the Graduate School Interview” to undergraduate students at the McNair Scholars Institute, a unit of UNLV’s Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach.

> **Stewart Barquist** (Public Safety) recently was hired as a police officer. He is a 27-year veteran of the police department in North Bend, Ore.

> **Gay Sluder** (Convention & Tourism Administration) was selected as a classified employee of the month for February in the administrative category. An administrative assistant III, she has worked at UNLV for nine years, first in food and beverage management and now in convention & tourism administration. Her duties include scheduling classes, ordering supplies, and bookkeeping. She will be moving to Logan, Utah, on May 1.

Tech Savvy

Think Before You Click: OIT Launches Security Campaign

Use caution when downloading, opening items

By **Mamie Peers** | OIT
Don’t open that e-mail!
Do you know the sender? Do you feel confident it’s a legitimate e-mail rather than a scam or a Trojan horse? Or do you need to do some more checking?
Those are the kinds of questions the folks in the Computing Resource Center want you to ask yourself — and with good reason.

More than 750 faculty and staff members have been victims of security-related computer complications since the center’s help desk began tracking security calls 16 months ago. They experienced their computers running slow, not starting up, or running as if controlled by an invisible force.

In some cases, the machines had been taken over by cyber criminals who were using the computers to destroy systems connected to the Internet. Other employees have inadvertently divulged private information to “phishing” cyber criminals.

Such problems frustrate users while costing the university thousands of dollars in repairs and loss of productivity. Worse, the security problems can also put student and personnel data at risk.

Plan of Attack

But the office of information technology is taking action. This month it launches a computer

security campaign aptly named Think Before You Click.

As wireless access on campus becomes widespread, and as more personal devices are attached to UNLV’s network, it is vital that users learn the best methods for protecting their computers. This will help protect student data, prevent the spread of malicious software, and avoid breaking copyright infringement regulations.

The campaign’s goal is to educate faculty and staff about what to consider before clicking on links, attachments, downloads, pop-ups, and music files. Employees will:

- Receive information in their mailboxes explaining security risks.
- Have the opportunity to visit educational booths in the Lied Library and in the dining

commons, where technicians will distribute anti-virus CDs, answer security-related questions, and discuss issues in more detail.

- Receive invitations to panel presentations hosted by staff who have experienced security-related problems and the technicians who resolved the issue.

A Cautionary Tale

Security issues can hit even the savviest computer users. Take English professor John Irsfeld as an example. At home, he installed a wireless system, firewalls, and antivirus software. But this past December, a virus on his UNLV desktop machine left him without a computer for six weeks.

“I didn’t get any campus e-mail and missed some meetings because of the problem. Several weeks of paper-only activity was a little frustrating,” he added.

He encourages employees not to be lax about security issues at work. “Don’t think that just because we have university security systems in place that you won’t get attacked,” he warned. “I’ve had a security problem three times in the 25 years that I’ve worked with computers. The first time I got a

virus from a floppy disc. Another time I got a virus in an e-mail that sent chapters from a book I was writing to everyone in my address book.”

The chapters were even e-mailed to a friend in Germany with whom he hadn’t corresponded in years. “It was nice to hear from people who received the virus, but it was a little embarrassing,” he said.

what you might__see	what you should__think	what you should__do
links <i>often link to phony sites or carry viruses</i>	Did I expect this link? Who is it from? Did I request this information?	Contact the person who sent it. Don't click. Question requests for your personal and financial data.
attachments <i>may contain viruses or malicious software</i>	Was I expecting the attachment? Does the message sound like the sender? Does the message address me personally?	If you answered NO to any of the questions, contact the person who sent it. Or, delete it.
downloads <i>free fonts & games often contain malicious software</i>	Do I really need this download? Do I know how the download works? Why is it free? What's the catch?	Do not install unnecessary software or programs. Software on your computer should be for business purposes. Research the download before installing it on your computer.
pop-ups <i>contain broken promises and nasty bugs</i>	Don't think. Just close it, unless you expect it. If you're registering for classes, you'll want to use the pop-up.	Don't click on "Close" in the pop-up. Right click, then close it. Or, use a shortcut key such as Alt F4 for PCs / Apple W for a Mac.
music files <i>peer-to-peer file-sharing is often unregulated</i>	Could the music file I'm downloading contain a virus? Am I using a reputable file-sharing program? Am I be enabling other users to look at my computer files? Am I exposing myself and UNLV to copyright infringement claims?	Use safer file-sharing software, like iTunes. Be sure to decline options to open the window to your computer files when using file-sharing software. Be aware that music files on peer-to-peer networks are sometimes viruses, not music.

InsideUNLV

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

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More info: Visit facultystaffinfo.unlv.edu for event details and more information on the campaign.



Career Advice

A representative of U.S. Customs and Border Protection talks to one of the participants in last month’s Career Day. Organized by UNLV’s office of career services, the event drew 202 employers – the largest number to participate in a UNLV Career Day since the events of Sept. 11, 2001. More than 1,400 students attended the event along with 300 non-campus job seekers. Among the companies participating for the first time this year was Nike, which was a popular stop among the students.

Wanted: One President Who Can...

Colleagues Weigh In On Important Presidential Traits

Compiled by **Diane Russell** | Marketing & PR

What traits should UNLV’s next president possess? In an online poll, *Inside UNLV* asked readers to weigh in with their opinions. We received a number of answers, some of which have been edited for length. Some of your responses were:

A new president must have extraordinary visionary and leadership skills to continue — or rather to make faster — a trajectory so that UNLV becomes a research university of national and international repute.

- Pradip Bhowmik,
Chemistry Department

The two most important traits our next president should possess are: 1) communication skills and 2) humor.

Wendy Urbaniak,
Campus Housing

Proven leadership at a growing institution (must be charismatic, smart, and thoughtful); must put students first; and must be able to delegate — build strong supporting cast to handle many operational issues.

- Darrell Lutey,
Campus Computing

Should be willing to meet all new employees. I worked for a well-known company in Chicago. The company president took the time to do this. I was so impressed. I have never forgotten this.

- Dona Robertson,
University Libraries

Experienced visionary leader, ethical, and strong-willed.

- Christine Wallace,
College of Engineering

I think the new president should be a charismatic communicator and leader. He or she should demonstrate terrific planning skills and understand management of the intricacies and details involved in implementation of diversified programs.

- Walter E. Goldstein,
Biotechnology Center, Shadow Lane campus

Student-centered in philosophy and practice; respectful of faculty and good at listening and responding to issues on campus and in the community; fair-minded; approachable.

- Vicki Holmes,
English Language Center

Someone who is able to connect with and focus on students in the way that Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore

County (UMBC), does. He often remembers individual students and makes students feel like they are partnering with him on the future of the campus.

- Julianna Ormsby,
Women’s Research Institute of Nevada,
received undergraduate degree from UMBC

Understanding that UNLV has taken great strides in its first 50 years with notable advancements under President Harter’s leadership, we stand at an important point in the university’s development, poised for another major advancement in quality and reputation, if only we can attract the right visionary president. The new president should: be an accomplished fundraiser — fundraising involves both private sector donations (development) and research grants; be able to articulate the need for a world-class university in a world-class city; come with a vision of what it takes to become a world-class university; and be able to attract top people into his/her staff and delegate authority for day-to-day operations.

- Stephen Miller,
Department of Economics

The ability to listen to “unpopular” views and/or the “truth” about situations without going into “cover-up” mode. The ability to actually communicate with faculty and staff, not just do pronouncements “from on high.”

- Peter Gratton,
University Libraries

I feel that we need a president who has a vision for technology on this campus and its relation to other campuses locally and nationally. We need someone who has a plan for keeping, improving, and expanding technology and technology resources on this campus.

- Shellie Brattain,
Office of Information Technology

I would say the next president of UNLV should be both a good manager and an entrepreneur.

- Chris Stream,
Public Administration Department

Above all, the next president must have a strong commitment to quality (highly ranked via external benchmarks), double-blind reviewed research publications. This is critical if we are to be thought of as a high-level research institution. In this modern information age, the quality of faculty publications posted on their websites is the first thing that potential high-quality recruits for faculty positions look at.

- Michael S. LaTour,
Department of Marketing

Our next president should have experience and understand the importance of internationalizing the campus if we want to become a premier urban institution in this global economy.

Internationalizing the campus would include such things as promoting study abroad by domestic students, international student and scholar exchange, faculty exchanges, foreign language training, and international linkages.

- Kristen Reza,
Office of International Students and Scholars

Traits next president should possess — same as two main traits best exemplified by President Harter, namely: 1) bold, ambitious vision for the future of UNLV (Midtown UNLV, Invent the Future capital campaign, Lied Library); 2) administrative support for enhancement of research at UNLV, especially in science and engineering.

- Ronald Gary,
Chemistry Department

I believe that the most important quality a university president should possess is an understanding that they are leading an academic institution — not a business. Too often, individuals are selected to lead colleges and universities based on their expertise in business; perhaps on the mistaken belief that the “business model” will create a more efficient, streamlined institution. Academic institutions are not supposed to be efficient or streamlined and the efficiency of the business world is antithetical to the often messy, fuzzy, and convoluted process of debate, discovery, and enlightenment.

- Melise L. Leech,
History Department graduate student and part-time instructor

Give classified staff more significance and voice in UNLV policies that affect classified employees. Have an open door policy, not fearful, hesitant, or avoiding controversial issues.

- Michele Sanders,
English Department

A university president needs to be a “people person” — a professional administrator who has worked at the faculty level of a research university and who can understand the importance of having less lines of communication in the university administration and more faculty governance.

- Kathy Lauckner,
Harry Reid Center

I think we need a president who is a “people person” and is “technology focused.” Although these things seem like opposites it is possible to find a person who has strengths in both areas. This person also needs to continue developing working rapport with the K-12 education system and other NSHE entities; to work with the city, county, state, and federal entities to ensure UNLV’s continued importance in Nevada; and to continue to develop capital campaigns and UNLV Foundation activities.

- Daryl Privott,
Shadow Lane campus



(Left) Buck's teaching load this semester includes a graduate course in soils and several independent study programs. (Below) Spring is "Oscars season" on campus with deadlines for awards and recommendation letters due. "It's the time of year to go for the money," she said.



Getting Down and Dirty for Science



(Above) Though much of Buck's research focuses on Southern Nevada, she also travels to arid lands around the world. A trip to the Jordan desert included sharing tea with Bedouins traveling past her research site. Shortly after this picture was taken, they tried to kidnap her. (Photo courtesy of Brenda Buck) (Below right) Teaching outside the classroom for Buck includes training students such as doctoral candidate Amy Brock to safely use lab equipment, scientifically collect samples, handle grant budgets, and effectively communicate their results, by writing papers. (Below left) Grad students are part of Buck's field research teams.



By **Cate Weeks** | Marketing & PR

Classified and professional staff: go ahead and admit it. When you first joined UNLV and heard about a professor flying off to some exotic locale for research, a little part of you thought: "Sounds like a great vacation."

Inside UNLV wanted to capture moments showing the breadth of a professor's duties. We rather randomly fell upon geoscience professor Brenda Buck. Little did we know what lengths — and not just geographically — she goes to in pursuing her career.

"I've eaten rats, dogs, and insects. I camp out for days with no bed or shower. The weather is always horrible. It's just exhausting," she said.

So why does she do it? "I love the science and the discovery. I have to know why things are the way they are."

Still, she could do without the kidnapping incidents.

As we wrap up a photo session, Buck nonchalantly mentions an

encounter with Bedouins who tried to buy her from the escort assigned to her by Jordan's royal family. At the end of the heated exchange, the guard explained that the Bedouins wanted blond babies from her.

On an expedition in Southern China as a graduate student, Buck was among a group of researchers held at gunpoint by locals demanding a ransom. Officials from the Chinese university they were working with returned to the site to negotiate their release. "It was a week of tension and about a day of real fear," she said.

Her adventures back on campus are tame by comparison, but they don't offer much downtime. She teaches one or two courses each semester and oversees a half dozen student-researchers.

She keeps tabs on several labs and is working with geoscience professor Patrick Drohan to design facilities in the Science, Engineering and Technology Building now under construction.

She manages 21 active research projects, many of which relate to air and water quality issues in the valley. A project for the Regional Flood Control District has her mapping flood hazards between Las Vegas and the California border. "That project will help land managers plan for future development of the area," she said. "As a researcher, I don't have control over their decisions but I can provide information to help them make informed decisions."

Finding funding for her projects also gets scheduled on the well-worn paper calendar she totes everywhere. Private dollars, like those being raised through the Invent the Future campaign, have provided project seed money, often covering travel expenses that are difficult to fund.

"The opportunities I've had through private funding have led to grant awards from peer-reviewed sources and invitations to present at major conferences," she said. "One thing seems to spiral out of another."