

5-2006

Inside UNLV

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Repository Citation

Russell, D., Bevell, S., Harter, C. C., Bachand, L., Weeks, C., Peers, M. (2006). Inside UNLV. *Inside UNLV*
Available at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv/18

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Inside UNLV

News & Information for UNLV Insiders

MAY 2006



One Man's Trash...

How to turn your trash into someone's treasure.

Page 7

Professor Battles Gehrig's Disease

By **Diane Russell** | Marketing & PR

Hal Rothman has never been afraid of hard work.

Want him to chair the history department in addition to teaching? No problem.

Need someone to write a newspaper column? Host a radio show? Answer a reporter's questions? You know the answer.

"Every day is an adventure. Every day is a gift because you are still here."

— Hal Rothman, history professor

Rothman long has been something of a go-to guy whenever a new task or challenge presents itself.

And now, while still teaching, researching, and writing, the history professor faces the biggest challenge of his life. He's fighting ALS, the illness better known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Setting the Bar

Formally known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. While the patient's body deteriorates, the mind remains alert. It typically leads to the patient's death

within two to five years of diagnosis, though more than half the patients live more than three years and 20 percent live more than five, according to the ALS Association.

But there are exceptions to those statistics, the most notable being renowned British physicist Stephen Hawking, who has lived with the disease for more than 40 years, all the while expanding the body of knowledge in physics.

Rothman is vying to be another person who beats the odds. "I was always one of those people who was going to make the most out of every day — and I still am. This may kill me, but it will never beat me."

While he stepped down as chair before he became ill and will be ending his show on public radio, he continues to teach, research, and write. The column in the *Las Vegas Sun* will continue.

And Rothman, whose academic interests include the history of America's national parks, has set a new goal for himself — writing a book about the centennial of the National Park Service, which will be celebrated in 2016.

"I've been pretty good about setting the bar for myself and making it there. Hopefully, I'll make that one in 2016, too," he said.

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Hal Rothman continues teaching, researching, and writing while fighting ALS. He currently is writing a college-level Nevada history textbook.

Hotel College Plans Innovative Facilities

185-Room Hotel Gives Students Real-Life Learning Laboratory

By **Shane Bevell** | Marketing & PR

Though INNOvation Village, the proposed new home of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, will boost facilities for the space-strapped college, its benefits for the entire campus should not be overlooked, said Dean Stuart Mann.

The new "campus within a campus," anchored by the existing Stan Fulton Building on the north-west corner of campus, will enhance UNLV's conference facilities and offer a fully functioning hotel to serve UNLV's visitors. It will also serve as a center for interdisciplinary research.

Living Laboratory

The concept represents higher education's most advanced living laboratory for testing products, technologies, and the built environment, Mann said. The facilities will be designed to enable fast incorporation of future technologies. "In-depth research opportunities that will be made possible by this



View of hotel and ballroom connecting to Stan Fulton Building conference facilities.

new campus reach across UNLV's other colleges and beyond to universities and product developers throughout the nation and around the world," Mann said.

The facilities will provide dedicated research space for academicians and industry professionals in such disciplines as communications, food preparation, hospitality software engineering, environmental programs, architecture, heating and cooling engineering, and entertainment engineering.

For example, newly developed white LED lighting, which may revolutionize society's current

concept of the light bulb, can be most effectively researched in the living laboratory of a fully functioning hotel and conference center. Cross-disciplinary research can explore how the public receives the technology, what real-world problems might arise, and whether its energy savings make it a good alternative for the hospitality industry and other users.

According to Mann, the opportunity to design, direct, and participate in such research will attract stellar faculty, as well as top-tier undergraduate and graduate students.

Leading Hospitality Program

"In its final state, INNOvation Village is a win-win-win proposition," Mann said. "Technology and built environment providers receive facilities to test emerging products. Operators are given unprecedented access to research on how products perform in a real-world setting. And new interdisciplinary alliances broaden industry-specific skills that Harrah Hotel College students need to become productive in the workplace."

> See **INNOvation**, Page 2

Reflections on 11 Years at a Unique Place

One of the many outstanding qualities of our university — and one that’s always struck me — is the sense of shared identity, of the campus community knowing where it wants to go and working productively together to get there. This is a community that in my 11 years as president has never been afraid to speak its mind, to explore, to imagine, and to proudly proclaim its uniqueness. These are some of the qualities that intrigued me about UNLV even before I set foot on campus for the first time.

Looking Back

Some of you will remember the presidential search process of about a dozen years ago, and the campus conversations that took place at that time regarding aspirations for planning, research, and UNLV’s place in the vibrant Southern Nevada community. You produced a wonderful leadership document that served as an outline of campus priorities and needs, as well as your view of the most essential presidential qualities. I knew as soon as I read this document that UNLV was a place where great things were happening. I also knew that you would challenge your next president to help move the university toward those grand aspirations on multiple levels. This was a challenge I could simply not resist — and once I got to campus and met so many of you, the deal was sealed.

I want you to know that I often utilized and referred to this original leadership statement throughout my tenure as president — both as a signpost for the progress of university aspirations, and as the most important measure of my work as I went through my own performance evaluations.

This document also established a framework for some of the most important, exciting, and



President Carol C. Harter poses with Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison who came to campus in April to deliver the first lecture for the newly established Black Mountain Institute. Harter will be the institute’s first executive director.

difficult conversations in the life of the university. Two major strategic planning documents and 11 planning retreats later, we’ve emerged stronger, with a clear strategy for the near- and not-so-near future. The 2005 planning retreat challenged you to look even further out — imagining UNLV 10 years from now and assessing our pathways to achieve that vision.

In this time of rankings, definitions, and lists, it’s easy to fall into the trap of basing your progress solely on peer performance. What I’ve learned from working with you is that UNLV is a place as unique as its people and its community. It is a campus that welcomes non-traditional students and embraces a diverse learning community, valuing the teaching and learning experience at all levels. It is also increasingly a place for research, for discovery and economic development, for academic discipline, and for

community engagement. You have taught me that these aspirations are not mutually exclusive, with research adding to the richness of the student experience in new ways every day.

Milestones Achieved

As I look back on my tenure with you as president, I am so proud of where UNLV has been and where it is headed. Looking at the astounding list of milestones we’ve achieved together — programs, facilities, and projects — I am confident that with your great work, UNLV will continue its rapid rise to prominence at every level. This is an institution that knows where it’s going. There’s just no stopping it.

Do not forget the challenges, the discussions, and the lessons of the past decade — and never abandon your aspirations. Continue to engage, to challenge, and to make your voices heard, and our university and community will be much stronger for it.

It is a privilege to have served as your president these past 11 years through such an amazing period of change in the life of UNLV. For all these wonderful years and so many exceptional experiences, I thank you all. The university is in great hands.

Reception Honors Harter

A farewell reception to honor President Carol C. Harter, UNLV’s longest-serving president, is scheduled for 4-6 p.m. May 11 at the Barrick Museum of Natural History. Faculty, classified staff, professional staff, students, and alumni are invited. For more information, call ext. 5-3201.

Invent The Future

Campaign Passes \$317 Million

Nearly \$140 Million Donated for Programs

By **Lori Bachand** | UNLV Foundation

UNLV’s Invent the Future campaign has surpassed \$317.1 million toward its \$500 million goal. The campaign totals through March 31 include \$68.3 million for buildings, \$139.6 million for programs, and \$33.8 million for scholarships.

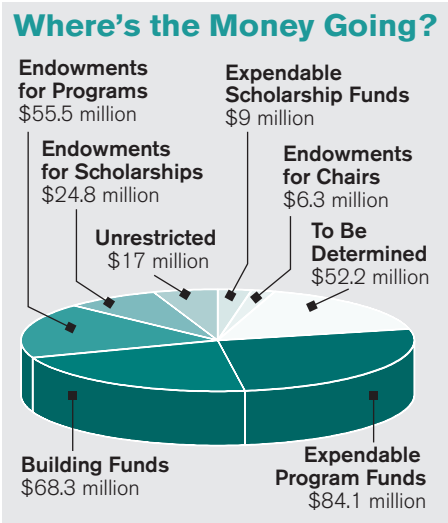
Non-Financial Goals

While the campaign’s private fundraising goal is the largest yet in Nevada, it is also focused on non-financial campaign goals, especially involving more people from the campus and community in the life of the university. When the campaign started in 2002, there were fewer than 20 community volunteer groups at UNLV. Today, there are nearly 50 volunteer boards and advisory groups through which more than 600 faculty and staff, alumni, and other friends devote their expertise and efforts.

The 30-person Campus Campaign Committee assembled last September to encourage internal involvement with the Invent the Future campaign. These volunteers undertake various development tasks.

Why Volunteer?

“I am volunteering for the campaign because I want to give back for all the wonderful years of



education UNLV has offered to me and my family,” said Susan Summers, committee member and assistant to the English department chair. “I have attended classes at UNLV, my daughter graduated with a master’s from the College of Liberal Arts, and soon my granddaughter will attend UNLV.”

Summers’ volunteer role is to promote campus experiences among her colleagues, underlining how faculty and staff involvement is essential to the life of the university and the campaign’s success.

“Participate in UNLV activities such as the Corporate Challenge or join a lunchtime walking group,” she said. “Get to know what each college and department offers to students. Help out during the Ask Me campaign. Read and share the *Rebel Yell*. Donate if you wish, but participate because you care.”

> INNovation

Continued from Page 1

UNLV President Carol C. Harter said, “The concept of INNovation Village embodies our vision of UNLV as a nationally ranked major research university. The excellent reputation our Hotel College has had with the hospitality community for nearly 40 years has played an integral role in shaping the college into one of the nation’s leading hospitality programs.”

Funding for the campus’s construction will come primarily from private resources, such as those being raised through UNLV’s Invent the Future campaign. The UNLV Foundation is working closely with a potential donor and hopes to have an announcement soon.

Plans call for INNovation Village to be built on a 10-acre site at the southeast corner of Flamingo Road and Swenson, just blocks from the Las Vegas Strip.

“The visibility of INNovation Village will help UNLV,” said Mann. “The edges of campus need to be improved to make the campus more inviting. This project, along with the Midtown UNLV project along Maryland Parkway, will make those areas of campus more visually appealing.”

New Academic Building

Moving the Hotel College out of Beam Hall has the added bonus of opening up space for other academic units. The 100,000 square feet of space in the new facilities will serve 4,000 students and 100 faculty members. Mann said the college’s current academic facility was constructed in

1984, when the college’s student population was just 842. The space has not had any major renovations and college enrollment is now more than 2,600.

In addition to traditional classrooms, faculty offices, and two computer labs, the new facilities will include food and nutrition science labs; several teaching kitchens; spirits, wine, and beer laboratories; and a gaming laboratory. A grand ballroom will span a wash and serve as a bridge to connect a mid-market hotel of approximately 185 rooms to the Fulton building’s conference center, which will be capable of seating up to 500 people.

“The conference center will allow programs across campus to bring professional conferences to UNLV,” Mann said. “The hotel space will make it natural to house guests on campus and not be burdened with having to find hotel rooms elsewhere. This is an across-campus opportunity — not just a Hotel College project.”

InsideUNLV

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Inside UNLV is a monthly publication by the office of Marketing & Public Relations.

UNLV is an AA/EEO Institution.

Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’

A construction worker is silhouetted against a spectacular sunrise while working atop the new Student Recreation Center. Construction on the 187,617-square-foot facility is expected to be completed by next May. The center will include fitness rooms, basketball and volleyball courts, swimming pools, and a social lounge.



Employee Benefits

Open Season: Understanding Your Health Plan Options

May 31 Deadline for Making Changes

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

Commencement isn’t the only ritual on campus this month. “Open enrollment,” the time of year when employees can make changes to their health insurance plans, runs through May 31. Faculty and staff can also sign up for such programs as flexible spending accounts and life insurance.

Packets with plan details and enrollment forms were sent to employees’ homes at the end of April. If yours doesn’t arrive by mid-May, contact the benefits office at ext. 5-0924.

“The key is to thoroughly read your open enrollment packet when it arrives,” said Pat LaPutt, benefits manager at UNLV. “Don’t wait until the last minute because you may not have all the information you need to make your changes.”

Employees will still have three health insurance plans from which to choose this year:

- **Self-Funded Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan with low deductible** — Last year, 59 percent of UNLV, NSC, and CCSN employees chose this option.
- **Self-Funded (PPO) plan with high deductible** — Less than 4 percent of employees chose this option.
- **Health Plan of Nevada Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)** — About 37 percent of employees chose this plan.

The design of the current plans — including deductible levels, co-pays, wellness benefits, and covered benefits — will remain the same with one exception that only affects employees who use the self-funded PPO plan as secondary insurance. Benefit payments for these individuals will be calculated after the primary insurance (Medicare, for example) pays. This process eliminates overpayment.

Selecting A Plan

Don’t let the monthly payroll deduction be your only criteria, LaPutt said. She suggests reviewing

last year’s medical expenses and then projecting what the next year might bring: Do you have a chronic health problem? Are you likely to have a baby? Do you prefer a specific doctor or hospital?

“You also have to determine your risk level,” she said. “If you’re very healthy and can tolerate unexpected expenses, the high-deductible Self-Funded PPO might be for you.”

On the other hand, if you prefer stable monthly costs and your active family is likely to need a few trips to a quick care center, the HMO with no deductible might be better for you, LaPutt said.

Five Things to Know About Open Enrollment

1 Yep, Rates Are Going Up: Increases to health insurances premiums vary by which plan you pick. The dollar amount varies from zero for employee-only coverage under the high-deductible PPO plan to an additional \$22.56 per month for employees covering a spouse under the low-deductible PPO.

Rates will increase an average of 12.7 percent for PPO plans and 6.5 percent for the HMO plan.

2 Premiums Take A Holiday: No premiums will be deducted from your July paycheck. The Public Employee Benefits Program (PEBP) is drawing down some of its cash reserves by paying participants’ July premiums. You’ll see premiums at the new rates deducted beginning in August.



3 Follow the Paper Trail: Making plan changes online is easy, but you should still send a paper printout of the confirmation screen to the UNLV human resources department (HR), mailstop 1026.

The reason, benefits manager Pat LaPutt explains, is that state PEBP handles enrollment, but the local HR office processes payroll deductions. If you change plans and fail to notify HR, the right deduction might not take affect until after premiums are reconciled in August.

You must also submit copies of required documents — such as marriage and birth certificates — to HR when signing up online.

4 New FSA Vendor Cuts Paperwork: Flexible spending accounts (FSA) can save employees money by using pre-tax dollars to pay for health- and child-care expenses. UNLV has its own FSA program (so don’t enroll in the PEBP’s program) and has selected 1 Point Solutions to be the vendor this year.

“Employees will find that managing their flexible spending accounts is easier now,” LaPutt said. “We hope more employees will take advantage of this money-saving benefit.”

Improvements include e-mail claims submissions, online access to accounts, debit cards for medical expenses, and the elimination of some paperwork for recurring expenses such as childcare. There is a \$4 monthly fee under this plan.

Representatives from 1 Point will be on campus at the beginning of open enrollment to answer questions; watch your e-mail for additional information.

5 Lower Your Deductible, Boost Dental Benefits: You can cut your deductible in half in the PPO plans and increase your in-network dental maximum coverage to \$2,000 by filling out a health assessment questionnaire. Employees and covered spouses must complete the survey on an annual basis.

The survey asks about 30 questions about employees’ medical history and lifestyle. Answering the survey will not affect your coverage. State health plan officials use the information to evaluate the general health and risk factors of all participants. It is also used to educate patients about health and wellness programs that might be of particular interest.



Don’t Go It Alone

Figuring out which plan to choose and how to take advantage of other benefits can be daunting. The human resources office (HR) and the Public Employee Benefits Program (PEBP) are sponsoring events throughout May to help employees sort through the plan differences and get information directly from the providers of the benefits.

- **Open Enrollment Meeting:** The PEBP will discuss open enrollment details 9 a.m. May 18 at the Moyer Student Union
- **Benefits Labs:** Drop in at CSB 212 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. May 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, and 19-31.

Business E-Center Created

UNLV is launching a campuswide, multidisciplinary Entrepreneurship Center that will provide the opportunity to transform good ideas into commercial successes. It also will offer an undergraduate major in entrepreneurship.

Nicknamed the E-Center, it will be organized within the Business College.

Students and other members of the campus community can use the center to receive training in the basic skills necessary to bring an idea to fruition. The center will also assist UNLV in bringing together venture capital and innovation.

The center will not only support existing and proposed academic programs at UNLV, but also has the potential of being a major resource for the Southern Nevada business community. Organizers hope the center will become a catalyst for promoting economic diversification and growth in the Las Vegas Valley and across Nevada. Their goal is for the center to be recognized as a strong resource by the business community and as a visible and respected facilitator of outstanding academic programs.

The E-Center will report to Dean Rich Flaherty. Assistant professor Janet Runge has been appointed interim director of the center.

Education College and School District Partner at Challenged Schools

The college and the Clark County School District have committed to formal professional development school (PDS) partnerships to sustain and enhance the preparation and professional development of educators. Two local elementary schools, Paradise and Petersen PDSs, are actively involved with college faculty, administrators, and students in the implementation of this exciting opportunity.

Paradise and Petersen are dealing with poverty, high rates of student transiency and teacher attrition, and the need to improve student achievement, particularly in the areas of reading and mathematics. As a result, the opportunities for collaborative research, professional development,

and program implementation to address these issues have been welcomed by administrators and faculty. The PDSs provide sites for course-related assignments, student teaching, internships, and research. The college provides faculty, administrators, and students in teacher preparation, school counseling and psychology, and educational leadership whose research and expertise are aligned with the goals of the PDSs. Samples of current activities include a cohort program for teacher candidates in elementary education, a collaboration with UNLV faculty regarding inclusion, grant-writing to support literacy in science and mathematics, initiatives in school counseling and assessment, parent workshops, and research in the areas of literacy and the language of mathematics. Both PDSs welcome onsite UNLV courses and many PDS faculty teach courses in their areas of specialization at UNLV.

Engineering High School Robot Engineers Compete at UNLV

More than 40 high school teams representing 11 states competed at UNLV last month for the regional championship in the second FIRST Robotics Las Vegas regional competition.

The three teams that won a trip to the national championship in Atlanta were Bristol-Myers Squibb and North Brunswick Township High School from New Brunswick, N.J.; NASA / VSR Lock and Cimarron-Memorial High School from Las Vegas; and North Santa Clara County ROP and Palo Alto High School from Palo Alto, Calif. FIRST Robotics immerses high school students in the world of design, engineering, and technology.

“There is no doubt that the social, industrial, and educational landscape of our great nation has been dramatically altered over the last few decades,” said Eric Sandgren, dean of the College of Engineering. “Our inability to motivate and train students for employment in technical fields has placed this country at considerable risk. It is time to reinvent engineering and science education — and what better place than a city like Las Vegas and the FIRST Robotics program.”

Under the direction of the dean,

department of mechanical engineering chair Mohamed Trabia, professor Brendan O’Toole, and staff colleague Kevin Nelson, numerous mechanical engineering students mentored six Las Vegas high school teams as they prepared for the competition.

In January each team received identical kits of parts and software and was challenged to design and build a robot. Once built, the robots were programmed to compete in this year’s game, “Aim High.” The game was played by two three-team alliances on a 54-foot by 26-foot field with robots that could not exceed 60 inches in height, 60 inches in width, or 60 inches in length or weigh more than 120 pounds. Each match lasted two minutes and ten seconds. The robots either pushed or threw balls into two corner goals for one point or threw balls into a center goal for three points. Many spectators described “Aim High” as the ultimate high-tech sporting event.

Additional information can be found at www.lvfirst.org or www.USFIRST.org.

Fine Arts Rockapella to Perform May 20

The Performing Arts Center season finale features the spectacular Rockapella on May 20. Often imitated, never duplicated, this certifiably unique pop musical group has taken the previously stodgy music genre of a *cappella* and brought it full-force into the 21st century. Their story is like no other, and they create a sound and impression like no other. For ticket information, call the PAC box office at ext. 5-2787.

May International Film Offerings

The International Film Series, hosted by film professors Hart Wegner and Francisco Menendez, presents *The Passenger* (1975/2005) May 4. This foreign film features Jack Nicholson playing a burnt-out reporter who exchanges his identity with that of a man he finds dead in a North African hotel room.

The series continues May 11 with *The Story of the Weeping Camel* (2003). A family of nomadic shepherds in the Gobi Desert, South Mongolia, assists in the birth of their camel herd. One of the new deliveries is a rare white calf that is rejected by its mother. In accordance with an ancient ritual, a musician is summoned from a distant village — the calf’s last hope.

The film begins at 7 p.m. in CBC, Room A-106. Admission is free. No children please.

Graduate College Hosts Successful Research Forum

More than 100 graduate students participated in this year’s Graduate and Professional Student Research Forum, making it the largest in the event’s history.

Sponsored by the Graduate College and the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), the forum seeks to showcase excellence in research conducted by graduate and professional students at UNLV.

Participants submitted abstracts for the poster and oral platform presentation sessions. Top research honors went to students in the social sciences, science and engineering, and

humanities and business. Graduate faculty across the disciplines volunteered to judge the poster and oral platform sessions.

The forum was open to all graduate and professional students, and participation was required for students receiving GPSA funding for 2004-05.

Each year, the GPSA awards grants for research and conference travel to support projects that directly affect a student’s degree program and make a contribution to his or her discipline. In 2005-06, \$85,000 was awarded to students for research and conference travel.

“The research forum provides our students with the opportunity not only to share the results of their research, but also to gain the valuable experience of making scholarly presentations,” said Paul Ferguson, vice president for research and graduate studies. “This experience is truly an important professional development opportunity for UNLV students.”

Health Sciences School Name to Change

The School of Health and Human Sciences is undergoing a name change. As of July 1 it will be the School of Allied Health Sciences.

The change is being made to more accurately represent the clinical and professional programs currently within the school and is more in line with how other universities are defining similar programs.

New Clinical Lab Sciences Program Being Developed

A new, multitrack academic program designed to help combat the shortage of qualified medical laboratory personnel is in the development stage.

The clinical laboratory sciences (CLS) program, the department of biology, and Quest Diagnostics Laboratories are working together to develop the expanded CLS program. The new program format will double the current enrollment and will be designed for students in their senior year of study and as a one-year program for students who already have their bachelor’s degrees.

It will also offer students the option of categorical certification in a single CLS discipline, such as microbiology or chemistry. Since the CLS program is nationally accredited, students who complete these programs will be eligible to take the national board exams in CLS and obtain their licenses from the state.

Medical laboratories are experiencing severe shortages of qualified personnel. The Las Vegas Valley, with its exponential population growth and the openings of several new hospitals in the last few years, has felt the impact of this nationwide personnel shortage more than most communities.

Honors Students Make Presentations at Honors Conferences

Panel presentation proposals by UNLV Honors College students were accepted for the Western Regional Honors Council conference held in Denver in March. One of the panels was “The Spirit of a Successful Honors Student Organization/Government.”



Ready, Aim, Fire

Students from the entertainment engineering and design class demonstrate the success of a project that involved building human-powered catapults. Three teams built air cannons, one built a sling-shot, while one built a counter weight catapult. Here, they demonstrate their effectiveness by firing tennis balls toward the Flashlight.

Patricia Speelman, executive director of the National Collegiate Honors Council, was so impressed with the panel she invited the students to do a half-day workshop at the council’s national conference in Philadelphia in November.

The second panel, “Becoming Better Students Through Teaching,” was one in which honors students described their experiences as undergraduates who became better students because of their honors teaching experiences. Their panel elicited interest from several universities that wanted to implement similar programs at their own campuses. These students have refined and updated their proposal and submitted it to the national conference in Philadelphia.

Hotel
Ruvo Honored at Special Event

The college recently hosted a special celebration honoring university benefactor Larry Ruvo, senior managing director of Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada.

“Larry Ruvo has been a tremendous supporter of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration for many years,” said Andy Feinstein, chairman of the food and beverage management department. “I am very excited to honor him for his commitment to higher education. This dinner was a small token of our appreciation for his continuing support.”

Guests were treated to a gourmet meal prepared by UNLV’s top chefs at the Stan Fulton Building. Among those in attendance were President Carol C. Harter, former college Dean Jerry Vallen, Dean Stuart Mann, Provost Ray Alden, and Tim McCarthy, managing director of Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada.

In addition to providing generous support to the university in terms of both time and money, Ruvo, along with Vallen, created UNLVino, one of the world’s most unique academic fundraisers. The 32nd annual UNLVino will be held May 6. UNLVino has raised millions of dollars in the past 32 years for higher education.

Law
Pulitzer Prize Winner Speaks About U.S. Constitution

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jack N. Rakove of Stanford University spoke on campus for the second annual Philip Pro Lectureship in Legal History in March.

Rakove’s *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution* earned him the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in History. In his lecture, “Our Presidential Commander: Constitutional Myth, Political Reality,” Rakove discussed his amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Hamdan v. Rumsfeld. The brief argued that the original understanding of the U.S. Constitution contradicted the Bush Administration’s theory of executive power.

The Pro Lectureship annually brings an internationally prominent scholar to the Boyd School of Law to deliver a public lecture on American legal history. The lectureship is named in honor of Chief U.S. District

Judge Philip Pro. Pro’s public service, including his tireless efforts on behalf of the We the People program, reflects the civic virtue so essential for the perpetuation of America’s political institutions. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Gordon S. Wood delivered the inaugural lecture in the series.

Next February, Geoffrey R. Stone will deliver the third lecture in the series. Stone, former dean of the University of Chicago Law School and provost of the University of Chicago, is a leading scholar of constitutional law. His *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime from the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism* received the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for 2004 as the Best Book in History and the 2005 Robert F. Kennedy Book Award. He will speak on “Civil Liberties in Wartime.”

The series is organized by David Tanenhaus, the Rogers Professor of History and Law.

Liberal Arts
Anonymous Donor Funds Graduate Efforts

A \$30,000 annual gift received for the first time this year has allowed the English department to initiate the Department of English Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series.

The anonymous donor asked only that the money support activities in the department that will benefit the graduate programs in literary studies. Half of the gift is providing funding for the lecture series.

The first lecture brought professor Matthew Brucolli of the University of South Carolina to UNLV. The gift also helped fund his University Forum lecture in March. Brucolli is a distinguished professor of English and the author or editor of more than 100 books, including several authoritative text editions of F. Scott Fitzgerald.

J. Paul Hunter, emeritus professor of English from the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia, will speak May 4. He is one of the most respected 18th century scholars and the senior editor of *The Norton Introduction to Literature*.

In addition to funding the series, the gift will provide money to allow graduate students to travel to present papers, to visit archives or libraries at the dissertation stage, and to attend the Modern Language Association Convention for job interviews.

The gift will provide support for *The Ben Jonson Journal*, co-edited by professor Richard Harp, a publication that has garnered impressive reviews internationally and is advancing the reputation of UNLV’s graduate programs.

Libraries
Wireless Goes Live at the Libraries

As part of the UNLV campus network enhancement, wireless access is now available throughout Lied Library as well as the Music Library and the Curriculum Materials Library. The Architecture Studies Library has had wireless access for some time.

The most visible results are seen in Lied Library. Although the Book ‘N Bean has been wireless since last summer, many students, faculty, and staff now enjoy the freedom to surf the Web and access digital resources no matter where they are in the library.



Picture Perfect

Art professors Bob Tracy, left, and Cathie Kelly, discuss Rubens’ *The Union of Earth and Water*, during a UNLV class at the Guggenheim Heritage Museum in the Venetian Hotel. A course centered on the works of art on display there is offered each spring semester.

The project included installing 84 access points and antennas, configuring the access points to the campus enterprise network, and sample testing of the access points.

Libraries Dean Patricia Iannuzzi, said, “We are thrilled to be able to offer wireless at all the libraries. This couldn’t have happened without a strong partnership between the Libraries and the office of information technology. Vice Provost Lori Temple is a terrific advocate of the Libraries and the students, faculty, and staff who use our facilities.”

Faculty, staff, and students only have to register to get access. Getting started with wireless is easy. Launch your web browser and go to wireless.unlv.edu — the wireless account set-up page. Then, just follow the instructions. You will need to know the “L” number on your RebelCard. In no time you’ll be surfing to your heart’s content.

Sciences
Chemistry Department Profs Research Variety of Subjects

Associate professors Balakrishnan Naduvalath and Clemens Heske are leading a U.S. DOE-funded research effort on “Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Storage Technology,” primarily focusing on the fundamental interactions of hydrogen in a storage medium such as carbon nanotubes.

Associate professors Heske and David Hatchett also are collaborating with a group of university, national laboratory, and industry researchers to optimize the performance of photoelectrochemical devices for producing hydrogen from water.

In another hydrogen related project, Heske is collaborating with Argonne National Laboratory personnel to investigate high-temperature solid oxide electrolysis devices that utilize high-temperature steam, such as that from a nuclear power plant, to reduce the electrical energy required for electrolytic hydrogen production.

Professor Bryan L. Spangelo recently received a three-year grant from the National Institute of

Neurological Disorders and Stroke for research involving Alzheimer’s disease. Spangelo will attempt to determine if inhibitory neurotransmitters normally present in the brain act to suppress neuroinflammation, a process thought to contribute to neurodegeneration.

Urban Affairs
Criminal Justice, Police Collaborate on Problem-Solving

The department of criminal justice and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) are working together on “Police Problem-Solving in a Las Vegas Community,” funded by a UNLV new investigator award.

The project bridges the gap between academia and police policy by having campus researchers work closely with the police to assist in the goals of preventing crime and managing quality-of-life problems in communities.

Supervised by criminal justice assistant professor William Sousa, the project is designed to assist the LVMPD in the design of a proactive, problem-solving initiative in its Bolden Area Command, where specific neighborhoods have been identified by police and citizens as particularly problematic in terms of crime, drugs, gang activity, and quality-of-life concerns.

Two undergraduate and three graduate students from the department collaborate with police and citizens to identify and solve ongoing community problems. The goal of the project is to use applied criminal justice research, based on official data analysis, survey techniques, and focus groups, to enhance public safety in Las Vegas. This problem analysis will then allow police, citizens, and other government agencies to make informed decisions when designing interventions to resolve the identified community problems. Goals include crime reduction and an improved quality of life for citizens, with this particular project serving as a springboard for similar ones in other Las Vegas neighborhoods.

> **Julian Kilker** (Journalism and Media Studies) is co-author of the article “My Job Sucks: Examining Counter-Institutional Websites as Locations for Organizational Member Voice, Dissent, and Resistance” in the *Management Communication Quarterly*.



> **Timothy Farnham** (Environmental Studies) has had his book, *Saving Nature’s Legacy: Biological Diversity and the Evolution of a Conservation Paradigm*, accepted for publication by Yale University Press. It will be published in spring 2007.

> **Larry Ashley** (Counseling) received \$135,000 from the state of Nevada to provide problem gambling treatment services for adolescents and adults in the Center for Individual, Couple and Family Counseling. Ashley will train two graduate assistants to become Nevada certified problem gambling counselors.

> **Monica Juarez** (Student Health Services) was named a classified employees of the month for March in the administrative category. An administrative assistant I, she is assigned to the medical records section where she works with patients’ charts. She has worked at UNLV more than three years.

> **Phil Burns** (Student Conduct) has been named to chair the 2007 International Conference for the Association of Student Judicial Affairs (ASJA), themed “Enriching Communities of Educators — Facilitating Partnerships on Campus and Beyond.” He also was appointed to the ASJA Board of Directors. ASJA is an international professional organization that facilitates the

integration of student development concepts with principles of judicial practice in higher education settings.

> **Laura Kruskall** (Nutrition Sciences) presented “Dietary Supplement Regulation” and “High Carb or High Fat — Does it Really Matter” at the American College of Sports Medicine Annual Health & Fitness Summit & Exposition in Orlando in April.

> **David M. Hassenzahl** (Environmental Studies) wrote a paper, “Implications of Excessive Precision for Risk Comparisons: Lessons from the Past Four Decades,” which is the lead article in the February issue of *Risk Analysis*.

> **Marilyn Papulis** (Department of Finance) was named one of the classified employees of the month for March in the administrative category. An administrative assistant II, she performs a variety of general office duties. She is working on a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction at UNLV. She has worked on campus nearly four years.



> **Joanne J. Thompson** (Social Work) wrote an article, “The Perils of Academic Administration: Gatekeeping, Academic Freedom, and Corporatization,” which appears in spring issue of *Reflections*.

> **Larry Golding** (Kinesiology) delivered the keynote address “ACSM Summit from Adolescence to Adulthood; Where Will We Be In 2016?” at the American College of Sports Medicine Annual Health & Fitness Summit & Exposition in Orlando in April.



the graveyard shift.

> **John Bowers** (English) has written a book, *Chaucer and Langland: The Antagonistic Tradition*, that will be published by the University of Notre Dame Press. Research on the project was supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a visiting research fellowship at Oxford, and a residency at the Rockefeller Foundation’s study center in Bellagio, Italy. Related articles have appeared in the journals *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* and *Yearbook of Langland Studies*.

> **George Stelluto** (Music) received the NSHE Regents’ Award for Creative Activity. He will receive a \$5,000 stipend and a medal. The award recognizes significant accomplishments that bring recognition, as well as national and international stature, to the NSHE.

> **Brent Mangus** (Kinesiology) has received the Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer award from the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA). He is the athletic training education program director and has been involved with NATA for over 20 years.

> **J. Wesley McWhorter** (Physical Therapy), along with **Peter Altenburger** and **Beth Altenburger** (Physical Therapy), presented posters at the American Physical Therapy Association’s combined sections meeting in San Diego in February.

> **Bill Smith** (Environmental Studies) organized a panel on conservation and social justice at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. He also was elected director of the association’s Water Resources Specialty Group.

> **Susan Meacham** (Nutrition Sciences) presented a poster at the Experimental Biology meeting in San Francisco in April.

> **Tom Burkholder** (Communication Studies) presented “Rhetorical Failure in a Time of Crisis: George W. Bush on September 20, 2001,” as part of a town hall debate titled “Rhetorical Leadership in a Time of Crisis: What Are We Missing” at the Western States Communication annual convention in Palm Springs, Calif., in February.

> **Shawn Zobrak** (Law) was named classified employee of the month for March in the technical/service category. He was a computer network technician I.



> **Mark Hoversten** (Architecture) will receive the Outstanding Educator Award for 2006 from the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) at the council’s annual conference in Vancouver, Canada, in June. The award is presented annually to honor an educator whose career is recognized as having made a significant contribution to the discipline in two or more of the following areas: teaching, research, public service, administration, or service to education. He is a past president of the international education association, which publishes *Landscape Journal*.

> Rothman

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A Random Attack

Rothman first noticed a minor physical problem last summer at the end of a family vacation that had found him watching the Tour de France, climbing to the top of the Eiffel Tower, hiking around Israel, and swimming off the coast of Cyprus, where he was visiting the dig of anthropology professor Alan Simmons, a close friend.

“I remember getting a twinge in my forearm in the airport in Paris on my way out. I had just bought too many bottles of duty-free booze, and I thought, ‘Well, obviously the bag is real heavy. No big deal.’

“I woke up back in the U.S. on the Fourth of July and my right hand didn’t work right,” he recalled. “My assumption was I had a pinched nerve in my neck.”

A visit to a friend who is a doctor dispelled the pinched nerve theory. The doctor recommended an appointment with a neurologist. But Rothman “figured it would just get better. Things usually do.” A follow-up phone call from his friend prompted him to take the next step.

It was from doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix that Rothman received the diagnosis in December.

Until then, he said, he had known little about ALS. “What I knew before was just that Lou Gehrig died of it and that it was unusual. And that there was no cure.”

As he researched it, he learned the hard truth. “Your body turns to Jell-O and your mind stays sharp.” While the incidence is higher among some groups, such as athletes (Rothman always has been athletic) and veterans of the first Gulf War, the disease seems largely to attack at random.

Back at UNLV, he told history department colleagues of the diagnosis in January. “People have been unbelievably generous in terms of making accommodations. It’s really remarkable. I have nothing but affection for the people I work with, not only in my department but throughout the university.”

Eugene Moehring, who chairs the history department, noted that Rothman has done much in the past 13 years to raise the stature of both the doctoral

Selected Books by Hal Rothman

- Neon Metropolis: How Las Vegas Started the Twenty-First Century
- LBJ’s Texas White House: Our Heart’s Home
- Devil’s Bargain: Tourism in the Twentieth Century American West
- The Greening of a Nation? Environmentalism in the U.S. Since 1945
- On Rims and Ridges: the Los Alamos Area Since 1880

program in Western history and the graduate program in public history. Rothman has published 15 books and myriad articles while winning competitive national grants. At the same time, he’s become a prominent figure in the community, he said.

“His service as department chair, chair of major university and college committees, and his willingness to devote endless hours to such local activities as policymaking boards, a radio show, and newspaper column discussing issues of public concern, reflect Hal’s determination to make UNLV a better university and a more integral part of the larger Las Vegas community,” Moehring said.

Rothman’s contributions have not gone unrecognized. Awards and honors have come his way since arriving at UNLV in 1992, including the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award and induction into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. This year alone he has been honored with his appointment as UNLV’s 14th distinguished professor; the Founders Award from the department of environmental studies; the Livable Communities Award from the Nevada chapter of the American Institute of Architects; and the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society for Environmental History. At commencement this month President Carol C. Harter will present him the President’s Medal.

Professor Steve Pyne of the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University knows Rothman through their participation in the American Society for Environmental History.

Rothman’s contributions are “all over the

organization,” Pyne said. When the organization was struggling, Rothman almost single-handedly organized a successful meeting for the fledging group and edited its journal. he said. “We didn’t have an executive director or secretary. He donated his time, energy, and expertise.”

Interactions with Rothman are something unique, according to Pyne. “He comes into the room and he is a kind of force field. You are sort of recharged when you leave.”

‘47 Perfect Years’

Rothman continues researching and writing at a prodigious pace. Oxford University Press next year will publish his book chronicling fire management in America’s national parks, *Blazing Heritage: Wildland Fire in the National Park System*. He currently is writing a college-level Nevada history textbook and hopes to complete it by the end of this year.

He’s also participating in a number of federally funded history department projects involving entities such as the National Park Service and the Las Vegas Valley Water District. “I can’t die until they’re completed,” he commented wryly.

Yet he is keenly aware of the physical deterioration. Already the range of motion in his right hand is limited, allowing him only enough range to operate a mouse. His mobility is limited, and he expects to be teaching from a wheelchair by next semester.

“There are all kinds of challenges like that, presumably, in my future, and probably soon,” he said. “You end up without dignity very quickly.”

He said one of his major concerns is how he will communicate once he can no longer speak. Because the progression of ALS varies greatly from patient to patient, he has no idea when that might be.

“Every day is an adventure,” he said, with a hint of irony, but adding, “Every day is a gift because you are still here.

“Truthfully, I got 47 perfect years,” Rothman said. “Everything broke my way. That’s a hell of a lot more than most people get.

“The gods reached down and put ideas in my head. Even better, they let them come out my fingers — and at a pretty good clip. Not everybody gets that.”

Your Trash Could Mean Cash for Campus

Recycling Tips for Cleaning Out Your Desk This Spring

By **Shane Bevell** | Marketing & PR

Doing a little end-of-semester cleaning? Before you throw away those papers or get rid of your old chair, remember that much of your “trash” can be recycled or surplused.

“Spring is our busiest time of year,” said Tara Pike-Nordstrom, UNLV solid waster and recycling manager, “because faculty and staff are cleaning out

their offices and students are moving out of the residence halls.

“Recycling helps the university save money that would otherwise

be spent on a garbage bill,” Pike-Nordstrom said. Last year, UNLV recycled approximately 632 tons of material. By comparison, the city of Mesquite recycled 671 tons of material, she said.

Each department on campus should have at least one 23-gallon blue recycle bin. Those bins fill quickly this time of year, however, so Rebel Recycling offers delivery and pick-up service of additional 32-gallon office clean-out bins.

Depending on the size of your building and the amount of recycled material generated, bins are normally collected from one to three times a week. Special pick-ups are available by request.

“To me, this stuff isn’t garbage, it’s a resource,” Pike-Nordstrom said. “Others might just view it as garbage, which is why we always make an effort to pick up special orders in a timely manner.”

What Can Be Surplused?

Your old chair or file cabinet isn’t garbage either. It can also be recycled, or better yet, used by someone else on campus.

The central surplus warehouse, known as the

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	Recycle	Surplus
What Can Be	Paper, books, batteries, cell phones, toner and ink cartridges, steel items, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, reusable materials such as binders, pens, paperclips, etc.	Desks, chairs, copy machines, printers, fax machines, file cabinets, scientific equipment
What Can’t Be	Tissues, napkins, Styrofoam cups, Starbucks cups, candy wrappers, label/sticker paper	Items that contain radioactive materials first need to be inspected by the office of risk management & safety
How To Do It	Place in blue recycle bin in office area or outdoor gray recycle bins around campus.	Complete a property movement request and fax it to ext. 5-1449. The form will soon be available online.
Who To Call	Call Rebel Recycling at ext. 5-3760 if your office area doesn't have a recycle bin or you need additional bins.	Glenn Pugh at ext. 5-0859 or Inventory Control at ext. 5-0864

Thunder warehouse, is located north of the Thomas & Mack Center. “Most departments throw items away because they don’t have time to bother with them,” said Glenn Pugh, inventory control and surplus manager. “Instead of a department having to handle these items, either a moving crew or OIT (the office of information technology), if it’s a computer-related item, will pick them up.”

Items are inspected to determine if they have any useful life. If the item will no longer be of benefit to anyone, then it is recycled, Pugh said. Any piece of scrap that contains metal is put into a dumpster and Rebel Recycling earns money by recycling it.

Items that can be surplused include copy and fax machines, desks, chairs, computers, file cabinets, and scientific equipment.

Faculty and staff have first choice of surplus items for office needs, and can come from 1-3 p.m.

Thursdays to inspect items. There is no fee for these items. If you find an item you want, fill out a property movement request on the spot. The item is tagged and a moving crew will then deliver the item to your department.

On the last Friday of each month there is a surplus sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Campus members and the public can purchase the surplused items for personal use. The money generated goes back into the surplus account.

“Often, there is a little life left in these items,” said Pugh, “so we try and make it beneficial for both the university and the buyer by offering items for a small price, allowing the school to recoup some of the cost.

Where else can you get a desk for \$10?”

What Else Can Be Recycled?

Other recyclable items that can go in the blue bins include soda bottles, batteries, and toner cartridges, which are then sorted by Rebel Recycling staff and others, including hotel college students and community service workers.

In addition, cardboard and shredded paper can be placed near the blue recycle bins. To prevent messes, Pike-Nordstrom said her collectors appreciate when shredded paper is put in bags and properly tied.

Last year, Rebel Recycling purchased a shredder that is capable of shredding up to 65 pages at a time. “If you have large amounts of paper that you want shredded,” Pike-Nordstrom said, “contact us and we can do it for you.” The Paradise campus recently had them shred more than 80 boxes of paper.

There are three ways to have your paper shredded:

- Rebel Recycling will pick up your paper and shred it in its facility.
- Rebel Recycling will pick up your paper and you if you want to witness the shredding.
- You can send a student worker with your paper to shred.

Shredding paper also helps the bottom line. Rebel Recycling is paid 4 cents per pound for shredded paper and 3 cents per pound for mixed paper.

To assist individual recycling efforts, Rebel Recycling recently received a grant from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to place approximately 3,000 desk-side recycle bins around campus. Pike-Nordstrom hopes to have the bins distributed in the next several months.



Surplus items are stored in the Thunder warehouse.

Where's the Thunder?

Do you know why the surplus warehouse is called the Thunder warehouse? From 1993-99, the Las Vegas Thunder, a professional ice hockey team competing in the International Hockey League, called the Thomas & Mack Center home. During that time, the team stored its equipment in a warehouse just north of the arena. When the team folded, the T&M offered UNLV the space to store the campus' surplus items.

Tech Savvy

UNLV Upgrades Course Management System

By **Mamie Peers** | OIT

A much-improved version of UNLV’s online course management system is coming this fall — making now the time for faculty members to begin learning how to use it.

Called WebCampus at UNLV, it will be faster than the WebCT program currently in use. Its new features include “modual sharing,” which allows lessons to be shared within departments. WebCampus is formally named WebCT Vista, but has been renamed at UNLV to lessen confusion with the new Microsoft windows operating system called Vista.

Campus WebCT coordinator Wonda Riner said she is hoping faculty who have used WebCT in the past will move all their course materials to the new system no later than Aug. 1. “This means instructors need to request a WebCampus account and get scheduled for training earlier

Resources for WebCampus at UNLV

Attend Training: Visit webcampus.nevada.edu for general information and links to the many training opportunities offered by the office of information technology and the Teaching & Learning Center.

One-on-One Help: If you’ve attended a basic training session, stop by the open labs 9-11 a.m. Fridays in CBC, Room C-307 to get help uploading courses and completing other tasks. Distance Education also offers individual consulting; call ext. 5-0334 for an appointment.

On the Phone: For technical assistance any time, call the Computing Resource Center at ext. 5-0777.

than July 1,” she said.

Faculty may find resources for the transition at webcampus.nevada.edu. That is where WebCampus accounts are created and where instructors will find links to training and other key information.

The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) will be offering many workshops during the next several

months to help ease the transition.

Salley Sawyer, TLC learning technologies specialist, said, “For faculty who have used WebCT in the past, we offer a 90-minute workshop that will help them understand the new environment and its possibilities. For newcomers, a three-session Vista Basics workshop is required so that they can get started using

WebCampus with confidence.

“Once faculty attend the initial workshops, we recommend additional workshops that show how to use WebCampus to its fullest capabilities through specific tools,” Sawyer said. “The grade book has added functionality. Also, faculty can upload many documents at once. Becoming proficient in these and other new features may require additional work with us.

“For those who attend training, we also offer additional one-on-one support and drop-in sessions,” she said.

In addition to workshops, many other support structures are in place to assist faculty (see box). “We hope no faculty member feels like he or she needs to make the transition alone,” Riner said. “By fall, when WebCT CE is unavailable, we feel confident students and faculty will be ready.”

(Right) Rebel Recycling collector Gary Freemont makes his rounds collecting cardboard from various places around campus. **(Below)** Chloe Klangos, Rebel Recycling collector, empties a bin at the Thomas & Mack Center. Office recycle bins are collected one to three times per week or by special request.



Recycling by the Numbers



(Above) Rebel Recycling assistant manager Tony Smith works a forklift as manager Tara Pike-Nordstrom looks on. Collected cardboard is crushed and baled for shipment to a recycling plant. It is then transported to either Arizona or California. This more advanced baler machine has allowed Rebel Recycling to be more productive and efficient. **(Bottom left)** As part of class and for competition, freshman Hotel College students sort the paper while being managed by upper-level hotel management majors. The team that sorts the most paper each semester gets bonus points on their project grade. Junior Greg Covotsos manages one of the teams.

The Rebel Recycling program diverted approximately 632 tons of material from the Clark County landfill in 2005*. A total of approximately 2.6 tons of materials per work day was collected and processed.

- Here is the breakdown by material:
- Cardboard = 156.7 tons
 - White Paper = 46.2 tons
 - Office Pack/Mix Paper = 107.4 tons
 - Pre-shredded Paper = 27 tons
 - Newspaper = 52.4 tons
 - Coated Book Stock = 2.5 tons
 - Chipboard/Waste Paper = 13 tons
 - Hardcover Books = 6.2 tons
 - Soft Cover Books = 32.2 tons
 - Telephone Books = 23 tons
 - Aluminum = 1.2 tons
 - Plastic (#1 & #2) = 7.1 tons
 - Scrap Metal = 156.5 tons
 - Computer Castings = .37 tons

* Figure does not include the approximately 16,000 to 18,000 cubic feet of reusable items (such as clothing, etc.) or toner/ink jet cartridges.

