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Inside UNLV

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Here a Change, There a Change

New Singapore campus opens for classes

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

You’re bound to notice the changes. The new student union — featuring a full-blown Starbucks — is open for business.

The new student recreation center, slated for a summer 2007 opening, is taking shape on the eastern edge of the Thomas & Mack parking lot. And the seventh floor has a new resident. President David Ashley arrived in July, becoming UNLV’s eighth president.

The changes don’t end there.

New Campus
One thing you can’t see, but which certainly is of note, is the opening of UNLV’s first international campus last month. UNLV Singapore brings programs from the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration to Asia. Andy Nazarechuk of the Hotel College is an ideal setting for the campus.

Nazarechuk of the Hotel College is the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration to Asia. Andy Nazarechuk of the Hotel College is heading the new campus.

Ashley noted that Singapore is an ideal setting for the campus. “Singapore is thriving, and support for tourism there is second to none,” he said. “UNLV students should really blossom in that environment.”

Construction Continues
For something you can see, take a look at progress on the

Construction on the new student recreation center progresses. The 187,617-square-foot facility is scheduled to open in the summer of 2007.

205,779-square-foot Science Engineering and Technology Building. All underground heating and cooling piping is complete and the steel beam frames have gone up. Delays associated with steel fabrication have delayed construction slightly with completion now scheduled for spring 2008.

And while some things go up, others come down. Gone is the old reflecting pool at the academic mall entrance to the Ham Fine Arts Building; replacing it is a student-designed piece of art. Art and architecture students enrolled in professor Pasha Rafat’s Art in Public Places class designed the piece. Construction was done by the facilities management department. Finishing touches on the project, which received funding from CSUN, will be completed in the next few months.

Changing Faces
Some significant personnel changes have taken place in recent months, too. Among the appointment are:

• Michael Bowers and Dawn Neuman as co-officers in charge of the office of executive vice president and provost. Both had been serving as vice provosts. They will remain in their new roles until the search for an executive vice president and provost is completed.

• Mark Rudin as interim vice president for research and graduate dean.

• Sociology professor Kate Hausbeck as the Graduate College’s associate dean for academic affairs.

• Engineering professor Robert Abella as associate dean of the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering. He will spend 75 percent of his time on research and the other 25 percent on recruiting.

• Food and beverage professor Andy Feinstein as associate dean of strategic initiatives for the Hotel College.

More info: To learn about new degrees and programs, visit facultystaffinfo.unlv.edu.

Quick Take: Making the Most of Your RebelCard

By Cole Weeks | Marketing & PR

If you’ve been here for more than, oh, a month, you probably already have a RebelCard, the official identification card of the campus community. But do you know all the uses? Inside UNLV sat down with Alex Herzog, director of campus card services, to get the scoop.

Books and Beans: Users swipe their RebelCards more than 2.8 million times during fiscal year 2005-06 to check out library books, make photocopies, and enter the McDermott Physical Education facilities. In addition, the card can be used as a debit card by linking it to a RebelCash account. Campus purchases through RebelCash are tax-free. A dozen vending machines on campus, including those in the residence halls, also accept the cards.

Off-Campus, Too: A number of restaurants, including Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf and Johnny Rockets, accept RebelCash payments, as well as some locations of 7-11 and CVS Pharmacy, Herzog said. The most popular off-campus spot for card users is Chipotle Mexican Grill (see rebelcash.unlv.edu for a full listing).

Department Cards Make Purchases Easy: More than 50 UNLV departments hold cards, primarily to enable faculty and staff to make copies on campus machines.

Caught without Cash for Lunch? Save the ATM fees and deposit money into your RebelCash account from the residence halls, also accept the cards. Last year, users conducted $774,000 in RebelCash transactions, with the average transaction costing $4.31.

A Model Program: RebelCard services is moving toward being a self-sustaining unit using a business plan approach that’s novel in higher education. Herzog presented the concept at the National Association of Campus Card Users and the International Users of BlackBoard conferences last year.

Lost Card? Deactivate your card by calling ext. 5-2351 or online at rebelcash.unlv.edu. This will protect any RebelCash you have in your account and prevent library books from being checked out in your name.

More info: To learn about new degrees and programs, visit facultystaffinfo.unlv.edu.
Learning by Walking Around

My first few weeks and days at UNLV have been truly exciting and informative. In an effort to learn as much as possible about this great university, I have attempted to emulate the Hewlett-Packard founders Bill Hewlett and David Packard’s “management by walking around” philosophy. My “learning by walking around” has been an excellent way to meet so many of you and engage you in conversations about the institution. Through these interactions, I have had the opportunity to learn about our unique history and to experience firsthand the campus culture. Most importantly, these exchanges have given me the opportunity to listen to your thoughts on where the university has been and what you envision for UNLV’s future.

Meeting the Campus Community

Indeed, it has been a great experience learning about the campus and meeting students, staff, and faculty. The campus community has made me feel welcome and has been extremely supportive. In an attempt to organize some of these campus interactions, during this semester and the next, I plan to visit the various individual schools, colleges, and units.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the College of Education, where I was particularly impressed with the energy and enthusiasm expressed by faculty. During this initial meeting, tough questions were asked and many expressed their desire to take the necessary steps to advance UNLV’s research agenda. I appreciated everyone’s honesty and willingness to explore critical issues that are impacting the university.

In my future visits and tours, I would encourage all to ask questions and think deeply and carefully about what you envision for this institution as it embarks on becoming a stronger research university.

So What Have I Learned Thus Far?

UNLV is a remarkable university. The tremendous amount of enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by students, faculty, and staff is inspiring. Not only does UNLV impact the lives of students, but also the lives of citizens in the Las Vegas community and beyond.

Just recently, UNLV launched its first international campus, UNLV Singapore, to create opportunities for global impact. I had the good fortune to attend the grand opening and witness firsthand how UNLV’s reputation for excellence is recognized around the globe. With that said, I believe that the planning foundation for increasing the university’s academic reputation and research agenda is already in place. UNLV, however, has experienced dramatic growth, and with that growth has come many new challenges on the road to achieving these aspirations. Such expansion has severely strained the university’s resources and created strain on the university as a whole.

The Next Step

I believe the next step in our development as a research institution is to strategically identify and develop more focused centers of academic excellence. This will require a commitment on the part of the entire campus community. Of course, I would expect more discussions and more refined planning to take place before any decisions are made.

Filling Critical Positions

During the next few months, a considerable amount of energy will be devoted to filling critical positions, including three vice presidencies: executive vice president and provost, vice president for research and graduate studies, and vice president for diversity. It is essential that these new appointments possess a mix of research, teaching, and administrative experiences.

Continued Interaction

I will admit there is a great deal of ground that I have not physically covered and there is much more for me to learn. Yet, it has been a delight to have met with so many of you already. Communication is important to me and I hope to continue to interact with many more of you in order to understand the institutional culture from your perspective. I want to continue to learn, listen, and engage all in the process of further building UNLV’s research agenda and elevating its academic stature.

From The President

By David Ashley | UNLV President

Tech Savvy

Everywhere a Change, Change

New locations and technologies improve services to campus

By Mamie Peers | OIT

Moving both the faculty/staff and student Help Desks is just one of the service improvements made by the office of information technology over the summer.

The IT Help Desk for employees, designed to be the one-stop-shop for computing help, has moved to the Harter Classroom Building Complex, Room B-113.

“Our new spot is a bit more excluded from foot traffic so that, when we’re on the phone with callers, we can focus on our customers,” said Cathy Stevens, manager of client services. “Before, our desk was in a hallway near a reception area. At our busiest times of the year, it became quite loud in that location.”

The Help Desk technicians will continue to provide assistance with e-mail accounts, passwords, software, and network access. They also help troubleshoot technical problems.

The Help Desk for students moved to the second floor of the new student union, Room 231. “We have a lot more space to talk with students and help them with their questions,” explained supervisor Cyndi Backstrom.

“At our new location we are much more visible and accessible to students. We hope everyone on campus directs students looking for help with computing to our Help Desk.” Students receive assistance with WebCampus, Rebellm, wireless accounts, and other UNLV technologies accounts at the Help Desk.

Next to the student Help Desk is a student computing lab much larger than the one in the old Moyer Student Union. It includes state-of-the-art computers with flat-panel screens.

Classroom Facelifts

Classroom equipment upgrades have continued this summer. Technology-enhanced classroom facelifts have improved facility design and sound while making media control systems easier to use.

We installed a new type of media control system in 13 rooms on campus,” said A.J. Robinson, head of learning space development. “They’re interactive touch-screen control panels that replace a button-model system.”

The simplified control panel offers both greater control and easy-to-use automated equipment configurations for various types of presentations.

Free Training and Support

• Software Training — Software training through OIT is now free. Lotus Notes, Powerpoint, Excel, Access, and other computer courses are available this fall through the IT Help Desk. For more information, visit ccs.unlv.edu/cs/training.

• WebCampus Training — OIT offers an open lab on Fridays between 9-11 a.m. in the Harter Classroom Building Complex, Room C-307. Professors needing one-on-one technical assistance at a computer can stop by anytime during those hours. The Teaching and Learning Center offers training courses detailed at itc.unlv.edu.

• Technology-Enhanced Classrooms — If you want training in how to use technology-enhanced classrooms, call ext. 5-0771 to schedule an appointment. Technicians can meet with professors in rooms just before a class begins or are available to work with them in advance.

• Media Cart Training — For training on media carts delivered to classrooms, just notify the person who schedules your reservation when you call ext. 5-0771.

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

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Let the Arts Begin

By Jennifer Vaughn | Fine Arts

Tony and Emmy Award-winning actor-singer Mandy Patinkin will perform at UNLV on Sept. 16 as part of the New York Stage & Beyond series.

His performance will open the Performing Art Center’s 31st season, and is one of the many performances that will be presented by the various divisions of the College of Fine Arts from now through January.

Patinkin will perform the music and lyrics of Rodgers and Hart, Stephen Sondheim, Harry Chapin, Irving Berlin, and Cole Porter. The New York Stage & Beyond series also offers:

• Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company on Oct. 3
• Hello Jerry! Celebrating the Music and Lyrics of Jerry Herman on Oct. 21
• Grammy and Pulitzer Prize-winning jazz musician Wynton Marsalis on Nov. 1
• the incomparable and award-winning Manhattan Transfer on Dec. 2

Vanda Master Series

The Charles Vanda Master Series, the gold standard in Southern Nevada classical programming since 1976, opens its series with 1 Music (The Musicians) on Oct. 18, the anniversary of the opening of the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall in 1976. The Boston Globe called 1 Music’s ensemble performance “lyrical sweetness.”

Other series offerings between now and the end of January are:

• the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, one of the world’s greatest orchestras, on Nov. 4
• the acclaimed Hungarian State Folk Ensemble on Jan. 18
• Lorin Mazzel, music director of the New York Philharmonic, conducting the Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini on Jan. 27

Musicians Wynton Marsalis plays on Nov. 1

Classical Guitar Series

The UNLV Classical Guitar Series begins Oct. 24 and features Brazilian Carlos Barbosa-Lima, widely recognized for his extraordinary skills as a transcriptionist and arranger of a wide range of music for the guitar, including the works Scarlatti, Debussy, Gershwin, and Cole Porter.

Continuing the series this fall is a performance by Ricardo Cobo, one of the world’s virtuosos of the new classic guitar generation on Nov. 21.

Nevada Conservatory Theatre

The 2006-07 Nevada Conservatory Theatre season features a wide variety of plays divided into two seasons.

The main season will open in October inside the Judy Bayley Theatre with Noel Coward’s Private Lives, a comedy about a once-married couple who run into each other at a hotel where they are honeymooning with their new spouses. It runs Oct. 6-15.

Acclaimed Shakespearean director James Edmondson will direct Twelfth Night, which will be presented Dec. 1-10.

The second season, which is intended for mature audiences because of subject matter and language, begins Sept. 22-Oct. 1 with The Laramie Project, a drama developed by Moises Kaufman and the members of Tectonic Theatre Project related to the kidnapping, torture, and murder of 21-year-old university student Matthew Shepard in Wyoming in the late 1990s.

The Playwrights’ Rep follows at the end of October and into November with two plays from the master of fine arts playwriting program. Carissa Cover’s The book of Nights (Oct. 27-Nov. 4) is about a woman who heals others in a safe house for abused and battered women but cannot heal herself.

The second series is The Book of Nights, a haunted combat photographer trying to recreate his past from pictures he has taken during the war in the Middle East.

Dance and Music Performances

The dance department will offer a shared concert titled “Collaborations” with Kona National University in the Bayley Theatre on Oct. 20 and 21. The concert “Choreographies” follows Nov. 30-Dec. 2 in HFA 111.

The music department offers a number of concerts from the Jazz Ensemble groups, UNLV Symphony Orchestra, UNLV Wind Orchestra, UNLV Community Band, UNLV Choral Series, UNLV Opera Theatre, and more.

In addition, throughout the year the college offers many gallery exhibits, a lecture series sponsored by the art department, and the School of Architecture’s Klaa Jaba Lecture Series.


UNLV Today: Easy to Digest

Tired of wading through up to two-dozen UNLV Information e-mails each day to find the news important to you? Wade no more.

By October, after testing has been completed, all those messages will be consolidated into one daily e-newsletter, called UNLV Today. The e-newsletter will have headlines and summaries of the messages; clicking on the headline will take you to the full story, which is posted online.

Survey Leads to Change

The new e-newsletter was developed after a campuswide survey in 2005 about UNLV Information. “Employees indicated that the messages sent through UNLV Information were often important to them, but they also felt overloaded by the number of individual e-mails,” said Shane Bevell, communications specialist in the marketing and public relations office.

With too many messages coming to their inbox during peak times, many recipients believed they were missing important information. As one respondent said, “Because much of the campus community regards UNLV Information as spam, the valuable information gets lost and ignored because people delete them, sight unseen. Bring us back to a time when communication was useful instead of an inconvenience and a nuisance.”

The benefits of UNLV Today include:

• Daily delivery — You’ll still receive messages daily but they will be consolidated into one e-mail. That also means you’ll have only one e-mail to delete.
• Web version — If employees do not want to receive the digest, they can still read the daily messages on the UNLV Today webpage.
• A better, more consistent format — With headlines organized under categories, you will be able to skim the messages quickly to find the information most important to you. An online submission form also encourages subscribers to use informative headlines and enter complete event information.
• Easy to subscribe/unsubscribe — Subscribing to UNLV Today is optional and you can subscribe/unsubscribe at any time through the publication webpage. If you were previously receiving UNLV Information list e-mails, you will not need to re-subscribe to UNLV Today.

Submitting Messages

Submissions will no longer be taken through e-mail, but the process is just as easy with the online form.

Visit the UNLV Today webpage at unlvtoday.unlv.edu and click on “submit a message.” To login, you will need your Lotus Notes e-mail address and password. The password is the one that is used to access your Lotus Notes account via the web. If you haven’t activated the Lotus Notes web account, visit newuser.unlv.edu. If you forgot or want to change your password, visit fa-cultystaffinfo.unlv.edu and follow the “changing your web password” instructions.

More info: Look in your inbox for future announcements about UNLV Today.

Employee Benefits

New Service Cuts Down on Unnecessary Paper

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

Not sure what to do with those paper payroll advices you get every month? Now you can elect to receive an e-mail notice, rather than the paper copy.

This feature ensures that your payroll advice, the paper that a direct deposit user receives in lieu of a check stub, doesn’t get lost and end up in the wrong hands.

Employees opting for this service receive an e-mail notification when their payroll has been processed. A link in the e-mail takes users directly to the online Employee Self Service database (also known as EQUUS), where they can access all their payroll records, including past W2s.

The online version of the payroll advice looks exactly like the print version.

From the Employee Self Service database, employees can also update their home and work addresses, check employment records, and sign up for direct deposit of their pay.

More info: To start using this feature, go to facultystaffinfo.unlv.edu and click on “EQUUS” in the quicklinks section.
Here, in place of the usual "Across Campus" section, we’re presenting "New Faces," profiles of a random sampling of some of UNLV’s newest employees. As the new academic year begins, take a minute to learn about some of your new coworkers. "Across Campus" will return next month.

New Faces

Editor’s Note:

BUSINESS
Matt Thatcher

Although Matt Thatcher lives in the desert, the natural environment is not what attracted him to UNLV.

Strong leadership in the College of Business, where he is now an associate professor of management information systems (MIS), was the key.

"UNLV has done a wonderful job of developing a strong and impressive MIS department in a short period of time," he said. "Given the leadership at both the department and college levels and the high-quality faculty within the department, I know the MIS department will continue to grow in stature and national reputation. I am excited about contributing to that continued growth."

After earning his Ph.D. in information technology from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, Thatcher spent eight years as an assistant professor at the University of Arizona.

Thatcher was drawn to teaching and developed a love for research as an undergraduate research assistant.

"I enjoy interacting with students and contributing to their education while engaging in innovative research that has significant impacts for businesses and for industry regulators," he said.

His research examines the strategic and economic impacts of information technology, software patent policy design, and the social costs of information privacy.

EDUCATION
Tessie Rose

UNLV special education professor Tessie Rose knows that teaching our youths, especially those with disabilities, is often a challenging profession.

"Unfortunately, some individuals underestimate the level of expertise and the amount of dedication needed to be a teacher, leading many teachers to feel underappreciated and often undervalued," Rose said. "Good teachers are artists and have a tremendous impact on the lives of students. With qualified teachers, all kids can really learn."

Her research interests include identifying and addressing variables that increase the quality of life of individuals with cognitive and low-incidence disabilities.

Rose comes to UNLV from Lehigh University, where she was a post-doctoral research associate. She managed the Lehigh University Pocono Transition and Assessment for Students with Cognitive Disabilities. She also served as the project coordinator for two federally funded projects and taught graduate education classes.

The great facility and the opportunities for research are what first attracted Rose to UNLV.

"However, I have to be honest," she says laughing, "the amazing golf and dry weather added to the appeal of the university’s location."

She hopes to establish partnerships with the local school district. "Approaching research in a way that addresses questions of practitioners benefits the field of special education, not just isolated individuals. My goal for these partnerships, as well as collaboration among existing faculty, is to better prepare teachers and administrators to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse school population."

ENGINEERING
Ju-Yeon Jo

Ju-Yeon Jo’s work and research keeps you and your information safe, although you might not realize it.

Jo joins the college as an assistant professor in its new School of Informatics. One of the program’s focus areas is her specialty, cyber security.

"For example, when you surf the Internet, you will sometimes see a lock icon in a corner of the web browser," Jo said. "That’s a secure site indicator. Most people wouldn’t care why the icon showed up, what the digital certificate is, or how secure that website is. That’s where my research comes in. I study the things under the hood, like the interaction between the web browser and the server, or checking whether a hacker can see the message content or create a fake message."

One goal of the new school is producing a workforce that can understand both technology and the business world, and become a bridge between the two. The most popular and newest informatics areas include digital cinematography, design of interactive IT systems for resorts and casinos, and developing anti-scam and anti-phishing tools.

Jo worked three years at California State University, Sacramento. Prior to that she spent several years developing telecommunication software for Lucent Technologies, Bell Labs, and a start-up company.

FINANCE
Chris Viton

Deputy controller Chris Viton admits that his profile is not likely material for Hollywood. "(I’m) kind of a stereotypical accountant," he said.

Glamorous or not, the controller’s office plays a vital role in the success of the university. It provides financial guidance and information, while ensuring efficient accounting for employees, students, and vendors.

Viton returns to Las Vegas after serving as chief financial officer (CFO) for a four-franchise car dealership group in New Jersey. Prior to that, he spent 12 years in health-care administration serving in community nonprofit and government health-care organizations, including three years as controller and interim CFO of University Medical Center.

His family returned to New Jersey in 2004, but recognized that leaving Las Vegas had been a mistake. He was particularly interested in working at UNLV when he returned because of its importance to community development.

"I think it is important to continue to develop our community’s resources to be not just the best the state has to offer, but to strive to be the best at a national level," he said.

Viton is an avid runner with five marathons and six half-marathons under his belt. He started college thinking he would be an engineer, but that quickly changed. He followed in his father’s footsteps as an accounting major and then a controller.

FINE ARTS
Jonathan Good

Music is definitely in his genes. Jonathan Good has his grandparents to thank for his musical gifts.

His maternal grandmother played piano in the opera orchestras of Philadelphia, including two performances with John Philip Sousa. His paternal grandfather performed in Pennsylvania’s Allentown Band, America’s oldest community band.

He chaired the music department at Montana State University before taking the same job at Tennessee Tech. But his heart remained in the West. “We longed to return to the excitement and vitality of living west of the Mississippi,” he said.

"The unprecedented growth of UNLV and of Las Vegas, combined with the tremendous opportunities for the department of music, made this position very appealing."

As chair, Good hopes to help the department hit

HOTEL
Pat Moreo

His grandparents operated a small restaurant and his family was in the soda business, making Pat Moreo a natural for a career in the food and beverage industry.

Moreo, who was in the first graduating class of UNLV’s then-hotel department, returns as chair of the Hotel College’s food & beverage management program. His responsibility is to ensure the curriculum is up-to-date with industry needs.

After working various jobs, Moreo taught for 13 years at his alma mater beginning in 1975. He returns to UNLV once again, this time from Oklahoma State University, where he spent seven years as the director of the School of Hospitality & Restaurant Administration.

While there, his department renovated a hotel on campus and operated three restaurants.

In recent years, Moreo has focused his research on operational auditing of such areas as hotel front office audits and housekeeping.

"Operational auditing is a systematized way to examine yourself and how your business is doing," Moreo’s vocation is also his avocation. "I love to cook, especially Italian cuisine." His specialty is pasta, using the simplest ingredients like fresh tomato and basil.

Although many students have passed through his classes, his favorite pupil is at home. "I taught my wife how to make bread, and she was a good student."
new high notes. “We have an outstanding faculty of music in place, yet we have serious voids in personnel and programmatic resources that prevent us from achieving national and international acclaim — something I hope to accomplish.”

He says he enjoys the odd moments that come with university teaching. In 1986, while a faculty member at the University of Tulsa, Good’s secretary said that he had a call from “some old man who wanted a band to record some of his music.” Good says that without identifying himself, the man said he was looking for a college band to record arrangements of his songs.

“Always somewhat skeptical of these types of calls, I half-listened with one ear and continued working on what I had been doing,” he said. “Only at the end of the conversation did the caller identify himself as Irving Berlin. Unfortunately, Mr. Berlin became ill and died before the project could be completed.”

**FOUNDATION**

**Launa Wilson**

Working in the banking industry for 10 years was good for Launa Wilson’s pocketbook but not for her heart.

“The only thing I could do to help these people I had gotten to know was to offer them a loan,” she said. “I wanted to do more than just loan them money; so I decided to go to school and study something where I felt I could really make a difference.”

In her new job at UNLV, Wilson is once again involved with money and people, although in a different capacity. As director of development for the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, she raises money for the college as part of the Invent the Future campaign.

The job brings her back to the university from which she earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work. She previously worked for a statewide nonprofit organization. Wilson became passionate about policy issues that affect individuals and families, which got her involved in research and legislative advocacy.

She came back to the university, she said, because she missed the learning environment and being around the students and faculty.

An avid gardener, Wilson loves to grow her own vegetables. She relates gardening to her job. “Gardening requires a lot of cultivating and nurturing to help plants grow,” she said. “Similarly, I have to cultivate relationships with potential donors to help them feel connected to the university.”

**LAW**

**Mike Guttentag**

The more he worked in the business world, the more Mike Guttentag saw that there were opportunities to improve corporate activities through careful regulation.

While Guttentag’s research tends to be eclectic, he is currently writing about an experiment he conducted to evaluate ways to prevent corporate fraud. He is currently writing about an experiment he conducted to evaluate ways to prevent corporate fraud.

“Investigators can save lives, but Katherine Howard never imagined it would help save her own.”

Four years ago Howard went to the emergency room with a high fever and very low blood pressure. Although barely coherent, she insisted to the ER personnel that she was in septic shock from a kidney stone.

“Because I was a ‘doctor,’ they immediately took appropriate action before any test results returned,” she said, referring to her Ph.D. “It was extremely ironic and very fortunate that I recognized my symptoms because of the research I do in my lab.”

Howard, an assistant professor of biomedical sciences in the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, does research revolving around a lipid molecule called platelet-activating factor. The molecule is a very potent inducer of inflammation and plays a significant role in the progression of many diseases including asthma, diabetes, and heart disease. It also has a profound role in inducing septic shock resulting from severe bacterial infections.

The opportunity to teach and mentor doctoral students and to maintain an active research laboratory is what attracted Howard to UNLV. She said it was also appealing to join such a fledgling institution.

“My main objectives here are to provide integrated instruction in biomedical science education to the dental students and to establish and maintain an extramurally funded research program that provides the opportunity for dental students to gain hands-on experience.”

**HEALTH SCIENCES**

**Katherine Howard**

Her research can save lives, but Katherine Howard never imagined it would help save her own.

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**LIBRARIES**

**Darcy Del Bosque**

Here’s a tip from Darcy Del Bosque: Never ask a librarian to use the staff microwave to dry a book that you dropped into the toilet. She once had to explain to a library patron why that is not an effective way to dry a wet book.

The UNLV web services librarian said she will be managing and improving the Libraries’ website. Her job also involves supporting distance learners and ensuring that their information needs are met, even though they aren’t on campus.

Del Bosque, who received her master of library science degree from Indiana University, was previously the head of electronic information and reference services at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

“I knew I wanted to work at a university, but I never could quite limit myself to one field,” she said. “With librarianship I learn something new every day and am able to assist students, faculty, and staff with questions and problems.”

Helping faculty, staff, and students understand how best to use the web in their research is an important focus for today’s university librarians, she said. “Not all the information you need will be found on the web,” she said. “Librarians are trained to help you find the best information on the Internet and elsewhere.”

**LIBERAL ARTS**

**Lisa Frink**

Assistant archaeology professor Lisa Frink has found a way to escape the desert heat; she spends time in the Arctic each year conducting research.

As an undergraduate, Frink signed up for an anthropology course to fulfill a liberal arts requirement. A guest lecturer who had worked in the Arctic inspired her future career.

“I was so fascinated by the fact that people are still living off the land,” she said. “That really got me excited about trying to understand human behavior through time.”

Frink, who served a stint in the Coast Guard, said her research interests include studying Native American hunter-gatherers and how their lives have changed since colonialism, as well as their processes of change. For the last 10 years, she has spent time in the Arctic studying the Yup’ik Eskimo people.

“I am able to talk with people who are still doing many of the things that their ancestors may have done thousands of years ago, such as fishing and seal hunting,” Frink said.

At UNLV, Frink hopes to inspire an appreciation for her field in much the same way that lecturer did for her. “Only one or two of my students will go into archaeology, but I want the rest of them to gain an appreciation for anthropol- ogy,” she said. “I truly believe in the liberal arts approach — that it is about learning and learning to think for yourself.”

**NEW FACES**
When he interviewed recently for his job, he noticed that a lot had changed at UNLV since he graduated 12 years ago.

“I saw the commitment that UNLV had made to become a diverse campus and I wanted to be a part of it,” he said. “This is a career that will allow me to do a lot of good things for students, the community, and the campus.”

Melendez learned the dynamics of partnerships between universities and communities while working on a university research project and eventually became the project manager of a study that focused on developing educational programs and workable solutions for diabetes in the Latino and African-American communities.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

**Peter Kim**

Peter Kim has a bit of advice: If you’ve never tried skydiving, try it just once. “It is such an adrenaline rush knowing that you are actually doing something that is death-defying,” he said.

Back on the ground, his advice for students helps them avoid freefalls through the academic world. He hopes to help shape the students’ UNLV experience in his new position as academic advisor in University College.

“A classic movie buff, whose favorite film is Ben Hur, Kim always thought that he would go the tenured track route. But while earning his doctoral degree in education from UCLA, he decided he didn’t like the instability of being a tenure-track professor. He also wanted to remain near his family, so he pursued other avenues within higher education.”

Advising offered a way to remain in the university environment, interacting with students and in some way still teaching. After advising for a year at a small private college in Los Angeles, he came to UNLV because of the growth and expansion the university is experiencing.

**UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**Pat Mobley**

In 1984, Pat Mobley found herself pouting on the top floor of the Natchez Eola Hotel in Mississippi. She had been promised lunch with then-Vice President George Bush and when told it wasn’t going to happen, she fell apart. She had worked five of his events and each time missed out sitting at his lunch table.

As she picked at a terrible tuna salad in the restaurant, the elevator doors opened. “All I saw was a man’s legs and then heard, ‘Are you Pat Mobley?’ I grunted something in return and then looked up and there was George Bush Sr. with a rolling table of unbelievable food,” Mobley said. After gathering herself, she enjoyed a private dinner with the vice president and his wife, Barbara.

Despite the high moments, Mobley eventually realized that she just didn’t have the thick skin and the stomach required for the political world. After 10 years organizing political rallies for presidential and congressional campaigns, she decided her career shift into general events management. Now the special event and affinity partnership manager for the alumni relations office, Mobley said she enjoys working with alumni, students, faculty, and staff.

**URBAN AFFAIRS**

**Tara Emmers-Sommer**

Too often, people who learn Tara Emmers-Sommer earned a Ph.D. in communication comment to her that she has a degree in “talking.”

“Communication scholars are strong in theory and in methodology,” she said.

“Yes, we do study human communication, but what we do far exceeds talking.”

Emmers-Sommer, who just spent five years working at the University of Arizona, said she was drawn to her profession because she is interested in relationships and the continuous evolution of the human condition.

“The material applies to everyone,” she said. “In learning more about the research in this area, you also learn a lot about yourself and those around you.”

Her research focuses on “communicative interaction”— relational and sexual communication and sex and gender issues. Those relate to interpersonal communication, health, and media. For example, her interests include areas such as sexual coercion, safer sex, and the effect of sexual violence in the media on attitudes toward women.

In addition to teaching, she is the graduate coordinator in the department of communication studies. Her husband, Thomas Sommer, is an archivist in the Libraries’ special collections section.

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**Spotlight Section**

The “Spotlight on Accomplishments” section will return in the October issue of Inside UNLV.

It’s a way to keep your colleagues abreast of what you’re doing. Did you recently receive an award? Have a paper or book published? Serve as a keynote speaker? Or win a new grant?

“Spotlight on Accomplishments” is the place to let people know.

To submit your news, e-mail entries to inside.unlv.edu. Items should be no more than 76 words. If you have a recent, professional head-and-shoulders photo of yourself, please submit it for consideration.

**New Faces**

**Ernesto Abel-Santos**

Though it got him in trouble, a childhood experiment served as a precursor to a career in science, said Ernesto Abel-Santos.

When he was 10, he read about Pavlov’s dog. He said that he knew earthworms lived in dark places and he wondered if he could train them to prefer lighted areas with electric shocks.

“The two things from these early experiments—first, earthworms fizzle when hit with 120-volt AC current. Second, mom gets very mad when you blow all the fuses in the house.”

UNLV is facing many growing pains, there is a lot of enthusiasm.”

“The Invent the Future campaign is a comprehensive effort to raise $500 million for students, faculty, programs and centers. Every gift, regardless of amount or designation, counts toward the campaign’s overall success.

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**Invent The Future**

**Support Your Favorite Projects**

By Lori Bachand | UNLV Foundation

Giving to your UNLV program of choice is now easier than ever.

This summer, the UNLV Foundation launched an online campaign that highlights more than 400 different existing campus funds where donors may wish to channel their support. Additionally, each campus unit—from colleges to programs like alumni relations and the UNLV Libraries—has created a dedicated, secured giving page.

The changes were made in part because of feedback from the campus campaign volunteers, who reported that their colleagues and other donors were often unaware that they could support their favorite UNLV programs.

“Invent the Future campaign is about participation from everyone degrees to attract more women into the profession.”

Muldoon also explained that the new web features help promote how donations can contribute to several areas within a program or on campus.

“My giving directly benefits students, and particularly student-athletes, as they aspire to excel on the field and in the classroom, for their respective sport and in the academic discipline of choice,” said Lisa Kelleher, associate athletic director, who contributes to multiple areas in athletics.

“The university’s Invent the Future campaign is a comprehensive effort to raise $500 million for students, faculty, programs and centers, and facilities. Every gift, regardless of amount or designation, counts toward the campaign’s overall success.

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**Invent The Future**

**Support Your Favorite Projects**

More info: To give online to your program of choice go to foundation.unlv.edu/give in the UNLV community— from faculty and staff, to alumni, community members, and businesses,” says Matt Muldoon, director of annual giving.

“Most of these people and organizations have very deep connections to a specific area on campus, either because they are graduates from that discipline, work or volunteer there, or are involved in some way,”

Susan Hobbes, Hobbes of planning and construction and a member of the Campus Campaign Advisory Committee, said, “I choose to give, in particular, to scholarships for women seeking architecture

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**Invent The Future**

**Support Your Favorite Projects**
Inside UNLV | Page 7

The Inside Guide to the New Union
If you haven’t made it over to the new student union (or the first half of it, anyway) here’s the run-down on its many features.

First Phase Highlights

There’s more...
• Food service choices including Panda Express, Taco Bell Express, Sub Connection, Jamba Juice, Pandinis, and Grill 155
• Meeting and conference rooms
• Social and study lounges
• Student organization (CSUN, GPSA, Rebel Yell) and administrative offices

A brand new...
• 300-seat theater
• Starbucks
• TV lounge

Bigger and better...
• Student organization resource area
• Computer lab and student computer help desk
• Social and study lounges

New offices in the union:
Some folks have moved into the new union from other campus locations. They include:
• The Rebel Yell
• The Graduate and Professional Student Association (new satellite office)
• Student Computing Help Desk
• UNLV Catering

Building & Info Desk Hours
Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-midnight
Sundays, noon-midnight
Hours may vary based on holidays and the academic schedule.

Important Phone Numbers
Information Desk: 5-3221
Rebel Card Services: 5-2351
Student Involvement and Activities: 5-5631
Scheduling and Conferences: 5-4449
Student Computing Help Desk: 5-0761
Diversity Programs and Services: 5-6624
Involvement Center: 5-5576
Rebel Yell: 5-3678
Catering: 5-2650
CSUN: 5-3645

What’s Your Flavor?

Walk into the new union from the Maryland Parkway entrance and it won’t take long before you smell the aroma of fresh Italian stromboli, spicy Mexican tacos, and flavorful orange chicken. Filled with eats suited for anyone’s taste buds, the food court offers plenty of options to calm those hunger pangs.

Starbucks
If your morning Starbucks run is making you five minutes late every day, fret no more. A full-service Starbucks is now here in the northwest corner of the union.
Hours: Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sunday, noon-11 p.m.

Grill 155
Satisfy your taste for a good, old-fashioned American meal with a cheeseburger, fries, and a soda at Grill 155. They’re open early for breakfast, too.
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, closed

Taco Bell Express
Enjoy all of your favorite Taco Bell tacos, burritos, and nachos at this express location.
Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

Panda Express
Traditional Chinese food served hot, fresh, and fast.
Hours: Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sunday, noon-11 p.m.

Sub Connection
Made-to-order sandwiches and wraps are served at the Sub Connection.
Hours: Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

Jamba Juice
Jamba Juice once again brings its lighter fare back to campus. Cool off with a fruit smoothie while you get through the last of these hot days.
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

Pandini’s
Pandini’s offers fresh Italian classics. Enjoy wood-fired pizza, specialty salads, and a variety of pastas made to order.
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, closed

Reserve a Room
Hold your conference or meeting in style. Book space in one of the union’s conference rooms, which feature:
• Wireless Internet access (must have an active UNLV wireless account)
• Built-in screens and white boards
• Multiple room configurations to accommodate different needs
• Rooms with views of campus and surrounding areas

As in the past, university departments won’t be charged for space rental if their planned event is free and the expected non-UNLV attendance doesn’t exceed 20 percent of overall attendance. New this year, conference space holders will be charged for the use of audio/visual and other equipment.

More info: Contact the student life scheduling and conferences office at ext. 5-4449.

Phase Two Construction
The existing Moyer Student Union closed its doors for the last time Aug. 4. The building will be demolished this fall to make room for the second phase of the project, scheduled for completion in fall 2007. The finished project will bring you a 10,000-square-foot ballroom, game room, convenience store, retail stores, and outdoor patio seating.
Hundreds of faculty, staff, and students sampled refreshments during the “soft opening” of the new student union Aug. 7.

Making the student life scheduling and conferences office look a little more like home by showing their Rebel pride are, from left, Lovelace Domingo, Jennifer Oshiro, and Magdalena Ziolkowska.

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

As promised, the new student union is bigger and better, offering more space, more food outlets, and more amenities. And that’s just phase one. The second phase, slated for completion in fall 2007, will offer even more features, including a bigger ballroom.

By comparison, the Moyer Student Union totaled 78,000 square feet, while the first phase of the new union is 100,000 square feet. Another 35,318 square feet will come with the second phase.

Most of the moving was completed during the three-day period beginning July 25, with a predetermined number of offices moving each day. The order in which offices moved was coordinated with an eye to minimizing disruption of regular business. Professional movers handled the large items, while staff members carried over some smaller things.

The theater, which provides space for both movies and events on stage, seats 300 people.

Scoping Out the New Union

(Above) Karen Strong, associate vice president for student life, carries a plant to her new digs.

(Far left) James “Mac” Hayes, executive director of student life facilities, who spearheaded construction of the union, descends its main staircase. (Left) Two employees of Pandini’s, one of the union’s new food outlets, practice making pizza before the union’s opening. (Above) Karen Strong, associate vice president for student life, carries a plant to her new digs.