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UNLV Magazine

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Dental Detectives
Dental Students Learning Forensic Techniques to Fight Crime

Nuclear Scientists Hope to Eliminate Controversial Waste Storage Issues

Gambling Addiction Experts Battle Old Stereotypes Through New Research
Calling for a Great University

UNLV thanks you for your continued support that makes your University one of the greatest in the land! This fall, Rebel Ringers will call on you to further your involvement with UNLV. They will invite you to become even more ingrained in the fabric of this fantastic institution of higher learning. We need your support. Contribute to the UNLV Annual Fund and further promote academic excellence at UNLV. When students dial your number, answer the call with Rebel Spirit.

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Community Transformation: The Role of UNLV

As many of you may know, UNLV is actively pursuing an agenda to become a major research university. Our agenda is not solely at elevating UNLV's prestige on the national level, although this is a wonderful outcome we also hope to achieve. Rather it is based on UNLV's goal to become a major university that both transforms and improves its community. To reach this goal, UNLV must produce the finest educated citizens and leaders, help solve many of the community's problems, strengthen the area's economic base and health, and produce exceptional creative, cultural, and athletic activities. Most universities in the country that do these things best are known as Research I or major research universities. Quite simply, we aspire to that status not simply for reputation, but to help the people and the state of Nevada—to raise our state's fortunes—in every way. Let me give you some examples.

First, major research universities improve student learning in a variety of ways. UNLV is working to create a student-centered learning environment in which students study with outstanding researchers and teachers. Faculty with active research agendas and programs are usually more knowledgeable and up-to-date about their disciplines—a factor that directly improves teaching. Such faculty stay in close contact with their colleagues around the country, study new developments in their fields, and experiment with new interpretations of older data or methods, leading to new discoveries. One very important byproduct of this faculty activity is that students have access to the most recent information in their disciplines, an outcome that directly improves student learning.

At UNLV, there are many exceptional opportunities for students to work on sophisticated research projects and creative performances in conjunction with faculty members. This experience makes the students' education more meaningful and teaches them skills that make them more marketable when they seek employment or apply for graduate school.

Second, major research institutions help keep the best and brightest students in the state. Good students often investigate many institutions before deciding which one they will attend. They ultimately make their choices based on many factors, but certainly one important aspect is the student's perception of the opportunities available to them at a particular university. Many of the best students are attracted to a university because of the opportunity to participate in the active intellectual life of the faculty. Outstanding research programs, those that give the most to the community and to students, help attract students. If UNLV does not have these programs, Nevada's best students will search for them outside the state. When this happens, it is a tragedy for Nevada because these bright people often do not return to live and work here, but instead stay in the states where they studied.

A prime example here at UNLV is the fact that students from all over the world want to attend our William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration—recently ranked by the Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Education as the top hotel school in the country in overall quality. Nevada students with an interest in the hospitality industry stay here to study; they choose UNLV because of the opportunities that a great faculty and a great city offer. But they also stay because the faculty members are active researchers in their industry and students therefore learn the newest systems, techniques, expectations, and perspectives. But a great university is not built on only one outstanding program. Like other excellent universities, UNLV has many highly regarded programs, including those in biology, mechanical engineering, business, law, physical therapy, creative writing, history, film, special education, and community counseling, to name a few.

Third, major research universities improve the quality of life in the community. Universities with active faculty and research agendas are hotbeds of ideas. Many of the most significant discoveries that...

University research creates knowledge that can lead to new technologies, commercial products, and jobs that have a significant impact on the economy.

MGM MIRAGE Promotes Industry Diversity Through Hotel College Partnership

A new partnership between MGM MIRAGE and the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration will help both organizations bolster their diversity initiatives. The partnership includes a financial commitment of $500,000 to UNLV during a five-year period.

J. Terrance Lanni, chairman and CEO of MGM MIRAGE, said the partnership is part of the company's strategic plan for diversity initiatives. "To explore our future prospects, we looked into the pipeline of next generation leaders by examining the current student body at the Hotel College," he said. "We found that UNLV, home to the world's finest hotel college, is a source of many of our best and brightest executives, and (the college) has been diligently working on issues related to diversity. Together, we will aggressively recruit bright minority students." Activities will focus on student recruitment, scholarships, internships, mentoring, and professorships. MGM MIRAGE executives will spend more time at UNLV interacting with students, Lanni said. "We are thrilled to receive this support from MGM MIRAGE," said UNLV President Carol C. Harter. "It presents an opportunity to strengthen a partnership between UNLV and Nevada's most important industry in the pursuit of a goal that all of us share: diversity."

Four years ago, Hotel College administrators aggressively sought to increase diversity among the faculty. Now, 19 percent of the college's faculty members are from ethnic minorities. Future efforts will focus on diversity in the student body. Only 2.3 percent of undergraduate students in the college are African American and 6 percent are Hispanic.

Computer Donation to Speed Genome Research Projects

A donation of 11 high-end SUN computers will help UNLV researchers build more competitive research programs in genome analysis. The Monsanto Co. donated the computers, valued at $1.25 million, to the university through the UNLV Foundation. The high-speed equipment will enable UNLV scientists to speed up their research in the area of "bioinformatics, a relatively new interdisciplinary field that integrates mathematical sciences, computer sciences, and biology. Research on genome analysis—the study of the genes of humans, plants, and animals—is part of the bioinformatics field."

Biology professor Jeff Shen said the new computers will cut the time it takes to analyze data for his genome research from months down to a single day. Shen is working with other UNLV professors to pinpoint the water-saving genes in the creosote bush found in the Mojave Desert. The goal is to produce a water-saving, yet environmentally safe, turf grass and other landscaping plants with the genes from the creosote bush. The availability of drought-tolerant turf, particularly for home and golf course landscapes, could mean substantially less water usage in state.

"Our research has attracted the attention of scientists nationwide and is supported by major federal governmental agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation's EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), and the National Institutes of Health Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network," Shen said. "This equipment will enable us to work much more efficiently to produce genome analysis results."

"Any time we receive sophisticated equipment such as this, we improve our academic reputation," said Ray Alden, executive vice president and provost. "It enables us to attract high-quality faculty and students because it facilitates their research. It also promotes collaboration and provides faculty with greater opportunities to train students in this emerging field."

Alden noted that the university is planning to initiate an interdisciplinary bioinformatics research/education program that will further enhance opportunities for study in this area.

Carl Reiber, chair of the biological sciences department, said the computers will be used by faculty in a number of departments, including biological sciences, mathematical sciences, and computer sciences. "It will also markedly enhance our competitive edge in obtaining federal funding for such research."

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UNLV-TV Puts the Arts Front and Center

From Academic Cafe to the popular Totally Band in Vegas, UNLV-TV has stayed at the forefront of the local academic and entertainment scenes. Now the station, headed by program director Laurie Fruth, has created Front and Center, a showcase for fine arts that melds both arts and academics. The show will air at 9 p.m. Sundays on Channel 70.

"UNLV is the cultural center of Las Vegas," Fruth said. "We do more cultural programming on this campus than anywhere else in Southern Nevada. I saw this as an opportunity to develop a signature show that has a chance of building a strong following.

The first show, which aired Aug. 17, featured more than 20 talented students and three faculty members who traveled to Scotland for the Edinburgh Arts Festival. Groups from the departments of dance, film, and theater presented a variety of works at the acclaimed Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Front and Center followed the groups during their on-campus rehearsals and interviewed the participating faculty.

"A program focusing on all of the arts has long been needed in Las Vegas and Southern Nevada," said Jeff Koep, dean of the College of Fine Arts. "This program has the potential to increase the exposure of the offerings of the College of Fine Arts, as well as other entities. It's my hope that it will include a variety of fine arts entities, as we need to work together to create a new community resource."

As for the future of Front and Center, Fruth said the show will cover more than the traditional arts. "I define arts broadly," she said. "Anything exciting or visually stimulating would be excellent subject matter. Future shows could include topics ranging from book reviews to art history." For information, visit www.unlv.edu/programs/unlvtv/index.html.

Learning from Experience

Business Development Center Expands Counseling Services

Through its Nevada Small Business Development Center (NSBDC), the UNLV College of Business is expanding the counseling services for companies in Las Vegas.

Allan Bell, a volunteer with the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), will provide counseling services at the development center's offices on campus. Bell, who has expertise in exporting and importing, will focus on international business as well as work with start-up companies.

"Contrary to popular perception, 98 percent of the businesses in Nevada are considered small businesses by the SBA," said Richard Hahery, dean of the College of Business. "Serving this population is a critical part of what the college is doing to support the economic development of Southern Nevada and the state. The development center serves a vital role in our strategic plan as the major outreach effort to businesses."

The Nevada Small Business Development Center — part of the UNLV and UNR business colleges — is a statewide resource for business assistance, providing a unique array of services, expertise, and training in all areas including starting, growing, and developing a business.

For information, call (702) 895-4270 or visit www.nsbdc.org.

Aging Center Opens Satellite Campus

The UNLV Center on Aging has established a "satellite campus" at the Horizon Pines Senior Apartments, a Nevada Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) property for low-income, older citizens.

The satellite campus, established through a new partnership between the Center on Aging and HAND, will enhance the ability of both organizations to respond to particularly vulnerable older citizens. The focus is on at-risk older residents, including those who are socially isolated or are having difficulty re-entering the labor force.

"This effort is also in line with the goal of the Center on Aging to create a community-based 'learning laboratory,'" said Barbara Hirshorn, center director. "We want to make the university's resources accessible to the larger community. Through this partnership, the Center on Aging can impact the well being of older people in the community. At the same time, it will create important opportunities for learning and research for students and faculty."

The Center on Aging was created in 2000 to study issues related to aging and to help formulate public policy concerned with an aging society.

For information, call (702) 895-2770.

Community Job Fair Planned Oct. 18

UNLV's Jean Nidetch Women's Center will host its 10th annual Community Job Fair from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 18 in the UNLV Moyer Student Union.

"Community Job Fair is an excellent, cost-effective employee-recruiting opportunity in today's competitive world of multimedia marketing," said Conee Spano, director of the center. "Thanks to the Southern Nevada businesses that sponsor and support this exciting event, Community Job Fair has grown to be one of the largest recruiting events in our state."

Spano expects nearly 2,000 job seekers to visit the 100 recruiters at the fair. The event offers job seekers free access to the employee-recruiting exhibits, parking, and baby-sitting services.

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center is celebrating its 10th year at UNLV. The center offers a scholarship program, services for adults returning to school, and social service information and referrals. Its programs serve both female and male students.

For information, call (702) 895-4475 or visit http://womenscenter.unlv.edu.

Hall of Fame Inducts Film Director George Sidney

The College of Fine Arts is debuting the Nevada Entertainer/Artist Hall of Fame at UNLV during a series of events in September. The first inductee, George Sidney, will receive the award posthumously. Sidney was a three-time Academy Award-winning Hollywood legend who directed such great films as Show Boat, Kiss Me Kate, Viva Las Vegas, and Annie Get Your Gun.

The events begin Sept. 12 with a black tie reception, sponsored by Reneta Schiff, in the home of Corinne Sidney, George's widow. The awards ceremony will be held Sept. 13 in Ham Concert Hall. Celebrity speakers will share their memories of Sidney.

In addition, an exhibition of previously unseen photographs taken by Sidney will be featured in the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery from Sept. 15 to Oct. 4. Personalities such as Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Elvis Presley, and Ann-Margaret are captured through Sidney's discerning lens. These candid Hollywood photos of the people Sidney worked with regularly will be publicly displayed for the first time.

Tickets for the awards ceremony are $25 general admission and $10 with a valid student I.D. Tickets to the black tie event are $500.

For information, call (702) 895-4292.

CAMPUS NEWS
Finding Fault
Seismologist sets off explosives to evaluate earthquake hazards

By Gian Galasii

When UNLV seismologist Catherine Snelson wanted to measure the impact of ground motion on the Las Vegas basin for a research project, she knew she couldn’t just wait around for an earthquake to occur. She had to make her own.

Using more than 7,500 pounds of ammonium nitrate-based explosives, Snelson, along with more than 40 students, colleagues, and community volunteers, detonated 11 carefully controlled explosions, or “shot points,” to produce seismic waves similar to what a small earthquake might produce. Professors Wanda Taylor of geology and Barbara Luke of civil and environmental engineering also lend their expertise to the project.

The August experiment marked the final refraction survey for the Southern Nevada Seismic Response Project, a two-year collaborative study designed to evaluate the seismic hazards in the Las Vegas Basin.

“Explosives are the best way for us to record seismic waves without actually recording an earthquake because they create the same effect without the damaging any of the damage,” says Snelson, an assistant professor of geophysics. “Although explosives are usually equated with their destructive qualities, we use them in a very benign manner. Most people don’t even know that we’ve done anything at all.”

The team drilled holes approximately 150 feet deep that crisscrossed the valley at 10 km intervals from Henderson to Summerlin and from Nellis Air Force Base to Red Rock Canyon. A shot point was detonated in each hole and the ground motion created by these explosions was recorded using 840 seismic sensors. That data will help scientists develop a more detailed profile of the basin’s geology.

The project began last year when researchers from UNLV, University of Texas at El Paso, and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory measured the effects of dynamite blasts from a nearby rock quarry and a chemical blast at the Nevada Test Site. Preliminary analysis showed the Las Vegas basin to be much deeper than previously thought, indicating that ground motion created by an earthquake would be both slow and sustained—factors that contribute to extensive earthquake damage. Other studies uncovered at least eight tectonic faults that are capable of producing an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 to 7.0 on the Richter scale.

Should such an earthquake occur, says Snelson, the valley could suffer more than $11 billion in damages and a significant number of deaths and injuries.

Ultimately, the researchers hope to better educate the public and government officials about earthquake preparedness. “The data we’re compiling will provide a geologic and geophysical model of the Las Vegas basin that will not only be used by academics but also by city, county, and state officials who need to evaluate locations on which to build,” Snelson said.

“This research will provide information necessary to change existing building codes as well as plan for mitigation in the event that a large earthquake were to occur.”

The researchers will present their preliminary analysis at the American Geophysical Union meeting in December. The data will be incorporated into a computer model being developed by Lawrence Livermore and UNR scientists that estimates the effects of earthquakes on structures. The data will also be critical in the development of “shake maps,” which identify areas that would be the most adversely affected by such an event. Officials can then plan how to dispatch emergency resources to the areas likely to need them most.

The research is not limited to how the basin will react to an earthquake in the immediate Las Vegas area; it also studies how ground motion from distant seismic events will affect the valley.

“If a large earthquake occurs within 150 kilometers of Las Vegas, it’s going to shake us pretty good and possibly cause some drastic results,” says Snelson. “It’s much more likely that we will experience a quake like that in our lifetime than we will one in our valley.”

Snelson is quick to point out, however, that although her research does not suggest a greater likelihood of a large earthquake occurring in the Las Vegas Valley, there really is no way of knowing when one might hit. “Every place has a local hazard, and earthquakes just happen to be one of ours,” she said. “We may have been lucky so far, but we can’t expect that our luck will always hold out.”

Geophysics professor Catherine Snelson is leading research on earthquake activity by detonating controlled explosions across the Las Vegas Valley. She also monitors the area’s reactions to worldwide seismic activity via computer programs.
Las Vegas Then and Now
by Su Kim Chung
Thunder Bay Press, 2002
At a manuscript librarian in the Lied Library's special collections division, Su Kim Chung sees many interesting things, particularly about Las Vegas, and so was well placed when a London publisher wanted to add Las Vegas to its series about major American cities.

The book series pairs historical photographs with photographs of the same scene today. Chung had to select only 70 photos from special collection's more than 40,000 images. She then researched what had happened to the buildings photographed.

"I worked with a London-based publishing house whose editor had only been to Las Vegas twice, so his main directive to me was to avoid at all costs a book that consisted of photos of the desert on the 'then' side and photos of giant casinos on the 'now' side," Chung says. "The editors also had problems with the word 'imploded,' which I used in conjunction with captions for the Dunes and the Sands. They kept trying to replace it with more delict words like 'destroyed' or 'demolished'; but I stuck to my guns and said I couldn't write a book about Las Vegas and NOT use the word 'imploded.'

"In selecting the photographs, I had to be conscious that every one had to be of a building or scene that could be located and reproduced by the photographer today," Chung continues. "This sometimes led me to exclude interesting photos because I could not tell by any clues in the photo where it might have been taken. A photo of mules grazing along Boulder Highway was one that I really wanted to use but could not because of this problem."

Chung, who has a master's degree in history from California State University, Fresno, and a master's degree in Library and information science from UCLA, has been at UNLV since 1999.

Dixie Looks Abroad
The South and U.S. Foreign Relations, 1789-1973
by Joseph A. "Andy" Fry
Louisiana State University Press, 2002
In Dixie Looks Abroad, history professor Joseph A. "Andy" Fry shows the quality of work that this year earned him recognition as a Distinguished Professor, the top award given by UNLV. Described as a "graceful and engaging narrative," qualities that, together with solid scholarship, earned its selection by the History Book Club, Dixie Looks Abroad establishes the South as a major player in U.S. foreign relations.

Although Fry grew up on the fringes of the South, it is his fascination with foreign relations, honed when he went to graduate school at the University of Virginia, that helped inspire his research. His first book grew out of his dissertation on Henry S. Sanford, minister to Belgium, who "was a 'career diplomat' before the U.S. government acknowledged such an animal," Fry says. Sanford, minister to Belgium during the Civil War, was deeply involved in what was once known as Belgian Congo.

"Since Sanford was a Northwester, a Republican, and a diplomate, I would be interesting to look at some of the foreign policy issues from the perspective of John Tyler Morgan, a Southerner from Alabama, a Democrat, and a politician." This decision led to a biography of Morgan. "In the course of understanding Morgan's foreign policy connections, it became apparent to me that there had been no overall attempt to study the South and U.S. foreign relations." Fry not only set out to fill that gap, he also revived a UNLV course on Southern history.

Reflecting on writing Dixie Looks Abroad, Fry says, "I guess the best evidence of the project's interest for me was that although the book was long - too long, in the writing - the topic was so engrossing that I never lost interest. It truly remained fun from beginning to end."

Fry's research currently is examining the role of the South in the United States' involvement in Vietnam, another topic that has been the focus of his classroom work.

Six Books of Sonnets
by Vladimir Honsa
1st Book Library, 2000
When an academic retires, he or she does not lose intellectual life behind the office keys. Many remain active in research or creative writing, continuing to write and publish. Vladimir Honsa, retired professor of Spanish and linguistics, for example, recently published Six Books of Sonnets. Written in both English and his native Czech, the book actually contains more than seven hundred pages. It opens with Book Six, his most recent works, Sonnets of Flowers and Butterflies, written from 1982 to 2000, and concludes with Book One, Sonnets of the Death of Love, 1977-1978.

Honsa came to UNLV in 1970 from the University of Southern California, where he had been acting chair of the linguistics department. He held Fulbright professorships in Colombia and Uruguay prior to joining UNLV to teach Spanish and linguistics. He retired in 1988 and still lives in Las Vegas.

At the Margins of Orthodoxy
Mission, Governance, and Confessional Politics in Russia's Volga Kama Region, 1827-1905
by Paul W. Werth
Cornell University Press, 2002
History professor Paul Werth's first book delves into the history of Russia beyond its capitals at St. Petersburg and Moscow.

"I was drawn into the curious multi-national region around the Volga-Kama rivers," he says. "It didn't take long to realize that there was more than enough material to sustain a decent dissertation on confessional politics in the region."

The Volga and Kama rivers come together in the Republic of Tatarstan, in the center of the Russian Federation. Kazan, on the Volga, is its principal city, and Werth traveled there, as well as to the central Russian historical archives in St. Petersburg.

"Probably the most interesting story about this is that I met my wife in doing this research," Werth said. His wife, Elizaveta Zueva, worked in the St. Petersburg archives, and they were thus thrown together frequently as she assisted in finding materials for his research. They have been in Las Vegas since 1999 and have a son.

Werth also spent seven months in 2001 researching a larger study of religious tolerance in Russia; it's tentatively titled Archbishop: The Sacred, Foreign Confessions, and Religious Toleration in the Russian Empire, 1772-1914.

What's on Your Bedside Table?
It seems that people always have a stack of books beside their bed. Here, people from across campus share their late-night reading materials.

President Carol C. Harter: Her eclectic collection of books includes Theodore Rex, a biography of Teddy Roosevelt by Edmund Morris, BelCanto by Ann Patchett; The Language of Leadership by Roger Soder; American Myths, edited by Gary Hauser; and September 11, 2001: American Writers Respond, edited by William Heyen with two notable pieces by UNLV English professors Alix Barnstone and Douglas Unger. And "I always have a whodunit going," Harter says. "Right now it's Cold By Linda Fairstein."

Joseph "Andy" Fry: The history professor and UNLV's Distinguished Professor says he is reading two books that are not directly tied to his scholarship - William Ivey Hall's The English and His Realm: The Life and Times of Henry A. Long, and George Carlin's Napalm and Silly Putty. Next on his list is Jared Diamond's Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies.

Jeff Koep: "Look, no play!" quips Koep, dean of the College of Fine Arts and professor of theater. He recently reread Joyce Carol Oates' Foxfire and is ready to tackle Armistead Maupin's Vol. 1, 2, 3 of Tales of the City and Richard Werth's East Round of Boxing by Berdie Pacheco. M.D. He also plans to read The Trails of Lenny Bruce by R. Collins and D. Skover before he directs the play Lennny for the Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV Feb. 6-15.
Knight's 26-year coaching career includes many accomplishments on the course, including an NCAA championship in 1998 and consistent top-10 national rankings. But he's also known for demanding that his players succeed in the classroom. UNLV Magazine sat down with Knight as he was preparing his team to compete in the NCAA championship tournament in May (the team placed 13th).

You're certainly in elite company in the GCAA Hall of Fame. To what do you attribute your success?

You can put a lot of pieces in place, but unless you have community support and great players, you can't win tournaments. The golf community has opened up its world-class courses to us, which allowed us to attract top players. And we're now at almost $4 million in endowments — that takes care of scholarships, travel, academic support, and recruiting. What they've given to the program gave us a chance to be competitive at the highest level, to be able to produce contenders year in and year out.

What has the community gotten in return for its support?

One of the promises the program held when I first came was that if we could become a major player in golf, we'd open up a window to who we are as a community and as a university. I get a chance to tell the story of not just the gaming side of Las Vegas, but the community itself and what it stands for as a place to live and get an education. Once you become competitive at a national level, people seek out that story — they want to know how you did it. They want to know how your university is helping its community solve its problems.

The people we bring here make an impact on the community. Some go on to playing professionally and carry the label of UNLV as a place to live and get an education. Others go to class and succeed in class; if he didn't, he wouldn't hesitate to not play them if they weren't going to class.

Golfers seem to have a remarkable memory for every shot they take. What stands out for you?

The shot I remember the most over my 26 years of coaching wasn't really a shot; it was a penalty (stroke) during the national championship we won in 1998. Bill Lunde hit his ball left on number 10 into a spot where people couldn't actually see him or his ball. As he addressed the ball, it moved. He replaced it and then hit it out and finished with a six. When he saw the score posted at a five, he realized that the scorer hadn't seen the ball move and he immediately corrected the score. We were head-to-head with Clemson and nobody saw what happened. That one stroke could have cost us the championship, but he still called it on himself. I think that speaks to playing with integrity and honesty — that's something I hope all my players do.

And when they don't?

I had a player early in my career here who would have been eligible to play his whole senior year even if he made all Fs. He decided he wanted to just work on his golf game and not go to class. He was our best player — one of my first All-Americans here — but I told him that I expected him to go to class and succeed in class; if he didn't, I wouldn't play him. He quit the team after that. It was hard on the team but they pulled together, and even went out and won the very next tournament.

That decision set a tone here. People — players — can remember that and know I wouldn't hesitate to not play them if they weren't going to class.

You have a reputation for emphasizing the “student” part of “student-athlete.” Why is that?

When I was a player at (the University of) New Mexico, my coach, Dick McGuire, encouraged me to finish my degree even though it meant putting off my college golf to play on the (PGA) Tour. Years later, he called me when he was getting ready to retire. I was struggling to make cuts as a professional and he thought I'd enjoy coaching. First thing they asked me when I put in my application was, “Do you have a college degree?” That hit me like a ton of bricks. My degree opened the door to a wonderful career. I tell that story every time I sit down with parents and prospects. I'm pretty proud of the fact that, of the students who have completed their four years of eligibility here, only three have not graduated. I think when these athletes do play professionally, it takes some pressure off them knowing that they can do other things if that doesn't work out.

What's your advice for alumni who want to encourage their kids to play?

You hear it a lot, but to be successful and to make the commitment it takes for excellence in any sport, you really have to have a passion for it. That passion gives you the energy and discipline to reach your dreams. So, you have to give kids a chance to find their own passion.

And, I think you have to give them support through the ups and downs. You know, through the recruitment process I was close to Tiger (Woods), and I always admired his parents because, truly, the score didn't matter. All they asked of him was to do his best every time he walked out there. That gave him a chance to fail, fail safely, and rebound. It allowed his confidence to grow. He's the greatest athlete right now in the world and I think it goes back to that unconditional support. Greatness comes from that.

Any advice for the weekend golfer?

Work on your short game. Recreational golfers have limited time, and they always want to hit the ball a long way. That feels great, but they need to ration their time. They should spend 45 minutes on pitching, putting, and sandplay, and just 15 minutes on the long game. Most people do it the other way around.

Golf Coach Dwayne Knight came to UNLV with a promise to build a championship team and a drive to build character.
UNLV’s top forensic experts are training the next generation of dentists to use their skills to battle both crime and terrorism.

By Barbara Cloud  |  Photos by Geri Kodey

A trench-coated bloodhound named McGruff urges citizens to “Take a Bite out of Crime,” but few realize how much biting is a part of crime.

Using bite marks to track criminals is the challenge for forensic dentists associated with the UNLV School of Dental Medicine: Dr. Steven Smith, associate dean for clinical services; Dr. Marden Alder, an expert in dental diagnostics; and Dr. David Ord, director of dental informatics.

They believe that, whether it is identifying victims of a hotel fire, working domestic violence cases, or tracking teeth marks left at the scene of a murder, dentists with training in forensics have become a valuable asset to law enforcement and have a growing role in the war against terrorism. At UNLV, the group is infusing the dental school curriculum with comprehensive instruction in forensic techniques.

Smith developed an interest in forensic dentistry in the late 1970s, when little training on the subject was available. “In 1978 I was a member of the oral diagnosis/ oral medicine faculty at Northwestern. Patient folders containing treatment...”

Drs. Marden Alder, David Ord, and Steven Smith are infusing the UNLV School of Dental Medicine’s curriculum with instruction in forensic dentistry techniques.
bodies was a real service to families—it's started to wonder about who was receiving the records and where they received them. "In their programs," Smith says. "So, we are in a prime situation to assist in identification." He noted that forensic dentists saw a wide range of dental techniques when working to indentify victims of the World Trade Center attack. Identification was helped by the fact that dental records were readily available. "Those making dental identifications of victims of the attack saw every type of tooth implant system available," Smith says. Smith sees a growing role for dentists in national security. To ensure correct identification, bodies from Operation Iraqi Freedom were processed forensically—including the use of dental records—not just by reading dog tags, Smith says. He also predicts dentistry will play an increasing role in responding to bioterror and other catastrophic events. At a recent American Dental Association conference addressed the concern that not enough medical doctors are available to handle a major terrorism attack. "We have 165,000 dentists who could assist," Smith says. "Dentists can give injections, suture tissue, and administer medications. We need to make sure that our dental schools are properly trained for this kind of work."

But most often, UNLV's dental graduates are likely to be called upon to help police investigators in violent crime cases. Each dental educator has chilling stories to tell about the cases he has worked. They use the stories, together with pictures both graphic and gruesome, during instruction of future dentists.

"I am surprised that people are so interested in forensics," Smith says, "It's different. They ask me, 'How can you see this terrible stuff?' Yet these same people are glued to CSI: Las Vegas. They also thrive on Patricia Cornwell's mystery novels—the she does a pretty good job of authentically portraying forensic investigations.

"Like most means of identification, bodies is based on statistics. While it is possible for two people to have identical dentition, the odds against it is so high that the legal system relies on dental identification to both confirm and rule out a person's identity. "People often go to a dentist more than they go to a physician, and the types of treatment dentists provide offer unique identification opportunities," Smith says. "So, we are in a prime situation to assist in identification."

In one particularly ugly Chicago murder case, two carpenter building a deck on an executive's home carefully observed her comings and goings. After completing the job, they returned one day with a truck and were in the process of loading it with her belongings when she came home unexpectedly. After duct-taping her to the floor and killing her, they went on with their loading. As they hoisted a freezer into their truck, a door came open and a couple of frozen pizzas fell out. They decided to take a break, cooked the pizzas, and ate it at a table they had placed over the woman's body, leaving partly chewed pizza crusts scattered around the body. Enter UNLV's forensic dentist. Smith researched pizza-eating habits and made plaster models of the crusts to use as evidence in court after the original pieces dissolved. He was able to show that the bite patterns on the crusts matched the murderer's teeth.

"More often, however, it is bites on people that lead forensic investigators to the perpetrators in a criminal case. I'm a rape, there is always some biting," Smith says, "it happens when he has pronounced his mouth free of cavities based on another set of X-rays. Suspicious of the sudden deterioration of the boy's teeth, the mother complained to authori­ties, and the fraud was discovered. Alder tyes this example into his instruction. "We want our students to be good dental diagnosticians," he says, "to recognize abnormalities and by reading dog tags, Smith says. They are glued to the records and where they received them. It is a prime situation to assist in identification."

"In such an atmosphere, the dental school is well positioned to provide cutting-edge forensic dentistry education. The school is new and not set in tradition­al ways. Its emphasis on an integrated cur­riculum is attracting both top-notch stu­dents and faculty," Alder says. "Most dental schools are compartmentalized; UNLV is vertically and horizontally integrated. We will turn out well-rounded practitioners able to hit the ground running."

But, to speak of forensic dentistry as a specialty of its own, like orthodontics, is misleading, says Alder. "One of the misconceptions among stu­dents and dentists alike is that you can 'go into' forensic dentistry," says Alder. "There are only a handful of people across the nation who can make a living in forensic dentistry. It has to be an adjunct to a regular dental practice, so it is important that dentists learn what to do and then pool their skills as a team to do the identification or whatever is required."

"In addition to the more routine dental procedures, students such as Casey Allman are learning how to use their skills to assist law enforcement agencies and identify victims of mass tragedies. The dental school emphasizes the need for students to use computer technology to enhance their future practices and improve the sharing of vital forensic information."

In an addition to the more routine dental procedures, students such as Casey Allman are learning how to use their skills to assist law enforcement agencies and identify victims of mass tragedies. The dental school emphasizes the need for students to use computer technology to enhance their future practices and improve the sharing of vital forensic information.
While the word ‘nuclear’ makes many shudder, ambitious UNLV scientists are seeking ways to eliminate the harmful byproducts of spent nuclear fuel.

In a speech to the United Nations in 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower outlined his vision for nuclear energy, stating that the most important responsibility for the new science was to devise methods whereby this fissionable material would be allocated to serve the needs of mankind... of agriculture, medicine, and other peaceful purposes.”

Despite numerous advances toward this end, nuclear power still evokes for many the catastrophic images of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the accidents at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, and, here in Nevada, the possibility of becoming a dumping ground for the rest of the country’s nuclear waste.

But scientists and students at UNLV are developing technologies that could improve nuclear energy’s tainted reputation – research that could lead to real solutions for the nuclear industry’s most contentious problem while producing the benefits Eisenhower once imagined.

Alternatives to Deep Storage Facilities

Established in 2001 with a $3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, UNLV’s Transmutation Research Program (TRP) is a multidisciplinary effort to address the ecological and economical management of the country’s used nuclear fuel. Spanning six departments in three colleges and involving more than 30 faculty members and 37 graduate students, the TRP is one of the most ambitious research efforts in the university’s history.

The program, which is administered by the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies (HRC), is a component of the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative, a national program born out of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The TRP currently supports 16 separate graduate research projects, called tasks, that examine the technological requirements of a process called nuclear transmutation.

Simply defined, nuclear transmutation converts volatile, radioactive isotopes into more stable isotopes by changing their nuclear structure. This is done through neutron-induced fission or neutron-capture processes conducted in nuclear reactors or particle accelerators. The result of both fission and neutron capture in problematic isotopes is the same: the transformation of the most dangerous materials in used nuclear fuel (plutonium and other fissile materials) into safer, more stable, low-level waste, which could then be more easily managed, recycled, eliminated, or harnessed for other applications.

“Ultimately, the end result of the transmutation process is to recycle the used nuclear fuel and, at the same time, almost totally eliminate its most hazardous materials,” says Denis Beller, intercollegiate program coordinator for the TRP and a former research scientist at Los Alamos. “In doing so, we’ll be able to decrease the overall volume of waste, lower the remaining waste’s radioactivity, and make the storage of the material much more secure and economical.”

Through transmutation, the life span of the most problematic materials (long-lived actinides) in nuclear waste could be reduced by as much as 95 percent – from roughly 10,000 years to fewer than 500 – thereby eliminating many of the current long-term environmental and safety concerns.

“Transmutation has the potential for completely doing away with the need for a deep geologic repository like Yucca Mountain,” says Anthony Hechanova, a nuclear engineer and director of the TRP. “It just depends how far you want to go with the process. There are some concepts that look at having all waste streams classified as low-level, which would allow for their disposal at any of the many low-level waste sites around the country.”

But some significant technological obstacles must be overcome before transmutation can become reality. The research tasks the TRP has taken on are addressing some of the technical hurdles of transmutation:

• Two tasks focus on the separation of uranium and other stable elements from used nuclear fuel rods.
• Four tasks examine the fuel fabrication process that prepares some of the fission products for transmutation.
• 10 tasks are concerned with the design of specific technologies required to transmute high-level radioactive waste.

Students and faculty from the mechanical engineering, computer and electrical engineering, physics, health physics, chemistry, and geoscience departments are conducting the research. National laboratory collaborators supervise the projects during
Like alcoholism, pathological gambling is a devastating addiction that quickly and quietly sends the afflicted toward rock bottom. UNLV professors and alumni are leading the nation in research of the widely misunderstood problem.

By Cate Weeks | Photos by Geri Kodey

GOING FOR BROKE

Picture your average gambling addict. It's not necessarily the flashy guy at the craps table, hooked on the rush of shooting the dice and looking to get rich quick. It's the woman in front of the video poker machine - the successful Realtor next door, your child's teacher, or the bank vice president who approved your home loan. She's robotically hitting the "Bet All" key as she squeezes in an hour of gambling before she picks up her son at soccer. As she spirals deeper into her addiction, no one the wiser, she'll steal from her son's college fund. She'll get credit cards in her husband's name and then hide the bills from him. She may even embezzle from her longtime employer, thinking she'll repay the money the next time she wins. When she hits rock bottom, in just a couple of years, she'll be thousands upon thousands of dollars in debt and will have few places to go for help.

"By and large, the thrill-seeking problem gambler is an endangered species," says Bo Bernhard, a UNLV sociology and hotel administration professor. "Most gambling addicts now are escapists. They don't engage in these behaviors to feel great; they do it to feel numb. They often want to escape from family issues or workplace stresses. All of us need moments of escape in our lives, but for pathological gamblers, this desire turns destructive."

Old Stereotypes, New Research

As director of gambling research at the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, Bernhard studies gambling behavior, including the relatively new field of gambling addiction. He points to two statistics that are pushing problem gambling research to the forefront:

- More money is wagered on gambling than is spent on sports tickets, movies, music events, and video games combined.
- 48 states have approved some form of gambling in their jurisdictions.

"Nevada is no longer the lone wolf it was when I was growing up here," says Bernhard ('02 Ph.D. Sociology). "Not only do we have more access to gambling than perhaps ever before, we also have more access to money that technically is not ours - through credit in its various configurations. It only makes sense that we invest some energy in increasing our understanding of the impact of gambling, both positive and negative."

Nature or Nurture?

In the young field of problem gambling, researchers can't yet offer solid statistics on the social and economic toll that problem gambling takes on society. Nor do they know why, for certain people, gambling becomes a destructive obsession rather than a simple pastime. Because the field is so new, widely accepted data is not available on the prevalence rates, that is, the number of gamblers who have a pathological problem. Various studies estimate that to be between 1 and 6 percent of all people who gamble. By comparison, the prevalence rate for alcoholism is 6 percent.

"There's an old stereotype that gambling addicts are born losers or masochistic accidents waiting to happen - nothing could be further from the truth," says psychologist Rob Hunter ('76 BA Psychology). "Some of the brightest, most energetic, competent people I've ever met I had in
And why, only now, has this addictive behavior come been studied. Suffering is profoundly affected by sociological forces far larger ly, studies on gambling behavior have used computer card games ing as a simulate the activity. Hunter launched the center in 1998. It is the only full-service non­

Part of the answer, Bernhard says, appears to lie in brain chemistry. “A lot of academics posit that there are a number of individuals in the population who just can’t gamble, just as there are some who just can’t drink. Though my training and sympa­

Moving up from the molecular/brain chemistry level, Bernhard believes that there are psychological and small-group issues affect­

The casino lab in the Stan Fulton Building at UNLV will be an exceptionally useful tool in this kind of research, he adds. General­

The counseling department is designing a certification pro­

Counseling professor Larry Ashley is leading UNLV’s academic programs in gambling addictions. Some of the area’s gambling addictions are finding help through resource brochures available in casinos.

Educating the Experts: UNLV Offers Cutting-edge Academic Program

Twenty years of research also has not given communities enough time to develop the resources necessary to treat problem gamblers, says Larry Ashley, a counseling professor and coordinator of UNLV’s programs in additions therapy. This fall, UNLV will offer the first formal academic program for problem gambling thera­

The counselling department is designing a certification pro­

Alumnus Rob Hunter launched Southern Nevada’s only non­

The Best Place for Treatment

In a sense, Nevada is the best place to get treatment, the experts believe. The state has experienced providers who pioneered treatment of gambling addicts as well as a growing group of UNLV scholars tackling the issue. There’s also an active Gamblers Anonymous support community. There are more than 100 weekly GA meet­

When it comes down to it, Hunter says, “being a problem gambler in Las Vegas with its convenience store slot machines is no different than being an alcoholic and having to walk by the liquor department every time you need a loaf of bread.”

And Hunter, Bernhard, and Ashley all agree that, although problem gambling has real social and economic costs that must be addressed through enhanced treatment programs, gambling in itself isn’t a bad thing. “As gambling moves into the mainstream, into the heartland of the country, problem gambling will follow,” Hunter says. “But that doesn’t condemn the industry — Goos didn’t invent alcoholism and I don’t think slot-machine makers invented problem gambling.”

“I feel the native Las Vegas in me come out every time I address this,” says Bernhard. “I believe we should have the right to choose our recreational activities. For the vast majority, gambling is a fun and harmless activity. As a community, though, we have to address the downside just as we do with drug and alcohol problems. If you spend any time with this population, you can see that this problem does not affect all of us. They deserve our attention and support.”
November 2003

12 Nevada Conservatory Theatre-University of Nevada, Reno: 8pm Nov. 2, 7pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787

9 Women's Volleyball: vs. BYU. 7pm, Bean Music Center. 895-3332.

30 Music: UNLV Master Singers, 7:30pm. Bean Music Center. 895-3332.

20 Music: UNLV Jazz Ensemble. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

21 Music: UNLV Symphony Orchestra & Vocal Ensemble. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.


23 Best of the New York Stage: Marvin Hamlisch featuring the UNLV Classics and Jazz Orchestra. 8pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

24 Nevada Conservatory Theatre-University. Company: Las Vegas Philharmonic. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.


26 Best of the New York Stage: Maureen McGovern Holiday Concert. 8pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

27 January

2 Music: UNLV Wind Orchestra. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

3 The World Stage: The Chaitons. 8pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

4 Nevada Las Vegas Philharmonic: Homage to Leonard Bernstein. 8pm Feb. 3; 2pm Feb. 4. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-7287 or 793-3267.

5 February

1 Music: UNLV String Chamber 7:30pm. Bean Music Center. 895-3332.

2 Author Luncheon: featuring Janet Lowe, hosted by College of Liberal Arts Alumni. 10am. Las Vegas Country Club. 895-3362.

3 Music: UNLV Opera. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

4 Concert Preview: Concert. 7:30pm. Bean Music Center. 895-3332.

5-6 Recital: UNLV Faculty. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-3332.

7 Music: UNLV Jazz Ensemble. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

8 Nevada Conservatory Theatre-University: Company: Moscow Festival Ballet performing Carmen and Pas de Deux. 8pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

9 Nevada Conservatory Theatre-University: Company: Jazzy Orchestra. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

10-11, 15-18, 22-25, Black Box Theatre. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

11 Women's Soccer: vs. Utah. 7pm. Ham Field. 895-3267.


13 Women's Soccer: vs. BYU. 7pm. Ham Field. 895-3267.

14 Cross Country: UNLV Invitational Tournament. Call for times. UNLV Alumni Center.

15 Women's Volleyball: vs. Colorado State. 7pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3332.

Best of the New York Stage: Maureen McGovern

December 20

String Quartet. 8pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.


3 Music: UNLV Madrigal Singers. 7:30pm. Bean Music Center. 895-3332.

4. 895-3893.

5 Music: 76+4 Trombones. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-3267.

6 Music: UNLV Wind Ensemble. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-3267.

7 Music: UNLV Men's Choir. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-3267.

8 Music: UNLV Symphony Orchestra featuring UNLV Choruses. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787.


10-11, 15-18, 22-25, Black Box Theatre. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

11 Music: UNLV Jazz Ensemble. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

12 Music: UNLV Symphony Orchestra. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

13-14 Las Vegas Philharmonic: Rigoletto. 8pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

15 Desert Book Company: Forgotten Carols with Michael Hensley. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

16-19 Nevada Conservatory Theatre-University: Company: Matthew Minnich and the UNLV Classics and Jazz Orchestra. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

20-21 Nevada Conservatory Theatre-University. Company: Ballet performing The Nutcracker. 7:30pm. Ham Concert Hall. 895-2787 or 793-3267.


24-25 Nevada Conservatory Theatre-University: Company: Puddy Meers. 8pm Dec. 6-7; 2pm Dec. 7. Black Box Theatre. 895-2787 or 793-3267.

26-27 Men's Soccer: Tournament. 7:30pm. Ham Field. 895-3267.

27 Women's Soccer: vs. Utah. 7:30pm. Ham Field. 895-3267.


29 Recital: Deborah Siebert, soprano. Bean Music Center. 895-3332.
Like the rugged trails he enjoys hiking when he can squeeze in some time off, the career path to Douglas Selby's job as Las Vegas city manager has been a circuitous one.

As a UNLV student, Selby ('75 BS and '77 MS Biology) anticipated spending his entire career doing some kind of environmental biology work. While he did work in that field for years — and enjoyed it — his career route took a variety of turns that eventually led to his assuming the job as CEO of one of the largest cities in America.

Of course, Selby didn't move straight from a job as field biologist to the helm of a city with an annual budget of $877 million. Along the way were a number of jobs that each, in its own way, helped prepare him for the challenges of guiding one of the fastest growing cities in the nation.

During his senior year at UNLV, Selby met biology professor Jim Deacon, who specialized in desert fishes. Exposure to Deacon's research, which involved a great deal of fieldwork, spurred Selby's interest. After receiving his master's degree, Selby worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game before joining an environmental consulting firm.

He did a lot of field work with endangered fishes — some in Nevada and some in the western rivers of the Colorado River system, Selby recalls. Eventually he enrolled in the doctoral engineering program at Utah State University so that he could enter the then-new field of environmental engineering.

Ph.D. in hand, the Clark High School graduate returned to Las Vegas to take a job with the Clark County Sanitation District. Selby subsequently moved to California, but eventually felt pulled to return to Nevada — a desire he admits was strengthened by the major San Francisco earthquake of October 1989.

"I always gravitate back to Las Vegas. Other places I lived and worked just didn't have the energy and the openness about opportunities," he says.

His work as engineering director — first for the Las Vegas Valley Water District and then for the Southern Nevada Water Authority — eventually paved the way for his being selected as deputy city manager. Then, in September 2002, the City Council promoted him to the city's top management post.

Selby says the job suits him. "I like being city manager. It's nothing my academic background would seem to lead to, maybe, but it handled out to be a good fit," he says, adding that his studies at UNLV helped prepare him for the perhaps unlikely turn of events in his career. "My academic background did give me a basis for being flexible and adaptable, which is important for a city manager. You have to be analytical, too, and UNLV contributed a great deal of that," he says.

Selby says he is pleased to be serving as city manager at a time when Las Vegas is contending with the challenges and changes of growth. "While challenges certainly exist, they bring with them tremendous opportunities for growth," he says. "I want to work with the mayor and the City Council to help make the city of Las Vegas one of the best-run cities in the country."
Ron Shretter, ’83 BS Hotel Admin­­istration, is president of Elite Hospitality Group, an executive recruiting firm specializing in the hospitality industry.

Lee Brucks, ’84 BS Hotel Adminis­­tration, completed his MBA at River­­er College in New Hampshire. He works for BAE Systems in the business management division. He and wife Cathy own and operate Tropix Limited, a management division. He and wife Cathy have two children, Austin and Caris — both managing partners for BAE Systems in the business management division.

Andrew Meckler, ’86 MS Hotel Administration, is named tavern operations director at Timbers Hospitality Group, which operates seven Southern Nevada restaurants.

Lisa Schall, ’86 MS Hotel Adminis­­tration, is vice president of accounting for the Stuart Dean Co., a large building restoration and maintenance company in New York.

Sue Davis, ’87 BA and ’89 MA Hotel Administration, is an assistant professor of political science at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. She received her doctorate degree from Emory University. She previously worked for the United Nations as an assistant professor at the Air Force Special Operations School.

Christopher Hardigree, ’93 BS Hotel Administration, teaches hospitality law, labor management relations, and hospitality employment law at UNLV. She was named the hotel administration department chair in 2011 and is currently an assistant professor. The 77-year-old also holds a degree from Western State Community College in Ohio. She lives in Las Vegas.

Tim Koch, ’91 BA Accounting, is recently named the managing shareholder of Enwright & Koch, an accounting firm with offices in Las Vegas and San Diego. He is in charge of the daily operations at the Southern Nevada office and oversees the audit and consulting services of the firm. The firm offers accounting and business services to growing small- and medium-sized businesses.

Christian E. Hardigree, ’93 BS Hotel Administration, teaches hospitality law, labor management relations, and hospitality employment law at UNLV. She was named the hotel administration department chair in 2011 and is currently an assistant professor. The 77-year-old also holds a degree from Western State Community College in Ohio. She lives in Las Vegas.

Joseph Miller, ’94 BS Hotel Adminis­­tration, is director of business development for Infoyo Corp. He is a specialist in business-critical application and infrastructure management and is currently lives in West­­ern Hills, Calif.

Joseph Ruggieri, ’94 BS Culinary Sci­­ences, recently launched and is director of market­­ing for Resource Associates, a recruiting and temporary staff augment­­ment firm. The company focuses on technology, engineering, Wine Club and taught in the European Union. He teaches in Long Island City.

Cheryl Hoon Lee, ’97 BS Busi­­ness Administration, is executive chef­­lyt­­er for a Tony Roma’s restaurant man­­u­­gan­­ing and operates Troplia Ltd., a vacation property management company. The company also provides location services for photo shoots, commercials, and movies.

Jung Hoon Lee, ’97 BS Hotel Adminis­­tration, is executive chef­­er for a Tony Roma’s restaurant man­­u­­gan­­ing and operates Troplia Ltd., a vacation property management company. The company also provides location services for photo shoots, commercials, and movies.
Gabrielle Crawford, '98 BS Physical Education, teaches physical education at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary in Las Vegas and is working on a master's degree in health promotion at UNLV.

Darrel Kieckhafe, '98 BS Mechanical Engineering, is a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning engineer for AMEC in Las Vegas. He recently passed the Nevada Professional Engineering Exam.

Rachel Klem, '98 Bachelor of Music, is working on a master's degree in music therapy at New York University. She is an elementary school music teacher and lives in Jersey City, N.J.

Chris Smith, '98 BS Hotel Administration, is the internal communications person in the human resources department at Harrah's Rincon Casino in Valley Center, Calif. He handles employee relations issues, benefits, and recruiting, training and development, and communications. He received the company's Chairman's Award for outstanding team performance in 2002.

Antonette M. Thomas, '98 BA Sociology, is a real estate broker, property manager, notary public, and loan officer in Las Vegas.

Brad Mark, '98 BS Hotel Administration, was elected to the board of directors for the Las Vegas Speedway Children's Charities.

Laura McIvra, '01 MFA, is a 2003 graduate of the master of fine arts program at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. The Benton, Connecticut, artist is a state museum, exhibits her self-portraits and narrative paintings in May.

David Gibson, '02 JD, opened Gibson Law Offices LLC, a full-service litigation firm practicing family, business formation, personal injury, criminal, and landlord/tenant law in Henderson. Previously, he was an associate with another local law firm. He is married and has two children.

Send entries to: Cate Weeks, UNLV News & Public Information, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 451012, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1012; fax 702-895-4057, or e-mail Cate.Weeks@cmail.Nevada.edu. Deadline for the spring issue of UNLV Magazine is Oct. 30, 2003.

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President's Message continued from page 2

improve the lives of individuals have occurred on university campuses. These discoveries are sometimes global in that they affect people throughout the world; they are sometimes local, aimed at helping people in the immediate community.

But universities have often used examples of UNLV research projects with very practical and beneficial goals. Researchers in the science and engineering colleges are conducting fascinating studies on the effects of increased carbon dioxide levels on plant ecology in a desert environment and pollution detection and detection and, on medical imaging to improve diagnostic techniques. They are also examining alternative modes of transportation for the city, developing systems to improve pedestrian safety, and exploring alternative sources of energy.

UNLV researchers are also pursuing answers to some of the most challenging questions in health care, an area that can have a powerful impact on all our lives. At UNLV, faculty members and students in the Cancer Institute and the School of Dental Medicine are doing sophisticated cancer research. Additionally, faculty members in health sciences are conducting research on stress reduction to help us more successfully deal with the pressures of every day life. Also, a forensics laboratory is being designed that will assist our whole community in dealing with crime and terrorism.

And the list goes on and on. With more than 800 faculty members and more than 25,000 students, we are a remarkable resource, offering careful examination of the many problems we all face. Life for our entire community will be improved because of the programs we create, the services we perform, and the research we conduct at UNLV.

Fourth, major research universities have a direct and positive effect on a community's economic development and diversification.

University research creates knowledge that can lead to new technologies, commercial products, and jobs that have a significant impact on the economy. Some of the most important discoveries in recent decades have come from university research, including many agricultural advances, developments in fiber optics and lasers, and advancements in DNA research.

It should note that the planned Science, Engineering and Technology Building will contribute significantly to the university's ability to continue producing sophisticated research and promoting the unencumbered exchange of thoughts, ideas, and opinions among faculty and students of diverse disciplines. The facility represents a major step in increasing momentum for University research creates knowledge that can lead to new technologies, commercial products, and jobs that have a significant impact on the economy and that are in this category, and you know them well: the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Brigham Young University, University of New Mexico, University of Colorado, University of Idaho, University of Nevada, Reno, and University of Utah. On a national scale, institutions in this category include Columbia University, Indiana University, Texas A&M University, UCLA, USC, Washington University, UCSD, and the University of California-Berkeley.

But the list of doctoral/Research Universities-Extensive, which includes 151 institutions, is the most transformational in terms of its effect on the community. It is also the most prestigious of the categories, and UNLV hopes to achieve this ranking by 2010. Many excellent institutions in this region are in this category, and you know them well: the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Brigham Young University, University of New Mexico, University of Colorado, University of Idaho, University of Nevada, Reno, and University of Utah.

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Homecoming

Fall Homecoming events offer alumni a trip down memory lane. Above: 1972 Homecoming Queen Efi Papageorge (center), Joyce Mitchell (left), and Donna Crabbe, are escorted off the field at halftime festivities. Below: Students enjoy the pep rally in 1989. Left: The UNLV mascot salutes the audience at last year’s pep rally.

Homecoming 2003 will kick off with a dinner featuring football Coach John Robinson on Oct. 17. The Alumni Association’s tailgate party will begin at Sam Boyd Stadium three hours before the game kickoff against Utah on Oct. 18. For more information, contact the Alumni Association at 895-3621 or visit www.unlvalumni.com.

The Lied Library’s special collections department houses a vast collection of UNLV and Southern Nevada historical photos and documents. The collections are open to the public. For more information, visit www.library.unlv.edu/speccol/index.html.
Friday, October 17
5:30 pm Cocktail Mixer / Martini Bar
7:00 pm Guest Speaker: Coach Robinson
Inside the Marietta Tiberti Grand Hall
of the Richard Tam Alumni Center

Hosted by the Harrah Hotel College
Dues Paying Members $30 • Non-members $40
VIP Reserved Table of 8 - $300 (Table sponsorship includes recognition in program)

Saturday, October 18
Tailgate FREE for Active Alumni Members • Guests $10
UNLV vs. Utah — GO REBELS! Tickets available call 739-FANS.

Monday, October 20
12:00 pm Homecoming Golf Tournament at Canyon Gate CC
Entry Fee: $125 per person. Tee prizes and dinner included.
Please RSVP by Monday, Oct. 13 — (702) 895-3621.

For more information on this event or to join the UNLV Alumni Association, call (702) 895-3621 or visit our website at: www.unlvalumni.com
STAND OUT IN A CROWD.

Show your Rebel Pride and support UNLV by purchasing a **UNLV REBEL License Plate**. Funds from the sale of UNLV REBEL plates go back to the school, supporting UNLV’s Alumni and Athletic Scholarships. Pick up your UNLV REBEL license plates at any Nevada DMV office or call the UNLV Alumni Office at **(702) 895-3621** for more information. [www.unlvalumni.com](http://www.unlvalumni.com)