Spring 2002

UNLV Magazine

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Framing the Scene:
An Innovative Approach to Filmmaking

History Lessons for Us All
Law Clinic Reaches Out to Small Clients

Film Professor Francisco Menendez
Calling for a Great University

UNLV thanks you for your continued support that makes your University one of the greatest in the land! This spring, 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.

For more information, contact
Michael Richmond
UNLV Foundation Development Officer
at (702) 895-3641.
Framing the Scene
Las Vegas is a favorite backdrop for Hollywood films. Now, UNLV's growing film department is working to bring the city to the foreground as a center for writers, directors, and producers.

BY BETTY BLODGETT

Taking History Public
To professor Andy Kirk, history is about rebuilding an old chicken coop and chatting with old-timers who have memories a mile long.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

Family Man, Law Man
UNLV alumnus Richard Perkins talks about politics, parenting, and his commitment to his hometown, Henderson.

BY SUZAN DIBELLA

New Scholars on the Block
To inspire a diverse new generation to reach beyond the bachelor's degree, the McNair Scholars Institute gives undergraduates a taste of life as academic researchers.

BY BARBARA CLOUD

And Justice for All
As the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic prepares its students to be attorneys, it's filling a gap in services for those with little voice in the court system, Clark County's children.

BY CATE WEEKS
Developing Our Metropolitan Character

Several months ago in my annual State of the University address, I had the opportunity to update the campus community on a number of our recent noteworthy successes, many of which support the goal of becoming a premier urban research university. In addition to detailing these achievements in the speech, I also discussed the fact that we are beginning to focus our energies in ways that reinforce the metropolitan character of our institution; since that time, several significant developments have occurred that further support this effort. All in all, the developments of the last year are beginning to take us in some important new directions that I believe you will find interesting.

Regional campuses located in the urban core of the valley will give us the opportunity to strengthen our role as a major player in the economic growth and cultural development of Southern Nevada.

First, the growing sophistication of our institution can be seen on several fronts. For example, it was recently announced that UNLV is now ranked within the National Doctoral Universities category of U.S. News & World Report's annual America's Best College guidebook. UNLV moved up from the classification of "Regional Public Universities" to the classification of "National Doctoral Universities" and is now ranked alongside 249 other doctoral degree-granting universities, many of which strongly emphasize research. This is excellent news for us, and we are committed to continuing to move up within that classification.

Another development of which we are proud is the selection of one of our faculty members, Dave Hickey, as the recipient of a category of one of our faculty members, Dave Hickey, as the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The first Nevadan to receive this prestigious award, Hickey, a professor of art theory and criticism at UNLV since 1992, is one of the most respected art critics in America today. We are fortunate to have such a highly regarded individual on our faculty, and we congratulate him on the award.

Additionally, several of our programs have received either their provisional or regular accreditations, including some that are quite difficult to achieve, such as those for the William S. Boyd School of Law, the physical therapy program, computer science, and the School of Social Work. The accreditations serve as clear validation of the academic merit of these programs, and it is a pleasure to see them receive such rewarding endorsement.

While these examples of accomplishment speak to issues of quality, we have on our minds issues of quantity lately as well. With nearly 24,000 students now enrolled at UNLV, the great need for new land and space has led us to examine opportunities for expansion of the campus in downtown Las Vegas and in various locations in the northern part of the city, as well as in the city of North Las Vegas, and, of course, on property contiguous to the campus.

The possibility of land acquisition in these urban areas—-or areas that will soon be urban—has given us a renewed vision for the campus, one that I believe will prove to make a great deal of sense over time. We are, after all, striving to become one of the finest urban teaching and research universities in the country. What better place to do so than in locations that reinforce the urban aspects of that goal? Regional campuses located in the urban core of the valley will give us the opportunity to strengthen our role as a major player in the economic growth and cultural development of Southern Nevada; they will give us the chance to help build and rebuild our surrounding areas, while supporting our city and further developing our urban character.

I am excited to say that this vision is quickly becoming a reality. In December, UNLV was able to acquire three buildings and 18 acres of land in the heart of Las Vegas at 1700 W. Charleston Blvd., the site formerly owned by the Employer's Insurance Company of Nevada. With 185,000 square feet of building space, a parking lot with more than 700 spaces, and a central-valley location just off I-15, the site is quite valuable in terms of its potential for future use. Its location in the center of the community's primary medical district makes it an excellent site for some of our biotechnology and health care-related programs.

Given our commitment to establishing a presence in this district—both at the recently acquired site, as well as at an academic medical center being proposed by Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman—we are carefully examining which programs would be best suited to the various facilities.

For example, one of the buildings at the new regional campus will be an ideal location for UNLV's School of Dentistry. The facility has been designated as the site that will house the School of Dentistry. The facility has been designated as the site that will house the School of Dentistry. The facility has been designated as the site that will house the School of Dentistry. The facility has been designated as the site that will house the School of Dentistry. The facility has been designated as the site that will house the School of Dentistry.

UNLV recently received a grant of more than $2.6 million from the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration for the university's Cancer Institute and new Biotechnology Center.

Biologist professor Penny Amy, principal investigator on the grant proposal, said that the Biotechnology Center will serve as a facility for forensic DNA and other biotechnology training programs, including an environmental testing lab, which can be used to provide water quality testing for microbial contaminants.

"We have formed a partnership with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's (Metro) Crime and Forensic DNA labs to create a laboratory that will be specifically equipped to train people nationwide in forensic science and human DNA profiling," Amy said. "In addition, researchers from the UNLV Cancer Institute will have new and modern facilities, both in the form of research laboratories and in specialty analyses, such as tissue culture and flow cytometry, as well as in DNA sequencing capabilities."

UNLV President Carol C. Harter acknowledged Nevada's U.S. Sen. Harry Reid and U.S. Rep. Jim Gibbons for their assistance in acquiring the federal funding and for their support of the university's research programs. "This is yet another indication of the level of sophistication of our research here at UNLV, as well as our interest in partnering with government agencies and private industry to serve the community," Harter said. Berch Henry, manager of Metro's Forensic DNA Laboratory, said the Biotechnology Center's DNA profiling facility will enhance training programs at Metro. "Workshops will be held for those attending UNLV's cell and molecular biology/biotechnology programs, for employees in current state or private DNA profiling labs across the nation who need academic refresher training, and for people with scientific backgrounds who want postgraduate, hands-on training in DNA techniques for employment potential," he said.

UNLV Moves Up in Best Colleges Rankings

UNLV now is ranked within the National Doctoral Universities category of U.S. News & World Report's annual America's Best Colleges guidebook.

According to the magazine's annual campus rankings report, UNLV has been moved up from the classification of "Regional Public Universities" to the classification of "National Doctoral Universities." It is now ranked alongside 249 other doctoral-degree-granting universities, many of which strongly emphasize research. The report explains that because of refinements to the methodology, all institutions will be ranked alphabetically within each tier.

UNLV is also included in the report's list of colleges whose 2000 graduates incurred the least debt load, indicating it is a good value. UNLV ranked 10th out of 25 doctoral universities that received this distinction.

New Alumni Scholarship Targets Local Minorities

A newly established UNLV Alumni Association scholarship, earmarked for minority students with high potential for academic success, will further the goals of the state Millennium Scholarship program.

The UNLV Alumni Association's Millennium Plus Scholarship is intended to help Millennium Scholars pay for books and fees. This year it will award $500 per semester to 10 graduates of Community College High School in Las Vegas.

"These high school students were targeted because they have been involved in a 'college setting through the community College of Southern Nevada for two years and their potential for success at UNLV is high," said Pam Hicks, director of school and community relations and coordinator of the Millennium Scholarship program at UNLV. "In addition, the scholarship program is designed to help the university meet its diversity goals."

Applicants must be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship, which was established to encourage Nevada students to perform well in high school to stay in the state for college. Recipients must graduate from a Nevada high school, have a grade point average of at least 3.0, pass all areas of the Nevada High School Proficiency Exam, and be residents of Nevada for at least two high school years.

"The Alumni Association began the Millennium Plus Scholarship program to help ensure Nevada's best students become alumni of UNLV," said Kevin J. Page, Alumni Association president.

For more information, contact Hicks at (702) 895-2891.
Alumni Across the Country Help Recruit New Students

A UNLV admissions program is turning alumni across the country into recruiters for the university.

Through the Rebel Recruitment Program, alumni in 16 states have volunteered to represent their alma mater at college fairs and to make congratulatory phone calls to newly accepted students. Alumni recruiters will receive training on how best to promote the university to prospective students, said Kristi Rodriguez, assistant director for admissions. The Rebel Recruitment Handbook offers general information on admissions, financial aid, scholarships, and housing. Recruiters attending events also will receive a video that details college fair etiquette.

She hopes the program will expand to include activities such as letter-writing campaigns and send-off receptions.

The Alumni Association is helping to fund training sessions in San Diego, Chicago, and New York. “The program has a high potential for growth,” Rodriguez said. “Our high-needs areas include California, Hawaii, New York, New Mexico, Colorado, and Washington.”

Alumni Association Honors Faculty with Awards

The UNLV Alumni Association recently presented the alumni association’s top awards to 10 faculty members. The association recognized faculty who excel in teaching, research, service, and administration.

The Alumni Association honored the following faculty members:

- Don Snyder, president of Boyd Gaming, was presented with the Alumni Association’s top award.
- Tony Gladney, College of Fine Arts, was presented with the Outstanding Student-Centered Teaching Award.
- R. Hughes College of Engineering, was presented with the Outstanding Non-Alumni Supporter Award.
- The Urban Mfairs Center, and to Walter C. Vodrazka Jr., was presented with the Outstanding Student-Centered Teaching Award.

Alumni Association Recognizes Top Graduate, Non-Alumni Supporters

Attorney Bill Koot and business executive Don Snyder recently received the Alumni Association’s top awards. “Both Bill and Don are deeply committed to the Southern Nevada community and to UNLV,” said Kevin J. Page, association president. “They are continually willing to offer their leadership, and their dedication enhances UNLV’s ability to provide superior educational opportunities to its students.”

The association named Koot, a retired police officer for the Clark County district attorney’s office, its Alumni of the Year. During his 30-year tenure with the district attorney’s office, he held numerous administrative positions and retired as chief of major violators unit. He led the prosecution of some of the area’s most serious criminal cases as well as the office’s implementation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, better known as RICO.

Koot earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from UNLV in 1966. After a tour of duty in Vietnam with the Marine Corps, he graduated magna cum laude from University of San Diego law school. He joined the district attorney’s office in 1972.

Snyder, president of Boyd Gaming Corporation, received the Silver State Award, the highest honor the association gives to non-alumni supporters of the university.

Snyder was elected to Boyd Gaming’s Board of Directors in April 1996, and, in January 1997, he was named Boyd Gaming president. He is a former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of First Interstate Bank of Nevada. He also has been involved in starting local businesses in Southern Nevada, including the Fremont Street Experience (serving as its initial chairman and CEO) and BankWest of Nevada (as a co-founder).

Snyder is actively involved in numerous business, charitable, and civic organizations in Nevada. He is the former chairman of the UNLV Foundation, the United Way of Southern Nevada, and the Nathan Adelson Hospice.

In addition, the association awarded the 2001 Outstanding Community Alumni Awards to: Tony Gladney, College of Liberal Arts; George Maloff Jr., William F. Harragh College of Hotel Administration; Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering; Lucy Klinckhammer, College of Education; Tom Brooker, College of Business; Curtis Forman, College of Fine Arts; and Rafael Villanueva, Greenpeace College of Urban Affairs; Kameran Haq, College of Health Sciences; and Ashish Sharma, Honors College.

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**News**

**University People**

- Dave Hickey, professor of art theory and criticism, received a MacArthur Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. He will receive $500,000 over five years to pursue any creative endeavor of his choosing, "no strings attached." The purpose of the fellowship is to reinforce the importance of the creative individual in society. According to the MacArthur Foundation, Hickey spurns ideological agendas and champions what some consider to be outmoded notions of beauty, artistic vision, and the virtues of the marketplace. The first Nevadan to receive the award, Hickey joined UNLV in 1992.

- Jamie Davidson, a staff psychologist and quickly for the award. Davidson came to Psychological Services when he was selected and assumed a leadership role at the Student Dent for student wellness, was named the winningest active coach with a record of 2001.

- Jay Bybee, a professor in the William S. Boyd School of Law, was named assistant attorney general in charge of the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Justice Department. President Bush nominated Bybee for the position. He will advise Attorney General John Ashcroft on the constitutionality of legislation and executive orders. He has taken a leave of absence from the law school, where he specializes in constitutional law, administrative law, and civil procedure, and plans to return after his tenure with the Justice Department.

- Jamie Davidson, assistant vice president for student wellness, was named the 2001 President's Outstanding Professional Staff Member of the Year. He was director of Student Counseling and Psychological Services when he was selected for the award. Davidson came to UNLV in 1994 as a staff psychologist and quickly assumed a leadership role at the Student Counseling Center. Under his direction, the center established a walk-in crisis counseling program, developed preventive and educational programs on a variety of issues, and partnered with the School of Social Work and the counseling and psychology departments to provide clinical training for graduate students. In addition to the speaking engagements of his choosing, Davidson has served 14 years on its board.

- Colleen Peterson, director of UNLV's Center for Individual, Couple, and Family Counseling, now serves on the Nevada Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists. Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn appointed Peterson to the board, which reviews licensure of marriage and family therapists, hears complaints, and reviews and implements laws related to the field. Peterson is a clinical assistant professor in the department of counseling.

- With the new year, John Robinson added the title of director of intercollegiate athletics to his football coach designation. As athletics director, he will oversee 17 Division I intercollegiate sports, 212 employees, and a budget of more than $15 million. Robinson will continue to hold the head football coach position. He ended the 2001 season as college football's 11th-winningest active coach with a record of 119-85-4.

- Retired Clark County School District educator Pamela Hicks is UNLV's new director of school and community relations/Millennium Scholarship coordinator. Hicks helps recruit students to UNLV from the local school district. She also tracks Millennium Scholars at UNLV and provides outreach about the program to the school district. Hicks began working at the university last year as a faculty member in the College of Education. She worked for more than 30 years with the Clark County School District as a teacher and administrator. Hicks is a past president of the UNLV Alumni Association and has served 14 years on its board.

- Martha Watson, dean of the UNLV Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, is the Nevada representative to the board of the Western States Arts Federation. Founded in 1974, WESTAF is a non-profit service organization dedicated to the creative advancement and preservation of the arts in 12 Western states. Watson's duties include serving as a liaison between WESTAF and the arts community in Nevada.

- Lawrence M. Schier, associate professor of counseling in UNLV's Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, received a two-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the effectiveness of a school-based drug abuse prevention program. The $375,000 grant is integral to a collection of ongoing studies already under way at the Well Medical College of Cornell University, where Schier worked previously. He was part of a team that developed a drug abuse prevention program for middle-school children. Schier said this new study examines whether the program detected or reduced drug use among the youth in the manner hypothesized.

- Ann Williams, who will receive a bachelor's degree in hotel management this May, won the Kopf Student Achievement Scholarship Award from the Kopf Family Foundation. In addition to receiving a significant cash award, she will tour California and Europe extensively as an intern at 20 world-renowned wineries. The tour will include hands-on educational experiences at the restaurants associated with the wineries.

**Framing the Scene**

Neon lights, stunning red rocks, and countless casinos have made Las Vegas a favorite backdrop for Hollywood flicks. Now, Francisco Menendez and the growing film department are working to bring the city to the forefront as a center for writers, directors, and producers.

By Betty Blodgett

Could Las Vegas become the next Hollywood? It could if Francisco Menendez and the UNLV College of Fine Arts have any say in the matter. While films featuring Las Vegas are not unusual, one written, directed, and produced entirely in Las Vegas—by UNLV College of Fine Arts faculty members and students, no less—is rare. That is, until now. *Media Tiempo*, a 45-minute film written and directed by Menendez, associate professor and chair of the UNLV film department, was one of four films that received a 2001 award in the Second Annual Latino Filmmaker Showcase short-film competition and aired on the cable network Showtime in September.

The plot revolves around Salvadoran immigrant Carlos Bonilla, who is determined to make an honest living in Las Vegas. Carlos hopes to get his adopted younger brother, Manolito, out of the gang culture by securing him a part-time job. But a robbery shows Carlos that he is unable to control his brother's destiny. In the end, Carlos realizes that he only has control over his own life and that Manolito must choose his own path.

*Media Tiempo* has been receiving accolades as it makes the rounds of the film-festival circuit. Menendez says the real
success of the film is that it marks the first co-curricular project by UNLV’s film department.

“Ever since my arrival at UNLV in 1990, I’ve had this idea that it would be great to create a film project that would bring together the department’s faculty members and students,” Menendez explains. “You see university stage productions, where faculty members direct and design and the theatre students do everything else. This model intrigued me, and I thought, ‘Why not take everything we offer in the film curriculum and put it into an actual hands-on project involving the students and faculty’?”

But before such a project could happen, a film department needed to exist. When Menendez joined UNLV, only seven students were enrolled in what was then the film studies program in the College of Liberal Arts. By 1996, the program had grown to 70 students, become its own department, and moved under the College of Fine Arts. In the fall 2000 semester, an enrollment of more than 250 students made film studies one of UNLV’s fastest growing majors.

Menendez helped to expand the curriculum by creating the production and screenwriting sequences, serving as the film department’s director of film production and screenwriting, designing the department’s non-linear editing facilities, and beginning a master of fine arts screenwriting program, which was used to acquire state-of-the-art post-production equipment for the film department. This grant was awarded through the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT), which supports efforts to enhance local business through technology development.

With Menendez as director, film production instructor Warren D. Cobb as producer, and cinematography professors Deron Albeit and Michele Hugo handling the camerawork, *Medio Tiempo* was shot in 17 days in April 2000 at locations both on and off campus. The crew completed the final cut of the film in January 2001.

The crew included more than 30 UNLV film students—who’s shifts were limited to six hours to ensure they could attend classes—and several members of the local community participating in the professional film crew training program. The movie’s cast consisted primarily of professional actors from Los Angeles working under contract from the Screen Actors Guild.

For UNLV film major Eduardo Mayen, who hopes to become a cinematographer when he graduates, participating in the creation of *Medio Tiempo* was an invaluable experience. He served as second assistant director and also spent some time in front of the camera as an actor in a supporting role.

“It was great to be able to take the knowledge that we learned in the classroom and apply it to an actual hands-on production,” Mayen says. “You learn more by doing. For example, as second assistant director, it was my responsibility to make sure the actors were ready to go and in place before the director yelled, ‘Action!’”

In Las Vegas, filming took place at El Mercado del Pueblo grocery store and at Casa Veracruz and Pope’s Tacos restaurants. When Menendez traveled to his native El Salvador to capture footage for a small portion of the film, Mayen, who also is from El Salvador, served as a location scout and line producer. To capture the flavor of the Central American country, Mayen worked with Salvadoran cinematographer David Pinto to find the right locations for filming, such as the village of Panchimalco, which was chosen for its colonial church and cobblestone streets.

“It was important not to compromise the visual reality of the film. So, as much as possible, we tried to shoot in actual Latino environments,” Mayen says. Reflecting on the experience of making *Medio Tiempo*, Mayen says the students involved with the project agreed that they came away with a much greater understanding of the realities of filmmaking. “As students and future filmmakers, we share a great sense of pride and accomplishment in the success of the final product,” he says.

As an added bonus, the entire pre-production, production, and post-production process was captured in a 12-minute documentary, “Tellin’ a Latino-American Story: The Making of *Medio Tiempo,*” which will be used as a teaching tool for future film classes and a model for other co-curricular projects.

“It was just amazing how well it all came together,” Menendez says. “This project gave faculty, students, and the Latino community an opportunity to become involved in the reality of professional film production. Through their direct involvement in the making of this film, the students came to understand the intricacies involved in the production process and how the director is entirely dependent on the talents of the producer, the actors, the department heads, and the crew. Everything that we said that we would accomplish with this project came to pass—with even more success than we expected.”

The script itself was an important component of this success.

Menendez began writing the script for *Medio Tiempo* in 1990 while still a graduate student in the master of fine arts in film and video program at the California Institute of the Arts.

“The character of Carlos grew out of extensive writing workshops during my graduate work,” Menendez says. “From the beginning, the character of Carlos spoke to me deeply and his wounds and obstacles were close to my heart. As a writer and as a native of El Salvador, the...
The Movies I Watch Over and Over Again
By Francisco Menendez

“What’s your favorite film?”

This is probably the most dreaded question for a film academic. It is an impossible question to answer because, as a lover of film, my taste and interests run wide and deep. Needless to say, I am enriched by the films of Bergman, Capra, Ford, Hitchcock, Kieslowski, Kubrick, Polanski, Ray, Welles, and Wilder. The fact is there are too many great films and filmmakers that get ignored whenever any top-100 list is published. Nonetheless, I began this task by studying the selection of my frequently watched DVDs, laser disks, and tapes. This list is not a best-film ranking. It does not begin with Citizen Kane (1941). Instead, I share with you some favorites that stand up to multiple viewings. Some are award winners, others have been derided and dismissed by critics, but all hold a special place in my heart.

American Mob Film: GoodFellas (1990)
Atypical French Product: La Femme Nikita (1990)
Bizarre Adaptation: Lehman’s M.S. Roman and Juliet (1996)
British Gangster Film: Long Good Friday (1980)
Classic: The Third Man (1949)
Coming of Age: The Graduate (1967)
Costume Drama: Shakespeare in Love (1999)
Creepy Holiday Movie: One Magic Christmas (1985)
Cross-gender Conundrum: The Crying Game (1992)
Directorial Excess: Apocalypse Now (1979, not Redux)
Ensemble of Performances: On the Waterfront (1954)
Epic: Lawrence of Arabia (1962)
Existential Comedy: Groundhog Day (1993)
Film by an Exiled Director: Amarcord (1973)
French Film: Wages of Fear (1953)
From Down Under: The Piano (1993)
Gritty Pleasure: The Pink Panther Strikes Again (1976)
Idiosyncratic Character: A Clockwork Orange (1971)
Kidnapping Drama: High and Low (1963)
Love Triangle: Casablanca (1942)
Male Bonding Film: The Deer Hunter (1978)
Modern Mexican Cinema: Amores Perros (2001)
Movie About Film Exec.: The Player (1992)
Movie Featuring Renzo: The Mafiosi (1961)
Movie Featuring Vegas: Last in America (1985)
Movie I Should Hate: Fight Club (1999)
Movie My Students Hate: Godfather (2000)
Melt Revisted: LA Confidential (1997)
Obscure British Film: Withnail and I (1981)
Political Drama: Stray Dog (1950)
Postwar Europe: Under Fire (1983)
Revisionist Serial: Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)
Satire: Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975)
Sequel: Godfather II (1974)
Small Italian Film: I Vitelloni (1953)
Snake Pit (a movie filled with unsympa­thetic characters): The Sweet Smell of Success (1957)
Suspense: The Silence of the Lambs (1990)
Thrill: Jaws (1975)
Time Travel Flick: Back to the Future (1985)
Tinderbox (an explosive and revolutionary movie): Do The Right Thing (1989)
Twisted Underbelly: Blue Velvet (1986)
Unlikely Subject: Training Day (1996)
Taking History

PUBLIC

Being in the right place at the right time. Sometimes that's what it's all about.

And history professor Andy Kirk believes he has found that kismet at UNLV. What better place to launch a public history program than at a public university committed to forging partnerships with the community?

And, what better time could this be happening than now when residents of both Las Vegas and the state of Nevada have history and public preservation projects? It's a terrific place to launch a public history program than at a public university other than UNLV.

already, students in the fledgling public history program have garnered valuable experience working with the ongoing Las Vegas Springs Preserve project and the Golli School preservation project. Many more projects await their attention.

At the same time, you have a community and a state that are just now reaching the population size necessary to support substantial numbers of public history and preservation projects. It's a terrific match.

Think of history and you think of fat textbooks filled with facts, right? Professor Andy Kirk thinks of rebuilding an old chicken coop and of chatting with old-timers who have memories a mile long. That's all part of today's public history.

By Diane Russell

“The public history program, under the leadership of Dr. Andy Kirk, has made a significant impact in the community and region even though it is a relatively new program within the department of history,” Frey says.

“Dr. Kirk and his students have developed projects in oral history, archival preservation, and historic site designation that enable us to chronicle and preserve accounts and descriptions of historical events relative to the area.”

With all this talk about the value of public history work, maybe it's time to have Kirk explain exactly what public history is.

"Public history is everything that's not teaching history in a classroom," he says. "And there's a whole universe of things that historians have always done that fall under this broad rubric of public history."

For years, historians have worked in a variety of non-school settings, including museums, homes, and national parks, where they develop exhibits, write historic accounts for displays, and conduct tours. But, he says, until relatively recently, academically trained historians had to adapt their skills to public history work. Few historians received training specifically in the field, he says.

"There was just a disjuncture really between the training of historians and what they often ended up doing," says Kirk, a traditionally trained academic historian who has gained most of his public history expertise through extensive hands-on work.

"In some ways, I would say I was kind of born into it," he reflects. "Born in Virginia to a father who was an archaeologist for Colonial Williamsburg -- which Kirk describes as the "most notable experiment in public history in America" -- and to a mother who volunteered as a docent for a historic home museum there, Kirk was exposed to public history at an early age. "I don't know if I got it by osmosis or what, but my parents were living and doing public history."

In the 1980s, when his father was head of the historical foundation in Galveston, Texas, Kirk volunteered on preservation projects there while earning money as a reconstruction contractor for 150-year-old homes.

Later, he interned for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, serving on the Barn Again program, which saves historic rural buildings from demolition as corporations buy our family farms.

Although Kirk worked in the public history field while earning his degrees, he had few chances to take public history classes during his studies. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Colorado at Denver in 1989 and 1992 respectively. In 1998, he received a doctorate in Western history from the University of New Mexico.

Based on his own experience, he

In the 1940s, water gushed through the Las Vegas Valley Water District's Well No. 3.

Photo courtesy of the Las Vegas Valley Water District.
We're going to tell the students seem to agree; Kirk estimates that simple as filling out a form, Kirk points directly with the public. Instead of doing Places.

Kirk maintains.

"A 'regular' people? ' Because almost all historians do public history work at one time or another, they are involved in the Las Vegas Springs Preserve project.

The project was a success; the schoolhouse now is on the historic register, having received national approval last fall. When the California State Office of Historic Preservation put its stamp of approval on the project during the nomination process, it took the extra step of issuing a special commendation to the UNLV students. The office noted that the exemplary nomination should be used as a model by others.

Another group of UNLV graduate students currently is drafting the nomination of the Lincoln County Courthouse in Pioche for national historic status while others are cataloging artifacts from the Cold War at the Nevada Test Site and in the U.S. Department of Energy's Las Vegas office. One student is serving an internship—a requirement for all UNLV graduate students majoring in public history—at the Liberace Museum, helping with the redesign of the collections there.

One project Kirk discusses with particular enthusiasm is the ongoing Las Vegas Springs Preserve project.

The Little Spring Springhouse was built in 1917 to keep livestock out of Las Vegas' water supply. It was once in danger of being bulldozed to make room for expansion of U.S. 95. Its collapsed roof (below, in a 1998 Water District photo) has been carefully restored.

"The Las Vegas Springs Preserve is a really incredibly innovative project," he says. "It is being run by the Las Vegas Valley Water District, whose normal job is to find water and deliver water. With real foresight the entire region ought to be thankful for the district decided to take a 180-acre parcel of land that it owns turn it into a preserve."

The preserve is adjacent to the district's Desert Demonstration Garden and is visible from eastern U.S. 95 between Valley View Boulevard and Rancho Drive. "The land is the site of the original springs and the site of original human habitation in our valley. It's really the only reason that Las Vegas exists. It was the reason Native Americans settled here; it was the reason the Mormons stopped here; it was the reason the Union Pacific built a railroad here. And, ultimately, it was the reason that the resort community could even exist in its early years."

To many Southern Nevadans, Kirk maintains, this history is virtually unknown. "Some people think Las Vegas just sprang to life out in the other with some gangsters involved somehow."

In fact, the history of the settling of Las Vegas is not unlike the history of many towns, according to Kirk. A dominant natural feature—this is, meadows fed by water bubbling out of the ground—attracted people to the area.

"What you've got here is an entire history of how humans lived in the Mojave Desert. You've got a parcel that's been almost perfectly preserved—and it's right smack in the middle of town," Kirk says. "This is a really unique resource, not only for Las Vegas; it would be a unique resource anywhere. It is essentially a cultural preserve and a biological preserve."

UNLV public history students will be involved in the Las Vegas Springs Preserve project in a variety of ways between now and 2005, when the preserve opens to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of Las Vegas, Kirk says. Their first involvement will be as interviewers for "Voices from the Past," an oral history project for which Kirk serves as director. The students will talk with long-time Southern Nevadans about the early days of Las Vegas, especially their recollections concerning water.

"These histories will become part of multimedia exhibits in the cultural center there," he says. "We want to piece together this incredibly interesting story of the relationship between water and people in the Mojave Desert."

"The idea is very forward-thinking. Not only do we want to save these people's histories and get these interviews, but we want to do it in a way that, 20 years from now, school kids can access them on whatever kind of technology is available at the time," he says. "It really is a first-class project by any standard, and I think it will be a national model for this kind of thing."

Joe Thompson, a history graduate student, is working to complete photo documentation of the settling basins at the preserve. Thompson is doing a very precise type of documentation that adheres to the stringent requirements of the Historic American Building Survey and the Historic Engineering Record, a system that records critical information about historic buildings, structures, and artifacts and makes that information available to a wide variety of humanities researchers.

"While the settling basin does not fit the stereotype of a historic resource, it played a crucial role in the early growth of Las Vegas," Kirk says.

Kirk also uses the preserve as a laboratory for historic preservation. He takes classes there to show the students its wells, old water derricks, and buildings. "It's just a perfect place for me to take my classes and say, 'Here are all the issues of historic preservation,' " he says. "This semester, we're going to be working to actually physically restore the chicken coop that's out there."

Kirk is quick to point out that, while the involvement of the public history students at the preserve is recent, many other UNLV professors and students from areas such as biology, environmental studies, architecture, and engineering have contributed their expertise and energy to the project over the years.

Greg Seymour, a 1997 UNLV master's graduate in archaeology, is the archaeologist for the preserve. He says he's glad to add the public history students to the list of those assisting in the work.

"What the students are doing for me is extremely valuable and, at the same time, they are getting a very worthwhile experience out here," he says.

Seymour is also working with Kirk and his students on Preserve Nevada, the state's official historic preservation association. Former U.S. Sen. Richard Bryan heads the recently established association, and Kirk serves as its executive director. UNLV history directly with the UNLV Co-op is another key player with the group.

Nevada is one of the last states to establish such an organization, a fact that Kirk says works to the association's advantage. "We get to build one that is really particularly suited to Nevada, which is a unique state geographically, demographically, and historically," he says.

The non-profit organization is based at UNLV and will be run largely by the public history graduate students, an arrangement Kirk believes is unique in America.

As Kirk sees it, UNLV is just the university to be so intricately involved in such an unusual partnership with a non-profit historical preservation association.

"UNLV is a very flexible institution that really embraces the idea of new and innovative programs," he says. "I also think it is significant that President (Carol C.) Harter has made it part of the university's mission to build links between the university and the community."

"That's exactly what public history does. My job is to work directly with the community in a variety of ways to create links between scholars and people who are out in the community so that UNLV professors and students will serve as resources for the community."

Kirk bright, holding an old bume handled talks with Greg Seymour, archaeologist for the preserve, at the old chicken coop on the property. In the early 1900s, the spring's caretaker, who lived in a small house in the area, ensured valley residents had a constant supply of water.
Family Man, Law Man

Alumnus Richard Perkins has risen through the ranks on the job and in the Nevada Capitol. The legislator and deputy police chief talks about politics, parenting, and his commitment to his hometown, Henderson.

by Susan DiBella

When Richard Perkins sat down with his family in 1996 to discuss whether he would run for the state Assembly for a third time, he experienced one of those golden moments in the lives of politicians when real life spontaneously produces the kind of story that could be used in campaign literature.

The story goes like this: As he does at the start of every election season, he asked his wife and five kids whether they were willing to make the kind of commitment a political campaign requires of a family. It was then his daughter Ashley, 10 at the time, volunteered a line that he could have used in a brochure.

"Daddy," she asked, "if you don't do it, who's going to do it?"

The earnestness of her inquiry floored Perkins.

"It's not that I believe I'm truly the only person who could do the job. But to have that kind of support from your family -- and that kind of trust from a 10-year-old," he says, still marveling at the unexpected depth of the comment, "has a significant impact on your life."

Though he has never used the story in his election materials, you know he thinks of it often. You also don't doubt for a minute either the veracity of the story or its impact on him. And therein lies some hint for those seeking to understand the success of a man who has risen to become one of the most powerful political figures in the state.

In an age when politicians are viewed with a cynical eye by pundits and citizens alike, Perkins' integrity is often acknowledged as one of his most appealing qualities.

He is, after all, both a devoted family man and a longtime police officer, both indications of life choices that speak to issues of character. But how did this soft-spoken man, hailed for his dedication and integrity, become the kind of candidate other candidates fear to face?

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The story begins in Henderson, of course.

"I've lived here in Henderson my entire life, probably within about a two-mile radius of my current home," he says. "I grew up hearing plenty of comments ridiculing our hometown as a "boonville" or as having a "white cloud" of pollution, but he never longed to move away.

After graduating from Basic High School in 1979, he chose to attend UNLV over several other schools that had recruited him.

"I was an All-American football player in high school and a state wrestling champion," says Perkins, who had reached most of his 6-foot-5-inch height as a teen-ager. "I was recruited by several colleges in the West to play football, and I had an academic scholarship to go to Reno. But I chose to go to UNLV and stay close to home."

Though he attended UNLV full time the first year, it would take him the better part of the next 20 years to finish college, between career and family obligations.

"I worked in the construction trades for a couple of years, then started my career with the Henderson Police Department in 1984," he says, noting that he followed his late father into the department. "It was my dad who got me into police work, and it was because of him I began to understand the importance of giving back to the community through public service."

Perkins rose through the ranks of the department, working first as a uniformed officer and then as a detective in a variety of areas. He came to the notice of his superiors for his dedication in conducting child abuse investigations, and he eventually moved into supervisory roles. Today, he serves as deputy police chief in charge of operations.

His election in 1986 to the office of president of the Henderson Police Association marked a pivotal point in his life.

"In my capacity as the president of the police association, I built relationships with various elected officials, especially with members of the City Council since we negotiated labor agreements with them," he recalls. "So I began to work on some campaigns, and then my involvement spread to the state level when I began lobbying on issues related to the state Public Employees' Retirement System."

When the state reapportioned its voting districts in 1991, Perkins, a Democrat, found himself living in a new district with an incumbent. "All the same people I had helped along the way said, 'Hey, it's your turn.' So I took the opportunity to run and was successful."

Perkins found that he enjoyed campaigning. "I like getting out to meet with
importantly, that there are alternatives to Perkins, a member of UNLV's authored. In fact, in 1995 he worked closely with them. Bob Miller on the most sweeping overhaul of criminal statutes in Nevada's history. He was also involved in a great deal of legislation aimed at improving educa-

tional accountability and standards. In 2001, he succeeded veteran Assembly Speaker Joe Dini.

"Joe was my mentor," says Perkins. "He taught me more about legislative poli-
tics than any one person. We have a father/son relationship."

Also in 2001, Perkins was gratified to bring to fruition a project near and dear to his heart -- the creation of Nevada State College in Henderson, which is expected to open this fall.

The idea for the four-year college came from Perkins, who in 1996 and 1997 watched the Legislature fund the Redfield satellite campus, which is affiliated with UNR, Truckee Meadows Community College, and Western Nevada Community College, in the northern part of the state. "I came back and said, 'By golly, if higher education is going to grow in this state, we need to grow in Southern Nevada.' We were burger court cases, we were busy all the time. So I spoke with Mayor (Jim) Gibson to find out if a four-year college fit into his vision for the city of Henderson and if property could be made available. He came back to me several months later and said that the idea had support."

While Perkins believes the Henderson college created tremendous benefits for the entire state, he acknowledges that some controversy initially surrounded the plan to create a new college while Nevada's other institutions, including UNLV, were striving for limited state dollars.

"I have absolutely no interest in hamstringing UNLV in any way," he says. "I think UNLV will benefit from the creation of this next institution more than any other entity. If some of the undergraduate load can be carried by the Henderson college, then UNLV can put more of its resources into research and graduate programs."

Perkins goes on to add that he has the highest regard for UNLV and the education he received there. He graduated in 2000 with two bachelor's degrees, one in criminal justice and one in political science. He says studying both fields contributed significantly to his ability to perform effectively in his role as a law enforcement profes-
sional and as a legislator.

He recalls fondly working with now-retired criminal justice professor John Horvath. "John was just an extraordinary guy," Perkins says, noting that at the time he was a state senator, he was running for governor. He had already served with the Henderson Police Department. "He dealt with me on an adult level and with respect for my status as a working professional."

In political science, his mentors were professors Jerry Simich and Dina Titus, a fellow legislator. "As much as I liked learning the practical side of politics that Dina taught, I also enjoyed the political theory classes I took from Jerry."

Though his coursework certainly made him more knowledgeable about the politi-
cal process, he says it was his "day job" that provided him with the best prepara-
tion for his legislative leadership roles. "I think the best training I ever got for politics was police work," Perkins says. "It taught me to deal with conflict, to seek con-

Then, if it's a school for a judge or police officer Fuentes, he acknowledges of the Police Memorial rededica-
tion that takes place in Carson City every year.

Perkins addresses attendees at Simply Magazine. Perkins above with Henderson police officer Frank Fuentes, says police work offered excel-

although it was corny, but it's true: 'It's a place to call home.'"

It's also a place he would happily contin-
ue to serve as deputy police chief if all of the more grandiose political talk were to cease tomorrow.

"I'm living a dream," he says. "I really am. My paying job in law enforcement is a job I love. I've been given opportunities here in the department that have been very fulfilling. And then working in public policy, being successful in my campaigns, and feel-
ing the support of the constituents are all experiences more fulfilling than I can express. I could never have any regrets because I've been able to accomplish so many things I've wanted to pursue."

For now, he says he feels fortunate to be able to balance the responsibilities of dual careers and family life. While he admits it can be challenging to juggle it all, he tries to keep perspective and recognize priorities.

"During the legislative session, I come home on weekends to spend time with my family and to take care of my work responsi-

bilities here at the office. But it's also very common for me to fly back home on a Tuesday or Wednesday night for a school play or a basketball game because it's so important to the kids." And you can bet his attendance at those events isn't about the photo opportunities available there.

His law enforcement work also helped shape his communication skills, which have served him well in the Legislature.

"I've been characterized as a 'gentle giant' or something along that line. I don't raise my voice; police work taught me that. If you go to a family fight, it does you no good to scream over the top of them. If you talk in a lower tone, they have to talk that way as well."

With the personal qualities of both integrity and finesse, Perkins is often perceived as having great political potential. Asked about his political aspirations, he says he is keeping most doors open.

"I have such an interest in public policy that I want to be involved in it for some time to come," he says, adding that he would not, however, be willing to leave the state in the near future.

"Right now, my world does not encompass Washington, D.C. I still have kids, and that just doesn't fit the plan. I'm not going to uproot them. Also -- for the last several months -- Washington has been a pretty caustic place to practice pub-
ic policy. So, Nevada is my focus."

And, he notes, since he's not as attor-
ey, he is precluded from becoming a judge or attorney general, and the roles of the other major contextual offices -- controller, treasurer, secretary of state -- don't involve vetting people. That leaves him with one sizable possibility to consider: the office of governor.

"It's been talked about," he acknowl-
edges, "but if you asked me today if I'm going to run for governor in four years, I wouldn't know the answer. Four years is a lifetime in politics. But if it's an opportunity in four years, I'll analyze it with my family."

In the meantime, Perkins says he is con-
tent to support his hometown, which, he notes for the record, does not face the ridicule it once did.

"Henderson is now the second largest city in the state," he says with pride. "I think it has grown to become the envy of other local governments. With its cultural and recreational activities, with its nice homes, with its sense of community and its open spaces, I truly believe it's a community with a great quality of life. I know our motto may sound corny, but it's true: 'It's a place to call home.'"

...
The McNair Scholars Institute, a national program that encourages undergraduates to pursue advanced degrees, takes the learning process beyond the classroom by pairing qualified undergraduates with faculty mentors. Together the students and mentors complete in-depth research projects, exploring opportunities usually enjoyed just by graduate students.

The program is named for Ronald E. McNair, a scientist and astronaut who died in 1986’s ill-fated Challenger mission. The McNair Scholars Institute came to UNLV in 1999 through the efforts of the Center for Academic Advancement and Outreach. It is a partnership between the center and the UNLV Graduate College.

In the program’s first year on campus, 11 students participated in the McNair Scholars Summer Research Institute, an extension of the program. This year, eight undergraduates are putting their knowledge and intellect to work researching issues in their respective fields.

To qualify for the program, the McNair students must have completed at least 49 credits with a minimum grade point average of 3.2 and must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. They must also be low-income or first-generation college students or members of a group traditionally underrepresented in graduate education.

Each McNair Scholar intern receives a stipend, the one-on-one guidance of a faculty mentor, graduate school preparation seminars, Graduate Record Exam study workshops, free tutoring services, financial aid assistance, and help with the graduate school admissions process.

The program offers another opportunity seldom enjoyed by undergraduates: getting published. The students also present the results of their research at a special “poster session.”

At this event, instead of reading papers before an audience, researchers put information about their projects on display boards and talk personally to visitors about the findings.

UNLV President Carol G. Harter describes the institute as a marvelous example of a student-centered program. “It provides a unique opportunity for several of the most talented undergraduate students at UNLV to work with some of the extraordinary faculty on campus in order to learn about how to design, implement, and report research while at the same time gaining knowledge about the role of the university professor,” she says.

Harriet Barlow, director of graduate student services in the Graduate College and the McNair Summer Research Institute coordinator, says the program offers a taste of the graduate student-professor experience. For the summer program, she identifies and matches faculty mentors and interns, coordinates the poster session, and oversees the publishing of the annual McNair Scholars Institute Journal.

Barlow said she has no difficulty finding professors to serve as mentors for the students. The mentors praise the students as talented and hard-working and express appreciation for the research help.

Hence, the mentors enthusiastically write letters of recommendation for the students when they apply to graduate school. Because of the close professor-student interaction, the letters are personalized and speak directly of the students’ research abilities.

“The McNair Scholars Institute is the only program in the country that provides this kind of experience for undergraduates,” Barlow says. “Most students have to rely on individual advice about graduate school from their professors.”

The McNair program is designed to encourage more minorities to consider graduate studies with the goal of eventually becoming professors.

William Sullivan, who works extensively with underrepresented groups as executive director of the Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, praises the program as “proof that, with proper tutelage and unbridled tenacity, all students can achieve academic excellence.” Barlow hopes to see the program grow.

“I would like to have 50 to 60 students participating a year,” she says, noting that each year the program gets better. One recent improvement is a UNLV Graduate College scholarship designated for those who have completed the McNair Scholars program. This scholarship covers UNLV graduate school tuition and fees. The university also waives graduate college application fees for McNair Scholars from UNLV and other schools participating in the national program.

All of the 2000-01 McNair Scholars have enrolled in or are applying for graduate, law, or medical school. Here, four undergraduates share their experiences as McNair Scholars.

Rising Star: Adam Villarreal

Adam Villarreal set his sights on a doctorate in theoretical astrophysics/cosmology after his experience as a McNair Scholar. “I experienced professional collaboration with a wonderful mentor and learned a wide array of data reduction techniques that will certainly help me out when I am a research assistant in graduate school,” he says.

Villarreal worked with UNLV physicist/astronomer Jeremy King, who has a National Science Foundation grant to study approximately 5,000 stars in low-resolution spectra and about 200 in both high- and low-resolution spectra.

“Adam worked on the high-resolution group and really made a

To inspire a diverse new generation to reach beyond the bachelor’s degree, the McNair Scholars Institute gives undergraduates a taste of life as academic researchers.

By Barbara Cloud

The undergraduates in UNLV’s McNair Scholars Institute honed valuable skills while researching a vast range of topics—from faraway stars and down-to-earth waste to connecting with others in love and business. The McNair Scholars Institute, a national program that encourages undergraduates to pursue advanced degrees, takes the learning process beyond the classroom by pairing qualified undergraduates with faculty mentors. Together the students and mentors complete in-depth research projects, exploring opportunities usually enjoyed just by graduate students.

New Scholars on the Block
Villarreal studied the chemical composition of nearby sun-like stars with that of our own sun. "Given the astounding discoveries of planetary companions around sun-like stars over the past few years, and the potential implications these have for our understanding of how life might arise in the universe," the astronomical community is particularly interested in the chemical composition of stars, Villarreal wrote for his poster session.

Love Connections: Giselle Stewart

Giselle Stewart, a junior in the communication studies program, researched love and conflict management under the mentorship of Beth Semic, assistant professor of communication and an expert on interpersonal relations. "When people become involved in relationships, they have relational goals and expectations of their partners," Stewart wrote in the paper that resulted from her research. "These expectations can also be affected by a person's perception of love and how they choose to express love." Building on the Love Attitude Scale developed by other researchers, Stewart paired the love styles identified in the scale with different conflict management styles. After conducting a lengthy survey, she investigated whether the pairings represented valid connections. "For example, is an individual who has a passionate love style and who is attracted to a partner with a particular physical appearance likely to manage conflict through collaboration, competition, or compromise?"

An Appetite for Research: Paul Edward

Paul Edward says that exploring a subject in depth—in his case, a business project—whetted his appetite for more independent study. Since working with management professor Dan McMellon on a project titled "Leadership and Emotional Intelligence (EQ): Success Requires More Than IQ," Edward has gone on to another independent project with economics professor Hans-Hermann Hoppe. Edward's McNair project investigated workplace success and the relationship between intellectual and emotional intelligence.

He compared the importance of a manager's "soft" skills, such as being able to understand the emotional state of an employee, to "intellectual intelligence." When it comes to motivating employees, Edward determined, a high IQ is not enough for a successful manager.

This kind of independent study particularly suits Edward's needs. An accident five years ago cost him his hearing; so, although he reads lips, the typical classroom setting can limit his learning. "Less than three years ago, I never thought I would succeed in reaching a baccalaureate," he says, noting that he will graduate with his business degree in May. "Now I envision my Ph.D. from Harvard, Stanford, or another of the top-10 U.S. institutions."

Edward will be the first in his family to receive a degree and has funded his college education himself through scholarships and loans. He left home when he was 15. "Then, higher education was "more of a luxury, and hard work was a priority simply for existence," he says. Still, he finds more than financial reward in the McNair program. "The financial stipend that the McNair program offers is tertiary to the emotional benefit and the valuable experience," Edward says. He plans to be a business educator with a focus on helping future peers who are bomrared out in teaching. He also hopes to raise the general public's interest in higher education.

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AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

By Cafe Weeks

Terry Smith* didn't bring much hope with him to the legal clinic housed inside a little gray barracks on the grounds of a converted elementary school. Frustrated by paperwork filled with legalese, Smith thought maybe, just maybe, the clinic could help him save 14-year-old James from years in a juvenile correctional facility.

"This boy is not a problem child, but if he stays in that system, they will make him a problem," Smith says of his former neighbor. "I know he has potential. He just needs a home so he can find his way again."

The teenager once lived with his mother and five siblings in Smith's Las Vegas neighborhood. He'd watched the children grow but worried about their upbringing by a mother who battled drug addiction.

"One day, I noticed the boy had marks on his back," Smith says. "I told the mother I was going to turn her in. She said, 'Just take them.'"

Smith took in James' 16-year-old brother while the other siblings were sent to live with relatives. James, who Smith says has developmental and emotional problems related to his parents' drug use, ran away. "He was living out in the desert all alone and broke into someone's house to feed himself," Smith says. "His grandmother didn't want him back and his mother couldn't have him back if she wanted, so he got sent to a youth home."

If Smith wanted to change the situation, he was told, the best way was to petition for guardianship of James. "(The process) was really frustrating to me," he says. "I couldn't understand the paperwork. To tell you the truth, if I hadn't gotten some help, I probably would have given up a long time ago."

Help came when Judge Gerald Hardcastle of Clark County Juvenile Court recommended that Smith contact the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic at UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law.

Opened less than two years ago, the clinic houses full-time, practiceminded law offices. It currently includes two in-house practices: the Juvenile Justice Clinic and the Child Welfare Clinic. The student-attorneys advise clients, file legal briefs, negotiate with district attorneys, and represent their clients in court, all under the supervision of law school faculty.

Professors Mary Berkheiser and Annette Appell founded the inaugural in-house clinics at the law school in the fall 2000 semester. Their goal is to provide law students intensive learning through real-world experiences.

Clinical legal education is founded on the principle that adult students learn best by doing rather than by just reading or listening to lectures," says Berkheiser, associate professor and director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic. "Students learn how to be attorneys here by doing the exact things they will do after graduation, but with a big safety net."

The Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic is a first step in establishing a center for children and family law research and policy development at the Boyd School of Law. "Some law school clinics offer a smattering of all the different types of law practices out there," Berkheiser says. "The clinic committee decided we wanted to do something with an overarching theme and an integrated focus."

The focus on children was an easy decision, given a vast community need. Clark County's rapid growth has taxed the social services infrastructure, leaving the area's poor, especially children, with few legal resources.

"We had to blaze a trail or two," says Appell, whose research focuses on the role of law and courts in family structures. "The community has attorneys who have incorporated child welfare issues into their practice, but there are few attorneys who are experts in child advocacy issues. This is what we do. It's not part of our practice; it's our practice."

The Child Welfare Clinic represents children in protection proceedings, including termination of parental rights. It also helps adults like Smith in guardianship cases. Among the clients in the first year were a number of siblings who were placed in different foster homes. The clinic's law students obtained court orders to ensure the state arranged a family reunion.

"We usually represent children who entered the system because they may have been abused or neglected," says William Horne, a December law school graduate who spent his final semester in the Child Welfare Clinic. "These cases can get pretty complicated and emotional because the children have a legal right to be with their parents. You want to make sure the child is safe, but you also want to make sure the state has met its burden when it tries to step into the situation."

The competing rights of children -- to be with their parents and to be in a safe environment -- have prompted ethical discussions in the classroom, says professor Pamela
Thomas & Mack Donation Enhances 'People Resources' at Law School

A $2 million gift from Joyce Mack and the Thomas family will help the William S. Boyd School of Law enhance the human element in its clinic programs. The clinic committee believed that this money would be best used for people resources – not books or paperclips or bricks-and-mortar building, says Mary Berkheiser, clinical director and associate professor of law. "This generous gift will help us enrich our students' experiences by offering them opportunities to expand their legal foundations well beyond the classroom before graduation." The Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic currently specializes in child welfare and juvenile delinquency cases with plans to expand into other legal areas related to children and families.

As an outgrowth of that work, both clinic students and faculty are having a hand in forming legal policy in Nevada. At the same time, the Boyd School of Law, the only law school in the state, offers local governments another resource to call upon. Judge Hardcastle appointed the Child Welfare Clinic as "amici," or "friend of the court," in four cases. As such, clinic faculty and students filed legal briefs to help determine the limits of authority between the courts and the Nevada Division of Children and Family Services.

If expressed exactly what she wanted. As her encountered a 9-year-old who could clearly could mean, attorneys, the students were obligated to guardian, I would be fully responsible for think beyond the norm and think about bit to me—and not just how to get paperwork, "Our says Mary Berkheiser, faculty and staff are "services, whereas an attorney in practice typically has more than 50," Mohr says. "In addition, the students are directly supervised by experienced attorneys. We ensure everything that gets done, does get done. Really, each client has the benefit of three minds—two students and a faculty member, too—with diverse backgrounds and real world experience."

The law students work a minimum of 20 hours a week in the clinics in addition to spending 10 hours outside the classroom. Their experience will help them be ready to help many of our cases that we are dealing with, which are in a lot of cases, too." The clinic experience is very helpful in teaching students who are primarily from Nevada. I am able to use examples drawn directly from the system here and contrast that with the issues we're discussing in class."

"The Thomas and Mack families, for whom our campus sports and event facility named, have continued to be among the most generous donors to, and visionary supporters of, UNLV," Harter says. "Indeed, it was the vision of Jerry Mack and Parry Thomas that led to the acquisition of the land our campus now occupies."

"This example of generosity by Joyce Mack and the Thomas family will enable us to enhance our legal clinic, which provides superb educational opportunities for our law students. We are most grateful to the donors for providing us the resources to undertake this crucial project."

Joyce Mack proposed the gift as a way to honor her husband, Jerome "Jerry" Mack, who died in 1998. The law school has named the clinic in honor of the donors. "Jerry Mack, certainly a leader in building the University, was a Champion of the establishment of a law school at UNLV. He worked on that project over the course of several years and offered to provide financial support to such a law school," said Dick Morgan, dean of the law school.

The Boyd School of Law's clinical education faculty and staff challenge students to think beyond the legal consequences of their actions as attorneys. From left: Externship Director Martin Geer, professor Pamela Mohr and Joan Howarth, Clinical Program Director Mary Berkheiser, administrative director Audrey Fellers, and professor Annaelle Appelino.

As the clinic grows, the law school will hire additional attorneys into the program to help meet the demands of increasing case loads.

"The Thomas and Mack Legal Clinic are free. Mohr says the clinic, who generally have no other avenue for legal help and no ability to pay a private attorney, receive exceptional attention. "Our students have an average of three or four cases, whereas an attorney in practice typically has more than 50," Mohr says. "In addition, the students are directly supervised by experienced attorneys. We ensure everything that gets done, does get done. Really, each client has the benefit of three minds—two students and a faculty member, too—with diverse backgrounds and real world experience."

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Expansion of the externship program will help the school better serve its part-time students. The school also hopes to offer externship placements outside of state and overseas, Geer says. "The gift also may allow us to develop a fellows program, like many law schools have," Berkheiser says. "Fellows programs allow schools to hire law school graduates and give them a start in teaching."

Berkheiser hopes to see the public clinic program grow from the 32 students who can now participate each year to approximately 60 students. Currently, qualified students are selected for the program through a lottery system with preference given to students in their final year of study.
March 2002

1-2 Dance: Dance Arts Spring Concert. Call for times. JBT. 895-2787.

1-3 Women's Tennis: UNLV Spring Invitational. All day. FTC. 895-3207.

2 Concert: Las Vegas Philharmonic Concert IV. "Classic Masterworks." 8pm. AHCH. 895-2287.

Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. Utah (MWC). 5pm. FTC. 895-3900.

Men's Basketball: UNLV vs. New Mexico (MWC). 7:30pm. FTC. 895-3908.

3-10 Theatre: Top Girls. Call for times. BBT. 895-2787.

5 University Forum Lecture: "Aspects of Rhythm and Melody in Spanish Music." 7:30pm. BMC. 895-3401.

6 Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. William & Mary. 2pm. FTC. 895-3207.


9 Men's Basketball: Mountain West Conference Tournament. Call for times. FTC. 895-3207.

10 Men's Golf: Las Vegas Intercollegiate. Call for times and locations. 895-3207.

10-12 Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. Auburn. 1:30pm. FTC. 895-3207.

9 Performing Arts Center's Charles Vanda Master Series: Vienna Chamber Orchestra with Philippe Entremont. 8pm. FTC. 895-2787.

11-12 Baseball: UNLV vs. BYU. Call for times. WBS. 895-3207.


13-17 Theatre: Annual Spring Ten-Minute Play Festival. 8pm. PTIT. 895-2787.


15-30 Photography Exhibit: Spring 2002 Exhibition, "NPR," featuring photos of nine photographers. Weekdays, 8am-4:45pm; Sat., 10am-2pm. (Runs through May 25.) Reception, March 22, 5-7pm. MSM. 895-3381.

18 Music: UNLV Symphony Orchestra Concert VI. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-3949.


20 University Forum Lecture: "Why Can't I See the Mountains? Haze Over Las Vegas." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

22 American Theatre Arts for Youth: "Pippin" Longsticking. 10am & Noon. AHCH. 895-2787.

Performing Arts Center's Rest of the New York Stage: Linda Eder. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

22-23 Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. BYU - March 22. 2pm. Utah - March 23, 10am. FTC. 895-3207.


25 Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. Auburn. 10:30am. FTC. 895-2787.

Men's Tennis: UNLV vs. Auburn. 1:30pm. FTC. 895-3207.

Music: Katsui Hakeyou Band. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-3734.

30 Softball: UNLV vs. BYU - March 29, 1pm. Utah - March 30, 3pm. EMS. 895-3207.


31 Baseball: UNLV vs. New Mexico. Call for times. WBS. 895-3207.

April 2002

1 Baseball: UNLV vs. Arizona State. 6:30pm. WBS. 895-3207.

6 & 8 Softball: UNLV vs. UC Riverside - April 1, 1pm. San Diego State - April 6, 5pm. EMS. 895-2287.


5 Music: UNLV Invitational Choral Festival. Call for times. AHCH. 895-3208.

5 Performing Arts Center's Charles Vanda Master Series: Australian Chamber Orchestra, featuring Stephen Hough. 8pm. FTC. 895-2787.

7 Performing Arts Center's Rest of the New York Stage: Final. Michael Feinstein and Ann Hampton Callaway. 7pm. AHCH. 895-3949.


20 University Forum Lecture: "Why Can't I See the Mountains? Haze Over Las Vegas." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

22 American Theatre Arts for Youth: "Pippin" Longsticking. 10am & Noon. AHCH. 895-2787.

Performing Arts Center's Rest of the New York Stage: Linda Eder. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

22-23 Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. BYU - March 22. 2pm. Utah - March 23, 10am. FTC. 895-3207.


25 Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. Auburn. 10:30am. FTC. 895-2787.

Men's Tennis: UNLV vs. Auburn. 1:30pm. FTC. 895-3207.

Music: Katsui Hakeyou Band. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-3734.

30 Softball: UNLV vs. BYU - March 29, 1pm. Utah - March 30, 3pm. EMS. 895-3207.


31 Baseball: UNLV vs. New Mexico. Call for times. WBS. 895-3207.

May 2002

10 Theatreworks USA: Peter Pan. 10am & Noon. AHCH. 895-2787.

Baseball: UNLV vs. Southern Utah. 6:30pm. WBS. 895-3207.

11 Music: UNLV Symphonic Winds Spring Concert. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-3733.

11 University Forum Lecture: "Greek Body Language: Evidence in Art and Archaeology." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

12 Music: UNLV Chamber Chorale 16th Annual Home Concert. 7:30pm. BMC. 895-2787.

12-21 Theatre: "Lender Than Words." Call for times. BBT. 895-2787.

14 Music: Chen Zong Yin, guest artist recital. 2pm. AHCH. 895-3736.

16 & 17 Baseball: UNLV vs. Southern Utah. 6:30pm. WBS. 895-3207.

17 Music: UNLV Community Band Concert II. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-3738.

18 University Forum Lecture: "Landscape Images of the Colorado Plateau" (slide-illustrated). 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

19 Las Vegas Philharmonic Concert: Peter Schickele meets PDQ Bach. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

22 University Forum Lecture: "Reading by Poet and Professor Ralph Angel." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

22 Performing Arts Center's The World Stage: "Sweet Home Alabama in the Rock!" 4pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

25 University Forum Lecture: "President John Adams: A Performance Lecture." 7:30pm. Call for location. 895-3401.


26 Performing Arts Center's Charles Vanda Master Series: Moscow Grigorovich Ballet: Spartacus. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

27 Dance Arts: Concert III. Call for times. BBT. 895-2787.


30 Music: UNLV Jazz Ensemble II Spring Concert. 7:30pm. BBT. 895-0862.

Tina Malabanta
UNLV Women's Golf Team

For more information on events and publications, visit UNLV's Web site at www.unlv.edu

Linda Eder
March 22

Moscow Grigorovich Ballet Spartacus
April 26
**1970s**

Chris A. Rosencrantz Jr., '71 BA

- Received a law degree in 1974 from the University of the District of Columbia.
- A deputy attorney general in the Taxation Association.
- Professor of Sociology at Bryan College.

**1980s**

- One of the 1980s' top 50 attorneys.
- Operated a private dental practice.
- One of the 1980s' top 100 attorneys.
- Received a law degree in 1982 from the University of the District of Columbia.
- A deputy attorney general in the Taxation Association.
- Professor of Sociology at Bryan College.

**2000s**

- One of the 2000s' top 100 attorneys.
- Operated a private dental practice.
- One of the 2000s' top 100 attorneys.
- Received a law degree in 2000 from the University of the District of Columbia.
- A deputy attorney general in the Taxation Association.
- Professor of Sociology at Bryan College.
Developing Our Metropolitan Character

continued from page 2

school’s teaching and administrative functions, which will require clinical, classroom, and laboratory space. Another building will house faculty research activities, including a portion of the UNLV Cancer Institute and our new Biotechnology Center, a state-of-the-art facility for forensic DNA and other biotechnology training programs. (Additional details about the new Biotechnology Center are available in an article on page 3 of this issue.) Use of the third building at the regional campus is still under consideration.

I should make special note here that we appreciate the support we have received as we have pursued this opportunity for expansion. We are very grateful to Gov. Kenny Guinn and the Legislature for their support of the Dental School during the last legislative session, and to the state’s Interim Finance Committee, which recently allowed us to revise our plans for housing the dental school and to purchase the new property and buildings. In addition to providing us with a considerable amount of much-needed space to expand, the acquisition of this property enables us to move forward with many of our plans.

I am delighted by this wonderful development. With it, we expand both literally and figuratively, exploring new avenues for growth and success. It contributes to my belief, as I mentioned earlier in this piece, that the university is moving in some significant new directions: We are building a stronger presence in the Southern Nevada community, reaching out to serve its needs and developing along with it a metropolitan character of our own. The nuances of that character include a sense of growing sophistication, of being capable and worthy of supporting a city of complexity and size.

So, as you can see, the past year has taken us to new terrain. The quality of our programs and faculty are being acknowledged in unprecedented ways, and our ability to meet the needs of the campus and the community continues to grow. With these developments, I believe now, more than ever, we are advancing with certainty toward our goal of becoming one of the finest urban research universities in the country. And I look forward to continuing to pursue that goal.

And Justice For All

continued from page 27

Students and faculty in the Juvenile Justice Clinic also teamed with state legislators to draft and pass legislation regarding a juvenile’s right to an attorney. As a result, Nevada now provides legal counsel to all juveniles facing felony charges before they plead guilty or not guilty. In the past, attorneys were appointed only after the children denied the charges.

Leah Ayala, who is in her final year of law school, and other clinic participants currently are working to change the state’s wardship policy. “When a child is adjudicated in juvenile justice, he becomes a ward of the court—it’s like being on probation,” Ayala explains. “But, unlike on the adult side, the wardship isn’t automatically discontinued after that six-month probation. And that’s just wrong. A small infraction could become really serious, just because that wardship is still—erroneously—in effect.”

The passion that students like Ayala show for the issues is what makes the legal services above par, says Audrey Fettes, administrative director of the clinical program and a veteran social worker of the juvenile justice system. “One good thing about new attorneys is they bring a fresh perspective,” Fettes says. “The clients certainly benefit from the students’ enthusiasm, and having worked for so long in the system, I know how jaded a person can get.”

Fettes’ experience with the local court system will be complemented this year as the program adds a social worker to assist with clinic cases and with interdisciplinary research. Law school faculty and members of other UNLV departments, including social work, special education, and criminal justice, formed a committee to tackle community issues from all angles.

“We know a lot of the kids we see have mental and emotional development problems that feed into their delinquent behavior,” Berkheiser says. “By taking an interdisciplinary approach, we’re serving the client by focusing on a holistic solution to both their legal and non-legal problems.”

Still, at the heart of the clinic program is the school’s primary goal: to turn UNLV’s law students into community-minded legal professionals.

“In even the best classes, the teaching is still abstract,” Appell says. “When students are involved in a real case with the real files, they understand in a much deeper way how things work and why each step is important. Sometimes students can recite a particular legal theory, but it doesn’t always click until they’ve actually experienced it.”

Horne, the recent law school graduate, felt that click the first time he stood up in court as a student-attorney. He represented two young children in a hearing to determine if one child was serving the client by focusing on a holistic solution to both their legal and non-legal problems.

“A small infraction could become really serious, just because that wardship is still—erroneously—in effect.”

“I believe the hearing was unfair to the mother of the children,” he says. “This really highlighted to me what I’ve been taught throughout my law school career: the proceedings are not always fair, particularly for the poor and uneducated.”

Yet, Horne’s most gratifying law school experience came at the same time. “My first thought was that I was woefully unqualified to spar against the seasoned DA that would be present during the proceeding,” he says. “But I stood toe-to-toe with the DA and the hearing master and held my own.

“That gave me a tremendous amount of confidence. I realized that I still have a great deal to learn, but I have gathered, through my legal education, all the tools necessary to serve my future clients successfully.”
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