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Inside UNLV

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Inside UNLV

News & Information for UNLV Insiders

JANUARY 2007

Women's Wellness Day

The second annual Women's Wellness Day is 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 31 in the Tam Alumni Center. The free event is sponsored by the Jean Nidetch Women's Center. Call ext. 5-4475 to reserve a spot.

Campus Happenings

Spring Into Action at Rebel Connection

If you've been looking for a way to give back to the campus community, Rebel Connection has an opportunity for you.



Approximately 100 staff and faculty members are needed as volunteers this month. The majority of volunteers will be needed:

- Jan. 11 to direct students during New Student Orientation
- Jan. 16 and 17, the first two days of the spring semester, to staff Ask Me booths

Go to rebelconnection.unlv.edu for a full schedule or to volunteer. For information, call ext. 5-2970.

MLK Celebration Jan. 18



Civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams will speak Jan. 18 as part of UNLV's third annual Martin Luther King Jr.

Day celebration.

The free event will take place at 12:15 p.m. in the Cox Pavilion.

"Myrlie Evers-Williams is a phenomenal woman and role model who has committed her life to the noble struggle for human rights for which Martin Luther King Jr. gave his life," said Juanita Fain, vice president for planning, diversity, and chief of staff.

The widow of Medgar Evers, the civil rights leader whose racially motivated murder in 1963 made him a national icon, Evers-Williams made history when she became the first woman to chair the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1995.

She is the author of *For Us, the Living* and *Watch Me Fly: What I Learned On the Way to Becoming the Woman I Was Meant to Be*.



The Science and Engineering Building will be used for interdisciplinary teaching and research.

The Big Building Boom

Six new buildings are shooting up across UNLV's campuses

By **Shane Bevell** | Marketing & PR

Even with the absence of most students, faculty, and staff over winter break, the campus wasn't a complete ghost town. Construction crews were busy keeping UNLV's multiple projects on schedule.

When *Inside UNLV* last gave you a construction update 10 months ago, the Moot Court was still in design and the old Moyer Student Union was still standing.

Susan Hobbes, director of planning and construction, can't remember a time when so many buildings of this size were under construction at the same time. "All this construction is

due to the tremendous growth in students the university has been experiencing for the past several years," she said. "We are just now starting to catch up with that growth in terms of infrastructure and construction."

Science and Engineering Building

Size: 205,779 gross square feet

Funding: \$113 million, including more than \$32.1 million funded by UNLV

Completion date: 2008

Status: The contractor recently completed the steel erection and is continuing with the overhead and wall mechanical, electrical, and plumbing portions of the work. Work crews are installing waste lines for labs and preparing to pour the lightweight concrete roof. Crews will continue with exterior framing on

the south side as well as interior framing and drywall.

Features: The building will include offices, classrooms, and laboratories that will be used by research scientists and students.

Greenspun Hall

Size: 121,000 gross square feet

Funding: \$93.7 million, including \$37 million donated by the Greenspun family; \$3.4 million contributed by UNLV

Completion date: June 2008

Status: The contractor was given the notice to proceed on Dec. 18 and has been conducting site work and underground work. It is also completing rough grading and backfilling as well as digging for utilities.

> See **Construction**, Page 4

Listen Up: Make the Most of Your Annual Review

By **Diane Russell** | Marketing & PR

Listen. That's the key piece of advice that UNLV staff development and employee relations specialist Stacey Carrillo has for those about to go into an annual job performance review.

It doesn't matter whether you're the supervisor or the employee, listening — as in really hearing what the other person has to say, not just nodding your head and periodically murmuring "uh-huh" — is critical to a successful one-on-one performance review, she said. Casting aside preconceived notions is a must, she added.

Performance reviews for professional staff members, who are evaluated annually on a calendar-year basis, are due in two months. "We recommend that the supervisors ask their employees to complete self-evaluations no later than January. Then in either January or February the supervisors should prepare the evaluations and conduct the one-on-one meetings with

employees. The signed evaluations must be submitted to the human resources department no later than March 1," she said.

Carrillo provided the following tips for employees and supervisors in the evaluation process.

Tips For Supervisors

- Ask the employee to complete a self-evaluation. While not required by the university, a self-evaluation is a useful tool, giving the supervisor insight into how the employee sees things. (If you require a self-evaluation from one employee, you must require them from all employees.)

- Give constructive feedback concerning the employee's performance by using specific examples from the past year.

- Remember that the one-on-one evaluation session is a good opportunity to foster two-way communication both now and in the future.

- Allot enough time for the one-on-one session. It could take an hour or more.

Tips For Employees

- Prepare a self-evaluation, including a list of your major accomplishments, even if your supervisor does not require it. This review will help you in the one-on-one session.

- View the one-on-one session with your supervisor as a chance to discuss what your career goals are and how your supervisor can help you achieve them.

- Be prepared to ask for additional training if you are seeking to improve or expand your skills.



More info: There will be two sessions of the seminar, "It's Evaluation Time — Professional Staff," in the coming weeks. Both sessions will be in the Campus Services Building, Room 212 G. They are 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 24 and 2-3:30 p.m. Feb. 6. To register, call ext. 5-0402.

Business

Top Students Invited to Join International Honor Society

A total of 74 of the college’s students recently earned invitations to join the selective international business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma.

Offers are extended to students ranking in the top 7 percent of the junior class, top 10 percent of the senior class, and top 20 percent of master’s programs at schools accredited by AACSB International — the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Each year only about 20,000 students worldwide are inducted into lifetime membership, even though nearly 300,000 students earn bachelor’s or master’s degrees in business.

Membership is the highest recognition a business student can receive at a school accredited by AACSB International.

Beta Gamma Sigma was founded as a national organization in 1913 with the merger of three separate business honor societies at the University of Wisconsin, University of Illinois, and the University of California.

With chapters in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom, Beta Gamma Sigma today is truly an international society that remains dedicated to recognizing the most outstanding students of business and management.

Education

State’s First Autism Center Established at UNLV

A new center for individuals and families affected by autism puts UNLV at the forefront of research into the disorder.

The Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders is the first of its kind in the state, said Matt Tincani, center director

and assistant professor of special education. “Autism affects one in 166 children, and given Southern Nevada’s growing population, this center is needed to help those with autism and their families,” he said.

The center will conduct research related to assessment of and intervention programs for persons with autism and similar disorders, such as Asperger Syndrome. Both are commonly known by the umbrella term “autism spectrum disorders.” The center also will provide community-focused training and support to the Southern Nevada community.

Although autism is diagnosed in early childhood, its impact often lasts a lifetime. In addition to helping children and their families, the center will provide support for adults with autism and related disorders.

This is the first university-based resource in Nevada for professionals, families, and individuals dealing with autism. Partners include Nevada Early Intervention Services and Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents, the state’s technical assistance program for parents of children with disabilities. Proposed projects include outreach seminars to professionals and parents, therapist training, and research on teaching communication and social skills. Tincani hopes to garner additional external funding from federal, state, and local sources to support the center’s goal of becoming a premier resource regionally and nationally.

Engineering

Researchers Tackle Hazardous Waste Transportation Issues

Members of the UNLV community are participating in a project related to the transportation of hazardous materials. The Hazardous Materials Truck

Tracking Program (HZMT) is a U.S. Department of Energy-funded project geared toward enhancing transportation security, reducing accidents, and enhancing the incident management process should an accident occur.

The project represents a collective effort from the UNLV Research Foundation, the College of Engineering, and Qualcomm’s Wireless Business Solutions unit as the lead technical integrator. UNLV engineering professor Robert Abella and researcher Kenneth Peck are establishing a demonstration and presentation program for the integrated technology package. Their work related to accident prevention initiative addresses the status of the truck carrying the hazardous materials and the performance of the driver. Dispatchers can continuously monitor the location of the truck and trailer through state-of-the-art satellite communications. The driver can activate a panic button, which then alerts the dispatcher to critical events with the same satellite system. Important driving parameters such as hard-braking events are recorded and transmitted to the dispatcher.

The team will showcase its findings on Feb. 21. Contact Christine Wallace at christine.wallace@unlv.edu if you are interested in attending the event.

Fine Arts

Folk Dancers Lead Off January Arts Offerings

The UNLV Performing Arts Center welcomes The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble on Jan. 18 as part of the Charles Vanda Master Series. The group has performed in 44 countries across four continents and won the admiration of millions, making it one of the greatest folkloric dance ensembles in the world. Its rich and colorful repertoire includes the folk dances and stunning costumes of Hungary and Hungarian-inhabited areas.

The series continues Jan. 27 as Lorin Maazel conducts the Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini. Maazel, music director of the New York Philharmonic, chose to direct the Artuto Toscanini Philharmonic because of its “quality level and ... enthusiasm.” Maestro Maazel began his conducting career at age 9.

For information, call ext. 5-2787.

Graduate

Graduate College Announces Organizational Changes

The college has made several organizational changes:

- Kate Hausbeck is senior associate dean and will supervise personnel, oversee academic affairs, and guide operations.
- Harriet Barlow, associate dean for student services, will continue as thesis and dissertation reviewer; coordinator of orientations, special events, and the graduate catalog; and liaison for publications. Additionally, she will oversee expansion of professional development initiatives for students.
- The position of director of admissions and processing has been created to guide recruitment, admissions, and retention. This person also will oversee front-office services and records management, participate in assessment, and serve as administrative liaison to graduate coordinators. The director will also supervise college evaluators,

including two newly added evaluator positions. A search is under way.

- Eric Lee is now director of graduate financial services and will manage assistantship, fellowship, and scholarship programs, as well as training on and coordination of processes associated with financial services for graduate students. In cooperation with research services, he will develop services and training to aid graduate students with grant writing.

- DeeDee Severin is now assistant director of admissions and processing. She will coordinate all teacher education programs, act as liaison to both the College of Education and the Clark County School District, and serve as college ombudsperson.

- Cathy “C.C.” Dyer is now international graduate student coordinator. She will oversee matters involving international graduate student admissions and processing, as well as work closely with the international student services, the study abroad offices, and the graduate coordinators of the academic departments.

Honors

College Celebrates with Medallion Ceremony

The college celebrated with its graduating university and department honor scholars at a medallion ceremony on Dec. 15.

Parents, friends, faculty, staff, and other members of the campus community were on hand as 17 students received their honors medallion. President David Ashley gave an opening statement. Professor Daniel Villanueva spoke about the value of the Honors College experience. Dean Stephen Rosenbaum introduced the students, who were then presented with their medallions by the deans of their respective colleges.

Hotel

Students Learn the Art of Bistro, Campus to Eat up the Results

This spring, students in the college are learning the art of bistro. And the campus community will be able to enjoy the fruits of their new knowledge when the college opens its weekly bistro Feb. 12.

This spring, the food and beverage management department is offering its first-ever bistro management class. Bistro eating has become very trendy in recent years, as more people become concerned about their health. People are eating smaller, more frequent meals, and the students are learning how to accommodate this movement.

Students will create and serve highly flavored hot and cold foods, served on smaller plates, along with a variety of coffees, juices, specialty non-alcoholic drinks, wine, and beer. The senior class, under the direction of professor Don Wood, chef John Gremo, and professor and department chair Pat Moreo, will combine practice and management in the class. The end result: real experience that will help them in their careers in food and beverage management.

The bistro will be open 5-7:30 p.m. every Monday through May in the Southern Wine Lounge at the Stan Fulton Building.



Hanging with Hey Reb

Rocky Torres from K-Rock Graphics dangles from the Thomas & Mack Center to install a sign in December.

Law

Arbitration Conference, Lecture Coming Soon

The school will host two events early this semester — a conference on arbitration and the third annual Philip Pro Lecture on Legal History.

On Jan. 26, the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution will sponsor a major conference on arbitration. Leading arbitration scholars will address the strengths and weaknesses of the federal arbitration law, presenting papers that will be published in a special issue of the *Nevada Law Journal*. Professor Jean Sternlight, director of the Saltman Center and a prominent arbitration scholar, planned this conference to address the efficiency and fairness of arbitration.

“The Federal Arbitration Act is now 80 years old, and aspects of the statute have been heavily criticized in recent years as hostile to consumers and employees,” Sternlight said. “In this conference scholars from around the country will examine the positives and negatives of the statute and make proposals for change that we hope will receive serious consideration from Congress.”

Information is available at www.law.unlv.edu/saltman_Events.html.

At 7 p.m. Feb. 5, Geoffrey R. Stone, the Harry Kalven Jr. Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, will present the Pro lecture. His topic will be “Civil Liberties in Wartime.” Stone’s book *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime from the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism* received the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for 2004 as the Best Book in History, the American Political Science Association’s Kammerer Award for 2005 for the Best Book in Political Science, and Harvard University’s 2005 Goldsmith Award for the Best Book in Public Affairs.

Libraries

Faculty Encouraged to Sponsor Students for Research Award

University Libraries is accepting entries for the 2007 Libraries’ Award for Undergraduate Research. Up to four \$1,000 cash prizes will be awarded for projects demonstrating sophisticated information literacy skills. Faculty members can support undergraduate research by sponsoring student entries. The deadline is Feb. 2 for research projects conducted in 2006. Spring 2007 projects can be submitted by April 16, or in 2008 for the 2007-08 awards.

University Libraries created this award in partnership with the Division of Research and Graduate Studies to recognize excellence in projects that incorporate the use of the Libraries’ collections. The award review committee considers the product of the research, but focuses on the research process: the demonstration of library research skills, use of library resources, and the strategies used to investigate a research problem. Expectations for achievement are commensurate with the applicant’s class year and the requirements of the discipline.

Winners will be recognized at a reception in May and submitted projects will be displayed in Lied Library.

The 2006 winners were:

- Christina L. Dykstra, “The Physical and Social Factors Influencing the Development of

Tradition and Ideology” (Sponsor: Barbara Roth of anthropology)

- Alexi K. Nedeltchev, “Synthesis and Characterization of Poly(pyridinium salt)s with Anthracene Moieties Exhibiting Both Lyotropic Liquid-Crystalline and UV Light Emitting Properties” (Sponsor: Pradip Bhowmik of chemistry)

- Jacob T. Smigel, “Conglobation in the Pill Bug (*Armadillidium vulgare*) as a Terrestrial Adaptation” (Sponsor: Allen Gibbs of the School of Life Sciences)

For information, visit www.library.unlv.edu/award or contact Diane VanderPol at diane.vanderpol@unlv.edu or Priscilla Finley at priscilla.finley@unlv.edu.

Liberal Arts

Donations to English Department Boost Graduate Study Resources

In recent months, the English department has been the grateful recipient of three very generous gifts.

An anonymous donor has provided approximately \$60,000 to help fund two dissertation fellowships. This year the funding will allow DeNara Hill and Oliver Q. Melton III to complete their Ph.D. projects with no teaching obligations by providing a stipend of \$25,000 as well as tuition and fees — approximately double UNLV’s “standard” awards for graduate study.

A second anonymous gift from another donor provides \$30,000 annually for three department activities:

- \$10,000 will support graduate student travel to present papers at professional conferences or to attend the Modern Language Association conference for job interviews.

- \$5,000 will support the publication of the department’s *Ben Jonson Journal* by the prestigious Edinburgh University Press.

- \$15,000 will provide funding for the department’s Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series. This year the speakers include Benedict Nightingale, the senior theater critic for *The London Times*, and Harvard’s Stephen Greenblatt, a well-known Renaissance scholar and public humanist.

Finally, Beverly Rogers’ gift of \$660,000 has established the Rogers Fellowships in English, which will fund five-year awards leading to master and doctoral degrees in English. Two of those five years will carry no teaching responsibilities. Rogers Fellowships include stipends of \$25,000 and all tuition and fees, making them among the most attractive fellowships in the nation.

Nursing

Two Assistant Deans Appointed in the School of Nursing

The school is growing and changing with the hiring of two assistant deans.

Tish Smyer has been appointed assistant dean for academic affairs. She will oversee current academic programs, lead the school in the preparation of federal training grants, and serve as a resource in fulfilling the teaching mission of the university.

Smyer comes from South Dakota State University, where she served in an administrative role. Her expertise in grant writing, program development, and team building make her an asset to UNLV, said Dean Carolyn Yucha. Smyer earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of



Hazardous Duty

During a recent training session sponsored by the UNLV Institute for Security Studies, Dr. Igor Shafhid demonstrates HAZMAT radiation decontamination safety to representatives from the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Clark County Fire Department, Nevada Emergency Management Services (EMS), North Las Vegas Police Department, and the Clark County coroner’s office.

Arkansas Medical Center and her master’s and Doctor of Nursing Science (DNSc) degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Barbara St. Pierre Schneider was appointed assistant dean for research. She will develop an infrastructure and provide support for faculty as they develop their research programs.

Schneider’s own research centers on exercise-induced skeletal muscle injury and ovarian hormone influences on healing, and she has received research funding from foundations and the National Institutes of Health. She comes from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Louisiana State University, her master’s degree from the University of Washington, and her DNSc from the University of California, Los Angeles. She completed post-doctoral training at UCLA and at Pennsylvania State University.

Sciences

Emeritus Professor Donna Weistrop Endows Scholarship

Donna Weistrop, emeritus professor of physics, and her husband David B. Shaffer, have generously endowed a scholarship in the college. The Donna Weistrop and David B. Shaffer Scholarship offers support to graduate students in astronomy, chemistry, geoscience, or physics who maintain a 3.25 cumulative grade point average. Preference will be given to students in astronomy and physics programs, areas of particular interest to the donors.

Dean Ron Yasbin said, “During her distinguished academic career Donna Weistrop touched the lives of countless UNLV students, faculty, staff, friends, and area residents. With this generous scholarship, Donna and David expand their reach to touch the lives of future generations of UNLV students.”

During her career, Weistrop devoted countless hours to things she could not touch. As a leading astronomer, Weistrop was part of a team that developed an instrument on the Hubble Space Telescope and analyzed data gathered from distant galaxies. And, all the while, she opened the heavens to students in both introductory and advanced astronomy classes.

Weistrop understands the wonders and the limits of science. As she noted in the winter 2005 issue of *UNLV Magazine*, “Science is not infallible. As we keep learning things, our interpretations will change. It’s part of being an informed citizen.”

She also is committed to the unending search for knowledge — as a teacher and a student. She said, “There’s this amazing thing that happens when you’re working with graduate students. Around the time they finish their master’s and start working on the Ph.D., they just blossom. They transform from student into colleague — instead of me teaching them, we start learning from each other.”

Urban Affairs

Forum Speakers Explore the War on Terror

Approximately 150 people attended the “Freedom From Terror: Reflections, Reasons and Results of 9/11 and the War on Terror” forum sponsored by the department of communication studies and the Boyd School of Law during fall semester.

The forum, which was organized by the UNLV Muslim Student Association, was designed to further understand the war on terror and how the United States has changed since the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Panel speakers included Yasser Moten, communication studies graduate student and director of communications for the UNLV Muslim Student Association; Juan Cole, a history professor at the University of Michigan; James Yusef Yee, a former U.S. Army captain and Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo Bay; and communication studies professor Joseph Valenzano.

Valenzano, who specializes in political communication, spoke about the power of the now-popular terms “freedom” and “terror,” and how President Bush used them with effect when galvanizing public support for military action leading up to the Iraq War. During the question-and-answer period, Valenzano also noted that there is much confusion about the terms “terrorism,” a concrete term that refers to a specific tactic, and “terror,” a vague term referring to an emotive state.

The 411 on Changing Cell Phone Plans

Need to renew your UNLV cell phone contract? Don't. To enhance customer service for employees and to save departments money, the university plans to centralize cell phone service on campus beginning next fall.



Currently, employees contact cell phone vendors directly to set up services. Under the new plan, users will go through one vendor selected through the request for proposal (RFP) process.

With that process already under way, employees should not renew current contracts or enter into new contracts.

"When your service contract ends, do not sign another agreement," said Mike Sauer, associate vice president for administration. "Continue your service on a month-to-month basis until the new plan is in place. If you still have a contract when the new plan is implemented, you could face paying early termination fees."

The RFP is expected to go out to vendors early this year. After bids are submitted, a committee will evaluate vendor responses.

"We are hoping to create a diverse committee that represents the broader campus. They will not only evaluate the RFP responses for pricing, but also for innovative features that will benefit faculty members, staff, and students," Sauer said.

Sauer expects the new vendor to be selected by fall 2007.

Readers Respond

Articles related to human resources obviously strike a chord with Inside UNLV readers.



Respondents to our monthly readers' poll rated the tips for hiring and keeping better staff at the top. In an open-ended question about human resources-related issues, respondents indicated they would like more information about benefits — retirement and otherwise — as well as interviewing tips.

Several respondents asked about UNLV's educational assistance program, called "grant-in-aid." More information, including what classes are covered and how much of the tuition and fees are waived, is available at hr.unlv.edu. Click on "Education Assistance."

Please keep responding to our surveys. We'll use your feedback to generate stories in future issues.



Party Time

(Above) Those instruments in the shape of wreaths at the president's holiday party in December were for more than just decoration — they are being donated to the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Development Center. The event, held in Ham Concert Hall, included a sneak peek at the Las Vegas Philharmonic's holiday concert as well as performances by a UNLV jazz studies ensemble. (At left) Attendees like Shirley Splond, Bill Kruft, Mihn Horton, and Randy Yu enjoyed the company and the food, which included an endless supply of shrimp cocktail.

> Construction

Continued from Page 1

Features: The Greenspun building will bring almost all College of Urban Affairs programs into one building.

The building will have one tower of five stories and a second of three stories, and will include classrooms, labs, departmental suites, faculty offices, and radio and television broadcasting facilities. It is designed with sustainability features and includes a distinctive plaza/courtyard shaded by a solar power array, which will provide more than 15 percent of the total annual energy for the building.

Thomas & Mack Moot Court

Size: 6,600 gross square feet
Funding: \$4.3 million; paid for through private donations from the Thomas and Mack families
Completion date: Spring 2007
Status: The contractor has finished the honed block portions of the building. Structural steel has been completed and the roof decking was installed. Steel supports for the ceiling systems have been installed as well as the single-ply roof. Exterior areas will be fine graded and the landscape areas prepared for planting in the spring.

Features: The moot court will support the Boyd Law School's appellate advocacy training programs and provide a venue to host judicial proceedings of state and federal courts. The building will include a fixed-bench courtroom and a 180-seat auditorium.

Student Recreation Center

Size: 187,617 gross square feet
Funding: \$55.1 million, paid for by student fees
Completion date: June 2007
Status: The installation of the structural steel is nearly complete. The contractor is in the process of installing mechanical ductwork, plumbing, electrical conduit, stud walls, gypsum board, insulation, exterior walls, and the roof.
Features: The building will include high-tech weight and fitness rooms, swimming pools, and basketball, volleyball, and racquetball courts. The building will be home to the Student Health Center, student counseling and psychological services, and Student Recreation Center administration.

Student Union, Phase II

Size: 37,000 gross square feet. Total of both phases will be 135,000.
Funding: \$50.5 million (both phases); paid for by student fees
Completion date: Summer 2007
Status: The old union was demolished in November and crews have been

doing site work and underground work. They also are completing rough grading and digging for utilities.
Features: The building will include a 10,000-square-foot ballroom, game room, convenience store, retail stores, and outdoor patio seating.

Advanced Dental Education Building

Size: 44,000 gross square feet
Funding: \$16.4 million
Location: Shadow Lane campus
Completion date: Summer 2007
Status: The contractor has completed the earthwork and underground utilities. The footings and slab on grade and all block work have been completed. In the coming months, the contractor will start steel installation and work on exterior walls along with plumbing, ductwork, insulation, and gypsum walls.
Features: The facility will house specialty programs in pediatric dentistry, endodontics, orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and periodontics. It is also designed to support clinical research efforts.

Inside UNLV

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

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