Inside UNLV

Diane Russell
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, diane.russell@unlv.edu

Shane Bevell
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

David Ashley
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Lori Bachand
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Grace Russell
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

See next page for additional authors

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Authors
Diane Russell, Shane Bevell, David Ashley, Lori Bachand, Grace Russell, and Mamie Peers
**Rebel Romance: Meeting Your Mate at UNLV**

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

If you consider how many hours we spend at work, it’s not surprising that some of our co-workers have found a little romance on campus. Inside UNLV asked employees to submit stories about how they met their significant other while at UNLV.

**First Impressions Can Be Deceiving**

iBy Alan Martinez, Mechanical Engineering

Danny Kovene, Reprographics/Design Services

I met my fiancé, Danny, when I transferred from...

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<th>Corporate Challenge: Let the Games Begin</th>
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| Teams are forming for the annual city of Las Vegas Corporate Challenge. Corporate Challenge is a healthy way for employees to stay active in the community and to interact with colleagues outside the office. The 2007 games will begin March 29 with a torch relay, executive relay, and parade of banners. The games will continue for 12 weeks and culminate with awards being presented at the closing ceremonies June 16.

**Who’s the Trashiest?**

UNLV wants the title!

From Jan. 28-April 7, UNLV is competing in the RecycleMania event, a friendly competition among college recycling programs that provides the campus community with a fun way to promote waste reduction. Campuses compete in different contests to see which institution can collect the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate.

UNLV is competing in the Per Capita Classic. You can participate by recycling everything, including:

- all paper, including shredded
- cardboard
- aluminum cans
- plastic bottles
- toner/ink cartridges
- steel/tin/scrap metal
- alkaline batteries
- reusable office supplies

**Greenspun Tops the List**

7 UNLV Projects on Legislative Request Lists

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Requests for $61 million in construction-related funding for seven UNLV projects are on two lists being submitted to the Nevada Legislature by the NSHE. The legislative session begins Feb. 5.

One request — for $21 million for furniture, finishings, and equipment for the Science and Engineering Building — is on a list of “finish” money being requested for eight projects across the system. While projects on that list are unranked, completion of these unfinished projects is assumed to be the highest NSHE priority for capital funding, said Gerry Bomotti, UNLV vice president for finance and business. On the longer list — the NSHE capital improvement projects list — UNLV projects are ranked Nos. 1, 9, 11, 15, 21, and 30. A request for $194 million for completion of Greenspun Hall tops that list. UNLV also is part of the planning for the University of Nevada Health Sciences System. The NSHE is making a separate funding request for this initiative, which would include money for the renovation of the Shadow Lane campus’ building B to support the School of Medicine and UNLV’s nursing programs as well as money for additional construction at Shadow Lane as well as other locations in the state.

With the system requesting more than $350 million in capital improvements at its various institutions — not counting the separate request for funding for the health sciences system — no one expects all of the requests to be funded, Bomotti said.

“We don’t know how far down the list the legislative funding will reach,” Bomotti said. “Many others, including the Nevada Department of Corrections, also are asking for substantial sums. Legislators will have to weigh requests carefully in order to determine which projects are most needed.”
Federal appropriations and competitive grant funding serve different functions at a university. Appropriations can be very important for building capacity, enhancing infrastructure, and creating new areas of research. Ongoing research is more appropriately supported by competitive, peer-reviewed grants; these grants are critical to realizing our goal of becoming a major research university.

These awards come from various sources as the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which have rigorous peer-selection processes. That puts our work up against other research institutions, so receiving the awards validates the strength of scholarship behind the proposals. This is key to raising our institutional reputation. The effects magnify from there. A stronger reputation helps attract top students and professors, who then help UNLV advance its teaching and service missions.

In the past several years, UNLV has received a large portion of its outside funding through federal appropriations. Why is this now an emphasis on competitive awards programs?

NSHE Campuses Collaborate on Black History Month Events

By Grace Russell | Marketing & PR

A summit on ways to improve the college success rates of black students is among the events commemorating Black History Month at NSHE campuses.

UNLV kicked off the monthlong celebration Feb. 1 at the Alumni Amphitheater in front of DFD. There were speakers from each of the sister schools, entertainment, and a dinner. Other UNLV events this month include a Black Film Festival and a youth empowerment conference to introduce area high school students to UNLV.

The summit, which was held Feb. 2 at the CCSN Cheyenne campus, explored the state of blacks in higher education. It featured representatives from UNLV, NSC, and CSN.

“The summit brought all of the NSHE people together so that we could share information about issues that affect people of color,” said Odalys Carmona, UNLV diversity program coordinator.

Carmona and representatives from CSNN and NSC coordinated the month’s events. UNLV’s organizers included students, faculty, and professional and classified staff.

“Because this forum worked so well during Hispanic Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Month, we decided to work together again for Black History Month,” Carmona said. “The collaboration lets us offer the community more events on each of the campuses and throughout the valley.”

Committee member Michelle Jordan, coordinator of diversity initiatives for the Harrah College of Hotel Administration, said the events will do more than share the rich black culture with students and staff.

“By acknowledging Black History Month and other months set aside for underrepresented groups on this campus, UNLV is demonstrating its commitment to diversity.”

For a complete listing of events, visit facultystaff.unlv.edu.

Invent the Future

Staff Donations Help Students Put School First

By Lori Bachand | UNLV Foundation

Stephanie Ramirez started her UNLV career with the usual must-haves for an honors student: enthusiasm, some college credits under her belt, and a clear goal to complete degree. But she also had two advantages not available to all students: emotional support from two fellow undergraduates (her brother, Mike, and their father, Miguel) and financial support through a privately funded scholarship for academically talented students.

Nearly every academic unit on campus has identified scholarship or fellowship support as a priority in the $500 million Invent the Future campaign. As of January, the campaign had raised more than $337 million in gifts and gift intentions during its first five years. This funding is designated for scholarships and fellowships.

“Many of our faculty and staff, as well as our alumni, choose to support the hundreds of privately funded scholarships or fellowships at UNLV,” said Deborah Young, director of scholarship and tribute giving. “They are either in daily contact with students, or remember a time when they were struggling students themselves, and it’s a meaningful gesture that they can make to directly help our students.”

Ramirez said the scholarships have played a significant role in her success. “I have enough support for tuition and books, and I have never had to put school second to working in order to pay for tuition.”

Ramirez leveraged Nevada’s Guinn Millennium Scholarship with additional money earmarked for top students. She received an award from a privately funded scholarship set up by HSBC Bank Nevada.

Joking about the advantage of having her father and brother with her at college, she said, “We were the Ramirez triumvirate. My family has always had this bond. (My dad and brother) were in the College of Business, and I was in science, and when I finally switched majors to economics, it seemed like everything fell into place.”

Although they never took classes together — the trio was too competitive — they challenged each other for higher grade point averages. Mike and Miguel graduated in December with degrees in finance and management, leaving Stephanie to do more with no new resources is not a pathway to future excellence. We must work jointly on creating a research culture and providing the infrastructure to support it.”

More info: Learn more about the new grant programs and download applications at research.unlv.edu/services_grants.html.

NSHE Celebrates Black History Month

By Amy Spillman | Marketing & PR

By acknowledging Black History Month and other months set aside for underrepresented groups on this campus, UNLV is demonstrating its commitment to diversity.

For a complete listing of events, visit facultystaff.unlv.edu.

Awards Revamped to Focus on Research

Last month President David Ashley announced changes to UNLV’s internal awards programs. The new awards include the President’s Research Award, which offers recognition for cross-disciplinary research; the Research Development Award for individual research and creative activities; and the Research Infrastructure Awards for equipment and facilities enhancement.

Here Ashley shares with readers more details about these initiatives.

How will the changes improve the awards process? As I and others on campus began looking at UNLV’s internal grant programs, we recognized that the money available was spread thinly among several smaller programs. In addition, we noticed that a number of projects became unsustainable after the internal grant was finished.

In restructuring the programs, we put the university’s top priority — creating a research-enhanced environment — at the center, and we’ve established concrete expectations for the research. As a result, we’ve identified the areas that can best help us reach our goals. Then we will work with administrators to ensure that our resources support those areas. Struggling to do more with no new resources is not a pathway to future excellence.

We must work jointly on creating a research culture and providing the infrastructure to support it. Federal appropriations and competitive grant funding serve different functions at a university. Appropriations can be very important for building capacity, enhancing infrastructure, and creating new areas of research. Ongoing research is more appropriately supported by competitive, peer-reviewed grants; these grants are critical to realizing our goal of becoming a major research university.

These awards come from various sources as the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which have rigorous peer-selection processes. That puts our work up against other research institutions, so receiving the awards validates the strength of scholarship behind the proposals. This is key to raising our institutional reputation. The effects magnify from there. A stronger reputation helps attract top students and professors, who then help UNLV advance its teaching and service missions.

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Employee Benefits

Getting the Most Out of Your Health Plan

How to Avoid Some Common Mistakes

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Having health insurance is one thing, knowing how to properly use your health insurance and which plan to choose is entirely different. Inside UNLV recently sat down with Pat La Putt, benefits manager, to discuss some common health insurance mistakes as well as the wellness benefit.

“UNLV is unique in that it offers both an HMO plan and two deductible levels in a PPO plan,” La Putt said. Employees can choose between an HMO plan, a low-deductible PPO plan, and a high-deductible PPO plan.

Common Mistakes

When employees choose a health plan, they often choose based solely on which plan has the lowest premium, La Putt said. “It is important to look at how you access care, how you want to access care, and how often you access care. Those factors drive your out-of-pocket costs.”

Make sure the doctor is still part of the network when scheduling appointments. “The doctor’s contracts are different than the plan year (July-June) for employees’ insurance coverage,” La Putt said. “If your doctor is no longer part of the network, you will pay out-of-network costs, which are higher.”

La Putt said another mistake is choosing the high-deductible PPO plan without being fully informed.

“Knowing that the high-deductible plan has a lower monthly premium and no co-pays, employees pay dollar-for-dollar until they reach their $2,000 yearly deductible.”

“If you are fairly healthy, want a lower premium, and can withstand the risk, then this might be the plan for you,” she said.

Confusing Language

There is often confusion related to the in-network and out-of-network deductibles, La Putt said. For example, there is a $500 deductible for in-network visits and a separate $500 deductible for out-of-network visits. It is important to remember that the HMO plan doesn’t cover doctor visits if you are out of the Las Vegas area. The only medical bills from out-of-the-area that are covered are those for emergency services. “That creates another problem,” La Putt said. “The insurance company determines if the visit was truly an emergency, not the employee.”

Wellness Benefits

Under the PPO plan, there is no co-pay and the plan pays 100 percent up to a maximum of $2,500 (your deductible does not apply) if you go to an in-network provider. Among other things, the wellness benefit covers a physical exam, pelvic exam, X-rays, prostate screening, well-child examinations, immunizations, and skin cancer screenings. In order to access this benefit, employees need to instruct their physician to bill the procedure as a routine preventive measure so that the claim can be properly processed, La Putt said.

Under the HMO plan, preventive health services do not require a prior authorization but there is a $15 co-pay. The plan also offers various educational programs that focus on preventive care and the management of existing health conditions.

Common Questions from Employees

La Putt said she often receives calls to find if particular doctors are still in the network, and if not, how to select a new one. She reminds employees that while network provider directories are sent out once a year, the online directories are updated more frequently.

There are also issues with bills not being paid, La Putt said. “Our staff is familiar with the different plans offered and what should be covered,” she said. “If you have a problem, let our office do the leg work and attempt to resolve the issue so that you can concentrate on doing your job.”

Other Medical Benefits

La Putt reminds employees that the dental benefits are the same, regardless of which plan you have, and that employees can get four teeth cleanings each year. She also encourages employees to take advantage of their plan’s vision benefit.

More Info: Visit hr.unlv.edu/benefits/index.html or call ext. 5-0924.

Symbol of Perseverance

Civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams stressed the importance of perseverance and civic responsibility during UNLV’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Jan. 18. In her keynote address, Evers-Williams, the widow of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, said, “Don’t fall into the trap of giving up. Perseverance was one of the major components of the movement, and it was what has carried me through.” Evers-Williams waged a year-long battle for justice in the 1963 death of her husband, an official with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), who was gunned down by a sniper in the driveway of their Jackson, Miss., home. In 1964, Ku Klux Klansman Byron de la Beckwith was convicted of Evers’s murder. It was the third time de la Beckwith had stood trial for the crime. Evers-Williams, who served as the first woman chair of the NAACP, also spoke about the importance of all citizens exercising their right to vote.
Allied Health Sciences
Faculty Collaborate on Medical Imaging Projects
Faculty in health physics are collaborating with Nevada Imaging Centers/ Amigenics to research various imaging-related areas. These projects include using a high-field magnetic resonance (MR) scanner to map an individual’s brain fibers in order to determine abnormalities due to head trauma, multiple sclerosis, and other neurological disorders.

Another project is using MR imaging and spectroscopy to diagnose breast cancer. If successful, a new technique will be available for annual screenings without the high radiation dose associated with mammography. Similarly, brachytherapy prostate cancer treatment methods using MRI are being investigated. Functional MRI scans are currently being developed to diagnose Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

Kinesiology Program Sets Runners on Right Path
The department of kinesiology again hosted the Marathon Educational Series to provide information for runners training for the Las Vegas Marathon. The series consisted of six presentations on exercise physiology, biomechanics, injuries, nutrition, and race-day preparations. This series was hosted in collaboration with the organizers of the marathon, Las Vegas Track Club, Las Vegas Road Runners, and the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

On race day, students and faculty from the athletic training education program worked with the physicians from the University of Nevada School of Medicine to provide athletes medical care at the finish line.

Business
Students Prep for $100,000 Business Plan Competition
Students across Nevada are preparing for the third annual Donald W. Reynolds Governor’s Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition to be held this spring in Reno. The competition encourages students to act on their entrepreneurial spirit and ideas while teaching them the process of creating a business. Participants compete for more than $100,000 in cash awards, including a $20,000 grand prize. In addition, the experience, exposure, and prestige that accompany participation make it an outstanding student opportunity: UNR, UNLV, and Sierra Nevada College have agreed to participate so far. The competition can serve as a catalyst for bringing higher education together with the business community.

The competition is open to all faculty-sponsored, full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at any of Nevada’s universities or colleges. Teams will fine-tune the art of brainstorming and crafting a business plan; gain access to networks of successful entrepreneurs, lenders, and investors; and provide in team-building opportunities.

The website www.unlv.edu/business_projects/bplan includes competition details and business plan resources as well as links to articles about this year’s efforts and follow-ups on past UNLV finalists.

Education
Campus Community Helps Homeless and Needy
Education students, staff, and faculty donated more than 90 blankets, 200 pairs of socks, more than 100 toiletry items, and a variety of hats, coats, and shoes to the nonprofit organization Straight from the Streets.

An organization that serves people of all ages who are homeless or at risk for homelessness, Straight from the Streets operates entirely on donations and with staff volunteers. Children make up nearly 25 percent of Southern Nevada’s homeless population. The college’s “Giving Project,” as it was called, was initiated by Patricia Markos, chair of counselor education. Marilyn Ford, assistant chair of curriculum and instruction, and her son, Max Ford Hecker, an eighth-grader at Becker Middle School, helped collect, sort, and distribute the donations.

Max, who is a member of the Junior National Honor Society, applied his participation toward the society’s community service requirement. The request for donations went out in late November and all items collected were distributed during the holiday season. The project received coverage in the local media and many non-UNLV individuals brought contributions to the college.

Library
Protect Your Privacy, Activate Your University Libraries PIN
Library patrons now need a personal information number (PIN) to perform self-check out and selected online functions. This new requirement began Jan. 29.

Activating a self-selected numeric PIN can be done online in seconds and offers privacy protection and reduces risk of identity theft. It also protects against someone checking out materials using your card and leaving you responsible for payment.

“The PIN is an important step in protecting both our patrons’ privacy and Libraries’ assets,” said Patricia Iannuzzi, dean of University Libraries. “People want and appreciate security measures and the technology is in place to make activating a PIN easy and fast. We’re expecting a virtually seamless transition to the PIN system.”

Your PIN is necessary for self-checkout and such online functions as renewing books, accessing your patron record, and placing holds on materials.

Staff will be available in person and by telephone or instant messaging for those requesting assistance in setting up a PIN. Your RebelCard ID will continue to be required for in-person checkout.

For more information, visit library.unlv.edu.

Fine Arts
Sandy Duncan Heads Glass Menagerie Cast
Sandy Duncan, star of stage and screen, will play Amanda in the Nevada Conservatory Theatre production of Tennessee Williams’ The Glass Menagerie this month.

Williams’ lyrical and powerful memory play tells the story of the Wingfield family — Tom, who is torn between his obligation to his family and his deep desire to escape; his domineering mother, Amanda, a faded, tragic remnant of Southern gentility; and his frail sister, Laura. The Glass Menagerie is one of the great masterpieces of American drama and winner of the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play.

Duncan is one of the most versatile stars. One of her memorable performances was as Missy Anne Reynolds in the groundbreaking ABC miniseries Roots (1977) for which she earned an Emmy Award. In 1970, she was named one of the “most promising faces of tomorrow” by Time magazine, and a year later starred in the television series Funny Face (later renamed The Sandy Duncan Show). Performances of The Glass Menagerie will be Feb. 9-18.

PAC February Offerings
The Performing Arts Center welcomes the Moscow Festival Ballet performing Swan Lake on Feb. 14 as part of the Charles Vanada Master Series. Leading dancers from across Russia form this company dedicated to staging new productions of timeless classics and led by legendary Bolshoi principal dancer Sergei Radchenko.

On Feb. 24 the Performing Arts Center New York Stage & Beyond Series presents Forbidden Broadway’s 25th Anniversary Celebration. The latest in a series of Broadway spoofs from the creators of Forbidden Vegas parodies the likes of Ethel Merman, Liza Minnelli, and Sarah Brightman.

For ticket information, call ext. 5-2787.

Crossing Campus
Signing on for a New Era
Manami Ishikawa, a junior education major, signs the last beam to be placed in the new student union during the topping-off ceremony. Members of the campus community were invited to make their signatures a permanent part of the new union.

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Graduate New Policy to Allow Greater GA Stipend Flexibility

To improve graduate assistant recruitment and retention, a new Graduate College policy will allow academic deans greater latitude in setting GA stipend levels.

Through the new policy, which will take effect in fall 2007, colleges and departments will still receive a set amount of funding for GAs, but they may choose to allocate that funding at varying levels, depending on their needs.

For example, an academic unit may now choose to award fewer assistantships but raise the stipend levels. They will also have the flexibility to set the duration of the assistantship at one, nine months, or 12 months.

However, a minimum stipend amount — $10,000 for master’s-level students and $12,000 for doctoral students on nine-month contracts — must still be paid to all graduate assistants.

“This new system is designed to give college deans and graduate programs much greater flexibility to disperse graduate assistantships in ways that are consistent with the unique needs and demands of particular disciplines,” said Kate Hausbeck, senior associate dean of the Graduate College. “Ideally, this will allow graduate programs to become more competitive and to recruit and retain outstanding graduate students. Nationally, some disciplines tend to pay higher stipend levels to graduate assistants, so it is important that UNLV has the flexibility to offer larger amounts with varying contract durations, as appropriate.”

Hausbeck said that faculty already have the ability to set extramurally-funded graduate assistant stipends at higher levels, provided that the stipend is written into the grant proposal or contract. Extramural funding sources may be used to fund GAs on summer stipends as well.

Hotel Industry Notables to be Recognized at Vallen Dinner

The college will recognize hospitality industry executives for their contributions to education at its third annual Vallen Dinner of Distinction on May 3 at the Mirage Hotel-Casino.

The college will honor Scott Sibella as Alumnus of the Year. Sibella, who graduated in 1988, is president and CEO of The Sibella, who graduated in 1988, is president and CEO of The Sibella as Alumnus of the Year. Sibella as Alumnus of the Year.

Recognized at Vallen Dinner is president and CEO of The Sibella as Alumnus of the Year. Sibella as Alumnus of the Year.

Garlic’s restaurants in Flagstaff, Ariz., since retirement, Weistrop, who has moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., since retirement, Weistrop, who has moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., since retirement.

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Law Students Touch Lives, Gain Experience

Now in its fourth year, the Immigration Clinic of the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic has represented clients from more than 25 countries in a wide variety of cases.

For example, at the request of a prosecutor, the clinic obtained legal status for an undocumented girl who helped the prosecution of a violent crime of which she was the victim. The clinic also represents victims of human trafficking, primarily those forced into labor, including a woman “sold” to a Las Vegas family for $3,000.

Clinical students overcome the deportation of a couple charged with having lost their lawful status for remaining outside the United States too long. The husband had suffered a massive heart attack while on vacation in his home country and his wife stayed with him to provide care. The clinic represented a 6-year-old girl who had been abandoned by her mother and diagnosed with cancer, permitting life-saving surgery. Another client is an airman posted at Nellis Air Force Base attempting to bring his wife and their children to the United States prior to his next deployment abroad.

During Vallen’s tenure, more than 2,400 students graduated from the college. To recognize Vallen’s dedication to the industry, the college has established an endowed professorship in his name. The professorship will bring distinct industry or educational leaders to the college.

For ticket information, call Judy Nagai at ext. 5-2934.

Law Students Touch Lives, Gain Experience

Liberal Arts

Professor Studies Factors Influencing Eating Disorders

Cortney S. Warren, a new assistant professor in psychology, has begun a collaborative effort with Valley High School to integrate eating disorder prevention and research into school health curriculum. After joining UNLV in the fall, Warren found almost no resources in the Clark County School District to prevent or treat eating disorders in local students.

The project will develop and test an interactive eating disorder prevention and positive body image promotion program among ethnically and racially diverse male and female teenagers.

Warren studies the influence of socio-cultural factors on eating disorders and body image. Eating disorders are among the most common yet serious psychological problems facing Americans today. Estimates suggest that about 5 percent of Americans will develop anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa during their lifetimes. Furthermore, eating disorders are associated with some of the highest mortality rates and most debilitating health consequences of any psychological disorder.

The development of eating disorders is strongly linked to Western socio-cultural values of appearance, which prescribe virtually unattainable physical ideals while stipulating that one’s appearance is central to their social value. In American media, for example, young thin females and muscular males with perfect skin, hair, and teeth, dominate fashion media. These images convey the message that attaining that appearance will guarantee social desirability. Although such advertising exists everywhere, they are particularly strong in local media, where billboards, club advertisements, and even work uniforms of hospitality employees communicate these values.

The name change was approved by the NSHE Academic Affairs Council in November and took effect Jan. 1.

Dean Ron Yasbin noted that the change is part of several faculty member initiatives. Last year they also created graduate programs in astronomy. The faculty has worked together to strengthen areas of expertise in physics, astronomy, and astrophysics, he said.

Professor emeritus Donna Weistroph, who has moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., since retirement, deserves special congratulations for determination and leadership as do professors Steve Lepp and Jim Belser for never giving up on these initiatives, the dean said.

> See ACROSS CAMPUS, Page 6
Spotlight On Accomplishments

ACROSS CAMPUS

Continued from Page 5

> Frances Ohman (Law Library) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for November. She is the librarian of the Law Library at UNLV. She has worked at UNLV for a year and a half.

> Yu Xu (Nursing) was the keynote speaker at the School of Nursing Research Day at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in Illinois. The title of her presentation was “Cultural Competence in Nursing Education, Practice, and Research.” Subsequently, she also made this presentation for the doctoral nursing program at the Saint Louis University School of Nursing. She was one of more than 20 invited speakers whose presentations were videotaped for current and future doctoral students.

> Susan Summers (English) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for November. She is the office manager of the English department. She serves on the Campus Community Campaign Committee for the Invent the Future campaign, coordinates the information-sharing sessions for administrative assistants, and heads the SNAker Patrol of lunchtime walkers. An administrative assistant IV, she has worked at UNLV for three years.

> James Woodbridge (Philosophy) co-authored (with Bradley Armstrong-Carab) a paper titled “The Pathology of Structural Validity,” which will appear in an upcoming issue of the international philosophy of science journal Synthese.

> Susan Thompson (International Programs) has been elected to the board of directors of NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The world’s largest professional association dedicated to international education, NAFSA has more than 10,000 members. The organization seeks to increase awareness of and support for international education and exchange in higher education, governments, and industry. The society’s mission is to encourage citizens with international experience and global awareness are crucial to U.S. leadership, competitiveness, and security. Thompson also is a recipient of the national Lilly von Klemperer award from NAFSA for her service and leadership in the field of international education.

> William Calder (Thomas & Mack) was named employee of the month in the custodial category for November. A facility supervisor II, he has worked at UNLV for 21 years this month.

> Michele Sanders (English Department) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for November. A teacher in the English Department, she performs a variety of duties, including handling travel reimbursement and managing graduate student registration. She came to UNLV in 2003 to work at the UNLV Foundation and later transferred to English.

> Keith Schwer (Center for Business and Economic Research) was awarded the Thayne Robson Award at the fall presentation for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) annual conference in Memphis, Tenn., in October. He is the recipient of the award honoring the late past president of AUBER. To be eligible for the award, the person must have been an AUBER member for 15 years; must have served on the AUBER board of directors in a leadership capacity; must have provided outstanding service to the organization; must have exhibited selfless, exceptional, and long-term commitment to the association; and must be an economic and public policy leader in their state.

> Michel Hugo (Film) has written Fell’s Threshold, a book of fiction based on historical events dealing with the treason and duplicity of several governments during and after World War II. Published by University of America, the book is available this month.

> Donald Faulkner (Facilities Maintenance) was named employee of the month in the technical/service category for November. A maintenance repair specialist, he keeps all the buildings watertight as part of the roof shop. He has worked at UNLV for 15 months.

> Genie Burkett and Steven Trinkle (Music) performed a series of six concerts for schools and libraries in the Reno area in November. The performances took place in Reno, Dayton-Traner, Verdi, North Valleys, Minden, and Fallon. The programs were funded by a grant from the Nevada Arts Council with assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts and private donors.

> Stephani Prenston, Eileen Wells, Donald Sims, and Laura Tramposh (Public Safety) recently were hired as UNLV police officers. Formerly was a mounted deputy with the Geauga County sheriff’s department in Cleveland for 10 years. Wells came to UNLV from a County sheriff’s department in Cleveland. She was a mounted deputy with the Geauga County sheriff’s department in Cleveland.

> Martin Dean Dupalo (Political Science) was recently awarded the Jefferson Award for public service locally for his continued efforts to assist in the local community. He was also nominated for a fifth year to serve on the city of Las Vegas Community Development Review Board, which evaluates non-profit organizations for block grant funding to meet the needs of the community.

> Robert Lucas (Custodial Services) was named classified employee of the month in the custodial category for December. A custodial worker II, he has worked at UNLV since April 1991.

> Tara M. Emmers-Sommer (Communication Studies) is first author of the conference paper, “Do Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors Seriously Date Individuals?” That was presented at the International Communication Association conference in Clearwater Beach, Fla., was held at the association’s annual conference in Memphis, Tenn., in May.

> John Massengale (Kinesiology) is the 2007 recipient of the Scholar Award from the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education. The award ceremony was held at the association’s annual conference in Clearwater Beach, where he also presented a paper titled “Kinesiology and Physical Education Development in University Tables of Organization.”

> Kim Hobbs (Theatre) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for December. An administrative assistant III, she serves as executive secretary for the department chair and to the Nevada Conservatory Theatre. She has worked at UNLV for 10 years.

> Marion Ledwig (Philosophy) wrote “Common Knowledge in Game Theory,” which was recently published in The International Journal of Knowledge, Culture, and Change Management. She is also the author of the book Common Sense: Its History, Method, and Applicability. (Peter Lang, New York, 2007).

> Patricia Iannuzzi (Libraries) delivered the keynote address, “Changing Learning, Changing Roles: It Takes a Village,” at the fifth Information Literacy Conference at the Universidad Autonomo de Chihuahua in Juarez, Mexico, in October. The international event was sponsored by the University of Juarez and the U.S. Consulate. The theme was Assessment and Evaluation: Key Elements to Information Literacy Programs. Topics included initiatives under way in Latin America and Europe, specifically, the “Bologna Process.” For more information, visit www.unesco.org/iaulib/bologna_process/index.html.

> Erika Engstrom (Communication Studies) is co-author of “Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Bride: Portrayals of Women of Color in Bridal Magazines,” with Cynthia Frisby (University of Missouri, Columbia), which appeared in the fall issue of Media Report to Women. The study was the subject of a Dec. 11 article in the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

> Karl Kingley (Dental Medicine) is lead author of the article “Transfection of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma with Human Papillomavirus-16 Induces Proinflammatory and Morphological Changes in Vitro,” published in the May issue of Cancer Cell International.

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

Editor: Diane Russell, diane.russell@unlv.edu

Writers: Lori Bachand, Diane Russell, diane.russell@unlv.edu

Photographers: Lori Bachand, Arden Mayes

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UNLV is an AA/EEO Institution.
Nora Langendorf, 
Student Enrollment Services

I met my husband, J.B., at an ice cream social held by Inter Varsity here on campus in 1995 at the old Moyer Student Union. We struck up a conversation and found that we had a lot in common. We both served in the military (me Navy, him Air Force) before deciding to matriculate at UNLV. I had already graduated in 1994 and returned to my college family after teaching for a year in Budapest, Hungary. My hubby-to-be was a student in the engineering program at the time. Our first official date was at a football game on Sept. 29 of that year (UNLV vs. Hawaii) and the rest is history.

We married three years later in 1998 and he continues to be my very best friend. UNLV has played a very integral part of our lives as we still keep in touch with lifelong friends we met here. Although J.B. did not finish his degree at UNLV, he is a proud supporter along with me as a lifetime member of the UNLV Alumni Association. I am a ‘triple’ Rebel as I work at the Carlson Education Building, for data, voice, and video communications. UNLV fulltime and completed both my undergraduate and graduate degrees here. UNLV will always have a special place in our hearts and we will forever be Rebels.

Tech Savvy

Overhaulin’

CEB to Get Top-Notch Network Capabilities

By Mamie Peers | OT

It will raise a lot of dust, but when it’s done, it will be worth it.

The “it” is the total overhaul of the network infrastructure in the Carlson Education Building. The project, which began last spring, is set to be completed late this semester, state-of-the-art technology will enable professors in the building to explore new supporting environments for research, teaching, and collaboration that the existing infrastructure can’t provide, said David Peers, manager of network development and engineering in the department of curriculum and instruction.

The bad news is that temporarily CEB — or any part of it — will experience disruption. Crews will move through the building systematically, taking down computer capabilities on one floor or one section of a floor at a time.

The crews will remove old cable and then drill four-inch holes in the cinderblock walls to accommodate the new cables and wiring between floors. The existing network does not meet accepted network architecture, cabling, and equipment standards necessary to support current and future demands for data, voice, and video communications.

“We can handle it,” Greg Levitt, chair of the department of curriculum and instruction, said of the project with its attendant inconvenience. “Last year we provided a temporary solution to remove asbestos. When construction means we’ll have a safer place, or, in this case, a better connection to the community, we’re ready to bear the dust and drilling.”

Getting Rid of the Old

There’s no way to avoid some inconvenience during the massive project, which is expected to cost about $850,000, according to OTF folks.

“The conduit is clogged with six different cables, representing every era of networking standards,” said Andrew Gloy, senior network engineer. He also noted that the current network equipment cannot be monitored remotely, a condition that delays technicians’ response to problems.

Upgrade is needed. Two and a half months ago when Gray toured CEB’s halls, surveying those who work in the building to determine how each space was utilized, he estimated a number of network drops (1,344), the amount of electrical power needed, and the potential for disruption in every inch of the building.

Next, he outlined the best locations for data closets, the rooms that hold all the hardware and become the main arteries where all fibers connect. The upgrade reduces the number of these closets from six to two. Having fewer data closets will make them easier to manage, maintain, and secure, said Gray.

Also, OT staff collected a list of scheduled events from the Education College in order to minimize disruption. Clark County teacher testing is hosted in CEB, for example, and the sound of a screw dropping to the floor could disrupt the environment. Project plans include reserving clean, quiet spaces for critical activities.

CEB also will be converted to IP telephony, becoming the second building on campus to be entirely converted to the technology in which the data network is used for telephone calls rather than using traditional phone lines. The new student union was the first.

Levitt said, “We look forward to May 2007 when CEB will be ahead of something. We envision a time when our students create lesson plans here on campus, and then access the files from classrooms in the Clark County School District.

“We would also like our professors to be near each other in the same building,” he said. “Collaboration is extremely important for all research and outreach communities, including ours.”

Sparks Flew in More Than One Sense

Sunny Gittens, Orientation and University Programs

I was fortunate to meet my wife, Teagan, on campus. His Company, Advanced Entertainment Services, provides the pyrotechnics during Rebel basketball and football games. In August 1999, I hired Tom to provide the fireworks at Premier UNLV. Throughout the process of setting up the show we flirted on the phone. When the event was over, Tom came to campus to pick up a copy of the commemorative photograph.

It was the end of the workday so of course we went out to dinner. You can say the sparks were flying, We were married in November 2002, have a 2-year-old daughter, and are expecting our second daughter in May. Seven years later Tom is still doing the fireworks at Premier. We celebrate our anniversary at this event each year.

Eugene Moehring and Christine Wiatrowski

From Microforms to Marriage

Christine Wiatrowski, Lied Library

I first met Gene on the third floor of the old library where I was working in the periodicals/ microforms area. He was hunched over one of the old microfilm readers doing research. The old readers looked like a huge box and he was embedded in the depth of one, trying to read the microfilm. He didn’t really look up much, so I intruded and introduced myself as the new person in charge of microforms. I think he would call him by his first name. I think that he was a little taken aback but he said that it would be OK. I found out much later that he was nocturnal and spent considerable amounts of time at the microforms machines in the late evening.

Since I worked days, our paths rarely crossed.

(At occasional university functions) we engaged modestly in “small talk” about the library. I still didn’t see him much until the early 1990s when the history department bought the library more than a half million dollars in materials, primarily microforms. He was department chair at the time and would occasionally come to the library to discuss the collection. Because he was very concerned that the new microform resources would be difficult for students to find, I worked on several access tools to help them. This process took a lot of time and effort. Appreciative of the work I had done, he took me to lunch. It was still all business.

Eventually he would come to the library, close to the time he knew I was getting off work, and walk me to my car. We were so busy with kids that we would go out for big Mac and fries (his and mine) and Christmas lunch for a few years. We enjoyed each other’s sense of humor. We started talking about marriage and on Oct. 1, 2000, tied the knot. He still makes me laugh.

Opposites Attract When Business Meets Art

Paul Blomsky, Distance Education

I met my wife, Heather, at UNLV. I was getting my master’s degree and I worked as a graduate assistant for the Business College at the Nevada Small Business Development Center, where I helped people who wanted to start a business. Heather came to me with an idea. It was not a great idea, but I spent lots of time helping her out just to get to know her more. She is an artist and was looking to make money creating unique pieces of pottery for urns for family pets. Her idea did not amount to much but our relationship sure did! We were married in June 2006.

Blind Date on Valentine’s Day?

Tiffany Schmier, College of Education

I met Jeff in Tonopah Hall back in 2001 when I was a freshman. He lived on the second floor and I lived on the third. We were set up on a blind date on Valentine’s Day by his suitemate. I almost chickened out and did not go. I mean it was a blind date! He could have been scary, ugly, etc. All I could think is, “What am I getting myself into?” How different my life would be now, though, if I hadn’t gone.

Who would have thought this Vegas girl would meet her Montana-born sweetheart at UNLV? Four years later we were married and are expecting our first baby in July.

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Who would have thought this Vegas girl would meet her Montana-born sweetheart at UNLV? Four years later we were married and are expecting our first baby in July.
Comfort Zones

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

When you need to take a break for a few minutes to refresh your mind, where do you go?

Readers cited a number of spots from the rock and mineral display inside Lilly Fong Geoscience to a walkway leading from the area of the Bennett Professional Development Center up to a ridge near the soccer fields. That latter spot, according to campus life admin assistant Cy Vogt, always provides “a splendid view of the sky.”

Other picks included:

The North-South Academic Mall between FDH and Ham Fine Arts
“The area provides shade on a hot summer day, explodes with color in the fall, glisters with the unfolding of new leaves in the spring, and lends sanctuary to the birds all year long. To me, it is absolutely the most peaceful area on campus and gives me a quiet respite in an all too-busy day.”

— Susan Summers, admin assistant in the English department

The Grove of Trees in front of the Beam Engineering Complex
“It combines two things I look for when I need a break — a shady green space and pizza.”

— Susan Jones, research associate in the landscape architecture and planning program

Tam Alumni Courtyard
“Because it’s always pretty quiet and almost always shady and cool, the benches in front of Tam Alumni Center facing the mall.”

— Roberta “Bobbie” Studwell, professor and Law Library director

The Book-N-Bean
“I can look out the window and see students walking by, and it’s near the library — another one of my favorite spots on campus.”

— Sabrina Tindal, wellness educator with student wellness

The Xeric Garden
“The combination of colorful, flowering, drought-tolerant plants, rambling paths, and the birds attracted by the flowers and plant cover make this a great place to stroll, take a couple of breaths and unwind for a few minutes.”

— Michelle Baker, program coordinator in educational outreach