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Inside UNLV

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Do’s and Don’ts for the Election Season

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

As political debate heats up in Nevada, don’t get yourself into hot water on campus. The university must comply with systemwide policies on political activity.

Because UNLV is a public institution, the policies were developed to ensure the university remains neutral toward candidates. “The most important thing to keep in mind is that UNLV does not endorse any candidate or any ballot measure,” said Dave Tonelli, interim director of public affairs. “We have to be careful to treat all candidates in the same manner.”

Using Campus Space

Candidates for public office or campaign organizations must pay the full commercial rate to rent UNLV facilities. The university has set procedures and prices for renting space for such political events.

Kelsey Finn, assistant director of the Division of Student Life, handles the rental of a number of prime campus locations, including the student union, Alumni Amphitheater.

Tunnel of Oppression

The office of student diversity programs and services is hosting the Tunnel of Oppression from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. March 6-8 at the Faiman Residence Hall, Upperclass Complex.

Started in 2002, the Tunnel of Oppression is an interactive exhibit that provides participants with an opportunity to explore multiple dimensions of oppression and its impact on society. This year’s exhibit is divided into five sections exploring the following issues:

• Censorship
• Education
• Abuse of children
• Hate Crimes
• Sweatshops

More Info: Contact Randy McCrillis at ext. 5-5624.

Campus Happenings

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Readers Respond

Articles related to human resources seem to resonate with Inside UNLV readers.

Respondents to our monthly readers’ poll rated the story about getting the most out of your health plan and avoiding some common mistakes at the top.

Respondents also gave high marks to the story about overhauling the Carlson Education Building with top-notch network capabilities. In an open-ended question asking about technology-related issues, respondents indicated they would like more information about podcasting and virtual classrooms as well as how to best utilize Lotus Notes.

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

Midtown Momentum

Redevelopment Project Seeks to Create Community Destination

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Easy access to work, shopping, education, and entertainment — sounds like a master-planned community. Well, it is — only better. Midtown UNLV is envisioned to have these lifestyle conveniences with the added touch of an integrated university.

Midtown UNLV supporters want to create a university district by revitalizing the Maryland Parkway corridor that serves as the “front door” to the university. By collaborating with private developers, the university’s business and residential neighbors, and other public sector groups, including the Clark County Commission, university officials hope to create a vibrant neighborhood with retail, housing, mass transit, and entertainment venues that complement the academic resources on campus.

More Inside:

> President Ashley discusses Midtown

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Making Maryland Parkway more pedestrian-friendly is one facet of the Midtown UNLV project. Supporters want a setting that would encourage people to visit both campus and businesses on the other side of the street.

Breaking Ground

On the UNLV side of Maryland, some projects that tie in with the Midtown UNLV concept are already under way, including the new student union and Greenspun Hall. The projects bring the campus closer to Maryland and have sidewalk and landscaping features that enhance the pedestrian experience.

The university plans to demolish Frazier Hall to create a gateway to campus, said Gerry Bomotti, vice president for business and finance. The demolition of Frazier was called for in UNLV’s master plan even before the Midtown UNLV concept was developed.

Projects on university property are paid for by UNLV means: capital improvement programs, state funding, donor funding, bonding, or other finance mechanisms. The east side of Maryland will be funded by the private sector. The streetscape and road infrastructure projects likely will be paid with public and private funding because it is a common benefit, said David Frommer, assistant director of planning.

The Vista Group has been the most active private developer involved in the Midtown project, but the plan is to expand those private sector partners, Frommer said. The Vista Group and America Nevada Corporation own the University Park apartments north of Cottage

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Potential streetscape — university district at Maryland Parkway.

What Midtown Means to Us

Open houses and media coverage have focused new attention on Midtown UNLV, a project to revitalize Maryland Parkway (see story, Page 1). Inside UNLV sat down with President David Ashley to discuss what this effort means to the university.

Why should the university support this project?
First, this will enhance the student experience outside the classroom. We must offer students an engaging campus culture that encourages them to stay during all those hours they are not in class.

As Midtown UNLV progresses, I have no doubt that more of our students will take advantage of campus life activities and some will choose to live nearby.

Second, I believe Midtown UNLV will help us attract and retain exceptional employees. There are many great reasons why faculty and staff find the university a desirable place to work and teach; creating a lively university district will only add to these reasons.

Finally, by collaborating with local developers, we hope to revitalize the area around the university and create a distinct neighborhood in Las Vegas — a university district. This will further expose the Southern Nevada community to the rich cultural resources we offer.

Why is UNLV working with private developers on this project?
Public-private partnerships are not uncommon on college campuses. Several other universities, including Arizona State, Ohio State, and Georgia Tech, provide examples of this kind of transformation. We are collaborating with the developers on the other side of the street because we have the same goal — to produce a vibrant university district. It simply can’t happen without an intense coordination of efforts.

As a construction engineer, you’ve worked with many large-scale projects. Does this one seem a long way off from reality to you?
Not at all. On the campus side of Maryland Parkway in the next two years, the student union and Greenspun Hall will shift the project from vision into reality. While the full maturation of Midtown will take perhaps a decade, the scale is perfectly reasonable.

Any sort of change brings concern. What feedback have you received from the community?
Overall, the vision for Midtown UNLV is being applauded. Reservations come from those concerned about traffic. Neighbors are concerned about the project pushing traffic onto residential streets, while people who don’t live nearby but use Maryland Parkway as a thoroughfare want to make sure they have an easy way to get through this part of town. We are sensitive to this issue because aggravating traffic is a block or two over would be counterproductive to the primary goal of creating an inviting destination.

Careful planning is key to our success. We are working with neighborhood organizations and have conducted open houses to discuss these issues. This spring we also will invite consultants from the Urban Land Institute to independently evaluate the project. Their experts will take a fresh look at our plans to identify any areas that don’t seem in alignment with our goals.

Here’s What You Said
Open houses for both the community and faculty and staff were recently held to showcase what Midtown UNLV has to offer and to gather feedback from university employees and community members.

Overall, attendees supported the Midtown UNLV concept. Some expressed concern, particularly about traffic and parking issues, the impact of changes on the neighborhood, and the preservation of UNLV’s history through its buildings. Attendees also said they would like to be kept informed of Midtown development.

Here is some feedback from the open house:

I would like to see more inexpensive student housing around campus. Students tend to lack the full “college” experience when they have to commute 15-20 minutes to school. It is hard to get them back for programs, too.

Donovan Nichols
Student Involvement and Activities

I like the idea of developing a community-oriented destination affiliated with the school. I grew up going to Westwood (Calif.) where UCLA is located. The creation of a space, in partnership with a university, helps “welcome” people into the university community, which is a very good thing.

Stacey Hardy-Desmond
School of Social Work

Potential streetscape — university district at Maryland Parkway.

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Stacey Hardy-Desmond
School of Social Work
Karen West Set to Start April 1

By Grace Russell | Marketing & PR

When it comes to challenges, Dr. Karen P. West says she doesn’t back down — that includes leading a young dental school and braving the Las Vegas heat. The native Kentuckian will leave the dewy South to take the reins as dean of the UNLV School of Dental Medicine beginning April 1.

Currently, West serves as the associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry.

The strong national reputations of dental school faculty attracted West to UNLV. “The fact that (faculty members) were willing to come to a school as it is building makes them change agents and innovators — just the type of group that I want to work with.”

Opportunities Exist

Here, West doesn’t expect to find the obstacles to growth found at well-established institutions. “The things that are challenges are also opportunities,” she said. “The fact that the dental school is new just means that we have a lot of work to do in the future.”

Established in 2002, the school moved to its current location at Shadow Lane in 2004. In addition to its dental education curriculum, the school provides affordable dental services to Nevada citizens — many of whom live in rural areas and are Medicaid patients. Since opening its clinics to the public in 2004, the school has had more than 150,000 patient visits. Through the Shadow Lane clinic and community outreach programs, such as Crackdown on Cancer, many Nevadans are receiving oral health care that they might not have otherwise received.

“Oral health care is still considered a luxury or optional by a large number of people today,” said West. “As a result, it is still a major health issue in our country. In fact, not a lot has changed since the U.S. Surgeon General’s ‘Report on Oral Health’ in 2000, which stated that ‘If you don’t have good oral health, you aren’t healthy.’ This is true for Nevadans as well.”

Serving the Community

In addition to the lack of access to dental services, there is also a national shortage of dental educators, said West. She hopes to help rectify that problem by encouraging UNLV dental graduates to consider careers in academics as well as private practice. With the school’s second class about to graduate, she is looking forward to building alumni relations and developing research and advanced education programs. A public health dentist by training, she is passionate about serving the community and will explore ways to engage students in more outreach activities.

“The dental school has a tremendous amount to contribute to the state through its graduates, patient care, service, and research activities,” West said. “By working in conjunction with the practicing community, great strides in improving the oral health status of Nevadans can be accomplished.”

As dean, one of her first tasks will be to oversee the completion of the school’s new education building. Scheduled for completion this fall, the new facility will house the current orthodontic specialty program, along with specialty programs in pediatric dentistry, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and periodontics. When she is not at the Shadow Lane campus, West says that you will find her on the tennis court and taking care of her two teenage daughters, who are understandably a bit apprehensive about moving so far away from friends and familiar surroundings. However, she is confident that they will soon be excited about all that’s happening with their mom and in their new community.

One thing that West said she has already adapted to is the heat in Las Vegas during the summer. “I came to Vegas for the first time in August for my interview,” said West. “I have experienced the ‘dry heat’ — so I know what to expect.”

Preparing to Move

Before West makes her big move, she will help prepare someone for her current position in Kentucky. West has been with the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry for 17 years and felt that she owed the college the transition period.

“I have been at Kentucky so long that a lot of things are in my memory, but not on paper,” she said.

West has served as associate dean for academic affairs at the college for the past nine years. However, she said that being appointed dean here has been her biggest accomplishment to date. “This is something I always wanted to do since beginning my administrative duties as an associate dean. Hopefully, in the future, I can say that my biggest accomplishment was that I had a successful tenure at UNLV.”

About Karen West

Education

• Doctor of Dental Medicine, University of Louisville
• General Practice Residency, Medical College of Georgia
• Master of Public Health in Health Administration, University of South Carolina
• Executive Leadership Fellowship in Academic Medicine Fellowship

Family

• Husband Glenn, a professor in health studies, kinesiology, and health promotion at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Ky.; two teenage daughters, Sarah and Abby

Hobbies

• Tennis, travel, and reading
**Business**

**Student Marketing Group Competes in National Competition**

UNLV’s student chapter of the American Marketing Association (AMA) will be one of eight groups competing in the AMA International Case Competition in New Orleans on March 29. They will compete for prizes totaling $7,000, including a $3,000 grand prize during the AMA’s 29th annual International Collegiate Conference. The AMA challenged the student teams to write marketing plans with the goal of increasing tourism in the New Orleans area.

Student chapters at 55 schools entered the competition. In addition to the UNLV chapter, the other chapters selected as finalists are from:

- UNR
- British Columbia Institute of Technology
- Loyola University-New Orleans
- Texas State University San Marcos
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- Western Michigan University.

The team’s trip to New Orleans will be supported through donations made to the College of Business through the Rebel Ring Phoneathon. UNLV’s AMA chapter is open to students of all majors. It gives students the opportunity to network with professionals and provides assistance in professional development. The student chapter works closely with the Las Vegas AMA professional chapter.

**Education**

**Literacy Development Center Receives Donation**

An open house celebrating the renaming and renovation of the college’s literacy center is set for 6-8 p.m. April 13 at the center, Carlson Education Building, Room 141.

The center has been renamed the Gayle A. Zeiter Literacy Development Center following a substantial donation from Zeiter’s family trust. The donation was made to honor her contributions to the teaching profession.

The celebration will feature internationally renowned children’s and young adult authors Eve Bunting and Ralph Fletcher. The center’s primary initiatives are to:

- develop a more extensive family literacy program
- continue the Distinguished Scholar in Literacy lecture series under Zeiter’s name
- establish the Southern Nevada Literacy Collaborative.

The collaborative began in fall 2006 to help teachers across Nevada become literacy leaders and more effective classroom teachers. Through contributions from the Zeiter Foundation, it offers a series of one-day workshops and other professional development opportunities featuring local, national, and international speakers. With support from the Zeiter Foundation, the Literacy Development Center also:

- expanded tutoring services for elementary students in the Clark County School District.
- established a literacy education mini-grant program to provide instructional support for Nevada teachers and UNLV students.

**Fine Arts**

**March Fine Arts Offerings**

The UNLV Performing Arts Center’s Charles Vanda Master Series welcomes violinist Sarah Chang, one of classical music’s most captivating and gifted performers, March 2. Chang appears with the UNLV Symphony Orchestra.

On March 22, violinist and conductor Joshua Bell will perform with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, also as part of the Charles Vanda Master Series. One of People magazine’s 50 Most Beautiful in the year 2000, this virtuoso violinist debuted at a mere 14 years of age with the Philadelphia Orchestra. The program includes Brahms’ String Quartet No. 2 and Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons.

The UNLV Performing Arts Center New York Stage & Beyond Series presents the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet on March 30. These 11 classically trained dancers will perform an eclectic repertory by some of the world’s foremost choreographers, including Twyla Tharp and David Parsons.

**Graduate**

**GA Policy Changes Offer Flexibility to Departments**

To better meet the needs of graduate students, faculty, and staff, the college is making two policy changes regarding graduate assistantships.

First, students who are provisionally admitted to a graduate program and are eligible for assistantships when recommended and appointed by their graduate coordinators. This change will give greater flexibility to graduate programs and departments.

If a provisional graduate student receives assistantship funding, that student must meet the provisional requirements within one academic year to remain eligible for the assistantship and to continue in the academic program.

The second policy change calls for more specific designations of graduate assistant (GA) duties to ensure that graduate assistants are being employed in positions that further their professional development and academic endeavors.

Beginning this summer, all graduate assistants will be categorized in university records as either a “graduate research assistant” (GRA) or “graduate teaching assistant” (GTA) instead of the generic label of “graduate assistant.”

“These changes are part of a broader package of policies and programs that are being established within the Graduate College to better meet the needs of the campus community and promote excellence in graduate education,” said Kate Hausbeck, senior associate dean of the college. “These specific policies are designed to maximize financial support to graduate students and to mobilize this support to the greatest benefit of our graduate students and graduate programs.”

**Law**

**School Continues to Attract Prominent Speakers**

In March, the Boyd School of Law will continue its tradition of bringing nationally known legal scholars to campus to lecture.

Constitutional scholar Michael Gerhardt of the University of North Carolina will speak on “Non-Judicial Precedents” on March 8. Then on March 30, legal ethicist Ted Schneyer of the University of Arizona will deliver a paper on American Bar Association responses to federal efforts to regulate the practice of law.
Prominent employment law scholar Vicki Schultz of Yale University will close out the semester with a presentation April 22. This semester’s lectures started with professor Geoffrey Stone from the University of Chicago delivering the third annual Philip Pro Lecture, “Civil Liberties in Wartime,” to a packed house in February. The Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution recently sponsored visits by professors Robert Rhee of Washburn University and Michael Moffitt of the University of Oregon. Rhee spoke on “The Impact of Risk on the Value of a Case,” while Moffitt spoke on “Customized Litigation: The Case for Making Civil Procedure Negotiable.”

Well-known feminist legal scholar Elizabeth Schneider of Brooklyn Law School spoke in February on “The Dangers of Summmary Judgment: Gender and Federal Civil Litigation.”

More info: Call Judy Canter Meyerson at ext. 5-2486.

Liberal Arts

Polt Sci Lends Resources to School District

The political science department is partnering with the Clark County School District (CCSD) in a variety of scholarly activities. Among those activities are:

• a graduate assistantship in the CCSD’s Research and School Improvement Division, funded by a long-term grant from the district.

• a research project examining the effectiveness of the school improvement plans mandated by the state and by the No Child Left Behind Act. Funded by the district, this project began in 2006 and has been extended for another year. Assistant professor Kenneth Fernandez heads this effort.

Fernandez is also a member of a CCSD research review committee that considers all internal and external applications seeking approval to conduct research within the district. Fernandez and political science department chair Mehran Tamadonfar are members of the Counsel for Accelerating Student Achievement (CASA), a collaborative organization with members from the school district, CCSD, DRI, Nevada Department of Education, NSC, and UNLV. The council discusses research and policies to promote academic achievement in K-12 schools. Tamadonfar is working with CASA to incorporate an international component into the district’s social science curriculum.

Libraries

“Showgirls’ Show Their Stuff in Digital Collection

University Libraries recently launched its newest digital project “Showgirls” at www.library.unlv.edu/showgirls. The fully searchable collection features more than 200 items from seven collections.

“No other cultural icon epitomizes Las Vegas like the Las Vegas showgirl and the theatrical productions that exemplified her,” said Peter Michel, special collections director.

Using the Libraries’ unique special collections of costume design drawings, illustrations, and photographs, this digital collection documents the history of the Las Vegas show and its producers — from the night-club dance lines in the modest showrooms of the early hotels to the high-tech amphitheaters of today’s Strip. As colorful back-drop tableaux for Frank Sinatra or as kinetic parodies of nouveau riche, the showgirl has become synonymous with extravagant costumes, extreme in their fashion and in their setting of the female body, Michel said.

“Showgirls” features unique drawings and photographs from Donn Arden, producer of Lido and Jubilee, and from the Sands Hotel collection, including rare photos of a young Frank Sinatra rehearsing with the famous Copa Girls in a Las Vegas revival of the original Ziegfeld Follies.

More info: Contact Peter Michel at peter.michel@unlv.edu.

Science

Undergraduate Research Gets Boost from NSF Grant

A 10-week summer research program in environmental microbiology will be available to undergraduates starting this summer thanks to a $229,637 National Science Foundation grant.

A research experience for undergraduates site program will be offered in partnership with DRI for three years. Students from across the country will collaborate with faculty mentors in developing and carrying out hypothesis-based projects on microorganisms from diverse habitats such as hot springs, the deep terrestrial subsurface, hypersaline lakes, arid soils, and ephemeral water sources.

Students also may choose to explore the mechanisms of magnetotaxis, microbial adaptation to stressful and non-host environments, or the dynamics between primary producers and consumers.

All students will receive training in current molecular techniques and the ethics of science, and they will participate in weekly discussions on their projects.

Assistant professors Kurt Regner (principal investigator) and Eduardo Robleto (co-principal investigator) of the School of Life Sciences are leading this effort.

At the conclusion of the program, students will present their research results at a science colloquium. In addition, all students will be encouraged to present their research at a regional or national conference. Students will receive a stipend, housing and meals, and a travel subsidy.

First-generation college students and members of an underrepresented group are strongly encouraged to apply.

Among the goals of the program are:

• providing a capstone experience to highly motivated undergraduates.

• generating data and developing molecular tools that will be available to the broader scientific community.

• advancing graduate student recruitment in the area of microbiology.

• raising awareness of the delicate ecosystems of the Southwest.

Urban Affairs

Emotionally Disturbed Children Subject of New Study

This spring, the Center for Social Work Research and Public Service in the School of Social Work, along with the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, and the University of Washington School of Medicine, will launch a major study of emotionally disturbed children. In this pilot study being conducted in Clark County, the researchers examine the short-term outcomes of traditional case management versus the wrap-around model, an approach that combines treatment by both interdisciplinary practitioners who work with a child’s family and by community-based programs.

“Outcomes of the Wraparound Service Model” is the first randomized study of the effectiveness of the wrap-around process for children with serious mental health problems and emotional disturbances.

UNLV social work faculty and research staff, including Ramona Dentsy Brimson, Matt Gyger, and Stacey Shipe, are partnering with a research team led by Eric Bruns at the University of Washington School of Medicine in this study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

The study follows one of the guiding principles of the school and center: to engage in collaborative partnerships with local social and human service agencies, lending faculty expertise to address the needs of the community.

Across Campus

Star Struck

The performing arts department has a new name — the department of physics and astronomy. Last year, graduate programs in astronomy were approved. Professor George Rhee, above, is interested in cosmology and dark matter. He makes use of observations made with radio and optical telescopes to test current theories of how galaxies such as our Milky Way Galaxy came into existence.

Federal Civil Litigation.


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Urban Affairs

Emotionally Disturbed Children Subject of New Study

This spring, the Center for Social Work Research and Public Service in the School of Social Work, along with the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, and the University of Washington School of Medicine, will launch a major study of emotionally disturbed children. In this pilot study being conducted in Clark County, the researchers examine the short-term outcomes of traditional case management versus the wrap-around model, an approach that combines treatment by both interdisciplinary practitioners who work with a child’s family and by community-based programs.

“Outcomes of the Wraparound Service Model” is the first randomized study of the effectiveness of the wrap-around process for children with serious mental health problems and emotional disturbances.

UNLV social work faculty and research staff, including Ramona Dentsy Brimson, Matt Gyger, and Stacey Shipe, are partnering with a research team led by Eric Bruns at the University of Washington School of Medicine in this study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

The study follows one of the guiding principles of the school and center: to engage in collaborative partnerships with local social and human service agencies, lending faculty expertise to address the needs of the community.
Spotlight On Accomplishments

> **Marcos A. Cheney** (Health Physics) was elected to serve as chair-elect 2007 for the Southern Nevada section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), which is one of the largest organizations in the world. He will serve as chair in 2008. This year, he and his colleagues will organize and host the Western regional meeting of ACS in Las Vegas under his leadership. He said his role will help enhance the visibility and the prestige of the university.

> **Patty Green** (Campus Life Facilities) was named classified employee of the month in the custodial category for January. A custodial worker II, she has worked at UNLV since 2002.

> **Jorge Grossmann** (Music) received the Jacob Druckman Award for Orchestrational Composition from the Aspen Music Festival. The festival’s artistic director David Zinman selected Grossmann’s piece Pasiphae as the winner of this year’s award. The piece will be performed at the Benedict Music Tent this summer for an audience averaging 2,000 attendees.

> **Leslie Huska** (Nutrition Science) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for January. She works with the budget, assists students, manages the nutrition office, and helps with the clinical laboratory sciences office. An administrative assistant III, she previously worked in the nursing office. She has worked at UNLV for three years.

> **Karl Kingsley** (Dental Medicine) is lead author of the article “Creating an Evidence-Based Admissions Formula for a New Dental School, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas — School of Dental Medicine”, which will be published in the April issue of the Journal of Dental Education.

> **Douglas R. Peterson** (Music, Emeritus) recently was named one of five “local heroes” at the Bank of America’s Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards ceremony at the Stratosphere Hotel. Awards were based on each recipient’s commitment to the growth and vitality of Las Vegas. Peterson has served as music director and CEO of the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society for 39 years. He received a $5,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, which he donated to the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society.

> **Jennifer Dansereau** (Dental Medicine) was named classified employee of the month in the technical service category for January. A dental assistant III, she works with patient accounts, handling billing and insurance. She has worked at UNLV for three years.

> **Doris Berry** (Public Safety) has been promoted to the position of budget manager for the budget and business affairs unit. In addition to managing the department’s budget, her responsibilities include supervising the unit’s personnel and financial operations, including payroll, travel, leave keeping, accounts payable, and accounts receivable.

> **Patricia Bighem** (Counseling Education) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for January. An administrative assistant II, she assists with admissions for the graduate program, serves as office manager, and works with the budget. A UNLV employee since 2001, she presently and almuni in the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic, in the School of Social Work, and in the Graduate College. She is pursing a degree in counseling education.

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**Invent the Future**

Longtime Fundraiser Takes Helm at Foundation

**Campaign Top Priority for Nancy Strouse**

By Lisa Shawcroft | UNLV Foundation

Raising $163 million in less than two years might seem like an impossible goal, but not to Nancy Strouse, UNLV’s new chief fundraiser.

Strouse, who joined the UNLV Foundation in 2004, replaces John Gallagher, who retired in December. Strouse also will continue to serve as the senior associate vice president for development.

“I am pleased to accept this opportunity and eager to lead the development efforts,” Strouse said.

**Taking the Reins**

In her new role, she is in charge of leading 45 professional and support personnel in annual fundraising efforts, as well as heading the Invent the Future campaign. Since the launch of the campaign five years ago, more than $307 million of the $500 million goal has been raised. The campaign closes at the end of next year.

“ar biggest challenge will be the management of the activities we will be undertaking in the coming two years,” Strouse said. “But even with this increased activity, we cannot lose sight of our goal of the successful completion of the campaign.”

**Nancy Strouse recently was appointed to head the UNLV Foundation. She has worked in the advancement management field for more than 20 years.**

Strouse’s background includes more than 20 years of experience in advancement management. Advancement takes a multi-disciplinary approach — combining alumni relations, development, and communications — to how a university reaches out to the community.

UNLV President David Ashley is leading an effort to move the university toward the advancement model, and Strouse will be part of the management team.

“Nancy has my full faith and support moving forward,” Ashley said. Before coming to UNLV, Strouse was senior director of development and alumni relations at California Lutheran University. She also worked there at her alma mater, Pepperdine University, as the director of advancement.

As the Invent the Future campaign rolls along, Strouse said the university should be proud of what it has accomplished, but she noted there is still a long way to go.

**College Priorities**

“Our focus over the next 22 months will be on the priorities of the colleges and units across campus and working with their leadership to achieve their fundraising goals,” she said.

As a fundraiser, Strouse is very familiar with the generosity of donors, but she recently found herself on the receiving end of an outpouring of goodwill from the fundraisers she oversees and the campus community.

Just days after she was tapped to lead the foundation late last year, she developed a life-threatening infection and was in intensive care for several days. She credits her foundation colleagues for getting her to the hospital in time, connecting her family, and lending support as she recovered.

“Through this difficult time, I was able to experience first hand the generosity of our campus and community,” Strouse said.

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At the recent Bronze Quill ceremony hosted by the Southern Nevada chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators, a number of UNLV employees received awards, including the coveted Bronze Quill. They are:

- **Geri Kodey** (Marketing & Public Relations), two Bronze Quills for photos that appeared in the spring 2006 issue of UNLV Magazine devoted to public land initiatives. They were the cover photo “Wild at Heart” and the photo “Girl Fishing at Sunset”

- **Cate Weeks** and **Diane Russell** (Marketing & Public Relations), two Bronze Quills — one for overall quality in a magazine for the spring 2006 issue of UNLV Magazine and one for writing throughout that same issue. The spring 2006 issue focused on public land initiatives.

- **Jennifer Lawson** (Foundation) and **Gian Galassi** (Public Affairs), a Bronze Quill for feature writing for the “Wild at Heart” articles that appeared in the spring 2006 issue of UNLV Magazine devoted to public land initiatives.

- **Josh Rankin** (Reprographics/Design Services) and **Geri Kodey** and **Aaron Mayes** (Marketing & Public Relations), an award of excellence for special purpose communications: exhibits, displays, and outdoor for their entry, “From the Biggest Picture to the Smallest Detail”

- **Judy Nagai** (Hotel), **John Hobbes** (Reprographics/Design Services), Robyn Campbell-Ouchida (Hotel), and **Karen Sharp** (Public Affairs), an award of excellence in the magazine category for the Hotel College’s Premier magazine.

- **Josh Rankin** (Reprographics/Design Services), an award of merit in the design: special publications category for "From Backpacks to Briefcases"
Employee Benefits

Don’t Put Off Taxing Decisions

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Thinking about your income tax? Who isn’t? Either you’re still gathering the information you need or you’re one of the super-efficient few who gets the deed done in February.

While taxes are on your mind, here are some things you might consider.

Change Your W-4: Would it benefit you to change the number of dependants you declare? If so, you need to fill out a new W-4. Some administrative assistants keep these on hand for employees in their units, but if yours doesn’t, you can always find one at the payroll office, CSB, Room 244. More information is available at payroll.unlv.edu/forms.

Retirement Plans: Is it time to start a supplemental retirement plan through UNLV or to increase your contributions to your current plan? UNLV offers both a deferred compensation plan, also known as a 457 plan, and a tax-sheltered annuity plan, also called a 403b plan. You decide how much to contribute; the annual maximum just increased. The necessary forms are available at hr.unlv.edu/forms or call the human resources department at ext. 5-3504 to have them sent to you.

Extra Time: We’re getting a small lagniappe from the IRS this year in the form of a two-day extension for filing taxes; they won’t be due until April 17. This year we get extra time because April 15 falls on a Sunday and because April 16, Emancipation Day (thank you, President Lincoln), is a legal holiday in the District of Columbia.

Beneficiary Designation: And, not that this is directly related to taxes, but benefits manager Pat La Putt says now is a good time to update the beneficiary designation on any forms you have filed with the university. Too often, she said, people fill these out when first arriving at UNLV and never give them a second thought. A deceased beneficiary complicates things. As for an ex-spouse as a beneficiary, well that’s up to you.

Presidential Pitstops

With the Nevada Democratic caucus now in January, presidential candidates are expected to pay more attention to the Silver State. As an institution of higher learning, and one located only minutes from the airport, UNLV is likely to be a considered a prime location for campaign stops.

“We could well have more candidates stopping at UNLV than ever before, given Nevada’s higher profile in the next presidential selection process,” said Dave Tonelli, interim director of public affairs.

Already, two events featuring presidential candidates are scheduled on campus this year:

• New Leadership on Health Care: A Presidential Forum, sponsored by the Center for American Progress Action Fund and the Service Employees International Union. All presidential candidates are being invited to this March 24 event at the Cox Pavilion.

• A debate for the Democratic presidential candidates at the Thomas & Mack Center on Nov. 4.

> POLITICAL

Continued from Page 1

Pida Plaza, and North Field. A rate sheet sets prices for the space as well as for associated equipment rental.

Caution for Student Groups

Tonelli and Finn said they plan to work with UNLV student groups to make sure they are not taken advantage of by candidates hoping to pay the lower rates that recognized student groups pay for space and equipment rental.

The student group that signs the rental agreement is responsible for paying the fees, Finn said. “We want to ensure the student organizations understand the financial responsibility they are assuming when they agree to host an event.”

If anyone on campus receives inquiries about hosting a candidate or a political event on campus, Tonelli said that those inquiring should be referred to public affairs at ext. 5-3102. Having a central point of contact will help the university accommodate the requests better, he said.

Knowing the Policies

Other campus policies that may be particularly relevant during the political season involve:

• Political Literature — Distribution of leaflets, brochures and the like must be done by hand and is limited to the following areas:

Tourney Time

The 2007 Mountain West Conference men’s and women’s basketball championships return to the Thomas & Mack Center for five days beginning March 6. The men’s team was nationally ranked earlier this season for the first time since the final rankings of the 1990-91 season. On Feb. 20, the Runnin’ Rebels beat No. 14 Air Force in front of 15,692 fans. This was the highest-ranked opponent UNLV has defeated since upsetting No. 5 Utah in 1998. Call 739-3267 for tickets or visit unlvrebels.com for more information.
Hungry yet? We thought so.

Each day, UNLV’s Hazel M. Wilson Dining Commons (DC) serves fresh food to nearly 2,000 customers, including about 150 faculty and staff, said Kevin Fuchs, resident dining director.

Customers can enjoy as much as they like as often as they want in this buffet-style facility conveniently located on campus. The DC boasts an international and American grill — where chefs cook right before the customers’ eyes — and an extensive salad and soup bar. Additionally, diners can be their own “sandwich artists” and build deli subs and wraps at the sandwich station. Other popular areas include the hand-tossed pizza station and the dessert bar.

Don’t see something you like? The DC staff can also accommodate special requests. Each day the DC serves a vegetarian soup, entrée, and pizza as well as garden burgers, hummus, and tofu.

Many staff and faculty cited quality, convenience, and value as reasons why they choose to dine at the DC. But for some frequent diners, the DC is about more than the food and convenience.

“Where else can you find students, faculty, and staff all in one place? It’s a community,” said psychology professor Terry Knapp. “I am surprised more faculty and staff are not here.”

Dinner is usually the busiest time at the facility, said Fuchs. The DC also serves breakfast, lunch, and weekend brunch.

The DC employs about 75 people, including one chef, two lead cooks, and 15 cooks — many of whom also work in local casino kitchens. Each month, the DC also hosts a chef luncheon to showcase the DC staff’s culinary abilities, while at the same time treating customers to an upscale entrée.

“Here, you just have better food,” said Jimmy Perry, UNLV maintenance repair specialist. “The service is great — and for the price, you can’t beat it.”

Marisela Murillo slices a cheese-burger pizza at the hand-tossed pizza station.

### Hours of Operation

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<th>Days</th>
<th>Breakfast</th>
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<th>Dinner</th>
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<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>7-10 a.m.</td>
<td>11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>5-8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday and Sunday</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner — 5-8 p.m.</td>
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### Prices

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$5.50</td>
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No debit or credit cards accepted. Cash, Rebel cash, and meal cards only.

(Above) From left to right, finance professor Seungmook “Sam” Choi; Rich Lapidus, associate dean of the College of Business; and Steve Miller, chair of the economics department, talk during lunch. (Below) Maria Mendoza studies chemistry during lunch.