Inside UNLV

Cate Weeks
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Eppie Moore
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

David Ashley
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Grace Russell
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Lori Bachand
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

See next page for additional authors

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From Surf to the Strip

Smatresk Leaves Hawaii for UNLV Post

By Cale Weeks | Marketing & PR

When Inside UNLV called Neal Smatresk for this interview, the university’s next executive vice president and provost held all his calls. Well, except for the one from his daughter asking for a ride home. She’s an international business major at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where Smatresk is currently serving as vice chancellor for academic affairs. He admits that he’s going to miss being on the same campus as her when he takes his new position here on June 1. But he’s eager to bring his experience as a faculty member, as an administrator, and as the dad of a college student to his new job.

On being a Scientist: I was a hopeless and utterly unguided science nerd — the kind that built my own hovercraft and entered every science fair. I went to Gettysburg College, a small liberal arts school, and discovered a number of new creative outlets. I sang in the choir, aced in plays, and took up photography, which I still do. Eventually I realized that research scientists got to combine both their analytical and creative thinking skills. I went off to grad school and never really looked back.

Las Vegas vs. Hawaii: Jokingly I’d say the biggest difference is the predominant color — green vs. brown. There are fairly significant differences in the physical campus, but there are also many similarities. Hawaiians call Las Vegas the ninth state.

New Student Recreation Center: Not Just for Students

By Eppie Moore | Student Life

Scheduled to open in the fall, the student recreation center will offer a total wellness program unlike any other university facility in the country. With more than 184,000 square feet of fitness and wellness space, the facility will offer something for everyone.

Soon, faculty and staff will be able to purchase memberships to the student recreation center. These memberships will provide access to all of the fitness equipment and many wellness services.

Membership Rates

- $350 Annual Pass (Sept. 1-Aug. 31)
- $175 Semester Pass (fall, spring, or summer)
- $295 Academic Year Pass (fall and spring)

Memberships will also be offered to family of UNLV faculty and staff, although some restrictions apply. Locker rentals will be available as well.

Membership definitely has its benefits. For those who would like an introduction to fitness or those seeking to boost their current fitness level, skilled trainers and wellness staff will be available to help. Recreation center professionals will offer advice on fitness, nutrition, and making healthy life choices.

This state-of-the-art complex offers convenience for on-campus faculty and staff. Operating hours will be from 6 a.m. to midnight on weekdays, so faculty and staff will have the option of getting in a workout before office hours or avoiding commute traffic by staying after hours to work off the stress of the day. And don’t forget, exercising during the lunch hour is always an option.

More info: Go to studentlife.unlv.edu/facilities to get more information on services and to view renderings and floorplans of the new student union. More detailed membership information will be available soon.
As I've interacted with faculty and staff over the last several months, it seemed that many people expected me to come in and quickly announce “The Big Initiative” — the thing that would change your world. That’s just not my style; I believe my role is to be a catalyst for constructive change. Change that is enduring needs to build on the existing foundations and strengths of the institution.

While the ambitions for this university are dramatic, they do not necessitate dramatic disruptions every few years. I believe it is important for new leaders to first take time to understand their institutions, the issues they face, and the people they lead — the faculty and staff. At the end of the day, I must make some hard choices to move UNLV forward, but I need your input to make wise decisions.

I began learning about UNLV by visiting campus departments and by regularly meeting with Faculty Senate leaders. Now, with the executive leadership team taking shape, the next step will be to engage the campus broadly through the strategic planning process. That process will define the major initiatives and the steps, large and small, to get us to our goals. In the coming months, you will learn more about your important role in that planning process. And it is not only about planning — there are many areas where we already know what actions we must take. We already are moving forward aggressively on these items (see “Progress Report” story).

You also will hear more details about the direction UNLV is heading during the inaugural week activities scheduled at the end of this month. I am really looking forward to the inauguration; it’s an event that is all about you as it is about me. It will bring us together as a campus to launch UNLV’s 50th anniversary and incorporate our established traditions — including recognition ceremonies for faculty, staff, and students. Most important, it is an opportunity to celebrate the foundation that UNLV has built and to advance our vision for an even greater enterprise in the future.

5 Minutes With President Ashley

David Ashley | UNLV President

Progress Report: Infrastructure and Funding

Many faculty and staff members shared their concerns with me during recent departmental visits. In future communications, I’ll more fully address some issues — including our commitment to diversity, the planning process, and quality in undergraduate education. In the next few months, I want to update you on progress that has recently been made.

1 Issue: “Our institutional infrastructure does not match our stated research agenda.”

What I’ve Learned: Prior to my arrival, I anticipated having conversations about the lack of space and equipment — the “hard-side” of research infrastructure. While those concerns do exist, many of you brought up issues with “soft-side” infrastructure. You pointed to the need for greater support in key areas, such as grant services, as well as more clarity on policies to handle an ever-expanding research agenda. Fortunately, in my opinion, the “soft-side” of research infrastructure is the easier of the two to correct, and it starts with getting grant education education education education.

What's Happening: The Graduate College has made several changes to help departments attract top graduate research assistants, including policies that give departments greater flexibility in awarding stipends. We’ve added positions in the office for the protection of research subjects and the office of sponsored programs. And the internal awards programs were overhauled to promote research that can garner competitive grant funding.

Still, we have a great deal of work to do. For example, we need to assess if our teaching loads match our research mission. I intend to work closely with the executive team to continuously improve our services to research faculty.

2 Issue: “State funding doesn’t match our goals.”

What I’ve Learned: After many years of growth in our student population, our enrollments are now stabilizing, due in part to the tougher admissions standards. However, we currently face a model for state funding that is almost entirely dependent upon increases in student enrollment.

In addition, I spent time reviewing documentation on our newest academic programs. I was surprised by the number of programs approved without funding to support them.

What's Happening: Funding is, of course, a huge issue. I will continue to support efforts to address the disparity between the state funding formula and our research and graduate mission. However, this is not the only way we’ll address our funding needs. Institutions that expand their research presence rely upon two primary sources: a strong philanthropic base and competitive research funding. During my presidential transition, I’ve reached out to build relationships in our donor base and keep our Invest the Future campaign moving forward. I’ve used my status as the “new guy” to re-establish relationships with donors who are not currently active with UNLV. Internally, I noticed that many colleges were not actively involved in setting development goals or heavily engaged in fundraising. This will be one criteria used to evaluate the colleges and their deans.

Another point I want to make is that our future growth will be deliberate and led to the resources we have. All programs come with a cost; therefore, all new program proposals must carefully articulate the sources of the funding. As we move forward, I expect the planning process to play a significant part in marshalling our resources. To achieve our research goals, we must invest strategically in the areas that can bring us distinction.

3 Issue: “Tougher admission standards could hurt accessibility.”

What I’ve Learned: While I support the increase in university admission standards — it is one aspect of advancing our research agenda and differentiating our mission — I am concerned about our ability to ensure access for underrepresented students. We need to constantly monitor the impact of these standards on our student demographics and adopt strategies to address any disparities.

What's Happening: We will be evaluating the admissions process to see what criteria should be used beyond GPA. We also have test scores. A more comprehensive approach may allow us to become more selective while attracting broad participation of all students.

4 Issue: “How can we improve our relationships with the community?”

What I’ve Learned: One thing I noticed when I started was that the external relations units — including alumni, community, donor, and media relations — were housed separately. These units have been strengthening the ways they are working together, but staff expressed their belief that the “advancement model” could more effectively serve the university as a whole.

What’s Happening: We will be adopting the advancement model, used by many other universities, to bring external relations under one unit. A search commit-tee has already begun work to recruit a new vice president of advancement. I believe this model will help UNLV consistently educate our constituents about our successes, our challenges, and our vision. I hope the community comes to embrace UNLV as it does — as a major contributor to economic prosperity, a catalyst for innovations, and an institution that fosters the curiosity and intellectual development of its students.

A Catalyst for Constructive Change

In addition to the inauguration itself, a number of events are scheduled this week surrounding the ceremony. They include:

• April 24, Phi Kappa Phi dinner
• April 25, Campuswide barbecue breakfast
• April 25, Academic recognition ceremony and reception
• April 26, Inauguration dinner*
• April 27, Inauguration reception/luncheon*
• April 27, UNLV Orchestra concert
• April 30, Classified staff awards ceremony
• April 23-May 2, Juried student art exhibit

More info: Visit president.unlv.edu/inaugura- tion to learn more about the events.

CORRECTION

Thanks to those of you with eagle eyes who caught the error in last month’s edition of Inside UNLV concerning the campus location of the upcoming November debate. It is at UNLV, not at UNLV at 1 — at a major presidential candidates. The correct location for that event is the student union.

Break Out Your Regalia: Inauguration Set for April 27

It doesn’t happen often, but when it does, it is worth seeing. The “big” is a university presidential inauguration, a tradition that traces its roots in the United States back to the nation’s nine colonial colleges in the 17th century. The formal ceremony includes a change in leadership:

On April 27, UNLV will inaugurate its eighth president, David B. Ashley. The ceremony is set for 10 a.m. at Harris Concert Hall.

“Inaugurations at UNLV give us the opportunity to come together to celebrate our heritage and to look toward a promising future,” said Juanita Fain, vice president of planning, diversity, and chief of staff. “I encourage members of the campus community to attend this important event.”

The academic regalia and other ceremonial objects used during inaugurations, such as the university mace, can be traced to the world’s oldest institutions of higher learning.

• April 25, Campuswide barbecue breakfast*
Departing Deans Reflect

Visit of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Special Moment for Law School Dean

Why are you leaving?
I have three grandkids who are growing up fast. One is already 9 years old, another is 6, and we have a brand new 9-month-old grandson who lives nearby. When he was born last May, it occurred to me that the childhoods of these people go by so quickly.

Keep in mind, too, that I have been a dean for 20 years — which is a really long run for deans this day and age. I take the responsibility very seriously, and I know what I was like at my best and what I am like now. I also worry a lot. I have been a dean at UNLV for 10 years and frankly, I am tired of the responsibility — tired of the worrying. I don’t see myself as having the energy and the freshness of ideas to be the optimal leader for this place for the next five years. Maybe after I have been away from it a year or two, I’ll miss it. But right now, I would like to be free of the responsibility.

What is next for you?
I will still be in Las Vegas working on several private-sector, part-time engagements. My wife and I have a place in Brianhead (Utah) that I always regret leaving. I’ll be 62 years old on June 30 when I step down. At that age, you don’t know how long you have left for skiing and mountain biking. I would like to hit some trails and slopes while my legs can still take it.

What was your greatest achievement?
A proud moment for me was when U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy was here to dedicate the law school in August 2002. He spent three days here as a visitor, teaching classes and interacting with community benefactors. At our dedication dinner, without being asked, he made a wonderful statement about the law school. He was impressed with the quality, excellence, and spirit that he saw in this place. It was a really heartfelt sentiment expressed by one of the most prominent people in the legal and judiciary profession. He seemed to have a genuine appreciation for what we had accomplished in four short years.

What is the biggest change that you have seen over the years?
Ten years ago, there was nothing here. Now there is a high quality, nationally regarded law school. We received our American Bar Association accreditations and our membership in the Association of American Law Schools in record time. I think we are widely regarded as the model for how to start a law school. But most important, I think we are regarded around the state as a very good law school and community resource. So, it is satisfying to see the law school go from nothing to something quite good and substantial in a short period of time. We have built a really fine foundation for the long-term wellbeing of the law school. But there is more to do.

What has been your biggest challenge in getting the law school where it is today?
One of the biggest challenges we faced was solidifying the community’s support for the law school. There was a mixed reaction as to whether the law school would be a good idea. I went out into the community and assured people that this law school would be a community resource and an excellent law school.

We also had to convince skeptical faculty members at other law schools to give up their good jobs and come to an unknown law school. Also, for our charter students, there was no assurance that they would graduate from an accredited law school. We convinced them to take the leap by saying that we had really good community support and that the law school was not going to be a fly-by-night operation.

What do you want people to remember about your tenure?
I would hope people will remember me as a leader and facilitator. I don’t want people to think that I built this law school. But, I do want them to think that I had something to do with assembling the people and assets that became the law school.

The fact that we have a law school at all is a tribute to Carol Harter. There had been 30 years of conversation about the possibility of a law school at UNLV, which had gone nowhere until she arrived in 1995. She immediately embraced the opportunity to start a law school. She went out in the community and got the initial support for the law school. She deserves a lot of credit.

What will be your involvement with the school after leaving?
I will certainly be available to help the law school if I can. But I am also willing to stay out of the way. I know it is hard when transition takes place when the old leader is hovering around. So, I will not be offended if my role is to just watch the law school continue to flourish from afar.

What is the number one thing you want people to know about your school?
I want people to know that the law school is and will always be a community resource. We are acutely aware that this school is supported by the state of Nevada through taxpayer dollars and donations from this community. We have tried very hard in everything we do to serve the community and make it better. I hope people will see it as an asset.

What are you going to miss the most?
I’ll miss the people. I have formed great relationships with many people on the campus and in the community.

I’ll also miss the entrepreneurial spirit of the law school. This place is brimming with people who are truly questing for excellence.

The day after you retire, after you have cleaned out your office and the lights are off, what will you be doing?
I am terrified of cleaning out this office. But, I hope I sleep late the next day and sleep like a baby the night before — and not worry about anything.

Business Is About People, Says Dean Flaherty

Why are you leaving?
I continue to think that change in leadership periodically is healthy for an organization. For the College of Business and me, this is a good time. The college is in a good position to attract high-quality candidates. Part of my job was to put us in that position.

Also, I am looking forward to a little more balance between my personal life and my professional life. My wife of 40 years deserves a little more of my time. I am sure she would like to keep that from being too much time. I will continue consulting with business schools, primarily related to accreditation issues. I also will continue to serve on several boards.

What is next for you?
My wife and I have a home in Flagstaff, Ariz., where we will be splitting our time. It is a great summer retreat located in the middle of the largest pine forest in the country.

What was your greatest achievement?
I really think the Nevada Business Hall of Fame has been a good event for the business school and the business community. We have also initiated a college alumni association to create a strong network of graduates.

Internally, the school has clariﬁed its performance expectations for faculty and has made some headway toward enhanced research and higher quality research productivity. Additionally, there are many new entrepreneurship initiatives.

What has been your biggest challenge in getting the College of Business where it is today?
Resources. This is a very simple business. It’s faculty, students, curriculum, and infrastructure. But, faculty, students, and buildings are the core of it. Then you have to have staff support to leverage the faculty. Additionally, you have to have physical facilities that are conducive to high-quality work. But in my opinion, it all starts with the faculty. If you don’t have high-quality faculty, none of the rest of the stuff matters.

To move forward, we have to continue to grow the quality of the school. I consider a very good faculty. But that costs money. We also need to generate resources and more support to keep and attract high-quality students here. We need to secure resources and then use them effectively and efficiently. So that will be a continuing challenge for whoever comes into this position.

See DEANS, Page 7
Entrepreneurship-focused organizations was recruited — each reaching a broad coalition of partner organizations as it is to large corporations and small businesses. Entrepreneurship thinking is applied to non-business problems, and it is as relevant to public and volunteer organizations as it is to large corporations and small businesses. Entrepreneurship Week USA is designed to help individuals actually see themselves as entrepreneurial thinkers — using creativity and innovation in support of their goals.

To bring this initiative to fruition, a broad coalition of partner organizations was recruited — each engaging and its own network in all parts of the country. These include educational institutions, youth-serving institutions, media outlets, philanthropic foundations, entrepreneurship-focused organizations, and hundreds of others around the country.

Graduate Executive Degree Targets Crises Responders

Effective management during times of crisis is an issue that has been driven to the forefront of the nation’s interest in the wake of the events of Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina. If disaster strikes — be it from natural, intentional, or technical sources — what measures need to be taken and who should carry them out?

The answer to that question is what drives the executive master of science degree in crisis and emergency management (ECEM), one of few programs of its kind in the nation. Housed in the department of public administration, the ECEM program equips policy makers and potential “first-responders” with fundamental knowledge of emergency management and with a framework for effectively planning for and responding to crises.

The 18-month ECEM program is a blend of on-campus and online coursework broken into three six-month modules of four classes. Students progress through the recently refined curriculum as a group of 20 to 25 as a cohort which means participants advance through the program together. Using the cohort system facilitates networking that can be useful to participants in the event of a real-life emergency.

Students learn from university and industry experts to identify and differentiate between the major elements of disasters; understand the evolution of terrorism; analyze leadership theories and the role of intergovernmental relations; and, as a capstone, demonstrate their understanding through a disaster simulation exercise.

“...The ECEM program is specially designed to provide graduate expertise to working professionals who may be in a position someday to make life-changing decisions,” said Christine Springer, recently appointed director of the ECEM program. “In determining how to tailor such a broad range of expertise into a compact curriculum, our staff worked closely with colleagues from (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) and institutions throughout the nation to make the program beneficial both to the students enrolled and to the communities they serve throughout the nation.”

The program’s most recent cohort began in January and includes students from the fire department, Los Alamos National Laboratory. Registration is currently under way for a second cohort to begin instruction in July.

Drawing from her own professional experiences during incidents at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl and adding the vast experience of the ECEM staff, Springer is convinced that the ECEM program will serve as a model for institutions recognizing the benefit of emergency management education. “Our expectation is that we will continue to attract well-respected faculty and guest lecturers through substantial integration of coursework, field experiences, professional standards, and research. Education majors are involved in a variety of experiences over time, including on-site tutoring, practicum placements, and student teaching. On-site mentoring by both university faculty and CCSD teachers allows them to reflect on and strengthen their teaching practice in ways that are consistent with research on school reform and teacher education. From the schools’ perspective, higher concentrations of education majors mean more sustained, one-on-one assistance for children. The school staff gets to know teacher candidates over time and are better able to support their entry into the profession.”

Rosanna Gallagher, principal at Warren, has been vigilant in involving UNLV faculty as part of the school’s design team. “If we are truly exploring ways to change the way we work with students in order to prepare them for the 21st century, then we cannot do it without the partnership of higher education,” she said.

Linda Reese, principal at Antonello, has been instrumental in helping university partners redesign components of the field experience. She credits the UNLV program as a major part of their success this year.

Nurturing the Nurse

Brittine Racicoppo, right, a fourth-quarter nursing student, participates in the Home Hospital Project at Desert Springs Hospital under the supervision of Sue Robson. The pilot program, which was started in fall 2005, is a partnership between UNLV, Desert Springs, Valley Hospital, and University Medical Center. Students are assigned to one of the hospitals and remain with that hospital until graduation. A nursing staff member is assigned to work with each group of students. The program is part of UNLV’s effort to help combat the nursing shortage.

Come True for Local Boy

A seriously ill local boy had his wish for a bed resembling a wrestling ring granted, thanks to the college and one of its student groups. Because of their efforts, the boy, called “Oscar,” now cheers for his favorite hero, a wrestler named Batista, from his ring-shaped bed.

The college became involved
after being approached by the Southern Nevada chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Under the direction of associate professor Brendan O’Toole and mechanical engineering machinist Kevin Nelson, the student chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering tackled the project.

In addition to presenting Oscar his bed, the society provided wrestling posters and stuffed animals to ensure his wish was spectacular. UNLV engineering students who helped make Oscar’s wish come true were Kim Clark, Julio Malpica, Venkat Mudupur, Robert O’Brien, Stacy Raagas, and Jagadeep Thota.

Oscar’s wish also coincided with the college’s activities to promote National Engineering Week. Activities that week focused on promoting engineering within the Southern Nevada community to “Engineer a Difference.”

Fine Arts

Assad Brothers to Perform

On April 29, the UNLV Performing Arts Center Classical Guitar Series presents Brazilian-born brothers Sergio and Odair Assad, whose exceptional artistry make them today’s preeminent guitar duo. In their widely recorded repertoire, the brothers include original music by Sergio Assad, transcriptions of Bach and Scarlatti, and adaptations of works by such diverse figures as Gershwin and Milhaud.

Charlie Brown To Open April 20

Look at life with 6-year-old innocence as Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder, and Patty share their hopes, dreams, and angst-ridden but optimistic view of the world. The Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV concludes its Main Season with You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown from April 20 through May 6 in the Judy Bayley Theatre. This musical day of the life of Charlie Brown has charmed audiences for almost 40 years and is one of the most produced plays of our time.

Based on the 1967 Broadway revival, this production provides a fresh approach to the all-time 1967 classic.

More info: call ext. 5-2797.

Honors

SAGE Academy Expected to Draw Record Number

The college is preparing for the third year of the Summer Advanced Gifted Education (SAGE) academy for talented high school students. SAGE, which is co-sponsored by the college, hosted 29 students during its first session in 2005. Last summer attendance more than doubled with 63 students enrolled.

Predictions are that this summer more than 100 students will attend SAGE, which will offer 13 academic seminars.

SAGE attracts a diverse population in terms of gender and in terms of high school and ethnic minority representation. Foreign languages professor Daniel Villanueva, who this year became the first recipient of the Honors College Master Teacher Award, directs the program.

Hotel

Genetically Engineered Rice Safe, Prof Says

The safety of genetically engineered rice — a topic much in the news of late — is one of the research interests of food and beverage management professor Christine Bergman. Last August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that American commercial long-grain rice supplies had been tainted with trace amounts of genetically engineered rice unapproved for human consumption.

Bergman is working to raise awareness about the issue. Many experts in the industry, including Bergman, say there is no reason for the public to worry.

Many consumers expressed concern that the genetically engineered rice could be dangerous to those who suffer from celiac disease or people who avoid gluten in their diets. Many people with the disease sent letters to the USDA expressing concern that if genetically modified rice was allowed to infiltrate the commercial rice structure, they wouldn’t be able to eat it. Rice is a main source of food for many suffering from the disease.

To address public misconceptions about the rice developed by Bayer CropScience, Bergman wrote a letter to the Federal Register, a publication for proposed rules and notices of federal agencies and organizations. In it, she explained the misapprehension about the risks of genetically modified rice.

Bergman has done extensive research on the genetics and chemical properties of rice and wheat. In the past, she has used her research to teach patients with celiac disease how to use rice in place of wheat in their diets. Now, she has the opportunity to educate students at UNLV.

The food and beverage management department is broadening its programs to include food science and nutrition research.

Liberal Arts

Anthropology Faculty Boost Department’s Research Profile

Several recent hires have contributed substantially to the anthropology and ethnic studies department’s growth, expansion of the graduate program, and research viability. Adding to an already research-active faculty are:

• Lisa Frink (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison) researches “ethnoarchaeology,” in which living native Alaskan groups provide insights into the prehistoric past. Since arriving at UNLV, Frink has received, along with Karen Harry of anthropolgy, an award from the National Science Foundation for this research.

• Peter Gray (Ph.D., Harvard University) studies hormones and human behavior. He is actively involved in field research in Jamaica, studying hormonal correlates relating to the care of offspring by individuals other than the mother.

• Debra Martin came to UNLV from Hampshire College. She is a widely respected scholar in paleopathology (violence, trauma, slavery, diet, nutrition, disease), the health of women and children in ancient and modern societies, and arid environments and health. Her research areas include the American Southwest, Mexico, and the United Arab Emirates.

• Heidi Swank (Ph.D., Northwestern University) researches linguistic anthropology, literacy and writing, youth culture, beauty pageants, popular culture, and the Tibetan Diaspora. She is actively conducting research in India.

Finally, the department is adding an Old World archaeologist, specializing in arid portions of the Near East. Together, these new hires have accelerated the department’s research profile and attracted high-qualiry students to the program.

Libraries

Hit the Highlights with Help from Architecture Studies

New to Las Vegas? Not so new, but want to know more about this sprawling desert town beyond the Las Vegas Strip? Curious about the varied styles of architecture you see?

An excellent place to start your exploration is the Architecture Studies Library (ASL) website, which provides directions for 11 self-guided driving and walking tours, complete with printable brochures, maps, and photographs at www.library.unlv.edu/arch/lasvegas/drivingtours.html.

The tours are divided into nine areas of the valley: downtown, North/Northeast, Summerlin, West, South, UNLV, East, Green Valley/Henderson, and Northwest. Within each

> See ACROSS CAMPUS. Page 6
Aree Johnson (Landscape, Grounds, and Arboretum) was named classified employee of the month for February in the custodial category. A grounds maintenance worker II, she came to UNLV in August 2004. Her chief duty is keeping the campus grounds aesthetically pleasing, which includes trimming shrubs, fertilizing plants, and picking up trash. She is assigned to the High Desert Area, which works in the areas of the student union, Wright Hall, the Classroom Building Complex, and the Lied Library.

Phil Burns (Student Conduct) served as chair of the 2007 International Conference of the Association for Student Judicial Affairs (ASJA), which took place in Clearwater Beach, Fla. Titled “Enriching Communities of Educators: Facilitating Partnerships on Campus and Beyond,” the conference drew nearly 800 participants, making it the largest in ASJA’s 19-year history. Participants included professional staff, faculty, and senior student affairs officers. Burns just completed service on the ASJA Board of Directors. ASJA is an international professional organization that facilitates the integration of student development concepts with principles of judicial practice in higher education settings.

Deborah Salazar-Beiler (Registrar) was named a classified employee of the month for February in the administrative category. An admissions/records assistant IV, she has worked at UNLV 10 years. Her primary duty is overseeing the processing of applications for undergraduate admission. She is pursuing an elementary education degree at UNLV.

Jeanne M. Brown (Architecture Studies Library) authored “Indicators for the Evolution of the Academic Architecture Library,” published in the fall 2006 issue of Art Documentation, a publication of the Art Libraries Society of North America. The article looks at a variety of factors and their potential role in shaping evolving architecture library services and functions. Libraries have embraced many changes—some brought about by technology and some the product of developments in higher education and community needs. The specialized architectural library adds yet another dimension to be considered—changes in the discipline of architecture.


Jean Hertzman, Mohsen Azizzalatian, Claudia Umbertz, and Andy Feinstein (Food and Beverage Management) and students in the capstone food and beverage course held the fifth annual Friends of Nevada diners’ dinner, raising $2,500 for Poverello House, a local homeless shelter. Feinstein is a past board member of the shelter and co-founded the event with Hertzman.

Christopher Cain (Tourism and Convention Administration) won the Bill Straussbaugh Award, which is presented to Professional Golf Association (PGA) members who have shown outstanding integrity, demonstrated commitment to mentoring PGA professionals, and made a significant impact on the careers of PGA professionals. The award also considers service to the association and involvement in community and charitable activities. Cain is director of the Professional Golf Management (PGA) program at UNLV.

Maritza White (Black Mountain Institute) was named a classified employee of the month for February in the administrative category. An administrative assistant IV, she is the institute’s solo administrative assistant and thus handles a wide range of duties, including events planning, reception setup, and issuing ID’s. She has worked at UNLV since September.

Michael Dalbor (Tourism and Convention Administration) and Andy Feinstein (Food and Beverage Management) attended the fifth annual Friends of Nevada diners’ dinner, held on Feb. 12 at Black History Month. He also co-delivered with Jane McCarthy (Education) an invited presentation titled “Planning, Commencement and Learning to Love It: The Joys of Shared Responsibilities and Faculty/Student Involvement,” to the North American Association of Convention Officers Conference in February.

Andrea Finan, who presented her paper, “A Scream of Rage, A Call to Conscience: The Rhetoric of Michael Harrington’s Other America,” served as moderator of and participated in the panel titled “At the Intersection of Rhetoric and Culture: The Case of the Suicide Girls.”

Michael Lugener (Theatre) is the author of The Expressive Actor, which has just been published by Heinemann Drama. The book deals with the “Lugener Method,” a revolutionary new approach to actor training that explores the integrated manner in which mental and emotional content are expressed through the body and voice. It is an intensely physical exploration that pro- vides the actor with the tools for shaping thought and feeling into meaningful forms of expression. The result is increased strength, vitality, freedom, and control that enable the actor to be capable of a vivid, powerful, and artistic expression of thought and feeling that is spectrally human.

Denny Kuzma (Campus Housing) was named classified employee of the month for February in the technical service category. A maintenance specialist II, he specializes in air conditioning repair. He has spent all of his 12 years at UNLV in campus housing.

Zheng Gu (Tourism and Convention Administration) shared his four articles during the fall on topics including an examination of the relationships between gaming, management, and casino gaming, predicting restaurant bankruptcy, an empirical test of a full-service hotel room pricing model, and financial competitiveness of Macau in comparison with other gaming destinations. The first three articles were published in the Journal of Hospitality and Tourism, while the last was published in UNLV Gaming Research and the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Erika Engstrom, who presented “In Your Face: Women, Sex and the Masculine,” and Donovan Conley, who presented his paper, “Gendering Berry: The Enduring Impact of a Racist Discourse,” both received mixed reviews at the fifth annual Friends of Nevada diners’ dinner, held on Feb. 12 at Black History Month.

> Aare Johnson (Landscape, Grounds, and Arboretum) was named classified employee of the month for February in the custodial category. A grounds maintenance worker II, she came to UNLV in August 2004. Her chief duty is keeping the campus grounds aesthetically pleasing, which includes trimming shrubs, fertilizing plants, and picking up trash. She is assigned to the High Desert Area, which works in the areas of the student union, Wright Hall, the Classroom Building Complex, and the Lied Library.

> Jean Hertzman, Mohsen Azizzalatian, Claudia Umbertz, and Andy Feinstein (Food and Beverage Management) and students in the capstone food and beverage course held the fifth annual Friends of Nevada diners’ dinner, raising $2,500 for Poverello House, a local homeless shelter. Feinstein is a past board member of the shelter and co-founded the event with Hertzman.

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Stephan Rosenbaum: Honors College Time at UNLV: 5 years

Though It’s Been an ‘Honors,’ Dean Rosenbaum Plans Return to Classroom

Why are you leaving the position?
This is the best job at UNLV. I get to know great students and faculty. But one sacrifices a lot personally and professionally to do this type of job.
I plan to stay at UNLV in a different role. I will take a leave to revise a book I have drafted and pursue scholarly projects. Next spring, I will return to teach in the college. Then I will go into the philosophy department as a professor.

What has been your greatest achievement?
One of our goals was to stem the net outflow of talented students from Nevada. Many really good students leave to pursue their education.
We started the Summer Advanced Gifted Education (SAGE) academy, which is a special program for gifted high school students primarily in Clark County, but also for the region. In the program, students earn three fully transferable Honors College course credits. Courses range from modern and aerospace engineering to Japanese conversation and culture. The goal is to better prepare these gifted individuals for college, whether they choose to attend UNLV or another university — although we would hope to keep them here. This is one of the most important things we are doing because it’s serving Nevada and the public. It has also raised the visibility of the college in the community and has enhanced UNLV’s reputation for keeping talented students in the state.

What is the biggest change that you have seen over the past five years?
We have more people working in the college now and more faculty. I think we have really improved the quality of student experience and the quality of students who are applying to the college, as well as those who are being accepted. Also, we have revised the admissions criteria and the curriculum.

What do you want people to remember about your tenure?
I want people to remember that we enhanced the quality of the university and of the college. We have more professors with more contacts and teaching courses. The quality of students also has increased demonstrably. So we have competed with major universities to get students and have been successful reaching that goal.

What is the number one thing you want people to know about your college?
You can get a rigorous education here. There are people who care and the classes are small. The Honors College operates pretty much like a small college, with a lot of contact points. The atmosphere is very peaceful and relaxing. You go into a beautiful place and you have the opportunity to focus. Now, I don’t kill the fish — I catch and release them.

Invent the Future
Phonathon Nets Praise for Pros

By Lori Bachand | UNLV Foundation
It’s not every day you find something worthwhile awaiting you in your mailbox.
So it was a pleasant surprise for education professor Kent Crippen when he pulled out a thank-you message from a former student one day last month.
Scott Mangione of the class of ’05 had spoken with a student through the Rebel Ring Phonathon program and asked the student to forward a message to Crippen in the department of curriculum and instruction.
“I appreciate all the help you have given me,” said the note, “I believe I am a better teacher now. Thanks again.”
Crippen said it was the highlight of his day. “It’s always nice to be affirmed in what you do.”
The message came via the Rebel Ring Phonathon’s faculty-gym system. When the team of 30 students contact more than 25,000 alumni each spring and fall to ask for financial support, about 10 percent of commu-
tations often turn to UNLV experience and life after graduation.
According to program manager Michael Richmond, the “Rebel Ringers” often receive inquiries about favorite professors.
The students have passed along messages to faculty from “You were my favorite teacher,” to “Let’s have lunch,” said Richmond. “But most often, alumni just want to send a ‘thank you’ to acknowledge how professors helped their careers.”
Beyond the message relays and more than $125,000 raised annually through the Rebel Ring Phonathon campaign, UNLV’s youngest employee, in Orson Welles’ own words: “It’s a very peaceful and relaxing. You go into a beautiful place and you have the opportunity to focus. Now, I don’t kill the fish — I catch and release them.

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A big part of being a dean these days is fund-raising. Outstanding programs are the result of a partnership between the public sector and the private sector. The public sector allows us to keep our doors open and operate on a base level, but it does not pay for excellence.

What do you want people to remember about you and your tenure?
I hope they will know that I worked hard every day to make the college a better place. My dad always said the harder you worked the luckier you get. So I always followed his approach.

What will be your involvement with the college after leaving?
I will be here for some, with some release time in the fall, and will work on a couple projects in the spring. Old business school is due for an accreditation peer review in 2008-09. I will do what I can to help prepare for that.

What are you leaving undone that you wish you could have accomplished?
That is the really difficult thing about leaving. You are going to be in the middle of several things that you have started. But, I have come to realize that there is never going to be a point where you feel like it is convenient to make a clean cut. So all you can do is keep moving things up until the day you leave and engage other people so that everything is not all in your head. I have tried to pull others in so that there will be an institutional history when I leave.

What are you going to miss the most?
That’s easy — the people. That is what keeps you going. However, I won’t miss coming into the office every day.

> SMATRESK
Continued from Page 1

Island life because they like it so much. I see some natural connections in the hospitality and fine arts programs. On the research side, the University of Hawaii will serve as a good guidepost for how an emerging university can build on its strengths.

Undergraduate Experience: Having a daughter attend the same university I am serving has made me intimately aware of what our students can face. I am a strong advocate for creating a caring environment for our students. So, it is important to me to learn about how we bring our students in, how they access our services, whether those services are of high quality, what structures are in place to support their success, and where there are opportunities to improve.

What Makes a University Great?
Any large state university must remain student-centered. However, I believe faculty and staff are the backbone of all institutions. Administrators come and go. Students come and go. But, the faculty and staff allow an institution to achieve its mission, and they become the engines of change and progress. So, I am aware about how they are treated. If they are frustrated about the bottlenecks in their jobs, they’re not as likely to be active, engaged, and passionate in the classroom or at the service counter. Our emergence as a nationally prominent research institution is due in large part to enabling faculty scholarship, which in turn benefits our students’ academic growth.

The “Two-in-the-Box” Arrangement: In business terms, it’s a bit like the relationship between a CEO and a chief operating officer. Under this model, the president provides the broad strategic vision and is the external advocate for the university while the provost works with the administrative team to translate the vision into an operational reality. Honestly, this arrangement, combined with Dr. Ashley’s leadership, was one of the great attractions to this position. I believe it helps remove barriers to internal progress.

Immediate Challenges: Getting to know a university is like drinking from a fire hose. I know going in that I will have to quickly understand the operational environment in which I will have to quickly understand the operational environment so I can expedite decision-making. One of the first tasks for the new administrative team will be to determine action priorities jointly with the campus.

Communication Style: I’m an informal guy, and I’m not much for too much formality. Under this model, the president provides the broad strategic vision and is the external advocate for the university while the provost works with the administrative team to translate the vision into an operational reality. Honestly, this arrangement, combined with Dr. Ashley’s leadership, was one of the great attractions to this position. I believe it helps remove barriers to internal progress.

I appre-
The Back of the Mack

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Just 44 hours. That’s how long Thomas & Mack Center employees had to get ready for the Runnin’ Rebel game once the arena had emptied after the NBA All-Star Game.

“Nobody can really appreciate the time and effort and how many layers of people it takes to transition between events,” said Daren Libonati, director of the Thomas & Mack Center.

Approximately 100 full-time employees manage different operations, including clean up, parking, food and beverage, technical and production, sound and light, and UNLV’s own ticketing company. Another 200-500 part-time staff members step in for special events.

There are approximately 120 events per year at the Thomas & Mack. Including preparation and tear down time, there are closer to 200 days of events, Libonati said. The biggest UNLV-based events include commencement ceremonies and Runnin’ Rebel games.

Libonati said people would be incredibly surprised to learn about the branding and marketing the Thomas & Mack does in order to create a good perception of UNLV. “We believe the Thomas & Mack is a community treasure, and we are the gateway to the university for young kids to have great experiences at our venues and to become future university students.”

The biggest misconception about the Thomas & Mack is that it keeps the money it generates, Libonati said. “We generate a lot of revenue through a lot of different facets of business, but that revenue is spread around campus and supports the needs of various departments,” he said. “The arena is more like a professional business operation than a typical campus life venue.”