$30 Million Gift to Benefit College of Hotel Administration

By Erin O’Donnell

By the time this year’s incoming freshmen are ready to graduate, faculty and students in the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration should be experimenting in new labs, testing products for major corporations, and getting real-world experience right here on campus.

Last month, the Harrah’s Foundation announced a gift of $30 million to launch INNovation Village, the college’s proposed new academic hub with an adjoining hotel and conference center.

Dean Stuart Mann said the project will guarantee UNLV remains a leader in hospitality education and research.

“The Harrahs are really excited about this opportunity — but she doesn’t have one of her own at UNLV. I spent the summer at a lab in Texas, away from UNLV — but she doesn’t have one of her own at UNLV. She could mean to their research capabilities, their students, and to the hotel-casino industry at large.”

Harrah’s Foundation Funds INNovation 

More Research Money

In his convocation address, President David Ashley announced the funding of the President’s Research Awards, which are:

- The Institutional Development Grant — based on the strong, timely proposals that were submitted in the spring for this grant focusing on diversity and inclusion, Ashley doubled the amount of available funding to $300,000.
- The President’s Research Award — supports research teams in their pursuit of competitive grant funding. Available funding totals $400,000 with up to $500,000 available for each successful proposal.

The Research Development Award — supports individuals pursuing a variety of creative and scholarly activities. A total of $100,000 has been allocated.

The Research Infrastructure Awards Program — a one-time allotment of $1 million for college/school-level research infrastructure.

The University Faculty Travel Committee — $100,000 will support faculty as they travel to conferences to conduct research or pursue creative activities. This program is being augmented with an additional $100,000 for graduate students’ research and scholarship.

Ashley Urges Campus to Set Even Higher Standards

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Telling the campus community that “now is the time to claim our rightful place in UNLV’s history,” President David Ashley used his first convocation speech to outline a number of changes to come as the university begins its second half-century.

Among those are:
- The creation of an ombuds office to give faculty and staff an impartial place to air concerns or resolve conflicts.
- The creation of an executive policy committee to give faculty, staff, and administrators a say in policy formation and changes.
- A new planning process that promises full transparency on budget issues. (For more on the planning process see “Taking a Strategic Look at UNLV’s Future” on page 3.)
- Ashley reiterated his commitment to the core values he has established for UNLV — equity, ecology, economy, and excellence.

Pointing to the new position of vice president for diversity and inclusion as an example of his dedication to equity, he said, “This value typifies the very essence of a university — to be inclusive. To be inclusive is to embrace diversity and assure fairness. And to do this is to create a rich academic environment that encompasses a world of opinions. "I will hold every dean, every supervisor, and every search committee accountable for producing a diverse pool of applicants for open positions at UNLV." Ashley said. “If this principal is violated, the search will be stopped. It is only from the most diverse candidate pool that the best qualified can be selected.”

To address the core value of ecology, he announced that the university will establish a sustainability principal. “A university in a desert...”

The Next Great Era
Focusing on Retention, Graduation

This month President David Ashley addresses the importance of retention and graduation.

In the last column you mentioned that student retention is a key element in planning and budgeting. Can you expand on that?

With state funding based on our enrollment numbers, it can be easy to focus on our volume of students. However, it is critical that the campus community understands that retaining our students and improving our graduation rate should be at the forefront. From a practical standpoint, it costs less to have a student continue toward graduation than it does to recruit new ones. More importantly, I believe that if it is our responsibility to ensure that, once students are here, we do everything we can to help them attain their degrees. I hope every person on campus sees his or her role in this charge. We will improve our graduation rates only through campuswide efforts — not just initiatives in admissions and student life, or in the classroom and advising centers.

What are our retention numbers?

Our freshman-to-sophomore retention rate is 70 percent — the lowest among our peers in the Carnegie Comprehensive Doctoral classification. We are also near the bottom in terms of degree completion, with a range of 39-42 percent, while our peers average 55 percent. Frankly, these numbers are unacceptable.

So, why is our retention rate low?

There are many factors that play into retention. A key one for UNLV is the balance between full-time and part-time students. When we compare ourselves to other universities with a high number of part-time students, we are on par with our peers in retention and persistence rates; but average among this group is not what we aspire to be.

We have seen a slight increase in part-time students each year since 2004, and last year a full 30 percent of our undergraduates attended part-time. It’s an uncomfortable trend, one that is unhealthy for a university with our ambitions. Nor does it serve our students well; studies show that students with a full course load are much more likely to complete their degrees.

Although the strong, local job market may be driving this part-time trend, we need to focus on the things we can control and take appropriate action. Is our environment welcoming to students from all backgrounds? Are the schedules serving the students’ needs? Can we improve financial aid and enrollment processes? Do students have enough access to advising?

sors? Does our core curriculum allow students to move between majors without penalty early in their undergraduate careers? These are the kinds of questions I expect us to address.

What is UNLV currently doing to improve its retention?

I have mentioned before that UNLV now has first-rate facilities that will go a long way to promoting a culture of full-time enrollment. The Student Union, Student Recreation and Wellness Center, and library are helping make the campus both an academic and social home for our students. Our next development is the planned First-Year Center, which will be housed in University College. This redirects current resources to give students a defined place for successfully making the transition to university studies. Here they will learn about the many opportunities and resources our university offers them.

Another important step relates to our more stringent GPA requirements. GPA is one predictor of student success, so this is a needed change in our admissions. However, we do not want it to come at the expense of accessibility. Diversity feeds excellence at a university. So, I was pleased when the regents recently gave us greater flexibility to consider other predictors of success, such as a student’s demonstrated leadership in a school or in community groups, experiences overcoming hardship, or unique talents. In the end, this will help ensure we have a diverse pool of students, and individuals fully capable of success in their university studies. Now, our job is to ensure that they do, indeed, succeed.

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Picture This: Test Your UNLV Knowledge

Isn’t it time to participate in UNLV’s Picture This: 50th Anniversary Trivia Contest? Just for participating last month, Lisa Fujinaga of the anthropology department won a 50th anniversary gift bag filled with a variety of fun items.

1. The curved glass windows of which building represent the mathematical sine wave?
   a. Thomas T. Beam Engineering Complex
   b. Robert L. Bigelow Physics Building
   c. Chemistry Building

2. This building was completed and opened in what year?
   a. 1994
   b. 1995
   c. 1996

3. Which of the following is not true of the symbolism of the building:
   a. The red rings on which all of the palm tree planters are located around the building represent the big bang theory
   b. Green rings coming out of the apple tree planter represent the ripple effect
   c. The color fabrics hanging throughout the building represent the diversity of UNLV

The answers to last month’s questions: The date plaque is on Maude Frazier Hall, the first building on campus. Classes were first held there in 1957. Today, this building houses the office of student enrollment and financial services.

How to Enter

By E-mail — Send your answers to inside.unlv.edu by Oct. 10. To be eligible for the prize you must:
   • Include the word “trivia” in the subject line of your e-mail.
   • Include your name, title, department and telephone extension.

By Campus Mail — Cut out this box, circle the answers, and fill out the information below. Then send your entry to Inside UNLV at mailstop 1024.

Name: ____________________________
Title: ____________________________
Department: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
E-mail: ____________________________

CONVOCA TION

Continued from Page 1

the campus community and build “something about how they can make a mark on the university, and everyone on campus to participate. When we can all make our mark — we must do ourselves the honor of planning properly to maximize our diversity. “It is more than efficiency. It is about precision.”

That ties in with the new planning process that will include a number of town hall meetings for the campus community through November. Ashley encouraged everyone on campus to participate. With a strong and focused plan, he said, UNLV will be able to embody its fourth core value, excellence.

“Just as we began 50 years ago, so we begin our next great era — this year — at his moment,” Ashley told the audience. “A half-century mark is a fine time to look back. But it is a better time to look forward.”

The president urged members of the campus community to think about how they can make a mark on the university and build “something that is worthy of those who have come out of UNLV before us and sets a higher standard for others.”

More info: Find a complete version of the convocation speech at president.unlv.edu/speeches.html.

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Page 2 | Inside UNLV
my family. I really, really don’t want to do that any-
more,” said Bergman, who came to UNLV three
years ago from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Bergman said she needs to perform more com-
plex experiments with analytical and physical
properties instrumentation. Her food science class
— a requirement for all nutrition and food and
biochemistry — will be, well, just an exercise.

But the executive vice president and provost figures you’ll be won
over by the time UNLV’s strategic plan is finalized next spring — just
in time for the next budget cycle.

“Not because the rubber will hit the road for this plan,” he said. “We
will preferentially fund the priorities that emerge from this. So, it is vital
that we get a large slice of the cam-
pus population to participate and help us determine what the core
of this university is.”

Smatresk kicked off the planning process last month at a campuswide
presentation that laid out the chal-
lenges UNLV is facing. The process continues with a series of open town
hall meetings through November.

Past planning efforts came when
UNLV was facing explosive growth.
“During such growth, institutions
are busy spreading out and finding
the general direction they are going,”
Smatresk said. “A lot of work was
done to get us where we are today.”

A Tightly Focused Plan

With enrollment growth and bud-
gets leveling, the time is right for a
more tightly focused plan, Smatresk
said. “During a budget-cutting cycle,
you must know what your core activ-
ities are so you can protect them. It
is very hard and expensive to build
those areas, so we don’t want ran-
dom, across-the-board budget cuts to
undo all that previous work.”

So what are those areas? That’s for
the planning process to sort out. It’s
time for every unit to do some brag-
ging and make some choices. “The
conclusions have not already been
cooked,” Smatresk said.

Rebecca Mills, vice president for
student life, encourages employees in
her division to discuss their successes
and challenges. “Staff in the Division
of Student Life have much to contrib-
ute to creating excellent experiences
for UNLV’s students,” she said. “I
want them to share their expertise and
learn more about the priorities and
goals of other units at the university.”

Once the town hall meetings
wrap up, the planning steering com-
mittee will forward the feedback to
the president’s cabinet at
the start of the spring semester. After
a review period, the final plan will be
accepted by the president before the
semester ends.

But this won’t mark the end of plan-
ning, said Gerry Bomotti, senior vice
president for finance and business. His
unit will develop its activities to be
consistent with the vision that emerges
from the planning process. “Planning
is critical, but it is no substitute for an
action plan that follows it.”

“INNovation Village offers a real hope for connec-
tion,” Bergman said. “We have all of these incred-
ilably innovative food operations in town, and we
need to be involved with them. We’re teaching
people who are going to work for these places.”

Cheri Young
Hotel management professor

Building a hotel right on campus seems a natu-
ral way for students to learn the how-to of hospi-
tality. Cheri Young says it can also help them learn
about human nature in the work environment.

Young studies organizational behavior — how
individuals think, feel, and act — within the hospi-
tality industry. INNovation Village’s labs could help
her students make sense of why change is always well
received. “It is very difficult for young students to
understand why employees might resist a supposed
improvement,” Young said. “By having students
involved in the testing of these new technologies,
products, and processes, the intersection between
man and machine becomes very real to them.”

Having a hotel and lab space in the same complex
would be a real plus, Young said, especially to attract
companies that want to float some trial balloons.

“An interesting partnership that we may want
to think about is with the labor unions,” Young
said. “So often managers generate what they think
are great ideas, and they do so without considering
the impact on — or reaction of — the employees.
My hope is that we would take a holistic approach
to any kind of laboratory testing.”

Curis Love
Tourism and convention professor

INNovation Village is envisioned as a state-of-the-
art academic campus, but Love sees benefits
that reach beyond the lab and classroom.

Hotel college instructors and students are now split
between Beam Hall and the Stan Fulton Building.
Love looks forward to having a unified campus for
these instructional and research activities.

“Having a complex like that will give students a place to
network,” said Love, who is also interim head of
the tourism and convention department. “It will be
like getting the family back together.”

Love experienced the benefits of having a hotel
on campus when he taught at the University of
Alabama. INNovation Village’s proposed hotel and
convention center would provide much-needed
space for campus meetings and events, said Love,
along with a new revenue stream for the university.
Across Campus

Allied Health
One of UNLV’s oldest programs
receives reaccreditation

The radiography program in the department of health physics recently concluded its reaccreditation process with very positive reviews from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. Director George Pales said the committee “found the program to meet every standard of accreditation and identified numerous strengths. A formal award of reaccreditation is forthcoming.”

The program, which has been in existence more than 40 years, is one of the oldest at UNLV. It trains entry-level radiologic technologists to serve the Southern Nevada community. Three full-time and five part-time faculty and one administrative assistant staff the program. It is one of the nation’s largest radiography programs, accepting 50 students each year into the two-year certificate of completion program. Many graduates of this program continue their UNLV imaging education by entering the B.S. in Radiologic Science or M.B.A. in imaging. The bachelor of science program has been added to give advanced education and credentialing in CT, MRI, or ultrasound.

Business

Donation helps expand MIS courses

IBM pledged $160,000 to the college during the next three years as part of the recently established IBM Systems Program Fund in the department of management information systems.

The fund is allowing the department to create two new courses targeted toward students in management information systems. The new courses will be offered in the fall and run through the spring semester. The courses feature the use of IBM Systems iServer and middleware hardwar and software to deliver larger distributed applications.

They will equip the students to understand how to address business and IT management problems in this area. At the same time, the students will learn enough technical skills to be able to get jobs in the IBM Systems i environment.

Education

New happenings in the College’s largest department

A number of personnel and program changes are taking place in the department of curriculum & instruction under the leadership of Dean M. Christopher Brown II.

Sandra Odell is the department’s new chair, replacing Greg Levitt, who now is an assistant dean. New associate professors in the department include Meexheen Shimi, who specializes in social statistics and educational systems; Xuan Zhang, whose expertise is in teacher education; and Hasan Deniz, who specializes in science education.

Contributing to the department’s focus on maintaining national prominence, Thomas Bean and Helen Harper have been appointed editors for the International Reading Association’s Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy. Other leading journals housed in the department, the National Council of Teachers of English Journal of Children’s Literature, co-edited by the college’s Cyndy Giorgis and Laura Mendenhall, and the journal of the National Association of Multicultural Education, co-edited by Porter Troutman, Maria Ramirez, and sports education leadership faculty member K.R. Apache, and the Intervention in School and Clinical Journal, edited by Randall Boone and special educator poultry. The department now has Project PASS (Proficiency and Success in Science), a collaborative professional development project for teachers supported by the Nevada Mathematics and Science Partnership program. Principal investigators include Loretta Asay from the Clark County School District, the department’s Kent Crippen, and John Farley from the College of Sciences. It is a three-year, $750,000 project focused on integrated scientific inquiry. It provides a two-week summer institute for 50 high school science teachers. Goals include the development of reformer teacher practice and improved content knowledge for both science teachers and their students.

Engineering

Mentorship helps students with ideas broken down

A new minor in technology commercialization is now being offered.

The minor focuses on the early stage of product conception and development and offers all engineering majors the opportunity to take courses in product commercialization from faculty and practitioners. Motivated students can collaborate with peers to develop and present a potentially winning idea in the Governor’s Cup Business Plan Competition.

Nick Fore, director of the Mendenhall Innovation Center at UNLV, and professor Rama Venkat played key roles in creating the minor.

Liberal Arts

Writing graduate programs hit ‘Top 5’ lists

By Doug Unger // rector chair of the department of English

This season is rich with good news for graduate programs in the department of English. Aside from the heady inclusion of several faculty in prestigious national awards that venerable, Boston-based arbiter of literary taste, writer Edward Delaney concluded that UNLV’s MFA in creative writing is a top five program in the country. He also declared that the Schaeffer Ph.D., with creative dissertations amounts to the top five doctoral programs in the country. The MFA program in English at UNLV has been honored by the invaluable gifts of, among others; but when rumors fly regarding

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Honors

College Welcomes New Students

A total of 108 new students joined the college last month. At a welcoming ceremony, students and family members heard from honors faculty member Maria Jiménez-Pavía and Daniel Villanueva of foreign languages, who described the high academic standards expected in honors courses. They also heard the “other side of the story” from upper-division honors students Sean Akari, Michael Amato-Von Hemert, Elizabeth Ashbaugh, and David Cotter.

Lisa Chastain, director of advising, provided perspective on the need for new students to work with academic advisors from both the Honors College and from their respective discipline colleges to ensure they are making sufficient academic progress.

Finally, parents got interesting news from Interim Dean Peter Starkweather as he outlined the rules associated with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which mandates that grade reports be provided only to the student in question. The orientation concluded with a luncheon and comments from President David Ashley and Executive Vice President and Provost Neal Smatresk.

In other news, Honors student Shipra De is the first UNLV student to be honored by the Flap Jack Campus Professionals, a recipient of their new “Emerging Scholar Award.” Shipra is one of only 60 rising sophomores nationwide to receive this recognition.

Hotel

College Career Center Opens

The Bob Boughner Career Services Center, created with a $1.2 million gift from local gaming executive Robert Boughner, is up and running.

Housed on the first floor of Beam Hall, the center encourages students to explore career opportunities during their freshman and sophomore years and then continue the process throughout college. It provides information on large international companies as well as local and national hotels, restaurants, gaming venues, and other hospitality venues.

Bobbie Barnes, a college alumnus and special Middle East envoy for under President George H.W. Bush, and special expert on arid soils. The citation acknowledges her “outstanding advances” in the fields of soil-geomorphology, landscape evolution, micromorphology, tectonics, paleoclimate, geoarchaeology, and heavy-metal and radionuclide contamination. She is active in national and international soil and geology research and has served with the Soil Science Society of America’s top award, recognizing her professional achievement in mineralogy and soil chemistry.

Buck is the 16th recipient and first woman to receive this prestigious award. The Marion L. and Chrystie Jackson Soil Science Award recognizes a midcareer soil scientist who has had a profound effect on the field nationally and internationally. Buck is one of the world’s foremost experts on arid soils. The citation acknowledges her “outstanding advances” in the fields of soil-geomorphology, landscape evolution, micromorphology, tectonics, paleoclimate, geoarchaeology, and heavy-metal and radionuclide contamination. She is active in national and international soil and geology research and has served with the National Science Foundation and the International Union of Soil Science.

Buck was recently selected to lead a collaborative grant project ($382,153) with scientists from the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and UNLV, to assess the effects of dust emissions from public lands on air quality in areas of Clark County. Buck and her colleagues will provide technical assistance to land management agencies under the Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, a cooperative effort with BLM. Engineering professors Darrell Pepper and Nailing Wang, James King and Vic Etyemezian of the Desert Research Institute, and two postdoctoral appointees in the geoscience department, Dirk Goossens and Brett McLaurin, will collaborate on the project.

University College

Alum Joins Faculty

The college welcomes new faculty member Joshua Kryah. He holds a Ph.D. in English from UNLV and has extensive experience in advising and mentoring students earning interdisciplinary degrees.

The college also congratulates professor Julian Smith, who has taught in the college for several years as visiting faculty, and now has been appointed to a professor-in-residence position.

Exploration Fair Set for Oct. 4

All colleges at UNLV are invited to participate in University College’s Majors Exploration Fair on Oct. 4 in the Student Union. Hundreds of undeclared students have the opportunity to meet faculty and learn more about UNLV’s variety of degree programs.

Urban Affairs

Environmental Studies

The department of environmental studies hosted the International Symposium on Technology and Society, the annual conference of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers’ Society on Social Implications of Technology.

“Risk, Vulnerability, Uncertainty, Technology and Society” was the theme. Presentation topics included nuclear weapons and nuclear waste management, gambling and society, and energy and resources and society.

College presenters among the 75 attendees included environmental studies chair David M. Hassenzahl and environmental studies Ph.D. student Irena Ratnie, who also served as conference chair and conference coordinator, respectively; faculty members Timothy Farnham and William Smith of environmental studies; Julian Kilkener of journalism and media studies; and environmental studies gradu- ate students Tim Greenough, Carmel Lefebvre, and Dennis Bechtel.

Several of the conference papers will be published in a special issue of Technology and Society, the journal of the Society on Social Implications of Technology, Hassenzahl is its editor.

Across Campus

Lapping It Up

The new Student Recreation and Wellness Center opened Sept. 17. The building includes high-tech weight and fitness rooms, swimming pools, and basketball, volleyball, and racquetball courts. Call ext. 4-7100 for membership information.

Law

School Events

Promote Exchange of Ideas

As the new semester starts, faculty, staff, and students are looking forward to the dedication of the recently completed Thomas & Mack Courthouse Center facility. Housing a state-of-the-art courtroom, it is another manifestation of the tremendous generosity the Thomas and Mack families have shown the law school and UNLV.

Water Issues Conference: The school will host the all-day conference Collaboration and the Colorado River in the new facility Oct. 12. The conference will bring water and environmental experts together with specialists in dispute resolution to examine water and land-use issues relevant to the region. The school’s Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution is sponsoring the event.

Lecture: On Dec. 6, the Saltman Center will continue its Peace in the Desert lecture series with Dennis Ross, former director of policy planning under President George H.W. Bush and special Middle East envoy for President Bill Clinton.

These events, along with speakers and other guests at the school, represent the continued commitment to making the school a center for the exchange of ideas within the legal academy and here on campus. Look for new programs, additional speakers, and increased opportunities for the campus community and the school to share our work over the next year.

More info: Come to the annual open house for prospective applicants and the general public at 10 a.m. Oct. 13.

Libraries

Special Collections Offers Treasures from UNLV’s Past

University Libraries makes preparations for UNLV’s 50th anniversary a lot easier by providing greater access to the unique materials in the archives. UNLV’s special collections department was established in July 1967 as the first repository for historical documents in Southern Nevada, including important materials on the early history of UNLV — the university archives. In summer 2006, Tom Sommer became the newest archivist within special collections and was given the assignment to refine and expand the archives. He focused on organization, classification, and an increased web presence.

He extensively updated the university archives webpages to add photographs and descriptions of the various record series, including university publications. They now include FAQs, a bibliography of published works on UNLV, and timelines on the university’s history, buildings, and presidents. Sommer will continue to add more content and links to the university archives webpages over time.

In the meantime, the newly revised webpages, www.library.unlv.edu/special/university_archives/index should be useful during the 50th anniversary year.

Sciences

Buck on the Trend: Geoscientist First Woman to Win Award

Brenda J. Buck, associate professor of geoscience, received the Soil Science Society of America’s top award, recognizing her professional achievement in mineralogy and soil chemistry.

Buck is the 16th recipient and first woman to receive this prestigious award. The Marion L. and Chrystie Jackson Soil Science Award recognizes a midcareer soil scientist who has had a profound effect on the field nationally and internationally. Buck is one of the world’s foremost experts on arid soils. The citation acknowledges her “outstanding advances” in the fields of soil-geomorphology, landscape evolution, micromorphology, tectonics, paleoclimate, geoarchaeology, and heavy-metal and radionuclide contamination. She is active in national and international soil and geology research and has served with the National Science Foundation and the International Union of Soil Science.

Buck was recently selected to lead a collaborative grant project ($382,153) with scientists from the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and UNLV, to assess the effects of dust emissions from public lands on air quality in areas of Clark County. Buck and her colleagues will provide technical assistance to land management agencies under the Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, a cooperative effort with BLM. Engineering professors Darrell Pepper and Nailing Wang, James King and Vic Etyemezian of the Desert Research Institute, and two postdoctoral appointees in the geoscience department, Dirk Goossens and Brett McLaurin, will collaborate on the project.

University College

Alum Joins Faculty

The college welcomes new faculty member Joshua Kryah. He holds a Ph.D. in English from UNLV and has extensive experience in advising and mentoring students earning interdisciplinary degrees.

The college also congratulates professor Julian Smith, who has taught in the college for several years as visiting faculty, and now has been appointed to a professor-in-residence position.

Exploration Fair Set for Oct. 4

All colleges at UNLV are invited to participate in University College’s Majors Exploration Fair on Oct. 4 in the Student Union. Hundreds of undeclared students have the opportunity to meet faculty and learn more about UNLV’s variety of degree programs.

Urban Affairs

Environmental Studies

Hosts Technology Conference

The department of environmental studies hosted the International Symposium on Technology and Society, the annual conference of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers’ Society on Social Implications of Technology.

“Risk, Vulnerability, Uncertainty, Technology and Society” was the theme. Presentation topics included nuclear weapons and nuclear waste management, gambling and society, and energy and resources and society.

College presenters among the 75 attendees included environmental studies chair David M. Hassenzahl and environmental studies Ph.D. student Irena Ratnie, who also served as conference chair and conference coordinator, respectively; faculty members Timothy Farnham and William Smith of environmental studies; Julian Kilkener of journalism and media studies; and environmental studies graduate students Tim Greenough, Carmel Lefebvre, and Dennis Bechtel.

Several of the conference papers will be published in a special issue of Technology and Society, the journal of the Society on Social Implications of Technology, Hassenzahl is its editor.
Spotlight On Accomplishments

> Martha Watson (Urban Affairs) Thomas Burkholder (Communication Studies), and Ardyth Sohn (Journalism) traveled to Japan to lecture at the Tohoku Gakuin University. Sohn was invited to the Japan Association for Current English Studies. The professional group is made up of professional translators, journalists, international personnel, media and communication specialists, and others interested in the study of English. They also visited schools and faculty at three schools, Tsuda College, Rikkyo University, and Aoyama Gakuin University, and held discussions about possible student or faculty exchange or research collaboration.

> Ann McDonough (University College) made a presentation at UNLV on the college’s bachelor of university studies degree with areas of study in gerontology. A number of students indicated strong interest in the program, which is the only bachelor’s program in gerontology in the NSHE.

> Phillip Patton (Health Physics) received funding from the Institute for Security Studies as part of the summer research program for a study examining the risk to humans associated with high-energy X-ray equipment proposed for transfer to the United States. He will determine how to use the computer service department, which provides support for special events staff, athletics staff, and University Life (UDLife). He supports end users, troubleshoots hardware/software problems, and oversees the day-to-day operations of the program. He has worked at UNLV since 1998.

> Susan Kowalski (Nursing) received a $464,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to develop a yearlong residency training program for new registered nurses in Southern Nevada. The three-year program will be open to 30 new graduates each year employed by Desert Springs and Valley hospitals. It focuses on improving retention, clinical judgment, and professional competency among the area’s growing nursing workforce.

> James Czidziel and Calais Guo (Harry Reid Center) completed their research in Geochemistry and Health published a paper in Environmental Geochemistry and Health titled “Chemical and Colloidal Analyses of Natural Seep Water Collected from the Exploratory Studies Facility inside Yucca Mountain, USA.”

> Josefina Pacheco (Dental Medicine) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for July. A dental assistant 1, she works in the dental department. She has worked at UNLV for three years.

> Sue Fawn Chung (History) assisted in preparing an exhibit on the history and accomplishments of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance for the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum in San Francisco. The exhibit opened at the end of July in conjunction with the national PCA conference. Her study on the Chinese mining community in Island Mountain, which is located in the Nevada desert, will be presented at the annual conference of the Organization of American Historians in New York in March.

> Lisa Howard (Thomas & Mack) was named classified employee of the month in the technical/service category for July. An administrative assistant VI, she works in the computer service department, which provides support for special events staff, athletics staff, and University Life (UDLife). She supports end users, troubleshoots hardware/software problems, and oversees the day-to-day operations of the program. She has worked at UNLV since 1998.

> Lisa Davis (Business) was chosen as the 2006 conference co-chair for the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals annual conference in Denver.

> Anthony J. Ferri (Journalism) wrote a book, Willing Suspension of Disbelief: Poetic Faith in Film, which was published by Lexington Books.

> Kyle Ethelbah (CAEO) recently was named a “diversity hero” by the “Celebrating Diversity” Las Vegas multicultural visitors guide 2006-07, a publication of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. He was honored for the collaborative effort of the year award from the Division of Student Life for the development of a computer literacy initiative for college success, a collaborative partnership between the adult educational services programs within the Center for Community Enrichment & Outreach and Nevada Job Connect.

> Oscar Tarongoy (Facilities) was named an employee of the month in the custodial category for July. A custodial worker II, he has worked at UNLV since April 2001.

> Tara M. Emmers-Sommer (Communication Studies) is a second-author, along with Mike Allen, Dave D’Alessio, Lindsay Timmerman, Alesia Hanaz, and Jamie Korus of the upcoming Communication Monographs article, “The Connection Between the Physiological and Psychological Reactions to Sexually Explicit Materials: A Literature Review and Meta-Analysis.” She is also a third-author, along with Danielle Jackson and Erika Engstrom (Communication Studies), of the upcoming Sex Roles article, “Think Leader, Think Male and Feminie: Sex vs. Seating Arrangement as Leadership Cues.” She also is first author on two papers that were presented at the recent International Communication Association conference, “Being a Woman in Academia: Women’s Shared Experiences,” with co-authors Martha Watson (Urban Affairs), Ardyth Sohn (Journalism), and Lauren Frueht (Journalism); and, “Students’ Relationship and Sexual Health Status, Sexual Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviors, and Responses to STD Disclosure” with co-authors Stacey Passalaqua, Kathleen Warber, and Angela Luciano.

> Nancy Menzel (Nursing) received the Bullard-Sherwood Research-to-Practice Award from the National Institute of Nursing Research and Health for her contribution to a project to reduce musculoskeletal injuries in nursing and health care workers as they develop and implementing a safe patient handling curriculum in schools of nursing. The project demonstrated that schools of nursing can be effective in advocating a move from manual handling techniques to evidence-based safe-patient handling and movement programs.

> Kathy Rothermel (Libraries) was selected classified employee of the month in the technical/service category for June. A library technician III, she retired last month after 36 years as a classified employee at UNLV Libraries and three years as a student worker. She earned a bachelor’s degree in business from UNLV in 1970.

> Kari Kingsey (Desert Research) recently published the article “Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma Proliferative Phenotype is Modulated by Proinflammatory A Potential Prevention and Treatment Alternative for Oral Cancer” in the latest issue of BioMed Central (BMC) Community and Comparative Medicine. This article is co-authored by six doctoral dental students and is the lead research highlight on the BMC website, www.biomedcentral.com/bmccomplementarmed.

> Darrell Pepper (Mechanical Engineering) has been elected a member of the Cosmos Club, located in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1876, the 45 members have included three presidents, two vice presidents, a dozen U.S. Supreme Court justices, 32 Nobel Prize winners, 56 Pulitzer Prize winners, and 45 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Pepper is the first member elected from Las Vegas. In June, he presented an invited talk on emergency response modeling at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

> Kimberly Charron and Meihua Koo (Accounting) coauthored “Student Demand for Distance Education Courses in Accounting,” and received Best Manuscript Award of the teaching and curriculum section at American Accounting Association Western regional meeting. The journal awarded $250 and a plaque for the best education article.

> Ramon Figueredo (Facilities) was named classified employee of the month in the custodial category for June. A custodial worker I, he has worked at UNLV for four years.

> Vicky Albert (Social Work) has had manuscript, “Survival Analyses of the Dynamics of Sibling Experiences in Foster Care,” accepted for publication in Families in Society. She also examined the over-time impact of placing siblings together in care on reunification with primary caretakers. She also was an invited speaker at the 10th annual Welfare Research Evaluation Conference. She has worked at UNLV for seven years and was named classiﬁed employee of the month in the technical/service category for June.

> Jerry Kooski (Athletics) received the Far West Athletic Trainers’ Association District 8 Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer award for exemplary achievement that has brought distinction to the profession of athletic training. He served as the head athletic trainer at UNLV from 1991 to 1999 and most recently was the first president of the Nevada State Athletic Trainers’ Association. He also was named as the committee chair for the Nevada State Athletic Trainers’ Licensing Committee, which passed legislation requiring licensure of athletic trainers in Nevada. For the past nine years, he has held both of the senior associate athletic director for the intercollegiate athletic department.

> Kathy Amortegui (Business) was selected as a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for July. An administrative assistant III, she supports prospective and current MBA students from the time of admission to the time of graduation. She also provides administrative support to a number of administrators and supervises a classified staff person. She has worked at UNLV since 2014.

> James Pollard and James Czidziel (Harry Reid Center), and Krystyna Slave and Michelle Reid (Environmental Studies) published a paper in the Journal of Environmental Monitoring and Assessment titled “Selenium Concentrations in Water and Plant Tissues of a Newly Formed Arid Wetland in Las Vegas, Nevada”.

> Lori Candela (Nursing) received a grant totaling more than $700,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration to develop a first-of-its-kind partnership between schools of nursing at UNLV and UNR. The project will address the shortage of nursing educators in Nevada by accelerating the progression of master’s program students at the two universities into UNLV’s Ph.D. program.

> John Bowers (English) is the Conference Chair for the Fourth Annual Antigonean Tradition, which

Submit Your News
E-mail entries to inside.unlv.edu. Items should no be more than 100 words.
Don’t Leave a Paper Trail: Go Electronic

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Do you have a stack of old payroll stubs at your desk? If so, you are probably not alone. However, the university wants you to help change that. UNLV is ramping up efforts to reduce the use of paper on campus, said Controller Brent Morgan. Going paperless will reduce costs, improve efficiency and service, and support sustainability initiatives.

Judy Ries, Administrative assistant, facilities management

“Employees get their deposit information quicker, and it is accessible to employees who use this will generate savings for the university,” Ries said. “The scenarios in the training course don’t come directly to your e-mail. Requiring them that they will get help immediately is key.”

Saving Paper

The controller’s office annual update of key business policies has now been posted online at controller.unlv.edu. There are also key financial contacts and website references for more information.

Get Your Payroll Advice Online

One of the easiest ways to make a difference is to sign up for direct pay-
roll deposit. Another is to use EQUUS, the Employee Query and Update System. Through EQUUS, you can sign up for direct deposit and get your paystub e-mailed to you. You can also use this system to update your personal data forms.

Using EQUUS allows employees to bypass creating a document that gets put in the mail and ends up on some-
one’s desk, said Chris Viton, deputy controller. The online system improves the efficiency and the quality of data because each individual directly inputs his or her information, he said.

“Employees get their deposit information quicker, and it is accessible anytime,” Viton said. “You don’t have to wait for it to be available in your department on payday.”

Viton said that approximately 85 percent of campus has direct deposit, but only about 10 percent of those employees receive a paperless advice. “If you need the actual piece of paper, you can print it off yourself,” he said.

Get Your Travel Reimbursement Faster

Later this fall, employees will be able to receive travel reimburse-
ment claims through direct deposit. Employees who use this will gener-
ically receive their reimbursement faster than those who receive paper checks.

To qualify, you must be on payroll direct deposit.

Paperless Signature Authority on Department Accounts

The controller’s office simplified the process for updating signature authorities for AdvantEdge accounts. Individuals with a signature author-
ity only have to sign one master card. With the card on file, adding or delet-
ing a person as a signature authority can be made by submitting a request form available at controller.unlv.edu.

Changes in signature authority are notified by e-mail to the central controller, and then routed by e-mail to the appropriate dean, vice president, or designee for approval with a copy simultaneously sent to the central controller.

Previously, a paper document had to be routed from department to department to gather all the signatures. “Departments used to avoid making changes because the process was so cumbersome,” Morgan said.

Judy’s Tip

As the leave keeper for nearly 400 employees, some-
times it’s tough to satisfy everyone’s needs and still maintain a positive attitude. People can get pretty frus-
trated when there are errors. Reassuring them that they will get help immediately is key.”

More info: To take Advanced Connections: Moving Quality Service Beyond the Basics or other staff development classes, visit hr.unlv.edu or call Hilary Bockstanz at ext. 5-0603.

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Share Service Savvy

By Grace Russell | Marketing & PR

Before joining UNLV four years ago, Judy Ries worked in the grocery business for 25 years. Even with that lengthy experience with the public, she wanted to improve her customer service skills. So, she attended the workshop, Advanced Connections: Moving Quality Service Beyond the Basics, offered through the UNLV office of staff development and employee relations.

“We all know how to give good customer ser-
vie, but a little refresher course never hurts,” said Ries. “The scenarios in the training course really hit home and gave me renewed efforts not to repeat any of them.”

The workshop explores new ways to address everyday situations. Additionally, the training provides tips on face-to-face and telephone commun-
ications.

To enhance your customer service skills, Hilary Bockstanz, director of the office of staff development and employee relations, offers these tips:

1. Support Your Colleagues

If you see your co-worker confronted with a tough customer, step in to see if you can help diffuse the situation or suggest a suitable solution.

2. Ask and Invite Questions

Often students and employees may not know what questions to ask. Ask them questions to check their understanding and to prevent future problems and confusion.

3. Share Information Across Department Lines

Avoid duplication of effort and save time by communicating with other campus departments. Communicating when sharing a project with other departments can help you provide a better level of service.

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Time-Honored Tradition

By Grace Russell | Marketing & PR

Returning alumni, parades, and tailgate parties — though UNLV has changed over the years, the excitement of homecoming remains.

Homecoming festivities will kick off Oct. 16 with the grand opening of the 50th Anniversary Memorabilia Exhibition at the Barrick Museum of Natural History. The week’s activities also include a parade, a golf tournament, and a pep rally. They will culminate Oct. 20 with a football game against Colorado State. Members of the campus community can show their support of the university and the football team by wearing red for Rebel Red Day on Oct. 19.

More info: For a complete list of homecoming 2007 activities, log onto celebrating50.unlv.edu.

(Left) UNLV students participate in the 2006 homecoming parade held on campus. This year’s parade will be Saturday, Oct. 20, at Sam Boyd Stadium. (Below) “Honorary Homecoming Queen” Tanya the elephant poses with a UNLV drill team member in 1971. See this photo and other UNLV memorabilia at the grand opening of the 50th Anniversary Memorabilia Exhibition on Oct. 16 at the Barrick Museum.

(Top) UNLV football teammates huddle during the Nebraska game in 1998. Some photos are from the 50th Anniversary Memorabilia Exhibition at the Barrick Museum. (Above) Faculty, staff, and students are invited to cheer on the football team at a pep rally and barbecue 11 a.m. Oct. 18. (Left) Senior defensive back Tony Cade tackles a Utah State player during the 2007 season-opening game. UNLV started the season off right with a 23-16 win over the Aggies. The Rebels will take on Colorado State 6 p.m. Oct. 20 at Sam Boyd Stadium. Purchase tickets at unlvtickets.com or call 739-3267.