Celebrating UNLV’s 40th Anniversary
Homecoming '97
UNLV Alumni Association

You're Invited!
Homecoming schedule of events

Wednesday, September 24, 1997
Homecoming Golf Tournament, Desert Pines Golf Course.
1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start
$125.00 per person

Thursday, September 25, 1997
12:00 p.m. Quarterback Club Luncheon, Richard Tam Alumni Center

Friday, September 26, 1997
6:30 p.m. Cocktails, Richard Tam Alumni Center Courtyard
7:00 p.m. Dinner, served outdoors in the Academic Mall
7:45 p.m. Entertainment, Alumni awards presentation
8:00 p.m. Closing remarks
$15 in advance/$20 at door/Tables $150 each

Saturday, September 27, 1997
5:30 p.m. Great tailgate party, Rebel Experience, Sam Boyd Stadium
(Free to all UNLV Alumni Association dues paying Alumni. $6 each for others.)

Celebrating UNLV's 40th Anniversary
UNLV memorabilia provided courtesy of the James R. Dickinson Library, the Athletic Department, Wayne Cleveland, Walter Vodraska, Carl Cook, Kari Coburn, and Bill Ireland. Photo by Studio West.

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UNLV Magazine is published in March and September by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 451012, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1012. World Wide Web Address: http://www.unlv.edu/
UNLV is an AA/EEO Institution.
New Deans Appointed to Lead Six University Colleges

New deans have been appointed to lead the Colleges of Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Business, Education, and Sciences, and the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. Their names were forwarded to UNLV President Carol C. Harter by Provost Douglas Ferraro following national searches.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Carolyn Sabo, interim dean of UNLV's College of Health Sciences since July 1995, has been selected as dean of that college.

Sabo also came to UNLV as an assistant professor in the department of nursing in 1984 and was promoted to associate professor in 1990, also served as acting chair of the department of radiological sciences and acting director of the department of physical therapy. She has served as coordinator of the graduate nursing program at UNLV, assistant professor of nursing at the University of Utah's College of Nursing, staff nurse and head nurse at the University Medical Center in Salt Lake City, and staff nurse at Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake City.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Elvin C. Lashbrook, the former associate dean of the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University, has been appointed dean of UNLV's College of Business.

Lashbrook, who had served as associate dean at Michigan State since 1993, had also previously chaired the university's department of general business and business law for 11 years.

He has taught law and business courses at Michigan State, Cambridge University, Notre Dame Law School, Stetson University College of Law, and DePaul University College of Law. He taught mathematics at St. Edward's University and served as a mathematician and analyst for the

Seniors Win NCAA Tennis Championships

Two UNLV seniors, Luke Smith and Tim Blenkiron, brought home two NCAA tennis championships last spring.

Smith, who won the men's NCAA singles competition, joined with Blenkiron to take the doubles championship as well. Smith's victory marks the first singles title for UNLV, and it was only the second time in 20 years of NCAA championships that the same player claimed the singles and doubles titles in the same year.

An art major from Clarendon, Australia, Smith was not seeded in the singles tournament; he was ranked 65th when he entered. He then went on to win without losing a set.

Blenkiron, a hotel administration major from Woodside, Australia, had never before participated in an NCAA tournament. The doubles team, which was ranked 19th and was also unseeded, lost only two sets in the NCAA competition.

With the victories, both Smith and Blenkiron earned automatic berths to this year's main draw of the U.S. Open.

Regents Approve Four New UNLV Degree Programs

Four new UNLV degree programs — a master of science and a Ph.D. in environmental sciences, a master of fine arts in creative writing, and a bachelor of science in culinary arts management — have been approved by the Board of Regents.

The new graduate programs in environmental sciences, which are now being offered, are interdisciplinary programs involving faculty from 11 different UNLV departments, the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, and the Desert Research Institute.

The degree programs emphasize the need to understand the consequences of using science and technology in the service of civilization.

Initially, students will be able to specialize in one of three tracks: environmental chemistry, environmental policy and management, and environmental geology.

Additional tracks are anticipated in such fields as environmental health and environmental law.

The new master of fine arts in creative writing, which is currently underway, is a unique creative writing program with an international emphasis.

Students are required to spend one semester during their three years of study in a non-English-speaking country and also are required to complete one significant literary translation. Additionally, foreign novelists, short-story writers, and poets will be brought in to teach each semester.

The program is small; only 12 students per year will be admitted. Two tracks are available to students — one in fiction and one in poetry.

The bachelor of science in culinary arts management will provide educational opportunities for the student planning to pursue a career as a chef/manager.

The program, which will begin in fall 1998, will accommodate transfer students from two-year culinary arts programs, such as the one at the Community College of Southern Nevada.

To be administered by the food and beverage management department and the dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, the program is designed to be a joint effort with CCSON.
Professor Thomas Wright Receives Outstanding Faculty Award

The UNLV Alumni Association recently selected history professor Thomas Wright as its 1997 recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award. Wright, who is known for his expertise in Latin American history, has been a member of the UNLV history department faculty since 1972. He served as chairman of the history department from 1978 to 1981 and as dean of the College of Arts and Letters from 1983 to 1989. The author of more than a dozen scholarly articles, Wright has written four books, all on the subject of Latin America. He has traveled extensively in support of his research; most recently, he served as a visiting professor in Costa Rica and Chile through the University Studies Abroad Consortium.

Wright served as editor of the journal *Hacia: A Journal of the Humanities* from 1991 to 1995. He received the Governor’s Arts Award in 1986 and the Humanities Award from the University of California in 1996. Wright holds a doctorate and master’s degree in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor’s degree in history from Pomona College. His father, John S. Wright, for whom Wright Hall is named, was the first recipient of the Alumni Association’s Outstanding Faculty Award in 1975. Thomas Wright is the 24th recipient of the award.

New Deans

continued from page 2

National Security Agency. He also had a private law practice in Austin, Texas.

College of Education

John J. Readence has been named dean of UNLV’s College of Education. Readence, a member of the education faculty at UNLV since 1993, replaced former Dean Dale Andersen in May 1996 to serve for one year while a dean at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and served as professor of biological sciences and assistant professor in Old Dominion’s Institute of Oceanography. Readence has taught and served as department head at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and among other administrative positions. Readence has served as editor of a number of professional journals on reading education and is currently editor of *Reading Research Quarterly*.

College of Sciences

Raymond W. Alden III, the former director of the Applied Marine Research Laboratory at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., has been appointed UNLV’s new dean of the College of Sciences. Alden had directed the Applied Marine Research Laboratory since 1982 and served as professor of biological sciences at Old Dominion since 1988. Previously, he served as associate professor of biological sciences; he held a joint appointment as assistant professor in Old Dominion in the department of biological sciences and assistant professor in Old Dominion’s Institute of Oceanography.

GREENSPUN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS

Martha S. Watson, the former associate dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at the University of Maryland, has been named the first permanent dean of UNLV’s Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. Watson, who served as associate dean at the University of Maryland for five years, also served as acting chair of the department of speech communication there.

She was also graduate director of Auburn University in Alabama from 1987 to 1989 and director of the basic course at Auburn from 1977 to 1981. She has taught English, secondary education, and speech at the universities of Maryland and Kansas, Auburn, and Stephen F. Austin State University (Texas). She served as editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Speech* from 1990 to 1992.

Bigelow Chair of Consciousness Studies Established

A $3.7 million gift from Robert T. and Diane Bigelow will fund a new academic position in the College of Sciences at UNLV.

The Bigelow Chair of Consciousness Studies will be filled initially on an annual basis by distinguished visiting scientists or scholars. The first appointee is Charles Tart, a former professor of psychology at the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, Calif. “The students and faculty at UNLV are extremely fortunate that concerned citizens like Robert and Diane Bigelow take an active interest in the sciences and provide funds to bring the finest quality scholars here to teach,” said UNLV Provost Douglas Ferraro.

The new donation is a continuation of Bigelow family gifts in support of the Colleges of Sciences and Health Sciences at UNLV. “We are very interested in seeing the disciplines of physics, biology, and chemistry — empirical scientific investigations into the natural laws of the universe — applied to the study of consciousness,” explained Robert Bigelow, president of Bigelow Holding Company. “There is a lot of important research by clinical biochemists, neurologists, and others who are trying to understand consciousness. Our goal is simply to help scientists unravel some of the mysteries of consciousness and ultimately benefit mankind.”

Lied Athletic Complex Receives $500,000 Donation

The state-of-the-art, 328-seat auditorium in UNLV’s new Lied Athletic Complex has been officially named in honor of Barron Hilton, recognizing a $500,000 gift to UNLV for the athletic complex from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. No student-athletes will be inspired by the tradition of excellence that is represented by the Hilton name,” UNLV President Carol C. Harter said. “This is much more than an auditorium — it is a place of learning that was specifically designed to fill multiple roles for study, classrooms, and meetings. We are deeply indebted to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for underwriting the cost of this outstanding facility for our dedicated student-athletes.”

The 65,000-square-foot, $8.5 million Lied Athletic Complex opened in August last year and was built entirely with private funds initiated by a $4 million challenge gift from the Lied Foundation Trust. The gift from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation brings the total number of major donors to 15.

The Barron Hilton Auditorium is the largest facility of its kind on campus and serves a multitude of purposes. The area is used for study hall and tutoring during the day. During training hours, teams can reserve space for meetings. Large-group orientation, such as NCA, orientations, can be conducted for all UNLV athletes and staff at one time.

New Academic, Administrative Directors Appointed

Four new directors have been appointed at UNLV.

* Terri Elliot of San Ramon College in Massachusetts has been hired to direct UNLV’s Schools of Social Work. Before coming to UNLV, Elliot was both a professor in the School of Social Work at Salem State and executive director of the Center for Applied Research and Development in the college’s School of Therapeutic Services. Previously, she served as chair of the children and family services concentration in the master of social work program at Salem State.

* Lynette Boggs McDonald, a former assistant city manager for the city of Las Vegas, has been hired as UNLV’s director of marketing and community relations. McDonald will be responsible for establishing a marketing plan for the university. She had served as assistant city manager for the city of Las Vegas since January 1994, and, prior to that, she was director of marketing for the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

* Ann Casados Muñoz, formerly the Desert Research Institute’s director of community and workforce development, has been hired as UNLV’s director of diversity initiatives. She will be responsible for planning, developing, and administering diversity programs for students, faculty, and staff. Casados Muñoz, who worked at DRI for six years, served as the director of equal employment opportunity for the state of Nevada from 1990 to 1991.

Training, Inc. in Phoenix, has been named director of UNLV’s physical therapy program. A former intern at physical therapy at Tufts University, he is a licensed physical therapist and holds certification in a strength and conditioning specialty and athletic training. Wahtman’s appointment signals the start of the long-anticipated physical therapy program in the College of Health Sciences.

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Early UNLV faculty recall the pleasures of arriving on campus at a time when the good news was that there was plenty of free parking. Of course, the bad news was that a rattlesnake could be waiting under your desk. The times and the nature of the anecdotes might have changed over the course of four decades, but the fond recollections of UNLV faculty haven’t faded.

Wells, who in 1957 was a process engineer at the Tenaya plant in Henderson, was asked to teach a surveying class at what was then the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada. Not long afterward, he joined the faculty full-time. In those days, in order to get a degree, students from the southern campus had to attend classes in Las Vegas for at least one semester, and much of the administrative and curriculum-planning at the southern division had to be approved in Reno.

Wells recalls coming up north at least once a month with three other faculty members for University Council meetings, during which a would-be determined if the southern campus could offer new courses or services to the growing population of the Las Vegas community.

"Reno would tell us what was good for us," Wells says, "and what we would offer 26-4 if the issue involved us.

The thought that Northern Nevadans would dictate policy chilled the southerners, who were determined to achieve autonomy as speedily as possible.

One of the earliest arrivals was Herbert Wells, who retired last spring after teaching engineering at UNLV for 40 years.

Wells' arrival at the dusty Maryland Parkway campus in the 1950s or in the mid-1960s when the dust had given way to green campus stalls timmned with tall trees and modern buildings, most faculty members recall vividly what brought them to UNLV.

Many came to accept their first teaching jobs, attracted to an institution at which an entreprenurial spirit was needed to get things started. Later arrivals found a more established but still growing campus. One thing they all seemed to share was the desire to contribute to the progress of a young campus clearly on its way up. And, they all have great stories to tell.

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High School, Manse Frazier Hall was built in 1957 and provided the structural heart and soul of the campus. "Everything was done in Frazier Hall," Wells says. "We had all of the faculty in one room, except for the chemists and the biology who couldn't fit into a lab." The library was in what is now the Regent's Office, the labs were in the area that houses the College of Environmental Studies. Construction of the remains of what is now the Marjorie Perrin buffalo the Museum of Natural History and Archie Green Hall go.

James Deacon, now a biological sciences professor and the chairman of the environmental studies department, also remembers the core quarters of the early campus.

"The campus was centrally located," says Deacon, who joined the faculty in 1969. "It was in the heart of the city, and it was a great place to be.

Wells tells of also getting help from his own students. Eight students worked in his first surveying class, and he had only one set of surveying instruments. However, one of the students, already a professional surveyor who thought he might be able to learn something new, brought his equipment to help out.

Wells also remembers that the first year he taught, his students were asked to write in case any students had questions.

He and several colleagues were watching the registration line when one student, as personal attention, rode a bike with a helmet wearing a red hat with a wheel on his back, and just happened to pass them. She carried a pink purse and a motorcycle with the same color. Speculation was rife among the faculty as to who the biker was and what she was going to.

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One of the earliest arrivals was Herbert Wells, who retired last spring after teaching engineering at UNLV for 40 years.
Deacon immediately committed to his students; for him, what has become a modern buzzword in academia—"student centeredness"—was a matter of course. He has always involved students in his research projects and has taken every chance to get his students out of the classroom and into the real world to apply what they’ve learned. He remembers, for example, two summers of classes in Clark Canyon in the Spring Mountains, where students collected and studied animal specimens. “All the time we spent in the field contributed to a high level of student involvement,” Deacon says. “You get a lot more interaction there than in the classroom. Learning becomes more personal; it becomes an opportunity to focus not only on the scientific ideas, but also to integrate them into the rest of your life.”

Like Wells, Deacon recalls having to be resourceful at gathering teaching supplies. He taught a class in comparative anatomy for pre-med students, and since he had relatively few laboratory materials, he suggested that students get more involved by collecting some of their own. As it happened, two students who worked for veterinarians decided to take advantage of raw materials from the vet to build a horse skeleton.

“The skeleton stayed around the lab for years,” Deacon says. “They even put a little paper heart inside.”

Animals were naturally a part of Deacon’s discipline, but he ran into more than his fair share unexpectedly right on campus. Roadrunners frequently scurried about, he says, and there was a fad among the students about where the Juana Green White Life Science building stood now. And one of the first scientific articles from the new university was a report of a rare spotted bat that had been found semi-mummified in the gymnasium building.

Then there were the rattlesnakes. By the time Deacon arrived on campus, the library had been moved to Grant Hall, and Billie Mae Polko was the librarian. One day, Deacon received a phone call from Polko, who still serves the library, now as special catalog librarian, requesting that he “please do something” about the snake under her desk. It didn’t faze Deacon or his students; for the first morning, Ann Fowler, a sociology teacher, was standing on the street corner looking across at UNLV. We looked at each other, and she said, “My God, it’s a gas station.” There was nothing but these old, flat buildings. So we went and got a bottle of Gallo. Yet, Deacon was undaunted. “I learned to drive and bought a car, those sorts of things. I was looking for excitement, adventure, something different, and I found it,” she says, noting that the only other university she had applied to was in Ibadan, Nigeria. Hence, she acknowledges that she probably had a greater tolerance for the unexpected than the average English professor.

Still, she must have had some doubts about what she had gotten herself into that summer during her first year on campus when she encountered a gun-toting stranger.

“I was teaching one day in Grant Hall, and this guy came in. He had a very large pistol, and he sat down in the back row. I didn’t know what to do, so I kept on lecturing. ”The pistol bearer sat for about 15 minutes, then got up and left. “I never know whether it was a real gun or not,” she muses. Cameron was impressed in quite a different way by another student. Bob Coffin, now a state senator, was enrolled in her American literature class.

“I remember this well—it was 1968 and I was pregnant with my daughter. We looked at each other, and she said, “My God, it’s a gas station.”...
Some of them may have been wacky. Some may have been short-lived. Others might have actually changed the course of the university’s destiny. But the UNLV events and activities that have come to be known as “our traditions” are uniquely our own, reflecting both their times and the character of the institution. And, for alumni, remembering them is, well, a boot.

BY LAURIE FRUTH

Above: This 1959 Homecoming float depicts Beowegrad, the NSU wolf mascot that was eventually replaced because of his Confederate uniform. At right, Nancy Jeffers was crowned Spring Cotillion Queen of 1957.

Most of the photos used with this article were from the UNLV yearbooks, provided courtesy of the James R. Dickinson Library’s special collections department.

UNLV ALUMNI, GET READY FOR a trip down memory lane—or a flashback, depending on your era.

Think back to your college years at UNLV. Chances are that you’ll recall participating in some really goofy organized event or activity that seemed awfully important at the time. It might have been the laugh-a-minute Greased Pig Contest of 1974, the mad-in-your-eye Oozeball Tournament of 1988, or the enchanting Spring Cotillion of 1957. Or maybe the event you remember had a more serious tone, like the one at which students protesting north-south funding inequities hanged then-Governor Paul Laxalt in effigy.

Whatever the event was — no matter how serious or lighthearted it was — it somehow took on greater significance while you were in college. Even if it started out as just a good laugh, by the time you finished, it made you feel a part of something bigger, something that united you with other students. It was the stuff that... well, memories are made of something bigger, something that united you with other students. It was the stuff that... well, memories are made of something bigger, something that united you with other students.

In 1957-1967

The Early Years

When the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada opened its doors in 1957, only a few hundred students attended classes in Maude Frazier Hall — the sole building on campus. With so few students milling around between classes, “Nevada Southern,” as it was commonly called at the time, must have been a pretty quiet place, right? Well, not entirely. A few gala events were organized, forming the first recognized, albeit somewhat short-lived, student traditions.

A quick look at the slim 1957 edition of the university’s yearbook reveals that the biggest events on campus that year were the Winter Sno Ball, the Spring Cotillion, and UNR’s Homecoming game.

Pages and pages of the yearbook were devoted to the Winter Sno Ball and Spring Cotillion, which were formal dances held at Strip hotels. The events had a high school prom-like feel: students who attended drank non-alcoholic punch, munch on cookies and cake, and danced under the benevolent eye of the Sno Ball or Cotillion Queen.

Retired Department of Energy scientist David Stenvenson, who attended the university during that era, remembers the Spring Cotillion as a pretty tame event.

“The cotillion was a big dance equivalent to a senior prom,” he says, recalling that the one he attended was held at the Frontier Hotel. “They were really good to us. They let us use an old...
Both bonfires and Greased Pig Contests were held annually as part of University Day festivities.

showroom and even provided an orchestra. It was quite a gathering.

- He says the students chose to name the dance after the elaborate, formal balls held in the Old South “Because we were the southern branch of the University of Nevada.”

The focus of the other big event that first year—UNR’s Homecoming—seemed to be less on the football game and more on the arduous trek to Reno made by a group of Nevada Southern students. The yearbook recounts the long, cold journey of the intrepid students traveling north to attend a home team, but also the activities that went on as they traveled.

- The next day the second-place team had a group of student leaders call the town ‘Tumbleweed Rebels,’ explains the late Fred Albrecht, who came to UNLV in 1970 as an assistant football coach and now serves as executive director of alumni and community relations.

“During the ‘70s, students from the losing university would try and steal the cannon,” he adds.

“UNR students would steal the cannon from us, and UNLV students would steal the cannon from UNR.”

- As some traditions were born, others died. Growing concerns about the environment eventually led to the end of the bonfire ritual. Changing social mores had already led to the quiet demise of the Sso Ball and Spring Cotillion. The war in Vietnam, the Watergate scandal, the energy crisis, and the recession had taken their toll. UNLV students were ready to party.

1978-1988

The Party Years

Although fraternities and sororities continued to sponsor formal and semi-formal balls, by 1978 the UNLV student body had grown too disparate and uncertain to support universitywide dances. Student entertainment programmers decided that something more casual continued on page 16
associate degree was made available to UNR students and the UNR bachelor's degree was made available to Nevada Southern students. Local TV stations were involved, Fitzgerald remembers, adding that "Every time the wind blew, the transmitter went down. So sometimes we videotaped the course and mailed it to Reno." Eventually the number of nursing students in Las Vegas had swelled to a full degree program.

Music professor Ken Hanlon now serves as the associate provost for academic budget and facilities. "I had no idea what I was getting into," Hanlon says. "My first year, every time I turned around I'd get a phone call, and it would be, 'Oh, Mr. Hanlon, you've done x, y, or z, and that's not the way we do it.' So I'd just laugh and say, 'Well, I'll add this one to my list. Tell me how we do it, and we'll do it right from now on.'"

Hanlon's office was also in the Social Sciences Building; he shared a floor with the dean of the College of Fine Arts, the whole speech and theatre department, and the entire College of Hotel Administration. "Now, all the old timers say, 'Remember when we used to know everybody?' That was part of the good old days," Hanlon says. "There was so much more collaboration because people knew one another."

Physicists professor Len Zane, who now directs the Honors College, agrees with Hanlon that it was easier to get to know other faculty when the university was smaller, as it was when he came to UNLV in 1973. "One of the nice things early on was meeting people across campus," he says.

Zane was also hired on the basis of a telephone interview and thought Las Vegas would be an interesting place to live for a year or two. But he and his wife were impressed right away by the friendliness of Las Vegas. "Everybody seemed happy living here," he says, noting that they had theorized that since "everybody moved here from somewhere else," they were here by choice, not by accident of birth. Zane, who had received his Ph.D. from Duke and had spent time at Oxford and Harvard, had some adjusting to do when he arrived; he acknowledges that coming to a small, relatively new university was a bit of a letdown after spending time in the Ivy League.

"But there was no sense that we were going to accept lower-tier status. There was always a sense that we were going to become the very best physics department we could."

By the time John Stefanelli, a professor in the food and beverage administration department, arrived at UNLV in 1978, the College of Hotel Administration had already attained an international reputation. Nevertheless, Stefanelli, who now chairs the department, remembers finding the program even better than he expected. UNLV could offer greater specialization opportunities than many other programs, he says, and its relationship with the resort industry in Las Vegas was unparalleled in hospitality education.

"The university and the hotel program were tiny then, but I knew I was coming into something special. You could feel it in the air; it was an electric environment," he says.

Although some of Stefanelli's colleagues elsewhere in the world still bought into the old stereotypical image of Las Vegas as a town consisting solely of hotels and casinos, they all seemed to know about the university. "Even in those days, you did not have to explain to the hospitality industry what the letter 'UNLV' meant," he says. "It was a multi-sensual experience, the likes of which I'd never felt before." He says, adding that the university was a stabilizing force that helped him overcome his culture shock.

Many new faculty members, women in particular, had endured teasing from their colleagues elsewhere because of Las Vegas' image. "Economics professor Linda Neill, an environmental economist who arrived at UNLV in 1992, says that when she wrote to her high school alumni newsletter about her job here, some of her friends added a postscript: 'Neill is really lying; she is really working at a club off the Strip.'"

Neill takes the teasing with good humor. "After all, UNLV was my first choice," she says, referring to her job search after completing her Ph.D. at the University of New Mexico. "Once I interviewed with the faculty in the economics department, the more I really wanted the job. And after the on-campus interview, I really really wanted the job." Neill's enthusiasm mirrors that of faculty who arrived already 40 years ago.

For her, as for them, coming to UNLV meant the adventure of living in Las Vegas. "I'd heard a lot of stories about Las Vegas; it sounded like a completely different world." And the university's relative youth and spirit of innovation truly have provided her with many opportunities, she says, citing, for example her membership in the university's advisory group that developed the new master's and Ph.D. programs in environmental science that began this fall.

"The Young, Proud, and Growing motto of the era, a growth spurt hit the campus in the 1980s, and with it came an influx of new faculty. They were attracted by the opportunity to be part of something new and exciting, just as their earlier counterparts had been."

Math Young, a professor in instructional and curricular studies, who came to Las Vegas from Albuquerque in 1986, liked the fact that "nobody stood in your way or said, 'That's not how we do it here.'"

Anthony Ferri, a communication studies professor, recalls that UNLV stood out in his mind among the universities to which he was applying at the time. "I interviewed at other institutions, but UNLV was the bright spot," says Ferri, who came to UNLV in 1985 from Fort Wayne, Ind. "It was very modern, flexible, and eager to move ahead, and it still is. I don't know of any other place that was quite like that. It's one of the good parts of the Wild West mentality in Nevada."

Both Young and Ferri admit they were somewhat unprepared for certain aspects of the city when they arrived. "I arrived at the airport and wondered why everyone was playing video games," says Young. "It didn't occur to me at first that they could be slot machines." Ferri also found the atmosphere in the casinos "very weird."

"It was a multi-sensual experience, the likes of which I'd never felt before," he says, adding that the university was a stabilizing force that helped him overcome his culture shock.

Although some of Stefanelli's colleagues elsewhere in the world still bought into the old stereotypical image of Las Vegas as a town consisting solely of hotels and casinos, they all seemed to know about the university. "Even in those days, you did not have to explain to the hospitality industry what the letter 'UNLV' meant," he says. "It was a multi-sensual experience, the likes of which I'd never felt before." He says, adding that the university was a stabilizing force that helped him overcome his culture shock.

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UNLV now has some 20,000 students in more than 140 degree programs; its faculty and staff have grown to more than 2,100. The university's scholarship and service benefit many constituencies, both inside and outside the state; several UNLV athletes have won national championships, as has the men's basketball team. And more than 33,000 students have graduated.

It appears that four decades of effort have paid off.

Much of the intimacy of the early days is gone, thanks to the sprawling campus and the increasing number of faculty and students. Change, some of it subtle and gradual, some of it more pronounced, is leaving its mark on the character of the institution.

But one thing is certain: No one arriving today would mistake UNLV for a gas station."
Oh, The Things We Did
continued from page 13
was in order — an event at which more comfortable attire could be worn. Oktoberfest was born.

Oktoberfest was a day-long celebration of what the 1980s Euphugia proudly proclaimed to be the number one activity on campus — drinking. Oktoberfest and its spring companion, Mardi Gras, were huge hits on campus, thanks largely to the efforts of Entertainment and Programming Chairman Dave Gist who, according to the Euphugia, "was in charge of partying, and party, UNLV did." Alums of that era gleefully recall the antics of The Fox, a middle-aged, fun-loving party animal whose claim to fame was a great time for students to get drunk. Many female students and faculty members disliked the blatant sexism associated with Wet T-shirt Contests and, more than a few faculty members were put out when students chose 25-cent beer over attending class. The administration was concerned that persons serving alcohol on campus had to complete an alcohol awareness training program that would enable them to recognize when a person had had enough. In addition, the policy restricted the times and events at which alcohol could be served. By the end of the decade, UNLV had become a pretty dry place. But drinking wasn’t the only source of amusement on campus during the late ’70s and early ’80s. For many students, regularly attending the games of the winning UNLV basketball team was a favorite tradition.

The success of the Runnin’ Rebels in 1977 led to the creation of a basketball alumni association — a group whose primary purpose was to raise money to help fifth-year basketball players (who had exhausted their eligibility) complete their degrees. To raise funds, the group decided to create a new tradition by sponsoring challenge games between former Rebel players and current players. This was a great idea at first. Former players rearranged their schedules so that they could come back and play, and there was a lot of interest," Albrecht recalls. "But ultimately it became too costly. They were flying former players in from Miami or New York, and they started spending more money than they were making." Like the Sno Ball and the bonfire that went before them, the challenge games quickly disappeared. And, by the end of the ’80s most students seemed to have had their fill of hedonistic parties. It was time to have fun while making a difference.

1988-1997 The Socially Responsible Years
Learning to have fun without the use of alcohol was the challenge facing students at the university entered its fourth decade. UNLV’s current student activities coordinator Sunny Martin describes the change in philosophy concerning student events as representative of a national trend.

"On a national level, many campuses adopted a dry-campus orientation in the late ’80s and early ’90s. The thinking was that universities should not be sponsoring events on campus that could lead to negative behavior."

Oozball, or volleyball played in a pit of mud, was one of the ways students found to have fun without the use of alcohol. The game has grown in popularity in the eight years since its inception. In 1996, some 60 teams fought the ooze without breeze.

"It’s the perfect fall event," explains Cook, who brought the idea to campus and coordinates the games, along with Jeff Wells, UNLV’s campus recreation director. "I try to schedule the event on an away game weekend. It really empties out the dorm rooms."

Another event that evolved in the more socially responsible ’90s was Unityfest, a day-long celebration of diverse cultures, food, and traditions. "In 1996, more than 30 different student organizations participated in the Unityfest, some of which did not have a specific cultural affiliation but just wanted to be involved," Martin says. By 1990, Unityfest had formally replaced Oktoberfest as the big party event on campus.

Less noticeable was the gradual evolution of Mardi Gras into the Spring Fling. Gone were the beer and Wet T-shirt Contests. Today, students blow off steam with oversized boxing gloves and human bowling tournaments.

"Spring Fling is one of the four major events that the university sponsors each year," explains Martin. "The other three are Unityfest, the Fall Welcome, and, of course, Homecoming."

Homecoming is perhaps the only student activity that has survived unscathed over the years. UNLV still elects a Homecoming queen and king, fraternities and sororities still build floats, and alumni are still invited to attend tailgate parties. But there have been a few changes.

"When UNLV joined the Western Athletic Conference in 1996, we added some bleachers to the stadium, and this prevented us from driving the Homecoming floats onto the field," Martin says, adding that since then, the floats have been displayed in the Moyer Student Union parking lot during the campus Homecoming festivities.

"But starting this year, the floats will be paraded through the Sam Boyd Stadium parking lot before the game. Also, we have decorated golf cart parades on campus down the academic mall, followed by a pep rally in the amphitheater to signal the start of Homecoming. But perhaps the biggest change has been the increasing participation of independent [non-Greek] organizations in the selection of the Homecoming royalty."

Tailgate parties, one of the few events at which alcohol is still served, also continue to grow at UNLV.

"We started tailgating 15 years ago in the parking lot of the stadium. We would provide a barbecue pit, and families would bring the food they wanted to cook," says Albrecht, adding that they later began offering food for those who didn’t want to bring their own. "Then, four years ago we built a park with trees and picnic benches. We’re working to make the tailgate parties fun and easy for families.

Martin predicts that as UNLV continues to define itself in the future, student activities will evolve to reflect those changing definitions. "UNLV is striving to become more purposeful in its planning," Martin explains. "The point of student activities is to create a campus community where students feel they are a part of the campus. And there are many ways to do that."

Indeed,
For 11 years, linguist Guy Bailey has been quietly recording and listening to the dialect of the residents of a small farming town in Texas in search of the origins of African-American Vernacular English. His findings may shed some light on a controversy that could affect how millions of children learn language skills in our schools.

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**HANGIN’ AT THE GENERAL STORE . . . AND LISTENING CLOSELY**

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He notes that although most research on AAVE has been done in big American cities—where African-Americans began moving in large numbers during and following World War II—it was in towns such as Springville that AAVE, which was first heard among slaves on Southern plantations, penetrated into the 20th century.

So it was one of these towns that Bailey felt he needed for his research. In fact, he was looking for a place where he could study an older form of AAVE than that spoken in large cities today. To do that, he needed to listen to the speech of people who never had moved to the city.

"Historically, AAVE was a rural Southern variety of speech. Until 1910, 90 percent of all African-Americans lived in the South, and 70 percent of them were in the rural South. By rural South, I mean communities of less than 2,500 people.

But finding such a town wasn’t easy, Bailey says. "Most of these old tenant communities have disappeared in the South. What led to their disappearance was the mechanization of agriculture. The mechanized farming didn’t really hit the South until after World War II, but when that happened, there was really no need for laborers."

As a result, many of the residents of the tenant farming communities began moving away to look for work. As a result, many of the features of AAVE in big cities and his own work on the older form of AAVE most often used in Springville, Bailey had data on AAVE as spoken during most of this century.

The problem he faced, however, was that there was little information on AAVE available before that time. "The question was: What did AAVE sound like in 1870 or 1900?"

"We don’t really have much evidence on the language of the first African-Americans in the U.S. because, first of all, there were no tape recordings and, secondly, they were forbidden by law to read and write. Some of them learned anyway: there are a few things that were written by African-Americans in the 1800s, but we just don’t have many texts."

That’s why linguists of one of their most valuable tools.

"If we wanted to study white speech in the 1800s, we could go back and look at old letters — letters of people who didn’t have much education — and we could make inferences about their language based on written documents," Bailey says.

But then Bailey discovered something unexpected that helped him fill the void. "It just so happens that there were some mechanical recordings done with former slaves. These people were born in the 1840s, 50s, and early 60s. The recordings were done in the 1930s and 40s as part of the WPA [Works Progress Administration] project, "Bailey explains.

Although the recordings had since been transferred to reel-to-reel tape and had been stored at the Library of Congress for decades, linguists hadn’t used them, he says.

"Basically, there are seven hours of tape. The sound quality of most of the tapes is pretty good. And it just so happens that several of these people were slaves on plantations not far from Springville."

The discovery of the recordings was a real boon, according to Bailey. Between the 1890s and 1910s, AAVE in big cities began to change. As Bailey notes, although most research on AAVE has been done in big cities and his own work on the older form of AAVE most often used in Springville, Bailey had data on AAVE as spoken during most of this century.

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October 17 & 18
UNLV Magazine
School of Natural History.
Tiberci Grand Hall. 895-4475.

17 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
19 Music Department: Dance Theatre. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
19 Alumni Event: Pre-Game Tailgate. 5pm. Alumni Park/Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3621.
20 Alumni Event: Homecoming Reunion Celebration. 6:30pm. Tiberti Grand Hall, Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
20 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
21 Performing Arts Center World Dance Series: Stars of the Kirov Ballet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
21 Master Series: Deutsches Symphonie Berlin. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
22 Basketball: NBA Pre-Season Game. Time TBA. Laker vs. Wizards. 895-3900.
22 Music Department: Dance Theatre. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
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FEBRUARY 1998

5 Performing Arts Center: Evelyn Glennie. 8pm. Artemis Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
6-8 Performing Arts Center: Nevada State College. 7:30pm. Artemis Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
10-12 Performing Arts Center: Nevada State College. 7:30pm. Artemis Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
13-15 Performing Arts Center: Nevada State College. 7:30pm. Artemis Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
16-18 Performing Arts Center: Nevada State College. 7:30pm. Artemis Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
19-21 Performing Arts Center: Nevada State College. 7:30pm. Artemis Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
22-24 Performing Arts Center: Nevada State College. 7:30pm. Artemis Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
25-27 Performing Arts Center: Nevada State College. 7:30pm. Artemis Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

DECEMBER 1997

5-14 National Finals Rodeo: Call for times. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.
17 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard T. Ham Alumni Center. 895-3801.

JANUARY 1998

3-5 University Theatre: Winterfest 98 Workshop. All day. Black Box Theatre & Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
21 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard T. Ham Alumni Center. 895-3801.
22 Music Department: Wind Symphony Pops Concert. 7:30pm. Artemis Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
22-23 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard T. Ham Alumni Center. 895-3801.

Exchange Taxes For A Smile.

“We’re providing ourselves with an income for life and UNLV receives a big gift of stock after we’re both gone.”

Battista and Rio Locatelli believe in sharing their success with future UNLV hotel college students.
They recently created and funded a charitable trust. By doing so, they guaranteed themselves a lifetime income, avoided the capital gains tax, received an income tax-deduction, and made a substantial charitable gift to UNLV. “With a charitable remainder trust, our good fortune in the stock market is working for us — Not the IRS,” said Battista and Battista. “We’re providing ourselves with an income for life and UNLV receives a big gift after we’re both gone.”

Charitable remainder trusts allow you or your heirs to receive a lifetime income, realize charitable tax deductions, and make a deferred gift to UNLV. If you’re thinking of selling highly appreciated real estate or stocks that you own outright, or if you have a large retirement plan, you should consider this option.

For more information about this mutually beneficial opportunity, call Russ Kost at the UNLV Foundation at (702) 895-3641.
Renee Brown, '78 BS Physical Education, has been named director of player personnel for the Winter's National Basketball Association. She oversees player personnel and scouting, and helps develop and administer player-related policies and programs.

Previously, Brown served as an assistant coach for the USA Basketball Women's National Team in Colorado Springs, Colo. She was the team's assistant coach in 1996 Summer Olympic Games. She has also worked as an assistant coach at the University of Kansas and at the University of Arizona in Las Vegas. 

William Buckmaster, '78

Randall McGuire, '83 BA Communication Studies, owns and operates his own advertising agency, Advantage Media Services. The company specializes in direct response advertising, media buying, and television ad production.

Cheryl J. Walker, '84 BS Hotel Administration, completed her master's degree in business from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She is now the associate director of Alternative Destinations Car rental firm for area high schools. She is married to John Finley, '82 graduate of Arizona State University and the University of Arizona in Las Vegas.

Vicki Tucker, '87

Catherine A. Watenshaw, '89 BS Business Administration, received her master's degree in hotel and restaurant management from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Carlisle Communications and a public relations coordinator at Bernardi's Restaurant.

Scott Gubernatis, '89 BS Communication Studies, is the coordinator of promotions and public relations for UNLV's athletic department. Previously, he spent one year as an operations assistant and two years as a sports information assistant at UNLV.

Robert W. Morgan, '85 BS Business Administration, is a teacher at the Skidmore International School in the People's Republic of China. He was a basketball coach from 1995 for the Clark County Teachers' Hall of Fame.

John LaBounty, '74

We'd Like To Hear From You!

We would like to invite all UNLV alumni to submit information about themselves to UNLV Magazine for inclusion in the Class Notes section. Please fill out the form below completely, type or print clearly, and avoid abbreviations. Also, please supply home and office telephone numbers so we can touch you if there is a question about your entry. We encourage you to submit a black and white photograph of yourself to accompany your Class Notes entry.

Name: ____________________________

Year Graduated: ____________

Major: ____________________________

Type of Degree: ____________________

Address: ____________________________

City, State, Zip: ____________________

Phone Number: ____________________

Office: ____________________________

Career or Personal Information: ____________________________

Entries should be mailed to: UNLV Class Notes, UNLV News and Public Information, 4000 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1012

Michael Ashe in Virginia Beach, Va.

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Michael Ashe in Virginia Beach, Va.
Listening Closely
continued from page 21

communities like Springville.

"At the same time, there are also some older features of white dialects that were preserved in black speech, for instance, the pronunciation of 'ax' for 'ask.' That occurred in many varieties of white English and was borrowed into black speech," Bailey says.

"What we found out is AAVE has a really complex history, and you can't understand that history unless you understand the kind of Creole origins, but at the same time also understand the more contemporary innovations," he says. "It's not as if it were a Creole language that's just becoming more like other varieties of American English. It's a language that has its own independent trajectory and development. To some extent it's influenced by other varieties of English, and to some extent it goes its own way.

"AAVE is not becoming white speech, it's not being lost, and it's not becoming more like white speech; it's developing in its own merry way."

Bailey says he thinks one of the most important goals of those people arguing today about Ebonics should be to find "a way of helping school teachers have more respect for the language that the kids bring to school."

"The kids aren't bringing broken English to school. They're bringing a systematic variety of English that's developed just like any other variety of English," Bailey says, noting that AAVE, or Ebonics, has its own set of complex rules as does any dialect. "I think it's helpful for teachers to understand exactly how that language operates and where it comes from.

"It's just like teaching a foreign language. You can teach people a foreign language better if you understand how that language differs from their language. If I understand exactly how Spanish differs from English, and I can point out those differences, then it becomes much easier for you to learn Spanish," he says. "By the same token if I can sit down with an African-American kid and explain exactly where the differences are between standard English and his speech, it really makes the task of teaching standard English easier.

"The real point here is trying to use the most successful techniques for teaching kids standard English."

To listen to Bailey discuss linguistics in general and his work in Springville in particular is to listen to a man talk about a pursuit he obviously relishes.

Yet, he ended up as a social linguist as many people end up in their careers — through a series of chance events. Majoring in English at the University of Alabama because it was an easy subject for the avid reader, Bailey took a linguistics course from James McMillan, one of the premier linguists of his generation. Soon Bailey was hooked.

McMillan's classes, coupled with Bailey's own experience with the English language, set him on his career path.

"I grew up in a part of the country where outside of that area the language is not highly respected," says Bailey, whose speech still reflects more than a trace of his Alabama roots. Throughout his life he has heard comments from non-Southerners indicating — or sometimes stating outright — that anyone with a Southern accent must be stupid.

"I think probably the thing that first attracted me to language was the fact that it carries social consequences, and I was on the negative end of some of those social consequences," Bailey says. "For me, it became an interesting thing to study.

"I used to tell my classes that the only thing I'd rather do than linguistics, if I could have had my choice of professions, would have been to play professional baseball. On the other hand, shoot, I'd be retired by now and looking for work," Bailey says with a laugh.

According to Bailey, his work in Springville is the ultimate in fun — next to playing center field for the Atlanta Braves. "That's the way I take vacations. I'll go back to Springville and spend a couple of days doing field work.

"Doing the research, writing the articles — there's no work to it at all, really. It's a lot of fun. That's why I can still do it as dean, because I enjoy doing it," says Bailey, who came to UNLV from the University of Memphis in 1995 to head the College of Liberal Arts. "It's something that whether I get a reward for it is irrelevant now.

"There's a kind of real excitement and fun about creating knowledge. And, basically, when you do research, that's what you're doing. You're in the process of creating knowledge."

And, as far as Bailey is concerned, there is more knowledge yet to be created in Springville.

Initially, he thought that the town was on the decline and that his study might be brought to a forcible end when most of the residents either moved away to find work or died.

But then things started happening in Springville. For one, oil was discovered in 1994. While that directly profited only one person — the woman who owns the general store and all the land in town — it brought a variety of new people into town on a regular basis.

Another change occurred at the school. Because the Springville school was viewed as safer than the school in the county seat, a number of parents from the county seat began bringing their children out to the Springville school. With 120 students now enrolled, the school district is building a new school.

How these changes will affect language in Springville, Bailey isn't sure. But one thing is clear: he's eager to find out.

"In spite of the fact that we thought the community would die, it's kind of gotten a second lease on life," Bailey says. "It will be interesting to see what happens."
No bobby socks and poodle skirts for this group of Rebels! As UNLV reaches its 40th anniversary, these students have their shirt sleeves rolled up and are ready to rock ... over the phone. The Rebel Ring Phonathon is underway, and these “Rebel Ringers” will be calling you.

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