Fall 1996

UNLV Magazine

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HOMECOMING '96 SCHEDULE

Wednesday
October 23 Rebel Variety Show. Moyer Student Union. 8PM.

Friday
October 25 Homecoming Celebration. Cocktails, tours of the new Lied Athletic Complex, awards presentations, class reunions, a chance to meet the coaches, and performances by the UNLV Jazz Ensemble. All at the new Lied Athletic Complex. 6:30PM.

Saturday
October 26 The Great Alumni Tailgate Party. Alumni Park in the Sam Boyd Stadium parking lot, southwest corner. 11AM. Football game — UNLV vs. Fresno State. 1:05PM.

Monday
October 28 Homecoming Golf Tournament. Canyon Gate Country Club. Noon shotgun start. Tee prizes, golf shirts, awards, and a lot of Rebel spirit!

GRAND OPENING
LIED ATHLETIC COMPLEX

All proceeds from Homecoming events go directly to the Alumni and Friends Scholarship Endowment.

CALL TODAY FOR TICKETS! 895-3621
on the cover:
Retiring UNLV music professor
Frank Gagliardi in one of the
rehearsal rooms of Alta Ham
Fine Arts. Photo by Studio West.

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Bennett Hired as UNLV Governmental Relations Director

UNLV has hired former two-term Nevada Assemblyman Rick Bennett as director of governmental relations for the university.

Bennett, owner of ECB Enterprises in Las Vegas, served in the Nevada Legislature from 1990 to 1994 and was assistant majority leader in the Assembly during the 1993 legislative session. He assumed his duties in the $65,000-per-year position at UNLV in May.

In his new position at UNLV, Bennett will be a key member of the campus leadership, reporting to Executive Director of Alumni and Community Relations Fred Albrecht. He will also work closely with UNLV President Carol C. Harter and other administrators at UNLV and in the University and Community College System of Nevada. He will serve as a link between the university and state and local governments and will lead advocacy efforts aimed at maximizing governmental support of UNLV.

"We are very pleased to have Rick Bennett join us," Harter said. "His experience with the Nevada Legislature will be a great asset as we work with legislators on both sides of the aisle to build a budget that will enable us to meet the needs of the many thousands of people who study and work at UNLV."

Bennett served as vice chairman of the Assembly during both terms. He also sat on the commerce, health and human services, and taxation committees. He served as chair of the interim study on the financing of Nevada's highways.

UNLV Scientist Receives $1.4 Million in Grants from NIH

UNLV molecular virologist Marcella McClure has received two grants totaling nearly $1.4 million dollars from the National Institutes of Health to support her research involving viruses. McClure studies viruses to try to determine their gene functions and how they will change over time.

One grant, totaling slightly more than $1 million is intended to support her research over a five-year period. It will pay for a variety of costs associated with her research, including equipment. It also will allow her to hire a computer programmer, a post-doctoral fellow, a graduate student, and several undergraduate students to help with her research.

These jobs will afford UNLV undergraduate students a unique research opportunity. A second grant, called a Research Career Development Award, will total approximately $365,000 over a five-year period. It will pay for 83 percent of her university salary, plus benefits, allowing the university to hire another instructor to teach most of her classes so that she can concentrate on her research.

The funding for both grants comes from the Allergy and Infectious Disease Institute, one of the National Institutes of Health.

"I am pleased with this show of support from the National Institutes of Health and excited about what this funding will mean to my research," McClure said.

Warren Burggren, interim dean of UNLV's College of Science and Mathematics, said that obtaining a Career Development Award from NIH is an impressive feat.

"It is an extremely prestigious award for any university, and it is certainly a first for UNLV," Burggren said. "To get, in addition, an operating grant from NIH concurrently is a truly wonderful achievement."

McClure will be studying RNA (ribonucleic acid) viruses such as measles, mumps, Ebola, and HIV to try to determine how they will change over time. She also works on identification of protein function in the newly determined genes for RNA viruses.

Because RNA viruses mutate so rapidly, it is difficult for scientists to develop effective anti-viral agents to kill them, McClure said. But scientists could find a way to predict how a virus will mutate, that would allow pharmaceutical chemists to get ahead of the curve in developing anti-viral agents, she said. That way, when a virus mutated, scientists would be ready with an effective anti-viral agent to combat the new strain, she said.

McClure, an assistant professor of biological sciences, has been at UNLV since 1993. She earned her doctoral degree in molecular biology from Washington University School of Medicine.

Businessman Stan Fulton Donates $6.7 Million to UNLV

Las Vegas businessman Stanley Fulton, president and founder of Anchor Gaming, has given $6.7 million to fund a new building to house the UNLV International Gaming Institute and to create an endowed scholarship in the Honors College, UNLV President Carol C. Harter announced recently.

Harter said $5 million will fund construction of the new building, and $1.7 million will be used to create an endowed scholarship bearing Fulton's name in the Honors College. She said she is pleased that both gifts reinforce goals established during the campus comprehensive planning process that call for developing programs of value to the community and becoming increasingly attractive to the best students.

"UNLV is very grateful to Stan Fulton for stepping forward, once again, with a substantial donation to the university's programs," Harter said.

"It has been the dream of the UNLV International Gaming Institute to one day have its own facility. Mr. Fulton's generous support will now make that possible," she said. "We are also delighted that Mr. Fulton, who has made his business and his fortune in the gaming industry, has recognized the need to support gaming education and research, as well as student achievement in all disciplines."

Fulton, who has already given the university more than $1 million to support academic scholarships, refurbishing of a biology lab and tennis courts, and general athletics, received the Distinguished Nevadan Award from the UCGSN Board of Regents in 1992.

"It's the right thing to do," Fulton said of his new donation.

"President Harter called me with this exciting news just as I finished awarding the small amount of money the Honors College has for scholarships," said Honors College Director Len Zane. "It's wonderful to know that in the future we will be able to offer scholarships to many more of the top students applying for the Honors College as encouragement to study at UNLV."

The new building for the gaming institute will be named in Fulton's honor in recognition of the donation.

"This gift is the culmination of a three-year dream," said Vincent Fade, the assistant dean of the honors administration college and the institute's former director. "It enables the UNLV International Gaming Institute to establish a presence unlike any other educational institution involved in gaming education. This is also a manifestation of the casino entertainment industry's commitment to excellence in gaming education and research. We thank Mr. Fulton for his incredible generosity."}

Richard Tam Donates $130,000

Las Vegas businessman Richard Tam has donated $180,000 to UNLV, according to President Carol C. Harter.

Tang, a long-time UNLV friend and benefactor for whom the Alumni Center is named, gave $100,000 to help furnish the new Lied Athletic Complex, $25,000 to the Alumni Scholarship Fund, and $5,000 to the men's basketball program, Harter said.

"UNLV is very grateful to Richard Tam for his donations over the years," Harter said. "His generosity has made a great difference in the life of this university."

Fred Albrecht, executive director of alumni and community relations, said, "I appreciate Richard's commitment to the university and his continued support for both academics and athletics. Richard has been a tremendous benefactor for the university."

Tam is a member of the UNLV Palladium Society of million-dollar donors. He received an honorary doctorate at the university's commencement ceremony in 1995.

PRESIDENTS MEET - UNLV President Carol C. Harter grants President Bill Clinton during his town hall meeting in the Moyer Student Union on June 9. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible solutions to juvenile crime problems.
Associate Provost, Enrollment Management Dean Appointed

A new associate provost for research and a new dean of enrollment management have recently been appointed to the UNLV administration.

Stephen L. Rice, associate dean for graduate studies and research at the University of Central Florida's College of Engineering, has been named associate provost for research, and Juanita P. Pain, associate vice president for administration at Ohio State University, has been named dean of enrollment management.

Rice, who assumed the UNLV research post on Aug. 15, replaced Donald Baechter, who has been serving as interim associate provost for research.

Pain assumed the duties of her newly created position July 8.

Kimball Receives Association’s Outstanding Faculty Award

UNLV music professor Carol Kimball has been selected by the UNLV Alumni Association as this year’s recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award.

Kimball, who joined the UNLV faculty in 1972, was chosen for her excellent record of teaching, research, and service to the university.

She received the award at the Alumni Association’s annual recognition luncheon, at which the top students from each of the university’s departments were given certificates of recognition for their academic achievement.

Currently serving as editor of the National Opera Association’s Opera Journal, she also serves on the editorial boards of several other publications. She has authored numerous articles and reviews and has written a book, to be published this year, titled Songs: A Guide to Literature and Style.

Kimball has been invited to perform with a number of groups, including the Mexico National Symphony Orchestra, the Nevada Symphony Orchestra, the Phoenix Chamber Symphony, and the Idaho State Civic Symphony. She has also been invited to present solo recitals at many impressive venues, including Lincoln Center, and has taken a variety of roles in opera and musical theater in the Southwest.

The founder and director of the UNLV Opera Theatre from 1972 to 1981, Kimball has directed a wide variety of opera and musical theater productions, including Mozart’s The Magic Flute and Gilbert and Sullivan’s H.M.S. Pinafore.

Lied Athletic Complex Opens

The new $8.5 million Lied Athletic Complex, a 65,000-square-foot state-of-the-art sports facility, opened recently on the UNLV campus.

Located on the northwest side of campus between the Earl E. Wilson Baseball Stadium and the Myron Partridge Track, the building will house the Marilyn and Si Redd Sports Medicine Center, a strength and conditioning center, a 350-seat auditorium, administrative offices, meeting rooms, and locker rooms.

Football and Olympic sports offices, business offices, and the NCAA compliance office will also be located in the complex.

The building design provides facilities for both female and male athletes from all UNLV intercollegiate sports, providing equal access to all student-athletes, according to Tom Gable, assistant athletic director in charge of administration.

The building was funded in large part by a major gift of $4 million from the Lied Foundation through Christina Hixson, Lied Foundation trustee.

Also, Las Vegas businessman Richard Tam designated $100,000 of his recent $130,000 donation to the university to help equip and furnish the complex.

The building will be dedicated during Homecoming festivities in October.

Yes, But

Is She a Worthy Widow?
The History of Women, Work, and Welfare

UNLV historian Joanne Goodwin examines one of America’s earliest forms of welfare, finding that many of today’s concerns about morality, responsibility, and ability to work have been dominating the welfare debate for almost a century.

BY BARBARA CLOUD

The headlines are familiar: “Welfare mothers targeted.” “Welfare mothers should work.” “Dethrone welfare queens.”

With all of the attention to the subject of women and welfare reform in the news these days, you might think that it’s a relatively new social problem—one that has perhaps resulted from recent changes in family values or from contemporary economic concerns.

Not so, says Joanne Goodwin, UNLV assistant professor of history. The “problem” of women and welfare is nearly a hundred years old.

Goodwin has traced the roots of today’s policy debate about women and welfare to the early 20th century, and she has discovered several persisting themes. Specifically, she has found that today’s concerns about morality, values, and responsibility have been voiced for the past century. She has also found, not surprisingly, that economics was at the heart of the matter then as much as it is now.

In her forthcoming book, Gender
and the Politics of Welfare Reform: Mothers’ Pensions in Chicago, 1912-1929

Goodwin details the way one city dealt with the needs of poverty-stricken mothers in the days before the Social Security Act and Aid to Dependent Children brought the federal government into the picture.

Her research offers unique insights into the way welfare for women began and how much — and how little — the debate has changed.

In 1911, Illinois became the first state to pass a mothers’ pension law to provide relief primarily to women who were widowed and had no other means of supporting their children.

Goodwin quotes a juvenile court judge who called it “the grandest law on the statute books” because it allowed the state to encourage and cherish “this most sacred thing in human life — a mother’s love.”

The idea caught on. By 1921, 40 states had some provision for the support of dependent children in their own homes.

The popularity of the issue could undoubtedly be traced to the opportunity it presented to the politicians of the day, who employed it as a way to pay homage to family and motherhood, Goodwin says. In the grand tradition of politics, those politicians approving the mothers’ pensions made much of the expectation that the assistance would allow widows with children to stay home to care for them.

“The majority of the sympathy in those days went to those they deemed to be in the category of ‘the worthy widow,’” Goodwin explains. “People started to hear that a mother who ‘through no fault of her own,’ faced tremendous economic hardships, should be able to receive public aid.”

However, such understanding did not extend to mothers who had been deserted or were separated, divorced, or unmarried, Goodwin points out. They were generally excluded from the pension laws, although policies varied across the nation.

“There is evidence of tremendous sympathy for the deserted woman, although I have seen reports of judges saying the man left her because she was a bad cook or bad homemaker. But there was also a real question about spending public money to supplement this man’s responsibility. No one wanted to say it’s okay to desert your family — the county will make up the difference.”

The issue was not pressing, however, because divorced and unmarried mothers were so few in those days they were easy to ignore.

Goodwin says that mothers’ pension programs, considered the forerunner of modern-day welfare, were based on the assumption that “motherwork” — child care, cooking, and housekeeping — had its own economic value. But fiscal realities quickly set in as politicians calculated the cost of the programs.

As a result, pensions were not easily obtained; authorities insisted on examining the family situation before aid was given. One variable that was taken into account was the wage-earning capacity of the family.

Women who were able to work were expected to find employment and, thus, could not focus on caring for their children, Goodwin notes. Indeed, the total ability of the family — including the children — to earn money was considered.

Children over the age of 8 or 9 often contributed to an impoverished family’s income in that era.

“Children might be rag pickers. They might be picking up coal off the railroad tracks, or in rural areas they might work in a coal mine. But their work became a part of the family income and helped determine the level of aid — if any — the family would receive,” Goodwin says.

However, child and female labor practices were under scrutiny at the time, and laws were soon passed to get children out of the mines and factories and to limit working hours for women.

Intended to benefit women and children, these laws sometimes aggravated their financial plight instead.

“As soon as they put anti-child-labor laws into place, they took away some of the family’s income, increasing the economic pressures on the family,” Goodwin says.

More than ever, a mother had to find work. So, in spite of the good intentions that seemed to inspire the policies of the era, mothers’ pensions did little overall to accomplish the goal of allowing mothers to stay home to care for their children, Goodwin says.

Mothers who had worked before the advent of pensions continued to work, and more than half of the mothers receiving pensions had jobs outside the home.

“Needy mothers and children initially was a responsibility accepted by state and local governments. But when the Depression began to state programs, Congress stepped in and passed legislation — the Social Security Act — greatly expanding the reach of the welfare system. It was at about that time that the mothers’ pension programs started being described as ‘welfare.’” Goodwin notes that though the name was being used to describe the program may have changed, the underlying discussions of the issues did not.

Approved in 1935, the Social Security Act provided a system of entitlements for employees in certain industries; Title IV of that act included Aid to Dependent Children (ADC), a welfare program. Later, legislation extended Social Security benefits to widows and children of those covered by the act.

Goodwin says these measures divided government aid for mothers into two categories, leaving some mother-only pensions.

In 1993, when Goodwin arrived at UNLV to teach women’s history, she decided the women of Nevada would make perfect subjects for student research projects.

However, she needed to determine what kinds of materials were available for the students to use in their research.

Her first foray to UNLV’s James R. Dickinson library suggested that sources were extremely limited. But as she explored further, she discovered that tucked here and there were records that collectively amounted to a treasure trove of historical material.

The problem was locating and accessing them.

About the same time former state senator Jean Ford, then serving as interim director of the women’s studies program at the University of Nevada, Reno, initiated the Nevada Women’s Archives Project at the UNR Library.

When the two women discovered their shared interests and concerns, they set about establishing a statewide cooperative project, called the Nevada Women’s Archives, to collect, catalog, preserve, and make accessible the records and papers of Nevada women and women’s organizations.

There are now collections of these materials located in each of the University of Nevada libraries. Through the efforts of Goodwin and others at UNLV, materials at the James R. Dickinson Library have already been identified and made more accessible to researchers.

Their outreach efforts have brought in additional materials; the UNLV collection, located in special collections department at the library, now has more than 200 items. The brochure prepared to describe the archives gives a sense of the diversity of women’s experiences in Nevada:

- Helen J. Stewart Papers, 1860s-1950s. Owner and operator of the Stewart Ranch, which included the area of the old Las Vegas Fort. Legal papers, business and personal correspondence, family memorabilia, photographs, and scrapbooks.
- Goldfield Women’s Club Records, 1900-1923. Record books, minutes, and bylaws.
- The collection also includes records of the American War Mothers from the 1950s and 1960s and the League of Women Voters from 1964 to 1993. Papers of community leaders past and present, such as incoming UCCSN Regent and former Clark County Commissioner Thelma Ponder and former UCCSN Regent Lilly Fong, are also included.
- The archives welcomes donations of additional materials on Nevada women. Correspondence, diaries, minutes, financial and legal records, scrapbooks, photos, films, and audio recordings are just a few of the kinds of materials the archives is prepared to process. Library space does not permit the inclusion of three-dimensional items such as clothing or artifacts, but anyone with paper-type materials is encouraged to call Goodwin at 895-1026 or the Nevada Women’s Archives at 895-3954.

Meanwhile, Goodwin — her book on mothers’ pensions completed — plans to continue on page 24
After 22 years, former Jazz Ensemble leader Frank Gagliardi is retiring from UNLV. But before he goes, he doesn’t mind recounting the highlights of an impressive and multifaceted career in music.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

When Frank Gagliardi was a kid in Denver he used to tag along when his older brother, Vince, went out to play a gig.

His brother played the instrument that was, according to Gagliardi, the instrument of first choice for Italian families in those days — the accordion.

Vince would lug his instrument down to rehearse for a job playing at a dance or a wedding, and Frank would go along to watch.

But his attention wasn’t on Vince and his accordion. In young Frank’s eyes there was only one instrument worth watching, regardless of who was playing it: the drums.

When he was 8, he persuaded his mother to let him take lessons.

Time went by, and the Gagliardi boys grew up. Vince put away his accordion and went to work as a computer specialist for a railroad company.

But Frank, he stuck with the drums.

That early interest in music parlayed itself into a lifelong career for Gagliardi — a career that has allowed him an impressive array of opportunities, including jobs playing as a percussionist with a symphony orchestra, teaching music, playing in showroom bands on the Las Vegas Strip, writing music, and forming and leading the award-winning UNLV Jazz Ensemble.

Gagliardi retired from UNLV in May, 22 years after accepting an offer to “daylight” as a part-time music instructor at the university while keeping his night job in the pit orchestra at the Sands Hotel.

Before leaving UNLV for the sunny climes of Mexico where he and his wife, Charlene, plan to spend several months a year, he sat down to talk about his life and his career.

Those music lessons at the age of 8 were the beginning of it all, he says. Thanks to a determined music teacher who insisted — over Gagliardi’s objections — that the youngster learn to play all the percussion instruments as well as the drums, Gagliardi gained a broad base of musical knowledge that was to prove pivotal more than once in his career.

At 17, Gagliardi joined his hometown orchestra, the Denver Symphony, as its percussionist — a job he was to hold for 15 years. While playing in the orchestra, he earned both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in music education from Denver University.

After he graduated, he was back on campus one day when a group of student musicians spotted him and asked if he could give them a hand with a jazz arrangement they were trying to play. He stopped to help. Then, he returned to campus to help them again and again. Before long, they had formed a jazz band, which eventually evolved into a class offered in DU’s curriculum that Gagliardi was asked to teach.

After two or three years he entered the group in a national competition at
the University of Notre Dame, primarily to see what such a competition was like. To his surprise, the group placed fifth.

The following year they entered again and won.

Gagliardi was a contented man. He played in the symphony at night. During the day he worked with his students. At home, he and Charlene had two children, Rich and Susan.

Then the unexpected happened.

"I was offered the greatest job that someone could dream of — that was to be the drummer and percussionist at the Sands," Gagliardi says. At that time the Sands wasn't just a Las Vegas hotel, Gagliardi points out, it was the Vegas hotel. It was the Strip home to such luminaries as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., and Dean Martin.

It was the Sands showroom orchestra. The drummer and an outstanding conductor at the Sands, was also present.

"One family Las Vegas," Gagliardi says of his dream job.

According to Gagliardi, his friend told Morreli, "Well, Tony, there he is, and pointed at Gagliardi.

"What?" Morreli replied that he'd been to Denver at which Antonio Morelli, the conductor at the Sands, was also present.

One of his friends knew Morelli and asked what he was doing in town.

Morelli replied that he had been to New York and Los Angeles looking for a musician who was both an excellent drummer and an outstanding percussionist, but he couldn't find anyone who could handle both jobs.

"According to Gagliardi, his friend told Morelli, "Well, Tony, there he is, right over there," and pointed at Gagliardi.

The next thing he knew, he had been offered a four-week trial stint in the Sands showroom orchestra.

"Drum Beat magazine is marvelous when it comes to playing the bongos and clattering around with comedian Joey Bishop circa 1967."

The Sands showroom orchestra also accompanied many other stars, including Dean Martin, Lena Horne, and Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme.

While playing in the orchestra he indulged a hobby in photography, snapping shots of many of the stars on stage from his seat in the drummer's chair.

Then, when he was in his 10th year at the Sands, a new trombonist named Ken Hamlin joined the band. Hamlin, who by day was the chair of UNLV's music department, asked Gagliardi if he would take a part-time job as a music instructor at UNLV, Gagliardi, who missed working with college students, jumped at the chance.

Two years later in 1976, Gagliardi's UNLV job became full-time, but he hung on to his night job playing in hotel orchestras until 1988.

At UNLV, Gagliardi's mission was straightforward — to build a jazz program. And build a jazz program, he did. It started as something of a rag-tag outfit. Some students would show up one day, others the next. Gagliardi had to lay down the law, insisting that students attend every rehearsal. Before long, he says, the students saw the rewards of good dedication and developed some cohesion themselves and their group.

Over the 22 years that Gagliardi headed UNLV Jazz programs and its Jazz Ensemble, that dedication and pride paid off again and again. The Jazz Ensemble has released seven albums, two cassette tapes, and one CD. A second CD was recorded in May and was released recently by Sea Breeze Records. The ensemble traveled extensively overseas, including trips to Brazil, Peru, Poland, Portugal, and Spain; they performed in Japan five times.

Jazz Ensemble alumni have gone on to play with big bands such as the Count Basie Orchestra. Currently, alums play with Sheena Easton and Paula Abdul.

In 1990, the Jazz Ensemble captured first place at Mars Fest USA, a national competition sponsored by Drum Beat magazine, the same that Gagliardi describes as the musician's Bible.

The following year the UNLV Jazz Ensemble recorded its first CD, Caliente, "Hot, Very Hot," was chosen by Gagliardi and reflects his opinion of the performance captured on the CD recording. Apparently Drum Beat agreed. Caliente, "Muy Caliente," was the only university recording awarded four stars that year by the prestigious jazz publication.

Those two events, according to Gagliardi, marked the UNLV Jazz Ensemble's entry onto the big time.

"Down Beat magazine is marvelous when it comes to playing the bongos and clattering around with comedian Joey Bishop circa 1967."

The concert includes Gagliardi's favorite Jazz Ensemble arrangements from the last 20 years. At one point between songs, the ensemble presents him with a plaque. Then, noted jazz vocalist Marlena Shaw, the concert guest artist, makes her entrance carrying a plaque for the conductor. Later, Joe Williams, a famous jazz singer, drops by for an unscheduled guest appearance that truly takes Gagliardi by surprise.

Near the end of the show, Gagliardi introduces the audience to his family, including his brother Vince — he who once played the accordion. The introduction of his wife, until last, is the voice is so choked with emotion that he can barely speak her name.

Then he turns to lead the band in a final number, a new composition of his own. Before the occasion he had explained the title he had chosen for this final number, a movie or a recording, he looks at the people and says, "Well, that's a wrap." So, that's what I named it, "The Final Wrap."

With this number played, Frank Gagliardi's final concert at the helm of the UNLV Jazz Ensemble ends.

Except for one thing: the standard presentation, during which audience members rise nearly simultaneously to their feet to applaud and cheer roguously.

Gagliardi loved his job as a drummer and percussionist in the Sands showroom orchestra. He is seen here playing the bongos and clattering around with comedian Joey Bishop circa 1967.
UNLV alumnus John Davis got a second chance at getting an education. Now, he’s dedicated to helping others do the same.

BY DONNA MCALEER

It wasn’t an obvious blueprint for success.

John Davis picked cotton, pulled corn, harvested sorghum, and worked as a cook and a carhop during his early high school years in the small town of Belmont, Miss. But he was forced to drop out of high school to work even more because there was simply not enough financial or emotional support at home to sustain him. Without a high school diploma, Davis knew he was destined to work a string of dead-end jobs. Determined to find a way out, he joined the Army at 17. It was there that Davis got the second chance he needed by earning his GED (General Equivalency Diploma).

For Davis, passing the GED exam was the first of many educational successes. He discovered he was a born learner and a born teacher: At 18 he became an Army training instructor and took every course and certificate program he could during his stint in the Army. After he left the service in 1962, he sold insurance and took advantage of many of the professional training opportunities available in that field. He also served as an insurance training instructor.

In 1974 Davis started taking classes at UNLV on the GI Bill; he earned a bachelor’s degree in education in 1978 and a master’s degree in educational administration three years later. He also enrolled in UNLV’s modular M.B.A. program. His return to the classroom as a student inspired him to return to that setting as a teacher. For several years he taught history and served as yearbook advisor at Boulder City High School. But Davis soon realized that to him, offering someone a second chance was a more important calling. And he could think of no better way to do that than by helping others take advantage of the same opportunity that opened so many doors for him: the GED.

That realization led him to his current job as a training consultant who prepares adults to take and pass the GED exam. Davis is frequently hired by some of Las Vegas’ most notable resorts, including The Mirage, Treasure Island, and the Rio, to conduct their in-house GED training programs. He comes to his clients highly recommended by the Clark County School District.

But Davis’ versatility is another reason he is one of the busiest GED training consultants in town. He is fully certified to teach all of the five subjects on the GED test (writing skills, social studies, mathematics, science, and interpreting literature and the arts), a qualification most other teachers don’t have.

And he is an expert on the GED program itself, which was started by the U.S. Armed Forces Institute in 1942 for World War II soldiers who didn’t have a chance to finish high school because of the war. When they returned to their civilian lives afterward, the thinking went, they would be competing for jobs in a tight post-war economy; the GED would give them a chance to show they had learned what a high school graduate knew, even if they hadn’t learned it in the classroom. But, more importantly, Davis notes, it also gave them a chance to continue their educations.

During the ’50s the program came under the management of the American Council on Education and was offered to the general public. Today, the GED is recognized as the equivalent of a high school diploma in all 50 states, Canada, and many foreign countries. Each year approximately 700,000 people participate in the program. To earn a GED, a participant must take an eight-hour standardized test covering the five aforementioned areas. In each of his test preparation classes, Davis usually covers the same familiar material. But he refuses to take a cookie-cutter approach when it comes to his students. He assesses each one individually to determine his or her strengths and weaknesses. A wall in his office is covered with Polaroid pictures of each of his current students.

“I keep them up there until they pass the test or leave the program. Most of them pass,” he says with a smile.

The circumstances that have brought people to the GED program are very different, Davis says. For some, school “just didn’t click” when they were younger. Some, like Davis himself, experienced problems at home and had to go to work to survive. Others worked to help out their families or left school to have a baby. Still others decide they want to earn a degree after immigrating to the United States.

Despite their differences in age, nationality, and type of work, program participants share one characteristic, according to Davis: exceptional motivation.

They all seem to pursue their GEDs with uncommon dedication, he says, though they do so for a variety of reasons. Setting an example for their children was frequently cited by participants as the most compelling reason for earning the GED.

Davis’ former student Angie Hernandez was one of those parents who wanted to be a good role model. “I was so touched when my eight-year-old said to me, ‘I’m going to get my diploma, too, but in high school.’ Then I knew all the hard work was worth every minute,” says Hernandez, a class of ’94 GED graduate.

Davis notes that people in the program don’t usually have problems handling those students. “It’s all the rest — managing all the other aspects of their lives, their jobs, families, and finances — that make completing the program a challenge,” he says.

His courses meet two evenings each week, with a third session every other week. Each session is two hours.

“Make no mistake about it. These students pay a tremendous price,” Davis
Some of those skills include fostering a “can-do” attitude and mastering mnemonic techniques to help students keep the names and dates in history straight. But Davis insists he wants his students to recognize, relate, assimilate, evaluate, and apply what they’ve learned.

He’s his individual approach that many students credit with their success in the program. He tailors assignments to their needs. And when a series of practice tests and his 20-year experience tell him someone is ready, he’ll schedule a test and make a life-transcending gift for an individual who was ready, he says.

Davis is understandably moved by Roretz’s gratitude and that of his other students. He pities himself on keeping the material fresh.

Davis draws from his experience as a professional trainer in the insurance field to teach the adult learners in his classes. His goal is to keep his students excited and involved, despite the great differences in their learning styles, backgrounds, and even languages.

"Many of the skills I use today I gained in insurance. But the knowledge I impart I gained at UNLV," says Davis.

His commitment to his students is epitomized by his attendance because of the strict attendance policy for the students. Some stay longer. He recognizes that some of his students won’t have anything close to perfect attendance because of the demands of home and work. He keeps the door open for them, however, tutoring them individually over the rough spots, evaluating their assignments, encouraging them to continue, and letting them know when they’re ready to take the test.

"I make class as much fun as possible," Davis says.

He takes his students through American history, polynomial equations, sentence structure, and appreciation of the arts. He doesn’t rely on the straight lecture approach. He supplements textbooks with his own materials and videos. He gets students actively involved in problem solving and discussion. He prides himself on keeping the material fresh.

Davis’ office is covered with Polaroid pictures of each of his current students. He recognizes that some of his students get out sooner. Some stay longer. He knows when they’re ready to take the tests and dates in history straight. But Davis insists he wants his students to recognize, relate, assimilate, evaluate, and apply what they’ve learned.

"If a 16- or 17-year-old is in high school, he lives at home, his mom does the laundry, and he can just hang out. But my students have jobs and families," says Davis.

The GED program Davis conducts is rigorous but flexible. Each course is typically 16 weeks long, but some students get out sooner. Some stay longer. He recognizes that some of his students won’t have anything close to perfect attendance because of the demands of home and work. He keeps the door open for them, however, tutoring them individually over the rough spots, evaluating their assignments, encouraging them to continue, and letting them know when they’re ready to take the tests.

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It's a familiar and nagging message: Exercise is the key to good health. But for a handful of diabetic patients, it's a message that could find itself in a class developed by UNLV kinesiology professor Jack Young.

BY LAURIE FRUTH

Two times a week they head to the McDermott Physical Education building for a 50-minute workout. Sporting spotless new running shoes and 50s years of life experience, they arrive with determination in their hearts and at least a little trepidation in their souls.

By the third week of class most find themselves in a life of exercise. They are the students of PED 191, a new community outreach class developed by UNLV for newly diagnosed patients of adult onset diabetes. These are the students of PED 191, a new community outreach class developed by UNLV for newly diagnosed patients of adult onset diabetes. They are unified by their common goal of learning to use exercise to fight a disease that could take their lives.

The students are among the nearly 12 million Americans affected with adult onset diabetes — a metabolic disorder affecting the body's ability to transport sugar. Although the cause of diabetes remains largely unknown, age and obesity appear to predispose certain individuals to develop the disease in middle age. As yet, there is no cure for diabetes, but it can be successfully managed with medication, diet, and that mantra of health care professionals — exercise.

Aye, there's the rub. The exercise portion of the prescription is no small obstacle for most diabetics, many of whom have never exercised regularly, according to Jack Young, a UNLV kinesiology professor who has set out to help motivate and train diabetics to exercise.

When Young recognized the need for an adult fitness class targeted at the hard-to-reach diabetic population, he assigned himself the task of developing such a course at UNLV. The idea took hold when he was asked to participate in a two-day Diabetes Treatment Center Education Program at Desert Springs Hospital.

"We scheduled exercise, physical therapist Kami Prince quickly developed a comprehensive exercise program tailored to meet the special needs of the diabetic patient. "We didn't want just another adult fitness class. Our idea was to get them into a group, teach them how to exercise, talk to them about diet and diabetes management, and hope that eventually they would incorporate these changes into their lives," says Young, who recently authored a journal article on the role of exercise in diabetes management.

Students for the class were recruited directly from the Desert Springs diabetes education class, often at the urging of their physicians. Some came willingly, some came reluctantly, and some came for only one session.

"The first semester we had only one student, so she got a lot of attention from Kami, who is the instructor of the course," Young says. "By the second semester, the word had gotten out, and the class had grown to four students. I anticipate that in a few years this class will grow to a pretty good size largely because of the efforts of the Desert Springs program, as they've been very supportive of our efforts here."

As evidence of this support, Young points to the presence of nurse educators from the hospital who attend each class to discuss diet and diabetes management strategies and to monitor blood glucose levels and heart rate.

This medical oversight is important, Young explains, because of the significant health risks associated with adult onset diabetes. "These people are particularly disposed to cardiovascular disease, and are more susceptible to traumatic injuries of the foot because of decreased sensation in their extremities," says Young, who recently authored a journal article on the role of exercise in diabetes management.

"And, because they are overweight, they often have high blood pressure, orthopedic problems, and flexibility problems. The challenge for us was to design an exercise regimen that was safe for them to do while still providing the benefits they needed."

Walking, bicycling, water aerobics, and low-impact step exercises were among the activities Young selected to introduce to his students — with varying degrees of success.

"One student loved water aerobics, but didn't want to try anything else," Young says. "But for the most part, they like coming here, and we appreciate the opportunity to get more involved in our community. It's a nice exchange. I've continued my involvement with Desert Springs Hospital, and they've been extremely supportive."

And while Young is pleased that the students seem to enjoy the class, it is more important to him that they continue to exercise once they've completed it. "It's an old message but an important one for diabetic patients. If you want to mitigate your diabetes and prevent additional illness, you're going to have to..."
change your lifestyle. We can teach patients how to exercise, we can teach patients how to change their diet, but the motivation has to come from inside.”

To emphasize just how important exercise is to diabetic patients, Young compares the process of sugar transport in a healthy body to that which occurs in the bodies of diabetics.

Sugar is essential to our functioning, he explains; most people know that we derive sugars from the food that we eat. In a healthy individual, the hormone insulin facilitates the transport of sugars through the cell membrane—much like a key that opens the cell membrane to let the sugar in. This is the process that breaks down in diabetes. Those individuals who have Type I diabetes—what used to be called juvenile diabetes—produce no insulin whatsoever and must take daily injections of insulin to achieve the sugar transport. It is considered the more serious, life-threatening form of the disease.

Type II, or adult onset, diabetes produce insulin but, for reasons as yet unexplained, the body doesn’t recognize it. In other words, they have the key but don’t need to do it. I can take medication if it was easy for me, I wouldn’t do it, and I don’t need to do it. I can take medication to control my diabetes.”

This is the mindset that Young strives to overcome. Resigned but not yet discouraged, he reiterates his prescription for successful diabetes management—education, exercise, eating right, and a healthy dose of encouragement.

“There is no magic, there is no ‘basic science’ of diabetes. All we know is that, for every type of diabetes, the pancreatic cell is damaged. It is no longer able to secrete insulin. But we’ve made progress. We’ve learned that we can control the disease, and that is an amazing achievement.”

Young is here to help those who want to try.

UNLV knows how to exercise, we can’t each a pill. The hormone insulin—senses that too much sugar is in the bloodstream and attempts to absorb or improve insulin efficiency. When this happens, the Type II diabetic becomes a Type I diabetic.

September 1996

7 Continuing Education: EXCEL Convocation I. 10am. Artemus Ham Concert Hall Lobby. 895-3394.

Alumni Event: Pregame Tailgate. 5pm. Alumni Park. 895-3621.

Football: UNLV vs. Air Force. 7:05pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3900.

11 Alumni Event: Ball Election. 6pm. Alumni Center. 895-3621.

Alumni Event: Alumni Steak Fry. 7pm. Location TBA. 895-3621.

12 Barrick Lecture: Mark Russell. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

15 Master Series: Stasi Symphony of Russia. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

16 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

17 Music Department: Wind Symphony. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.


18 Chamber Music Southwest: Robert Bluestone & Rick Soule. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

20 University Dance Theatre: Full Performance. Oct. 18, 8pm; Oct. 19, 7pm & 8pm; Oct. 20, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

24 Music Department: University Musical Society Orchestra. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

24 Master Series: St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.


26 Alumni Event: Homecoming Reception. 6:30pm. Lied Athletic Complex. 895-3621.


Homecoming Football: UNLV vs. Fresno State. 1:05pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3900.
November 1996

27 Music Department: 76 Trombones + 4. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

Celebrity Hosts November 28
Dance Theater
+ UNLV MAGAZINE
American Law Forum: Las Vegas Law School Forum. 9am-5pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
3 Music Department: Jazz Ensemble 1. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
50/10 Nevada Opera Theatre: Le Bohem. Nov. 9, 8pm; Nov. 10, 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
11 Community Concert: Brassissimo Vienna. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
12 UNLV Library Society: UNLV Authors Reception. 5pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
13 Music Department: Community Band. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
Football: UNLV vs. San Diego State. 1:05pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3900.
17 Nevada Symphony Orchestra: Classical Concert. 4pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
18 Performing Arts Center: Nevada Song & Dance Co. of Tibet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
19 Master Series: Inbal Perlman. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
20 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Alumni Park. 895-3621.
21 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. CS-Northridge. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)
22 Concert: Musical Arts Society. 3pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
23 Music Department: UNLV Wind Symphony. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
25 Concert: Musical Arts Society. 3pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
26 Music Department: UNLV Wind Symphony. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
27 Chamer Music Southwest: Rick Sule & Virko Babiy. 8pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
29 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. Miami. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)

December 1996

2 Music Department: Collegium Wassal. 8pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
4 Alumni Event: Dinner/Theater Event. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
5 Chamber Music Southwest: Hey-Jung Kim, piano. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
6-8 University Theatre: A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Dec. 4-6, 8pm; Dec. 7, 2 & 8pm. Dec. 8. 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
6 Music Department: Winter Choral Celebration. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
8 Concert: Gamble-aires Christmas Concert. 2pm & 6pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
9 Performing Arts Center: Las Vegas Marimba Quartet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
12 Community Concert: Neal & Landra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
15 Concert: Orijin Cimafas Christmas. 8pm; both days. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
16 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. Southern Utah Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)
18 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. UTEP. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)
20 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. UTEP. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)

January 1997

6-9 University Theatre: Senior Adult Theatre Festival. Begins 8am daily. Judy Bayley Theatre and Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
9 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. San Diego State. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)
15 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. Fresno State. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)
15-16 Nevada Dance Theatre: Midsummer Night’s Dream. Feb. 15, 8pm; Feb. 16, 2pm & 7pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
17 Master Series: Warsaw Philharmonic. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
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19 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
21 Chamber Music Southwest: L.V. Marimba Quartet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
22 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. TCU. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)
24 Barrett Lecture: Sam Donaldson. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
26 Alumni Event: Career Day Reception. 3pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
28 Music Department: Mariposa Trio. 7:30pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
Performing Arts Center: Alvin Alley American Dance Theatre. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
30 Alumni Event: Dinner/Theater Event. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
Chamber Music Southwest: Walter Naumburg Competition Winner (Guitar). 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

For more information on UNLV events and publications, visit UNLV’s World Wide Web Home Page at http://WWW.UNLV.EDU.

* Events are subject to change/cancellation.

CALENDAR

EVENTS AND
DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

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CALENDAR

February 1997

1 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. Wyoming. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)
4-5 Master Series: Moscow Festival Ballet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
13 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. San Jose State. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)
15 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. Fresno State. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900. (tentative)
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Avlon Alley American Dance Theater
February 28

Ishuk Perlman
November 19

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**CLASS NOTES**

### ’70s

Wayne Nunnley, ’75 BS Physical Education, is the defensive line coach with the New Orleans Saints. He served as UNLV’s head football coach from 1986 through 1989. He also served as running back coach at the University of Southern California and as defensive line coach at the University of California, Los Angeles.

David M. Marcus, ’81 BS Hotel Administration, is owner and operator of cuisine’s Lismore Service and is a tour operator in the Naiga Falls, Buffalo, and Rochester areas of New York. He is also president and general manager of Marcus Chongi Idaho-Codlilac and Undl Aurum in Buffalo. He lives in Ravina.

Laura Hess, ’85 BS Business Administration, is a partner with SPAMIC International, a personal and professional development firm, for which she is a coach and corporate trainer.

Laurie Kalnin, ’87

### ’80s

Steven M. Culbreath, ’80 BS Hotel Administration, is a sales manager for the University of California, Los Angeles. Following year she served as president and co-hosts for The Westin University of Nevada, is a tour operator in the Sugar loaf International, Marriott, and is now director of sales and marketing at Kennesaw State College. Previously, she witnessed his master’s degree and his doctoral degree in counseling psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Angela M. Andrich, ’87 BA Chemistry, received her medical degree from the University of California in 1991 and now practices general psychiatry in Lake Oswego, Ore. In 1995, she was voted exemplary psychiatrist by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Robert Kert Scherer, ’77 BS Hotel Administration, is the president of Sugarloaf Toy Company of Cancun. Previously, he worked for Westin International, Marriott, American Honda, and Disney’s restaurants. He lives in Antelope, Calif.

Brian Kilkber, ’78 BS Hotel Administration, earned his master’s degree in hotel and restaurant management at the University of Southern California and as a line supervisor in the food service business for the College of Education at San Diego State University. He earned both his master’s degree and his doctoral degree in counseling psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Laura Hess, ’85 BS Business Administration, is a partner with SPAMIC International, a personal and professional development firm, for which she is a coach and corporate trainer.

Laurie Kalnin, ’87

### ’90s

Karen Garberov, ’91 BS Hotel Administration, is the associate food and beverage director at the Anchorage Hotel (Alaska) Hilton. Previously, she worked at the University of California and in Tower in California.

Patrick Hanse, ’92 BS Hotel Administration, is a self-employed. He works with companies to help them improve customer service. He also develops trade shows and takes part in the family business of designing and manufacturing children’s clothes. He lives in Gothenburg, Sweden.

MonaLisa A. Martin, ’92 MS Hotel Administration, is the marketing manager of hotel service marketing for RGS Gallo Winery in Modesto, Calif. She lives in Riverbank.

Paul F. Wakefield, ’92 BA Political Science, was recently commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy after completing Office Candidate School at the Naval Aviation School Command at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla. He completed his training with distinction. He joined the Navy in 1992.

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Worthy Widow
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families on welfare (ADC) and giving others Social Security benefits. And she says, there were significant differences between them.

Social Security was an entitlement: if the father was covered under the act’s provisions, so were his widow and children; no additional economic test or standards of behavior were used to evaluate a family in order for it to qualify.

On the other hand, if the father had worked in agriculture or other employment not covered by Social Security, his widow and children could receive only the more restrictive Aid to Dependent Children, which required applicants to face the scrutiny of the agency granting the aid.

Although ADC was established by the federal government, it was administered by the states; to protect their economic interests, some states continued to use the family’s wage-earning ability to determine eligibility.

Critics accused them of forcing women to work at “starvation wages,” pushing them into domestic, seasonal, and other low-paying jobs.

“ADC was intended for those who had ‘been deprived of parental support and care,’” Goodwin says. “To the authors of the Social Security Act, ‘parental support’ referred to the income the father would have brought to the family if he had been alive; the ‘parental care’ was provided by the mother of the family. Soon, however, both care and support became the responsibility of the mother when the father was gone.”

In the decades that followed, even the federal government largely abandoned the goal of attempting to enable mothers to stay home with their children, Goodwin explains. By the 1960s both parents were given responsibility for the financial support of their children. Absent fathers were expected to pay child support, and mothers were expected to take their places in the work force. Goodwin points out that the Family Support Act of 1988 made these expectations official, although they had clearly governed policy for decades.

With such extensive knowledge of the history of the welfare policy debate, Goodwin finds herself in a unique position to comment on contemporary welfare reform efforts.

She observes that today’s discussions on the subject openly center on putting mothers to work — ostensibly as a means of getting them off welfare.

But the current battle cry of politicians — “ending welfare as we know it” — is not as easy as they make it sound, Goodwin adds, noting that putting people to work requires access to jobs.

“The rural poor have few job opportunities. Even in cities there are not enough jobs to take everyone off welfare,” she says.

Training is another important component of welfare reform because most welfare recipients have few skills, Goodwin notes. Also, little attention is given to the question of who will look after the children while the mother is at work.

Complicating policy-making, Goodwin says, is a major misconception about welfare: namely that all recipients are mired in it forever.

“Of most people, welfare helps in a crisis. They don’t use it long-term,” she explains. “About 23 percent of welfare recipients receive benefits for 10 years or more, which is still a considerable number, but by no means a majority.”

But, of course, to policy makers, every welfare recipient costs money, and money — not family values, such as a mother’s desire to stay at home and look after her children — has been the real driving force in welfare policy, she says.

Goodwin acknowledges that the plight of welfare mothers might seem to be an unlikely choice of research topics for her. After all, she grew up in comfortable circumstances and attended Whitman College, a small, private liberal arts college in Walla Walla, Wash., during the late 1960s. It didn’t take Goodwin long to recognize her privileged status; she was a college student during a period when consciousness raising was perhaps at its peak.

At the time, she recalls, she viewed the issue of poverty with a combination of intellectual curiosity and genuine concern.

“I knew that I had a lot of advantages, but I didn’t understand how there could be poverty in the midst of an era of not only personal, but national affluence,” she says.

So, she dedicated two years to the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program, working mainly with impoverished families in the Appalachians.

“We tend to forget the rural poor and talk mostly about the urban poor,” she says, reflecting on her VISTA experience. “But I think it’s important to consider both. Contemporary welfare reform is based on getting people jobs, and getting a job requires a different strategy in the country than in the city.”

When she decided to pursue her doctorate in history at the University of Michigan in 1983, the Reagan administration was attempting to create new policies, and welfare was frequently in the headlines. The debate renewed her interest in the problems of needy mothers.

“I wanted to know what scholars had done on the topic, and I found out that they hadn’t done much,” she says.

“When I started the research, women’s historians had written about the origins of laws such as Aid to Dependent Children and about the intent of keeping mothers at home to care for their children. But they hadn’t looked at what really happened.”

And, as most historians will tell you, what really happened yesterday can tell us a great deal about what should — or shouldn’t — happen tomorrow, she says.
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