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Inside UNLV

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Part-Time Job Leads to Golden Career

Engineering Prof Marks 50-Year Anniversary Along with UNLV

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

It started out as something of a short-term lark and ended up lasting more than 50 years. It was 1957 when Herb Wells agreed to teach a surveying course to some engineering students at what was then the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada. The commitment would be temporary and part-time.

After all, the mining engineer had a full-time job at Timet and ideas on how his career would proceed — based in part on advice from a former U.S. president (but more about that later).

By 1961 he had joined the faculty full-time. Teaching just wasn’t part of the game plan. By 1961 he had joined the faculty full-time. And in 2008 here he still is, teaching engineering students each semester as he has for the past half-century.

“I enjoy the students,” he said. “Helping them pursue their education is a pleasure.” Wells remembers well his own student days.

Presidential Advice

Living temporarily with this mother in New York and contemplating a return to college following service in the Army’s Engineer Corps, he stopped by New York’s Waldorf Astoria Hotel to

USI Draws Researchers Together

Education and Research Support Sustainability

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

You probably know that energy-conscious habits like switching off lights are part of sustainability practices, but did you know the cologne you wear and your co-workers’ healthy habits play into it, too?

UNLV’s office of urban sustainability initiatives (USI) is drawing together the many research projects on progressive communities to give us a better picture of the region’s sustainability issues.

“It (the USI office) provides leadership and a central location that allows us to focus on real sustainability issues for the community and surrounding region both now and as we look to the future,” said Ron Smith, founding director of the USI office and vice president for research and graduate studies and dean of the Graduate College.

The goal of the USI office is to help build a sustainable Las Vegas, surrounding region, and state. The office draws on faculty and professional staff with sustainability expertise, existing UNLV research and service centers and institutes, and academic colleges that focus on various aspects of sustainability.

It includes areas of the campus not often thought of as being associated with sustainability, such as nursing.

Healthy Community

Barbara St. Pierre Schneider, associate dean for research in the School of Nursing, and faculty colleagues are writing a concept paper about why health care should be at the forefront of sustainability.

“To achieve sustainability comprehensively, green buildings need to have healthy people inhabiting them. You need healthy people to sustain a community,” Schneider said.

So research to promote healthy lifestyles and to anticipate the health issues of future generations falls under the sustainability umbrella, she said.

Health also plays into economic
New Advisory Council Fosters Communication

On a campus with such a large and diverse population, communication is a constant challenge. Inside UNLV talked to President David Ashley about two initiatives he hopes will promote a more effective flow of information.

At a recent Faculty Senate meeting, you discussed initial plans to replace the senior advisor to the president with an advisory council. Why are you making this change?

The senior advisor fulfilled two very important functions. First it insured that there was a faculty voice in the office of the president and at cabinet meetings. Second, it provided a conduit for people to communicate their concerns to the administration. Other campus groups, however, did not have this same opportunity.

The most important role for the new President’s Advisory Council will be to facilitate discussion of issues that cut across divisions and may impact different constituencies in varying degrees.

I expect to meet with its members monthly so important issues can come forward in a timely manner. I also think this group will be helpful in communicating information back to the campus at large. The Focus: 50 to 100 planning process, for example, brought much greater transparency to the budget process. This council is one of great opportunity to expand upon that. It will be another avenue for educating the campus about the issues the administration is tackling and assessing if there are any misunderstandings on campus.

How will you compose the group?

The group will include representatives from each major group on campus: faculty, classified staff, professional staff, undergraduate students, and graduate students. I will work with the campus leadership groups — the Faculty Senate, staff councils, student government groups — to recommend members. The immediate past chair or current presidents of these groups would be appropriate choices because they already have strong understanding of the university’s issues as well as the trust of their colleagues.

In addition, the group will include the chief of staff for my office, once one is appointed, as well as a faculty member at large. This person will facilitate the advisory council meetings as well as attend cabinet meetings. I will be looking for someone with a fair amount of experience on campus and who can help anticipate and interpret the issues that come up. It will be important for this person to bring objectivity to the position. I would want the campus to trust in his or her ability to put the best interests of the university above any personal agenda.

The advisory council is focused on internal communication. How is UNLV improving external communication?

Until recently, UNLV’s communications functions were housed in several different units. I believe that led to both duplication of efforts and to mixed messages about the university. In the fall, we reorganized several external relations offices under the vice president for advancement. The goal is to build a truly integrated and collaborative unit for communicating with alumni, community members, government officials, donors, and the media.

The next step is the hiring of an associate vice president for communications. This person should be on board before summer and will be responsible for educating the various audiences about our mission and challenges. In addition, the AVP will reach out to the communications specialists in the individual colleges.

Picture This: Test Your UNLV Knowledge

You’re almost out of time. If you’ve been meaning to enter Inside UNLV’s Picture This: 50th Anniversary Trivia Contest, you’d better not put it off any longer. Just for submitting answers to last month’s questions, Mora Snyder of the curriculum & instruction department received a gift bag filled with fun 50th anniversary items.

The answers to last month’s questions:

1. This member of the rat pack received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from UNLV in 1976 and organized two benefit shows for the university in the late 1970s.
   a. Frank Sinatra  
   b. Dean Martin  
   c. Joey Bishop

2. Scenes from which movie were filmed in the university’s gym in 1964?
   a. Ocean’s Eleven (original version)  
   b. Diamond’s Are Forever  
   c. W.a. Vegas

3. What future U.S. Senator spoke at an antinwar rally at UNLV in 1971?
   a. Ted Kennedy  
   b. John Kerry  
   c. Al Gore

How to Enter

By E-mail — Send your answers to inside@unlv.eud by April 16. To be eligible for the prize you must:

• Include the word “trivia” in the subject line of your e-mail.
• Include your name, title, department, and telephone extension.

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

Name: __________________________
Title: __________________________
Department: ____________________
Phone: _________________________
E-mail: _________________________

Inside UNLV welcomes comments and suggestions. Please e-mail inside@unlv.eud or drop a note to Inside UNLV at mail code 1028.

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**Tech Savvy**

**What You Said: E-Mail, Security Top Concerns**

**OIT Improves Services in Response to Campus Survey**

By Mamie Peers | OIT

The office of information technology (OIT) placed impinging e-mail plagued and increasing awareness about security among its top priorities after a survey revealed your top needs.

Respondents to the campuswide survey also asked for more information about software licensing and file storage as well as more support for new administrative systems. The survey, which was conducted in the early fall, had 192 responses.

While OIT administrators noted resources make it difficult to add new services or increase response times, they have pledged to address many of the concerns during the next 18 months.

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**E-mail** — E-mail was identified as one of the most valued services offered by OIT, which will increase instructional resources for Lotus Notes users. “Like all units, we’re dealing with limited resources. Server space is a critical issue and our initial training materials will offer tips on managing mail,” said Mike Marchand, systems manager leading OIT’s e-mail improvement group.

**Communications** — Communications this fall will focus on specific security tips as well as software purchasing and file storage (two areas respondents say they know the least about). OIT manages many types of software licenses including several at no cost to the campus community. In the months ahead watch for more information about software services. “We are trying to make obtaining needed technology easier for faculty and staff and students,” said DeAnna Schoendienst, manager of client services. “Our goal is to create multiple resources for information.”

**Student Information Systems** — Respondents requested more “automated” processes and fewer logins for the system. Several OIT representatives work closely with NSHE’s team on the iNtegrate project, which is very close to selecting a new product for the campus. OIT plans to realign software, engineers and system administrator positions to better support the new system when the time comes.

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Continuing the dialogue — Administrators encourage all employees to provide feedback this year through its periodic surveys. Additionally, you can volunteer to beta-test programs and participate in usability studies. “We value the feedback of the 192 individuals who responded last fall,” said Lori Temple, vice provost for information technology, “but are revising our survey format next year to increase response rates.”

**More info:** To read more details about the survey data, go to oit.unlv.edu and click on “About OIT.”

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**SUSTAINABILITY**

Continued from Page 1

sustainability, Schneider said. If employees are too ill to work, their productivity and their company’s can be significantly affected.

**Educating Students**

The USI office also focuses on:

- **Outreach.** Providing urban-focused conferences, forums, speakers, and publications. The inaugural UNLV Urban Sustainability Conference held on campus last fall drew more than 450 attendees. The university is hosting another fall drew more than 450 attendees. The university is hosting another fall conference this year through its periodic surveys. Additionally, you can volunteer to beta-test programs and participate in usability studies. “We value the feedback of the 192 individuals who responded last fall,” said Lori Temple, vice provost for information technology, “but are revising our survey format next year to increase response rates.”

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**Mechanical engineering professor Bob Boehm, right, and graduate student Ahmad Abu Heiba look at a hybrid lighting system on the roof of Taylor Hall.**

The dish captures sunlight and transmits it to the building’s interior.

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**Faculty Research**

Here is a sample of some of the sustainability research being conducted by UNLV faculty.

- **Dale Devitt,** a professor of soil and water science in the School of Life Sciences, studied golf courses and other high-grass areas to determine how high or low to cut the grass, what fertilizer to use, and how much money can be saved. His water research is being used at golf courses.

- **Cynthia Caruthers,** professor in the recreation and sport management department, studied two after-school youth development programs in an effort to enhance social sustainability in Southern Nevada. Her work recognizes that social sustainability requires community members to work together to advance the social good.

- **Keith Schwer** of the Center for Business and Economic Research is researching economic issues associated with sustainability. The topics range from the economic implications of developing renewable energy technology to the costs of improving the high school dropout rate in Nevada.

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**More info:** Go to urban21.unlv.edu to learn more about UNLV’s research efforts.
Business
New Program Helps Managers Take That Next Step
A new program to help business managers and professionals move into upper management now is being offered by the college.

The Business Essentials: Executive Certificate in Business Administration program introduces practicing managers, business owners, and professionals to increasingly pertinent concepts, tools, and techniques taught in today’s business schools.

This program is ideal for experienced or high-potential managers and professionals who may not have received formal business education, but who wish to move up the salary bracket by seeking a stronger foundation in current business theory and practice. A high school diploma or college degree is not required for the open-enrollment program.

The program will be taught by professors who have years of experience making business concepts and skills readily understandable and immediately useful. Topics range from leadership and management styles, to business law, to corporate finance education.

Sessions are organized into four, two-day modules focused on people, processes, the environment of finance education. Students can complete the program in as little as four months or can take up to two years.

More info: Go to bizoutreach.unlv.edu or call ext. 5-3394.

Engineering
O’Toole Named Robotics Competition Volunteer of the Year

Mechanical engineering professor Brendan O’Toole recently was named the 2008 FIRST Las Vegas Volunteer of the Year.

O’Toole is involved in the regional FIRST Robotics Competition, which takes place at UNLV each year.

FIRST engages nearly 30,000 students on more than 1,300 teams in 41 regional competitions for a chance to compete in the national championship in Atlanta. When UNLV was initially awarded a regional competition in 2005, only three local high school teams competed. Last year, 12 local teams competed, and this year there were 15 local teams.

College for the impresive accomplishments it has made in the last few years.

In making the award, the NevBio board cited the college’s development of new research infrastructure, increased peer-reviewed funding, greater quality and quantity of faculty scholarship, and community outreach activities.

Ron Yasbin, dean of the college, said the award reflects years of hard work, strategic planning, and commitment to hire and retain a team of excellent, collaborative faculty. “UNLV believes it has a responsibility to help Nevada become a leader in biotechnology and the College of Sciences has long made that goal a priority,” Yasbin said. “UNLV will continue to serve not only as a training ground for new scientists entering this exciting field, but as one of the catalysts for future economic growth and diversification across the state.”

Science
College Recognized for Contributions to Biotechnology

The college recently received the inaugural Harry Reid Biotechnology Award for its contributions to the advancement of biotechnology and life sciences in the state.

The award from the Nevada Biotechnology and Bioscience Consortium (NevBio) was presented at a February ceremony at the Wynn Hotel and Resort. Several faculty members presented their research findings at the luncheon. Guests included U.S. Sen. Harry Reid and UNLV President David Ashley.

“Most of the advancements in biotechnology that have occurred at universities later become the basis of new treatments for disease, economic diversification, and improvements in quality of life,” said Lalah Laha, executive director of NevBio.

“We are pleased to honor UNLV’s College of Sciences for the impressive accomplishments it has made in the last few years.”

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition, which takes place at UNLV each year.

FIRST engages nearly 30,000 students on more than 1,300 teams in 41 regional competitions for a chance to compete in the national championship in Atlanta. When UNLV was initially awarded a regional competition in 2005, only three local high school teams competed. Last year, 12 local teams competed, and this year there were 15 local teams.

O’Toole’s efforts were instrumental in UNLV’s success. He conducts an engineering course that requires students to mentor one of the local FIRST Robotci teams. That experience allows the university’s students to apply their engineering knowledge to a real-world situation while encouraging high school students to pursue engineering degrees. O’Toole spends hours promoting the profession, mentoring students, and volunteering at several FIRST events. Several of the students he has mentored are now part of the college in professional capacities.

Hosting a regional FIRST competition is part of the college’s strategy to recruit students who will be the next generation of scientists and engineers. Despite the high demand for engineers nationwide, American universities struggle to attract enough engineering students to keep pace with other industrialized nations.

Fine Arts
April PAC Events

Theatre professor Robert Benedetti has a new version of Aristophanes’ Lysistrata running April 4-15 in the Black Box Theatre as part of the Nevada Conservatory Theatre main season. This fifth-century play tells the story of Athenian and Spartan women refusing their husbands sex in order to end the war. Lysistrata is not recommended for children under 13.

The Performing Arts Center (PAC) classical guitar series hosts the “guiding light” of the classical guitar world, Roland Dyens, on April 25. His sensitive and colorful approach, combined with his inspirational performance style, places him at the forefront of classical guitarists performing today.

The PAC welcomes multiple Tony Award-winner Christine Ebersole on April 26 as part of the New York Stage & Beyond Series. “Smashing” (New York Daily News) with “torchy virtuosity” (Newsday), Ebersole has been wowing audiences for more than 30 years. She won the Tony for best actress for her performance in 42nd Street and for the dual role of Edith Bouvier Beale/”Little” Edie Beale in Grey Gardens.

Graduate
Graduate Assistants Heard

The college will recognize select graduate students to support graduate assistants, the college held its first question-and-answer roundtable discussion in March. The meeting helped the college’s faculty and staff get a better understanding of the issues and concerns facing graduate assistants. Eric Lee, director of graduate student financial services, and Rebecca Boulton, the Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) manager, organized the event. Topics included student health insurance, tuition and fee costs, financial aid opportunities, and the quality of the graduate assistant experience.

“The event was successful due to the heavy turnout and involvement of graduate assistants and the GPSA,” said Lee. “We look forward to hosting this event again in the near future.”

Hotel
Vallen Dinner Set for May 1

The college will recognize select alumni and industry executives at the Vallen Dinner of Distinction on May 1.

The dinner will include a cocktail reception and silent and live auctions. All funds raised will support the Vallen professorship endowment fund, which brings industry executives into the classroom to work with students.

Honorees include:
• Cynthia Kiser Murphy, who will receive the alumnus of the year award.
Across Campus

Education
Two Prestigious Journals Raise College Profile
Two highly respected education journals, both with a history of more than 50 years of continuous publication, soon will be housed in the college.

The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education recently announced that an editorial team of UNLV researchers will guide the Journal of Teacher Education, the premiere journal in the field. The team will be led by editors-in-chief Sandra Odell, chair of the department of curriculum & instruction, and M. Christopher Brown, dean of the college. The editorial team includes curriculum & instruction faculty members Elizabeth Spalding, Jian Wang, Cari Klecka, and Emily Lin.

Additionally, curriculum & instruction professors Thomas Bean and Helen Harper were selected as the next editors of the Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy. This premiere peer-reviewed journal is a publication of the International Reading Association, which has more than 17,000 members.

These additions will contribute to the rising visibility of a department that has a history of faculty serving as editors of respected journals. Other journals housed in the department or edited by its faculty include the Journal of Children’s Literature (co-editor Cyndi Giorgis), the Journal of Science Education and Technology (associate editor Kent Cripping), and Intervention in School and Clinic (co-editor Randall Boone).

Liberal Arts
New Program Helps Teachers Master History
A master of arts degree (MAT) in teaching history is in the development stages and may be offered as soon as fall 2009.

Being developed collaboratively by the history department and the College of Education, the program is designed primarily for high school and middle school history and social science teachers in the Clark County School District (CCSD).

The program is intended to enhance students’ content knowledge and further develop their historical research skills for use in the classroom. The idea is to help local teachers become master teachers who recognize history’s relevance to contemporary issues and problems.

Students will take some of their history courses within an “examination field” and others within a “teaching field.” The teaching field includes an original research project that will serve as the basis for the creation or redesign of classroom units. In addition, students will be able to choose from a range of education courses to enhance teaching effectiveness. Courses will be offered in American, European, and world history.

This new program will not provide teacher certification; that is done through bachelor’s and master’s programs in the College of Education. Rather, it will offer certificated teachers a graduate option that is directly relevant to their work as teachers of history. In helping CCSD teachers of social studies and history gain mastery of their course content and enhance their pedagogical skills, this interdisciplinary, cross-college initiative will facilitate the process by which future UNLV students in Clark County become prepared for university-level history coursework.

Law
Celebrating 10 Successful Years
The Boyd School of Law kicks off its 10-year anniversary celebration 6 p.m. April 11 in the Thomas & Mack Moot Court facility.

Other major anniversary events include an alumni and student event in the fall, a gala event during spring 2009, and an ongoing lecture series on an array of issues relevant to Nevada. The history of the law school, faculty accomplishments, and the clinical program will be highlighted throughout the year.

Upcoming events include:
- 3-6 p.m. April 11, a forum on the new advertising rules for lawyers. The kick-off celebration will follow at 6 p.m.
- June, a lecture on the state of immigration in Nevada
- September, a lecture on the state of gaming in Nevada
- October, a lecture on the state of social services in Nevada
- November, a lecture on the future of the economy and tax structure in Nevada

Kiser Murphey, who earned a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in hotel administration at UNLV, serves as the MGM Mirage senior vice president of human resources.

- Claudine Williams, who will receive the dean’s medal of distinction. She serves as chairwoman of community affairs for Harrah’s Las Vegas.
- George Baggot, who will receive an industry executive of the year award. He is vice president of sales for Echelon.
- Alumnus Gus Tejeda, who will receive an industry executive of the year award. He is vice president of technology and systems for Boyd Gaming Corp.
- Joe Steranka, who will receive an industry executive of the year award. He is CEO for the PGA of America.
- Alumnus Gus Tejeda, who will receive an industry executive of the year award. He is vice president of sales for Echelon.

The dinner will take place at the Mirage.

More info: Call ext. 5-2934 for tickets.

Cleaning Under Pressure
Leslie Matys, left, zone supervisor for the north side of campus, uses a high-pressure washer, while grounds worker Gilda Holliday assists with the cleaning of a sidewalk.
Spotlight On Accomplishments

> Cheryl Tillotson (University College) recently was notified that in May she will receive her UNLV undergradu- ate advisor of the year. She is eligible for the 2008 Board of Regents undergradate advisor of the year award, which will be announced within the next several months. She will receive her UNLV award at the campus- wide academic recognition ceremony on April 24. She serves as an advisor in University College for seven years. Before that she was an advisor in the psychology department.

> Lisa Davis (Business) and Peggy Marlow (CAEO) participated in the February meeting of the Las Vegas chapter of the American Marketing Association. Davis spoke about the miss- ions and highlights of the UNLV MBA program. Marlow shared information on the services provided through the fed- erally-funded TRIO and GEAR UP programs housed in the Center for Academic Enrichment and Preparedness (CAEO). She also talked briefly about the partnership CAEO has with the Clark County School District and the tutoring services provided to all the programs’ participants.

> Suzanne LaVolpe (Physical Therapy) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for February. A nine-year UNLV employee, she began her campus career in physi- cal therapy, returning there in November after two years in the office of the dean of the School of Allied Health. An adminis- trative assistant III, she manages the budget, oversees the custodian data input, and handles purchasing.

> Bernard Cole (Police Services) has been promoted to the rank of police detective. Before coming to UNLV, he spent 20 years with the New York City police department where he reached the position of detective second-grade. His career in New York included an assignment as an undercover officer with the narcotics division, an assign- ment in the intelligence unit, and, ulti- mately, an assignment on Major Michael Bloomberg’s personal security detail. In addition, he is a U.S. Air Force veteran with four years of service to his country.

> Molly Michelman (Nutrition Sciences) was recognized by the National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Blood, Lung, and Blood Institute for her work with the We Can! (Ways to Enhance Children’s Activity and Nutrition) program. This program is a national effort to prevent obesity in children and families. Thanks to her efforts, Las Vegas is now a We Can! city.

> Mary Palevsky (Liberal Arts and Libraries) recently launched an oral his- toric project during her tenure at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (Japan) and the Kohala Center on the island of Hawai’i. The research explores the connections of culture, sci- ence, and community, focusing on the 13,800 foot Mauna Kea, a sacred moun- tain in the Hawaiian culture. The findings of her research were then presented at 13 international observatories, includ- ing Japan’s Subaru telescope. With co- principal investigators, Kenji Ito (Japan) and Yvonne Carter (Hawaii), she is doc- umenting and archiving the voices of Subaru scientists, practitioners of indig- enous science and traditional knowledge, Japanese-Americans, and local residents.

> Joe McCullough (English) has recently learned that his new book, The Cosmopolitan Twin, edited with Professor Ann Ryan (LeMoyne College), will be pub- lished this year by the University of Missouri Press. Also, he has been re- elected to the executive board of the Mark Twain Circle of America, as well as appointed to the editorial board of The Mark Twain Annual, the society’s flagship journal.

> Alan Simmons (Anthropology and Ethnic Studies) was presented the P.E. MacAllister field archaeology award at the 2007 annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research. This is a career award for archaeologists who have made substantial contributions to Near Eastern and Mediterranean archaeology.

> Carol Kimball (Music) was recently appointed to the board of advisors of the Koffohn Lehman Foundation. Conceived in 1997, the foundation seeks to perpetu- ate the legacy of distinguished soprano and teacher Lillian Lehman and honor her dream of bringing art song into the lives of as many people as pos- sible. Kimball joins a distinguished list of specialists in the field of classical song — composers, singers, pianists, and edu- cators — among them: Marilyn Horne, Frederica Von Stade, Thomas Hampson, Graham Johnson, Huwec Guénon, Warren Jones, Jennifer Larmore, Barbara Bonney, Grace Bumbry, Gwyneth Paltrow, Lukas Foss, and Lotfi Mansouri.

> Cherisha Gaitor (Student Life) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for February. A services specialist for student life, scheduling and coordination with student life facilities, she processes timesheets for student workers, oversees F-card pur- chases, orders supplies, and performs general office duties as well as working toward a UNLV degree with a major in broadcasting. She will celebrate her two- year anniversary at UNLV in July.

> Ann McDonough (University College) presented a workshop with Doug Hill (Theatre) on Applications of the Ten-Minute Play for Senior Adult Theatre at the American College Theatre Festival in February.

> Stephen M. Miller (Economics) and Worsho Wo (Feng Chia University, Taiwan) published “The Interaction of Product Innovation and the Moderation and the Relationship between Output Growth and Its Volatility” in the Southern Economic Journal in January. He, along with Indal Yi (Korea University, Korea), and Worl Jeong and Yong Jeon (both Sungkyunkwan University, Korea) also presented “The Developmental Foreign Ownership on Korean Domestic Banking Industry” at the Southern Economic Association meetings in November.

> Karl Kingsley, Susan O’Malley, Tanis Stewart, and Katherine Howard (Dental Medicine) were authors of the article “Research Enrichment: Evaluation of Structured Research in the Curriculum for Dental Medicine Students as Part of the Vertical and Horizontal Integration of Biomedical Training and Discovery,” which was published in the peer-reviewed journal, BMC Medical Education in February.

> Jay Shon, Chris Cochran, and Chuck Moseley (Health Care Administration and Policy) won the award for the best paper in their track at the annual meeting of the American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences, which took place in Las Vegas in February. They presented the paper, “Hospital and Market Factors and the Admission of the Seriously Mentally Ill to General Hospitals from the Emergency Department.”

> Additionally, nine of UNLV’s 17 teams earned a team GPA of 3.0 or better for the semester.

A new program for student-athletes, the rebound initiative, also met its goals for the spring semester. University College and the athlet- ics department, the initiative helps student-athletes develop study skills and provides closer academic super- vision to any student-athlete who needs or wants it. Participating stu- dents raised their grade point average from an average of 2.14 at the end of spring 2007 to an average of 2.47 at the end of fall semester.

Urban Affairs Students Initiated into Journalism Society The Hank Greenspan School of Journalism and Media Studies initiat- ed its first class of 25 honor students of Kappa Tau Alpha, the seventh old- est honor society in the nation and the only honor society for students in jour- nalism and mass communication. Students must be in the top 10 per- cent of their class, have assigned nine credits of professional courses to be eligible for membership. MCM Mirage senior vice president for pub- lic affairs Alan Feldman was the guest speaker at the group’s initia- tion ceremony last semester. Professor Edward Barbara was the class’s advisor as well as the chapter’s founding advisor.

Focus the Nation Comes to UNLV The department of environmental studies participated in Focus the Nation, a climate change education program involving 100 UNLV and college and university campuses across the nation. Held in January, Focus the Nation offered campus events including a series of faculty and stu- dent presentations, panel discussions, and field trips that focused on the impacts of climate change. Department fac- ulty presenters included Helen Neill and David Hassenzahl.

Part of the Focus the Nation pro- gram included two days of teach-ins, in which faculty emphasized envi- ronmental issues in their classes. For example, environmental studies instructor Patricia Mynster devoted course time to the subject of global warming. During that loss of week, we were going over the biogeochemical cycles, so I stay on the focus on the carbon cycle for one of my biogeochemistry classes. That week, why carbon emissions from develop- ing countries has everyone so worried,” she said.
G’Day, Mate: Fine Arts Takes ‘Sin City’ Down Under

By Michelle Mouton | UNLV Foundation

College of Fine Arts faculty and students brought a little Las Vegas to Australia in March when they participated in the Adelaide Fringe Festival.

Seven faculty members and 28 students participated in the world’s second largest fringe festival, presenting pieces ranging from dance, to percussion, to short films. This is the second year the college has participated.

The highlight piece, “Sin City, the Golden Years,” was written by film studies professor Sean Clark. Set in New Year’s Eve 1963, this original take on a group of Las Vegas entertainers featured students sharing their talents through song, dance, and comedy.

Clark enjoyed collaborating with the students and faculty from other departments. “(Dance professor) Richard Havery did a great job as choreographer,” he said. “All of the students performed incredibly well, which was very rewarding.”

Visiting lecturer Tim Jones, a graduate of the University of Adelaide, said of UNLV’s presentations at the festival, “The students are integrally involved with the production from the initial ideas for the show, through costuming, stage design, adjustments in direction, and the rehearsal process, which gives them an appreciation of every aspect of mounting, advertising, and producing a show.

The cultural experience and being immersed in an environment rich in the arts gives them perspective of what is going on in the world today.” Faculty members like Jones also had an opportunity to perform. Jones and Alex Stopa, an Adelaide native and UNLV doctoral candidate, presented a percussion concert for those who could follow their musical journey from Adelaide to Las Vegas. They also interacted with local percussion students at a master class.

The college is able to provide the Adelaide experience for its students in part because of a donation from Las Vegas resident Mary Healey Hayes. Her career spanned six decades in vaudeville, radio, television, and film.

Another Take

Jason Kabo
Assistant Director of Strength and Conditioning, Athletics Department

Rebel since: 1999

Typical day: It depends on which team is in season. Right now, it’s basketball. Throughout the day, the team comes in to lift weights, and I work with each player one-on-one. I also work with the soccer, swimming, and tennis teams. When one team is finished, I prepare for the next. If there’s down time, I develop new training programs or I work out.

What does your personal workout consist of?: I try to do everything I make my athletes do. Typically, I work out for about 45 minutes. I start with five sets of bench presses. Other exercises include chest flies, lateral pull-downs, triceps push-downs, and a minimum of three sets of 50 abdominal crunches.

Why you do what you do: I love athletics and helping our kids improve. I get excited when an athlete’s vertical jump goes up.

Biggest challenge: It’s hard to individualize workouts for the amount of athletes we have. For example, the soccer team has about 25 athletes. There is a general workout for the entire team. But, I also work with each player to help each one meet individual goals.

Can’t work without: An open mind, cooperation, and my stopwatch.

Tips for staying fit: Get active. The more you do, the better. To burn calories, engage in some kind of physical activity every day. Of course it also helps to maintain a healthy diet — avoid fast food and fried foods.

Weakness: I usually practice what I preach, but I’m a sucker for barbecued ribs.

David Veith
Turf Supervisor, Facilities Management Department

Rebel since: 1985

Typical day: My day starts at 6 a.m. and wraps up at around 2:30 p.m. to avoid the extremes of the day. Right now, we are fertilizing and aerating, which basically means punching holes in the ground to give it air, water, and nutrients. In a couple of weeks, we will start to mow the lawns and edge the grass.

Perfect day: A perfect day is when the grass is green, all our equipment works, and we get compliments on how nice the lawns look.

Why you do what you do: I care how this university looks. It’s a great source of pride for our students, faculty, and staff. So, I want to make sure the campus looks nice for them.

Biggest challenges: Weeds and brown spots.

Can’t work without: A lawn mower, an edger, and water.

Amei Amei
Professor of Statistics, Mathematics Department

Rebel since: 2007

Typical day: My class is in the evening, so I use the day to prepare for it. This semester, I’m teaching biostatistics. After my class, I usually conduct research.

Why you do what you do: I want to show students the beauty of mathematics and statistics and how both can relate to their lives. By using statistics and applying it to biology, I hope one day I’ll be able to detect cancer genes within humans.

Can’t work without: A pencil, paper, and green tea.

Tips for getting over math phobia: One of my favorite movies is A Beautiful Mind. It shows that if you really want something, you have to be persistent. So, if you are determined to get over your fear, at least try it first.

Why the same first and last name?: I am from Inner Mongolia, China. As a Mongolian, your first name is your full name — it’s a tradition. When I arrived in the U.S., one of the first things I did was open a bank account. But to do that, I had to give the bank a first and last name. I tried to use “A” as my first name and “Amei” as my last, but I couldn’t use just an initial. So, I doubled my first name.

Any luck gambling?: I once played the slots while at McCarran Airport. I put in a quarter and won $10. But as a probabilist, I don’t gamble because I know the odds for winning aren’t high.
Focused on Fitness

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Being fit is an important part of a well-balanced life. But getting a workout in during the hectic workweek can be tough. Some of your colleagues make it part of their daily, on-campus routine. John Hobbes, a graphic artist in the office of reprographics/design services, joined the Student Recreation and Wellness Center for cardio exercise and weight lifting. His workouts will pay off when he goes on a 12-day, 57-mile hiking and camping trip with his 14-year-old son’s Boy Scout troop this summer.

Other employees take advantage of the swimming pool, group fitness classes, and racquetball and basketball courts. The Division of Educational Outreach offers employees a chance to take sports and fitness classes at a 50 percent discount. For the past five years, Jennifer McCarthy, director of academic and research space, has taught two yoga classes a week.

“Yoga helps people stay fit not only in our bodies, but also in the mind and spirit,” said McCarthy, a registered yoga teacher. “People gain strength and flexibility from the practice, but yoga also teaches us to be present, in the moment, and increase our focus and concentration. These are tools that can be taken off the mat and into our daily lives.”

The “sneaker patrol,” a lunchtime group of faculty and staff, will reassemble in the fall to walk a two-mile route at lunch every day. “We take different directions around the campus and wear pedometers so we know how far we’ve walked on the various treks,” said member Susan Summers, budget technician in the English department.